

Fire damages clubhouse

A fire blamed on a faulty fireplace flue caused about \$35,000 damage Tuesday to the Macon County Sportsman's Club building, 3415 E. Lost Bridge Road.

The two-story frame building was purchased by the Decatur Park District in 1983 and was being razed.

A Decatur Park District police officer discovered the fire about 4:45 p.m., and the Long Creek Fire Protection District was first summoned. A few minutes later, the Decatur Fire Department was called because the clubhouse is within the city.

Battalion Chief Lou Maxey said workers had been at the clubhouse until about 3:30 p.m. removing paneling and knotty pine lumber for salvage. They had been burning scrap lumber in the two fireplaces in the clubhouse but had extinguished the fires before leaving.

Fire officials believe, however, the flames burned through wooden inserts in the main-floor fireplace and set the inner wall afire.

The fire burned through the roof and caused heavy smoke and fire damage to the building's interior.

No injuries were reported.

CORRECTION: Fire damage was \$3,000 to \$5,000. 11-21-85.

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