

# Blaze Levels Lumberyard Buildings

DEZ 15 1966

Firemen were called out at 1.30 a.m. Tuesday morning to fight a blaze which destroyed two large lumber sheds and a coal shed at the Nelson Young Lumber Co. Fire Chief Robert Stricker Sr. stated that when the siren

sounded the fire was small, but before the fire department reached the scene an explosion occurred, probably from dust, and the fire then flashed through the buildings. ----Reporter Pho

The fire which destroyed three buildings at the Nelson Young Lumber Co. apparently started in the front building on the corner of Catlin and Lawton streets, R.Y. Nelson said. He stated that he and his father, Robert M. Nelson, were unable to estimate the amount of the loss until a physical inventory is taken to find out what is left.

The cause of the fire is unknown. The buildings old, F.A. Young, recently retired from the lumber company, purchased the concern from L.C. Whittet in 1913, and the lumber buildings were then a part of it, the coal shed was built in the 1930's.

The office building at the lumber yard was saved by the fire department, only the south side of the building was charred.

Fire Chief Robert Stricker Sr. said that when the department arrived at the fire, he tried to contact the fire station by radio to call the Janesville department, not knowing that the power was out, because if the roof of the office

building had caught, he felt the fire would probably have gone to E. Fulton St. and would have been more than the Edgerton department could have handled. Within a few minutes, however, firemen had the office building fire out, and it was then a matter of containing the blaze to the other three buildings.

Stricker said that when the fire department arrived the trucks could not use Catlin St. as the power lines were down, and quite a few men from Highway Trailer and from plants in Janesville who were on their way home from work pitched in and helped firemen drag hose lines down Catlin St. to reach the fire.

"I don't know who the men were," Stricker said, "but we really appreciated their help."

Firemen watered down the houses across the street from the fire on Lawton, as the paint was blistering and scorching.

The Nelsons recently purchased the United Building Center building which



When the lumber and coal storage areas fronting on Catlin and E. Lawton Streets, went up in flames, the city was plunged into darkness for half an hour of the fire. One of the city's main electrical lines and fell on Catlin St. Areas outside the city are without electricity for over an hour.

contains some lumber and equipment, R. Y. Nelson said, but future plans are presently in a state of confusion.



The fire was still smoldering on Tuesday afternoon. Fire Chief Stricker said it was 9 a.m. Tuesday before the department returned to the fire station. They left