

Fire destroys historic school

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA— Burning embers were still cascading from the old Olympia School when mayor Bob Coble promised to rebuild the historic structure.

A massive fire destroyed three buildings at the school in less than two hours Monday night. Firefighters estimate the damage at \$1 million.

No one was hurt in the blaze. The main building and two wings were destroyed, said Bradley Anderson, assistant chief at the Columbia Fire Department. The school was undergoing renovation and set to reopen in fall 2002.

It will still reopen someday, Coble said.

"The building will be rebuilt. We will preserve the history," Coble said as alumni of the school gathered around him.

The cause of the four-alarm blaze, which was one of the biggest in recent years in the city, is not known.

Firefighters arrived at the empty school around 6:15 p.m., Anderson said. The flames spread quickly as gusts of wind pushed the fire toward a classroom building and gym in the complex and the National Guard Armory located nearby, Anderson said.

"They were successful in preventing damage to the three buildings," he said. "There was only minor damage to the exterior of the armory."

Winds carrying embers also started small brush fires nearby.

The Olympia School was founded in 1901. It was once the center of a thriving old textile mill district south of Columbia's downtown.

It had been deemed a significant historical structure by the Historic Columbia Foundation,



Mayor Bob Coble says the Olympia School, which burned down on Monday night, will be rebuilt. PHOTO BY ROBERT GRUEN

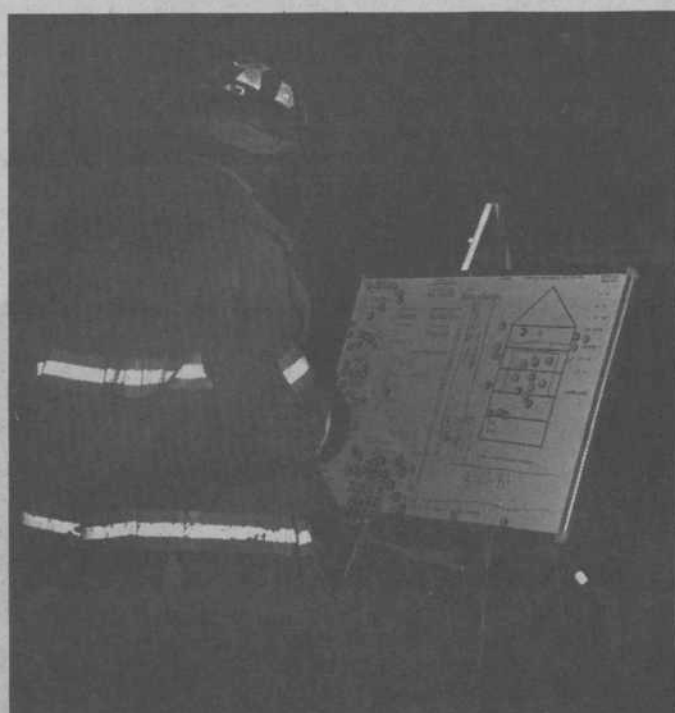
"It's not so much an architectural loss. The major loss is that it was their pride. Most of my neighbors went to that school."

JEANNE LIROLA
MEMBER OF HISTORIC
COLUMBIA FOUNDATION

said Susan Sale-Korper, a spokeswoman for the foundation.

"The fire burned an auditorium and a building constructed in 1925 made from wood, plastic and brick, said Jeanne Lirola, a member of the Historic Columbia Foundation. A gymnasium and a wing built in 1938 were not damaged by the blaze, Lirola said.

"It's not so much an architectural loss. The major loss is that it was their pride. Most of my neighbors went to that school," she said.



A CFD member plots key locations of crews and water lines on a map during the Olympia School blaze Monday night. PHOTO BY ANDREW ROGERS

POLICE REPORT

Each numbered symbol on the map represents a single crime that corresponds with the numbered descriptions in the list below it.

DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)

- Violent crimes
- Nonviolent crimes

NIGHT CRIMES (6 p.m.-6 a.m.)

- Violent crimes
- Nonviolent crimes

● ● CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS



Friday, Oct. 26

① **LARCENY OF BICYCLE, 1705 COLLEGE ST.** The victim said someone took his black and purple Rocky Mountain bike from the bike rack on the east side of the B.A. building by cutting the cable lock. Estimated value: \$605. Reporting officer: J.A. Henry.

Thursday, Nov. 1

② **AUTO BREAK-IN, 1423 WHALEY ST.** The victim said someone took an Aiwa radio/CD player from his 1991 yellow Jeep. Estimated value: \$200. Reporting officer: J.R. Merrill.

Friday, Nov. 2

③ **AUTO BREAK-IN, 600 BULL ST.** The victim said someone broke the passenger-side window on her 1998 black Toyota. The following items were taken: a black sports bag, a pair of pants, two shirts, a Nursing Community health textbook, a three-ring binder, a black leather pocketbook, a checkbook from Founders Federal Credit Union, a container of vitamins, a container of prescription medicine and two shopping bag containing applications and pens. Estimated value: \$193. Reporting officer: E. Pereira.

④ **LARCENY OF PARKING METER, 900 BARNWELL ST.** The responding officer responded to the B.A. meter lot and found a

parking meter had been removed from its mount. There was no sign of the meter. Estimated value: \$500. Reporting officer: M.P. Moore.

⑤ **LARCENY OF LICENSE PLATE, 1423 WHALEY ST.** The complainant said someone removed the license plate from his 1995 white Jeep Cherokee. Estimated value: \$10. Reporting officer: J.D. Patterson.

⑥ **LARCENY OF LAPTOP COMPUTER, 615 SUMTER ST.** The victim said someone took a black Compaq laptop computer from his dorm room. The victim said the room might have been unlocked at the time of incident. Estimated value: \$500. Reporting officer: E. Pereira.

⑦ **ILLEGAL USE OF TELEPHONE, 1323 GREENE ST.** The complainant said someone repeatedly called his Preston dorm room and then hung up. The complainant was given a log to record the calls. Reporting officer: D. Hare and J.D. Rosier.

Saturday, Nov. 3

⑧ **THEFT, 801 LINCOLN ST.** The complainant said someone forcefully opened two coin-operated soda machines and took money and sodas. The investigation continues. The subject caused extensive damage to both machines. Reporting officer: J.R. Merrill.

⑨ **INFORMATION, 315 MAIN ST.** The victim said she received a voice-mail message in an unknown foreign language. This is the first and only occurrence. Reporting officer: J.A. Henry.

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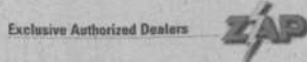
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Sunday 11 am, 7:30 pm

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or by appointment

Sr. Julienne Guy OSU

Director of Christian Formation

Newman Club Tuesday 7:00 pm

1610 Greene St. 799-5870 (Across from School of Nursing)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Columbia - Five Points (behind Harper's)

Proclaiming Christ through the Scriptures and Sacraments

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Class 9:30am • Holy Communion 10:30am Member Parish - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod