

# Fire Strikes Grad Hall

## Replacement Value Seen as \$1 Million

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Lightning from a summer thunderstorm struck the former Graduate Hall building at 6:20 p.m. Monday and sparked a blaze which area firemen fought for several hours.

The fire was considered the worst blaze on campus since the destruction of the Chemistry Annex 25 years ago.

**REPLACEMENT VALUE** of the space lost through the fire is approximately \$1 million at today's construction costs, University officials have been unable to place an exact dollar figure on the loss until further study is completed by them and insurance company officials.

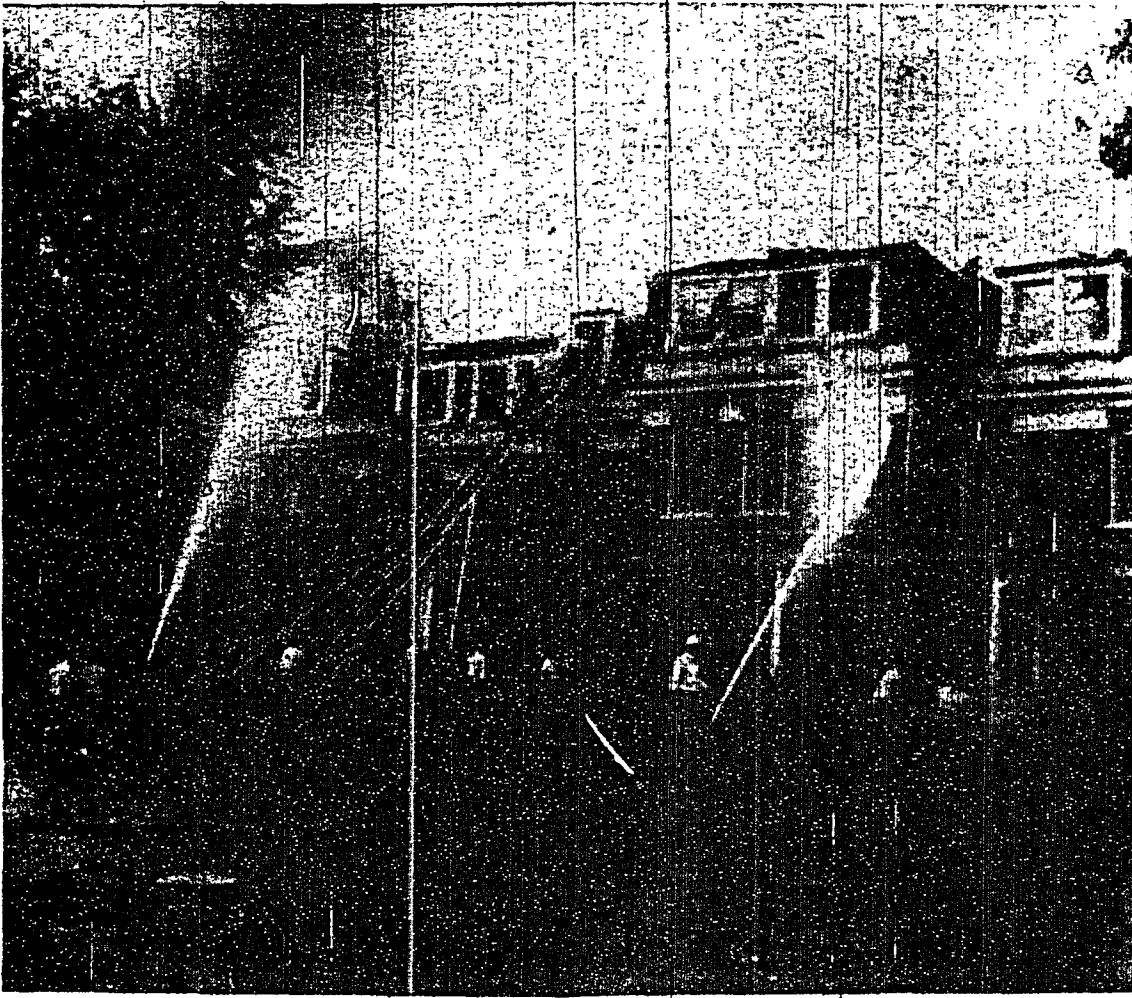
The fire started during a severe storm when a bolt of lightning struck the third floor of the building's east wing. The building, which now houses the Division of Counseling, the University Placement Service and Teacher Placement, Division of Academic Research and Services and other University agencies, was renovated during the past year from a dormitory to office space.

The structure was built in 1889 as a women's residence hall and was occupied from 1958 to 1961 by 80 graduate students. On the basis of a preliminary examination, officials said that it is probable that the entire structure, which has about 33,000 square feet of floor space, may have to be replaced.

University officials are currently studying whether to repair or raze the building.

The roof structure and third floor of the building were destroyed by the fire and walls and floors of the first and second

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**FIREMEN MOUNT** ladders as they attempt to fight the blaze caused by lightning Monday night in Graduate Hall. A large crowd gathered to watch the fire, which caused an as yet

unestimated amount of damages. University officials did say, however, that replacement value of the property and space lost was \$1 million at today's construction costs.

—Collegian Photo by Tom Brown

## Fire Draws Crowd; Smoke Covers Area

By DOROTHY DRASHER

(See Related Pictures and Story on Page 3)

Hundreds of rain-soaked students watched firemen fight flames which gutted the attic and much of the third floor of Graduate Hall Monday night.

Townpeople, too, many of them arriving after students had flocked to the scene, clustered under other people's umbrellas when a second thunderstorm followed after the fire had started.

**LIGHTNING FROM** the first storm caused the initial fire to start. Before the flames were seen leaping from the dormers minutes later, a dense acrid smoke had spread over much of the campus and several blocks of the downtown area.

The smoke, fire sirens and fire engines heading towards campus drew the early crowds and dozens of students, mostly men were seen rushing up the mall minutes later. Others hurried from residence halls and across campus to see the fire.

Rumors about the location of the fire were numerous and traveled rapidly. Some in the downtown area said a transformer was hit on one of the women's residence halls in the Pollock area.

Others in the Pollock area speculated that the fire was in West Halls.

A report later came back that a radio station in Lewistown had called shortly after the fire started to check a report that Old Main had burned.

The fire was confined to the east dormer of Grad Hall for the first few minutes. Powerful hoses were concentrated on the area, but the flames roared up about 30 feet in the air and enveloped most of the third floor.

Dozens of fire hoses snaked across the lawn in front of Grad Hall.

Some students searching for a better vantage point were warned not to step on the hoses. The force of water from a break at any point could cause a serious accident, a campus patrolman explained.

**REACTION FROM** the spectators ranged from sarcastic comments such as "bring on the marshmallows" to those who expressed anxiety over valuable records and papers which might be destroyed.

Students, some of them barefoot and in bermudas, volunteered their services to help firemen with

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# Summer Collegian



FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

VOL. 4, No. 10 UNIVERSITY PARK, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1962 FIVE CENTS

## Wharton Examines Costs For Larger Auditorium

By NANCY McCORKLE

Dean Wharton, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, said yesterday that he checked the costs and facilities of the Ohio State University's new auditorium to uncover the problems that Penn State would encounter in constructing such a building.

**ALLISON WOODALL**, USG Congressman, and Wharton attended the leadership conference of the National Student Association last week at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

This is the last issue of the Summer Collegian. The first issue of The Daily Collegian will be published on Orientation Sunday, Sept. 16.

Ohio State's auditorium, which seats 3,072 people, cost approximately \$4.5 million, Wharton said. The acoustics and lighting are excellent, and these are two problems that hazard entertainment programs held in Recreation Hall and Schwab, he added.

Recreation Hall has a seating capacity of about 6,000, but the bleachers are uncomfortable for the audience and the backstage facilities are lacking for guest performers, he said. In Schwab the sight line to the stage is poor from many seats, and the auditorium only holds 1,500 people, he said.

**WHARTON SAID** that he was sure that University administrators were concerned about the lack of a larger auditorium, so the main objective of the USG Auditorium Investigating Committee would be to work with them to accomplish its construction as soon as possible.

Students can help in this project, Wharton said, by making suggestions about what facilities

are needed in a new auditorium, by using their personal contacts and even by interesting businessmen to form a corporation to donate money for its construction.

Wharton explained that this corporation system has been used by other universities, and that the corporation gives the building to the university to operate after its completion.

Wharton said he also compared judicial systems with other university representatives. He said that Penn State actually has one of the better court systems in the United States, but that investigation would continue to improve it.

Ideas were also exchanged on ways to get students interested in participating in activities, he said. Incorporating the idea of one of the "Big 10" schools, Wharton said that USG would like to publish a booklet describing all the campus activities and clubs. It would be similar to the freshman handbook, he added.

## Study Abroad Plans Expansion

Efforts are now being made to arrange five foreign study programs in 1963, Dagobert de Levie, director of the Study Abroad, said Tuesday.

Negotiations have been underway since May with two leading Spanish universities to establish a program in Spain, de Levie said. Forty students have been tentatively accepted for this term abroad.

**PROGRAMS WILL** be continued in Strasbourg, France, and Cologne, Germany; 50 students have been tentatively accepted to go to France and 25 to Germany.

"We are also attempting to organize a program in England for the spring term 1963," de Levie said. Under this plan, architecture students would take courses in architectural design and art plus the liberal arts, he added.

The Study Abroad committee

also hopes to plan a term of study in England preceding the University Chapel Choir's tour of Europe next summer, de Levie said. No agreement has definitely been reached on either English plan or a program in Spain, he added.

The choir members would participate in an accelerated eight-week program, leaving three or four weeks for a tour. The architecture program would be 10 weeks long.

Ben Euwema, dean of the College of the Liberal Arts under which the Study Abroad program operates, is scheduled to visit France, Germany and Spain this fall to conclude agreements, de Levie said. Announcements of the students participating will then be made, pending the outcome of final applications and interviews of those students tentatively accepted.

De Levie also said that the University hopes to establish a Liberal Arts Study Abroad program in England for the spring term 1964. This term would be open to all students of the University without foreign language facility who possess an interest in the liberal arts, he added.

**IN OTHER STUDY** Abroad developments, de Levie said that in September a representative from the University of Cologne will visit the campus to explore the possibility of changing the current program into a genuine two-way exchange program.

An overwhelming majority of students who participated in the first Study Abroad term this spring consider it "the experience of their lives," de Levie said. The program not only aids linguistic skill but gives students a profound understanding of present day developments, he said.

## Hot Weather Likely to Return; Showers Seen for Saturday

(See Related Story on Page 2)

The relatively cool, dry air that has dominated the local weather scene during the past two days should begin to give way to warmer temperatures and increasing humidities today.

Hot and humid tropical air is advancing northeastward from the central and southern states in advance of an energetic storm in the Dakotas.

Sunny skies and increasing southerly winds may boost the mercury to 85 degrees this afternoon, and the arrival of the tropical air in bulk tomorrow

should boost the temperature to 90 degrees.

The eastward movement of the Dakotas' storm system will be associated with increasing shower and thunderstorm activity in Pennsylvania late tomorrow and Saturday.

Significant amounts of rainfall could accompany this storm, which together with the heavy showers of Monday evening could spell the end of the worst and most prolonged drought in the 76-year history of local weather records.

Cooler and drier air should follow in the wake of the storm late Sunday or Monday.