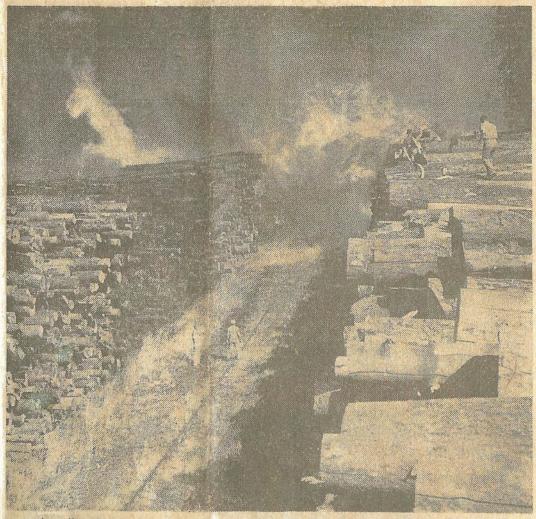
SEPTEMBER 8, 1957.

Fire at Paper Mill Burns Piles of Logs, Warehouse



one of the piles of logs which hich hit the area shortly after

noon yesterday. The fire raged out of control for more than six hours as hundreds worked to halt it.

Hundreds of Fire Fighters Battle Millwood Blazes

(See pictures on page 18.)

A wind-whipped fire yesterday destroyed a warehouse and attacked huge piles of logs at the Inland Empire Paper company mill in Millwood.

Late last might the flames still were eating through the 30-foot high stacks, stretched about 2½ miles along the south side of the Spokane river from the Trent drive-in theater to about a mile east of the mill.

As hundreds of professional and volunteer fire fighters battled the log blazes, flames erupted at one of the firm's warehouses, about one block from the main plant on Argonne road. The structure was destroyed. It housed paper, pulp, a

small quantity of butane gas and acid.

A/2c Charles Leaper, Fairchild air force base, was overcome by toxic gases while assisting in fighting the warehouse fire. He was taken to Sacred Heart hospital, where he was in satisfactory continuous forces of expirement and to the small paper, purple as and acid.

A/2c Charles Leaper, Fairchild air force base, was overcome by toxic gases while assisting in fighting the warehouse fire. When the warehouse caught fire.

More than 250 airmen from Fair-child arrived at the scene in midafternoon to assist hundreds of other firemen and volunteers. Col. Sidney S. Pidgeon, deputy base commander, said the men were from all squadrons at the base.

A 10,000-gallon pumper unit also was sent from Fairchild and two 550-gallon pumpers were sent from Geiger field, one a municipal unit and the other from the air force.

and the other from the air force.

Fire fighters tried to confine the fire to the one pile of logs. They feared a shift of the wind would spur tracks and into long dry grass adjoining a cluster of homes at the north end of Davis street. The house wasn't damaged, however, as the hones of the river. Fire fighters tried to confine the

listed as a shovel brigade to construct firebreaks near the fireline. to help fight the fire about 3:45 of the river.
p. m. Dean Banta, general manager of

was brought into action to help volunteers who assisted in com-in efforts to prevent the fire from consuming the remainder of the stand of logs and possibly igniting training a bad blaze," he said. near-by piles.

Hundreds of onlookers and auto-

mobiles cluttered the area near the fire.

Valley fire department fought the log fire from the north side and pumped water from the river. Residents of Millwood were asked to refrain from using any water except that which was absolutely necessary so that pressure could be preserved for fire-fighting equipment.

The fire first was spotted at 12:48 p. m. at the east end of the log pile. It quickly ate into the pile and had gained considerable headway before fire-fighting equipment gold get to the score. ment could get to the scene.

The original fire was discovered in a pile of logs about one mile east of the mill at 12:48 p. m. The pile extended for eight blocks alongside the river.

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Fire broke out in two piles a few yards east of the Trent drive-in theater about 3:45 p. m.

Burn Fast

The flames consumed the logs like matchsticks and sent billows of thick black smoke into the air. A wall of flames leaped more than 100 feet in the air.

More than 250 airmen from Fair-child arrived at the scene in mid-time of the structure caved in minutes after the fire started. Fire fighters were forced to jump quickly, dropping the fire started forced to jump quickly, dropping the fire started forced to jump quickly dropping the fire falling mass of burning debris.

sergeant estimated. It burned three 30-foot stacks of hemlock, spruce and fir logs used in making

at the north end of Davis street on the banks of the river.

At this site, firemen poured streams of water on a stand of dry pine trees and grass.

At times embers carried by the wind caused several grass fires on the north side of the river. These were brought under control by a detachment of fire fighters from the state forest department at Spokane.

The Spokane Valley fire department and civil defense, and doughnuts for weary fire

The Spokane Valley fire department, county and civil defense, the naval supply depot at Velox and Millwood fire department equipment was used in combating the flames.

Plea to Spectators

Hundreds of volunteers were enlisted as a shovel by irreda to a shovel by irreda to as a shovel by irreda to a shovel by irre

The strong north winds kent the Thirty truckloads of airmen from fire from spreading through resi-Fairchild air force base arrived dential districts on the south side

As the fire ate westward in the long line of logs, a power crane long line of logs.