

Dairy Barn at Bonny Oaks Burns; 35 Head of Valuable Cattle Saved

7-12-39

A frame dairy barn at Bonny Oaks Industrial school and about seventy-five tons of hay, which was stored in one part of the barn, were destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon.

Approximately thirty-five head of cattle, which were in the barn when the fire was first noticed, were released unharmed and herded into a nearby pasture before the blaze reached the stalls.

The fire started in the hay and officials were unable to explain how it originated. It was first noticed by Harvey Keese, who was working on a water pipe near the barn.

"I shouted to one of the boys to call the fire department and then I went in to release the cattle," he said. "The first thing we saw was a small blaze in the hay. Before the boy could get to the house to call the fire department flames were playing on the roof."

The dairy barn is connected with a nearby creamery by a short covered walkway. Keese said he and some of the boys at Bonny Oaks tore the covering away and protected by wet blankets, sprayed fire extinguishers on the creamery.

All of the fire extinguishers had

been used up when Engine company No. 13 arrived at Bonny Oaks and played water on the creamery until the barn fire died down.

Keese reported that the barn was burned practically to the ground. In addition to the hay, the fire destroyed a corn crusher, but the feed was stored in another building and was not harmed. Keese said the barn was insured. No estimate of the damage had been made last night.

According to Mrs. W. S. Keese, the barn had been in service many years. The barn was about 90 feet by 50 feet.

Keese reported that a bull, which had been taken out of the barn, caused some excitement.

"The bull was running loose and we couldn't catch him," said Keese. "Some one was there with a little red truck and he got in the truck to head the bull off. As soon as the bull saw the truck he charged and nearly upset the truck."

Bonny Oaks Boys Offer To Give Up Christmas

Seven Bonny Oaks boys suggested last night that any money that might have been set aside by Supt. and Mrs. W. S. Keese to buy their Christmas toys be used instead to help rebuild the barn that burned yesterday afternoon.

The letter, typed by one of the teachers at the school, at the request of the boys, was signed by Jimmie Gray, Lloyd Scoggins, Jack Holloway, Lloyd Hale, Ralph Blackwell, Jesse Ed Case and A. J. Brown, and was presented to Supt. and Mrs. Keese after supper last night. It said:

"Last night at this time we were all gathered in our living room calling for our Christmas toys. In our prayers we thanked our Heavenly Father for you, Mrs. Keese, and all the other blessings we enjoy at Bonny Oaks.

"We know there was a great loss to the farm in losing the barn and the cows will miss their good warm sleeping quarters. We know, too, that it's going to take a lot of money to build a new barn and it will take a long time, so we are writing you this note to tell you that we have all agreed tonight to let the money that would have bought our Christmas toys go toward building a new barn.

"Also we have all promised ourselves and we promise you that from now on we will do all in our power to keep boys from carrying matches or playing with fire in any way."