



WOMEN VOLUNTEERS SERVE HOT COFFEE TO FIREMEN AFTER BATTLE IS LOST

Sports - Loving Hub Saddened By Loss

SPORTS-LOVING Aberdeen was saddened Friday. It was almost like losing someone in the family when the Municipal ball park grandstand burned to the ground in the early morning hours.

Aberdeen fans are known far and wide for their loyalty to the Northern league Pheasants — a devotion most effectively emphasized by a record turnout Thursday night of 4,636 persons in spite of the fact that Philbert at the time was roosting near the bottom of the second division.

Aberdeen is the smallest city in the circuit, yet since Northern league baseball was introduced here in 1946, attendance has been among the top four for the eight cities holding franchises.

SOME heart-broken fans were spectators when flames licked greedily at the grandstand early Friday morning.

Hundreds more walked forlornly among the ruins throughout the forenoon.

C. H. Holgate voiced the sentiments of many when he said: "It just made me sick. I couldn't stay to watch."

He expressed the views of most fans when he added: "I'm sure—knowing Aberdeen — that we'll have another ball park just as good before long."

Mrs. Jack O'Connor, one of numerous feminine baseball enthusiasts, said, "I was just dumb-founded when I heard of it." She said she hopes rebuilding plans will be made soon.

MOST PHEASANT rooters questioned expressed concern for Catcher Ernie Choukalos who received burns trying to retrieve equipment from the fire.

Earl Morgeson said it was "un-

believable at first." He added that he believes "We should put up temporary bleachers and play ball. Next year we can build a good one. There are a lot of tournaments coming up this year that we'll have to be ready for."

By 3 a. m. Friday a sizable number of people had turned out to watch firemen battle the blaze. The poles holding lights back of the first and third base bleachers burned for a long time as hoses lacked pressure to send water up high enough to quench the flames. As the fire died down in the grandstand fire fighters were able to spare time to put up ladders high enough to reach the top of the poles with water.

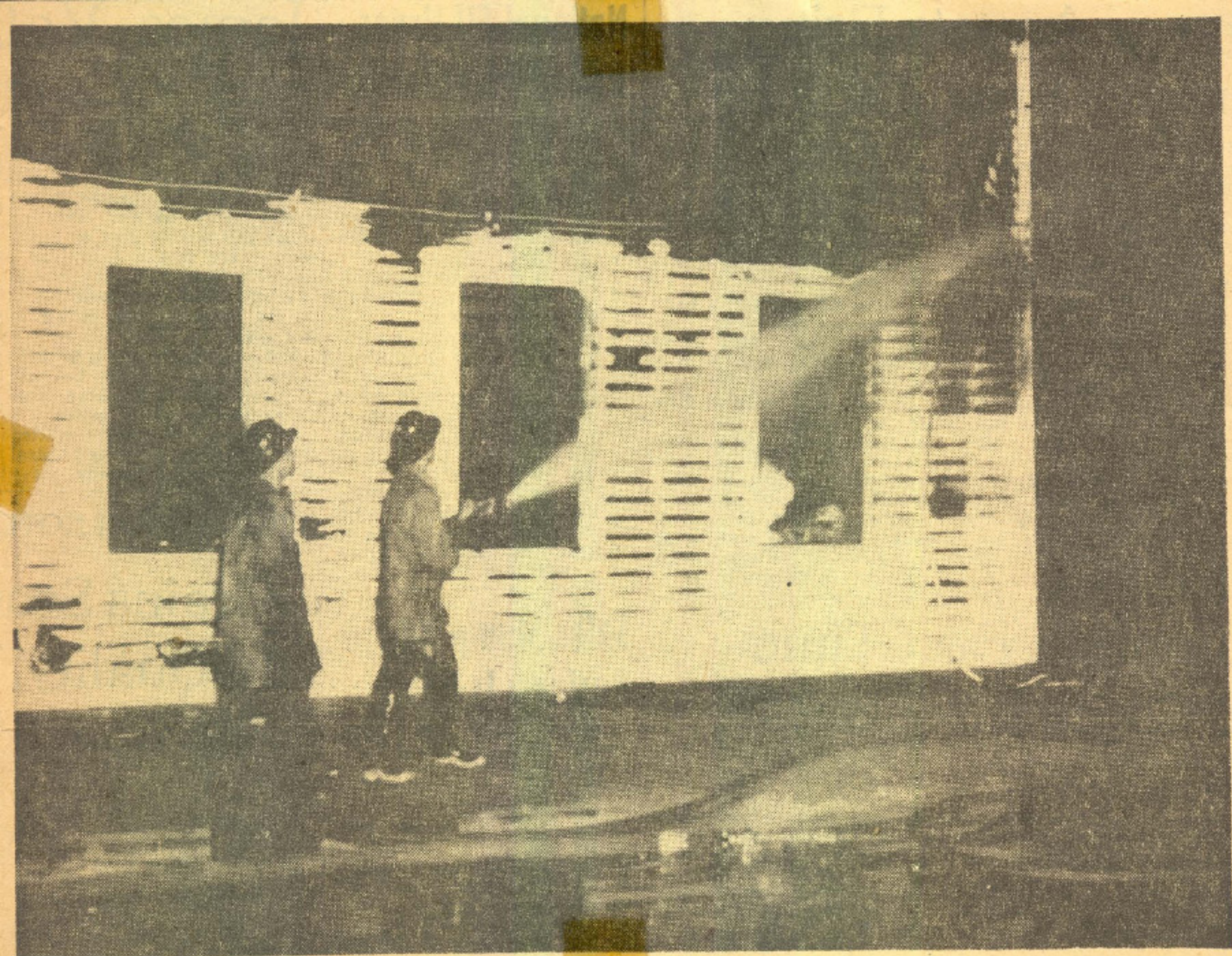
FIRE CHIEF B. L. Mehner expressed belief that the poles were only charred on the outside after testing them with an ax. He thought they would stand the rest of this season.

He was grateful that he and his men were able to save most of the bleacher sections.

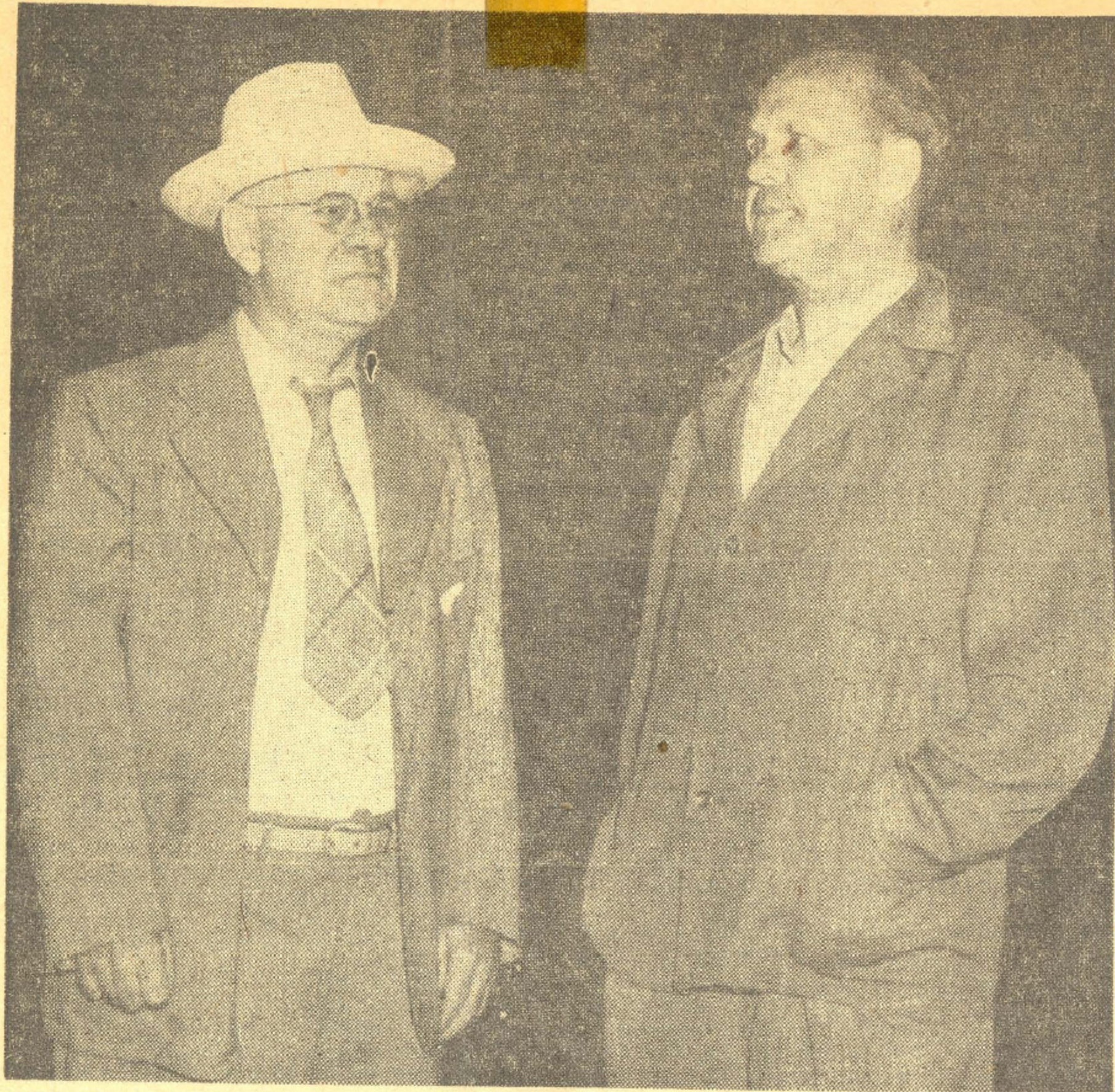
Firemen were also grateful for coffee served them at the scene of the fire by Mrs. Claude Keeler.



BURNED IN attempting to salvage equipment at the ball park in Friday morning's fire was Catcher Ernie Choukalos (above) of the Aberdeen Pheasants.



FIREMEN PLAY WATER ON PART OF FLAMING GRANDSTAND AT BALL PARK



THE EXPRESSIONS OF MAYOR R. S. WALLACE (LEFT) and President Cy Kasper of the Aberdeen Baseball association betrayed their emotions as they watched the grandstand at the Municipal ball park go up in flames Friday morning. (American-News Photo)