



### Foundry ruins

Charred wooden rafters and blackened steel beams frame the ruins of the Ontario Foundry Inc. building in Phelps following yesterday's fire. Cause of the blaze has not yet been determined. (Times photo by Thom Lamond.)

## Christmas morning fire sweeps Phelps foundry

By Times Staff Reporters

**PHELPS** — No estimate of losses or cause of the fire which destroyed Ontario Foundry Inc. here early Christmas morning have yet been determined.

"We're waiting for the insurance adjuster to arrive today or tomorrow," said foundry president Robert Binkerd of Rochester, who was surveying the factory ruins this morning.

About 250 firemen from the Phelps, Oaks Corners, Geneva Northside, Clifton Springs, Manchester, and Shortsville fire departments, under the direction of Phelps Fire Chief Larry George, fought the blaze in the dark for over two-and-a-half hours.

A Phelps resident living near the foundry, a local landmark, discovered the fire and called firemen about 3 a.m. No one was in the building at the time of the blaze.

The one-story, brick building and its contents were destroyed. The building's steel frames, which buckled in the heat, now stand bare over charred machinery.

Ontario County Deputy Fire Coordinator Claude Thorpe said today that the building was engulfed in flames when firemen arrived.

"It was a real roaring fire. We don't know for sure yet what caused the fire. When we got there, flames were coming up through the center of the building and out of the roof," Thorpe said.

He added that although there had been previous fires at the foundry, none were serious.

Foundry president Binkerd, who was called and told about the fire yesterday, said the Phelps company, which manufactured gray-iron castings, employed about 33 persons.

The century-old building was owned by Stanley Levin of Rochester, fire officials reported. Upstate Foundries Inc. of Rochester, affiliated with Shell Oil Co., bought the Phelps business in 1971, according to Binkerd.

Investigation of the cause of the blaze is continuing, but Phelps fire officials could not be reached this morning for details.



### Christmas blaze

Fire razed the century-old building of Ontario Foundry Inc. in Phelps early Christmas morning, leaving 33 persons without jobs temporarily. Over 250 firemen from six local companies fought the pre-dawn blaze. (Times photo by Karen Stone.)

**PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS** — The Phelps-Clifton Springs Youth Council Inc. has received corporate papers and is now a recognized Class A non-profit organization.

At the regular December monthly meeting plans for a sled race in February were discussed. The race will be a relay-type competition involving five-member teams. Winners will be those teams that complete the specified course in the shortest time. The first three teams will be awarded individual trophies for each member. In addition, the sponsoring business patron for the team will also receive a trophy to display at the place of business. Rules and details for the race are yet to be

worked out.

Four teams have already begun work on sleds. They are a youth council team, a Jaycee team, and two senior student teams from Midlakes High School under the direction of Robert Kornbau of Marletown Rd., Phelps.

The council is progressing with the financial end of establishing junior football. A special account will be ready by fall 1974.

Plans are being made to establish a county junior football league and the youth council would like to become a part of this project.

Next point of business is to determine how many youngsters would be in-

terested in the program and also to find a place for football practice and home games.

The council hopes to finalize the football details in February.

Council members ended their meeting with a discussion of the organization's progress in 1973. Members agreed that it was a year of getting to know the Phelps-Clifton Springs area and its citizens. Board members term it a successful year.

Future council plans included a confirmed goal to create a better link with the people of the area and to keep the public better informed of the youth council's activities.

## Youth council incorporated

## Chestnut St. school closed

By PAM HENDERSON

**PENN YAN** — The Chestnut St. School has been closed due to safety deficiencies in the building, and will not re-open after holiday vacation Jan. 2.

The decision to close the school was made Dec. 19 by the Penn Yan Board of Education, following a review of the annual fire inspection reports by local fire department officials. According to the school board announcement, "To remedy the existing deficiencies in the Chestnut St. School would require an expenditure of considerable funds, which are not available in the current budget."

School superintendent Carl Thompson said that a search is being made for adequate space to continue the 30-pupil pre-kindergarten program formerly housed in the building.

Those items noted in the fire inspection report which do not meet safety standards are exitways, doorways, corridors, fire alarm system, heating and ventilating systems, and inadequate heater room and storage room.

"The school building will be used for district storage and office space, which will not require adjustments to the safety standards established for buildings housing pupils," Thompson said.

## Clifton man hurt in crash

**CLIFTON SPRINGS** — A 5:14 a.m. motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Rt. 96 and E. Main St., Clifton Springs, sent the driver to Clifton Springs Hospital for treatment of right side cuts.

The Ontario County Sheriff's Department reports that the car, operated by Darwin Dillon, 26, of 27 Pearl St., Clifton Springs, went out of control, skidded 300 feet and crashed into the rear end of a parked tractor trailer.

Dillon was issued a sheriff's ticket for speed not reasonable and prudent.

## School meeting

**INTERLAKEN** — The South Seneca Board of Education will have a special meeting today at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Building to discuss procedure plans for the Ovid and Interlaken school building.

Since the Dec. 17 defeat of the new school building, the board must now make plans for renovation to the existing facilities.

## School hires architect

**PENN YAN** — The Penn Yan Board of Education has engaged the Syracuse architectural firm of Quinlivan, Plerik and Krause, to undertake a study of renovation costs for the Penn Yan junior high school building.

Quinlivan, Plerik and Krause was one of four firms interviewed by the board of education. Thirteen architects' proposals for the cost study were originally submitted to the board.

Members of the Penn Yan School board and administrative staff recently visited and inspected the renovated

Waterloo junior high school building. Work there was designed and supervised by the Syracuse architectural firm.

According to the school board report, "If the renovation work is carried out the cost study fee of \$4,500 will be credited to the ultimate costs of architectural services for the project."

The renovation study will consider the estimated costs of renovation of the building for use as (1) grades seven and eight (its present use) and (2) use for grades eleven and twelve.



### Students have fun, learn math

Students at Phelps Elementary School practice throws with Teacher Mike Carr standing by, as the holiday season begins for the students. The pupils learned math at the same time they had fun since they had to add up their own scores. (Times photo by Debbie Nettle.)

## Fourth graders have fun and also learn arithmetic

By DEBBIE NETTLE

**PHELPS** — Fourth graders in the Phelps Elementary School learned that

### Dundee calls

**DUNDEE** — The Dundee Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to two fire calls Christmas Day.

A fire at 1:35 p.m. at the home of Howard Briggs, Chubb Hollow Rd., Dundee, was contained to the chimney.

A defective furnace was suspected to be the cause of a mobile home fire at 7:26 p.m. at 90 Bigelow Ave., Dundee.

math can be fun.

As a before-holiday treat, the fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Bernice Hilliker, Mrs. Nancy Swart, Mrs. Kathy DeMay, Mrs. Thera Towrie, Mike Carr used devised puzzles and games for the students to use their mathematical skills while at the same time having a good time.

Ring toss and popcorn toss were two favorites. Ring toss involved getting a ring around a spool and the object of popcorn toss was to get a piece of popcorn into an egg carton. The spools and egg cartons were numbered for the student to come up with a score. Of course he had to do his own adding!

## \$65 in change taken in burglary

**MACEDON** — State police are continuing investigation of an early Christmas morning burglary at the Zurich Grocery Store, Rt. 31 and Wayneport Rd.

According to state police at the Newark sub-station, entry was made at 4 a.m. through a west side storeroom door.

A cash register was emptied of \$65 in nickels, dimes and quarters, while 10 cartons of cigarettes were reported missing, police said.

### Smoke fills post office

**OVID** — Ovid firemen responded Christmas day at 4:50 p.m. to a smoke call in the Ovid Post Office.

According to Undersheriff Gerald Brewer, cause was a faulty furnace which filled the building with smoke.



### Season's greetings

Boy and girl twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Christopher King of Maple Ave., Palmyra during last week's snowstorm, are left Michelle Sue, and Michael Dale. (Times photo by Debbie Nettle)

## Winter brings twins

**PALMYRA** — Last week's snowstorm marked more than the beginning of the winter season for the King household on Maple Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, Mrs. Christopher King was rushed by ambulance to Clifton Springs Hospital and Clinic,

through winds and drifting snow, where she gave birth to boy and girl twins.

Michelle Sue checked in at 4 lbs., 1 oz. while her brother, Michael Dale, weighed 4 lbs., 2 1/2 oz.

The Kings have another daughter two-years-old. The twins' father is an auto mechanic in Williamston.