



Spencerport Firemen fight blaze at their house

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As dawn broke last Friday morning, firemen and community residents were getting the full impact of the scene -- the fire company's headquarters on Lyell Avenue in Spencerport village was being called a total loss and plans had to be implemented to house the trucks and whatever equipment that had been saved. In 1962, the department's equipment was moved from the downtown village location to this building, a former car dealership. Then fire chief, the late Al (Curley) Zarnstorff, a contractor, had bid on and been awarded the renovation job and became known as the fire chief who had built his own fire house. The meeting room, located on the northeast corner of the building (see photo below right) was thought by some to be the site of origin of the blaze, but no official cause was available by press time. The department's historical photographs, trophies and plaques were stored in that room. The heat from the blaze caused the communications tower to fold over on itself. Personnel were hopeful that computer and communications equipment could be salvaged. The Spencerport Volunteer Ambulance also used the radio room for their system. Ironically, fire district officials had presented for preliminary review plans for a new village fire hall at the August 1 meeting of the Spencerport Planning Board. Westside News Inc. will have more on this story next week.



Photographs by Evelyn Dow



Monroe County Fire Investigators study the charred remains of the meeting room. Those first on the scene reported heat that blew out the windows on their arrival. Smoke continued to seep from the roof three hours later.



No fire trucks were lost in the blaze and department leaders were determining whether the trucks could be temporarily housed at the district's other stations. The trucks were moved just before the roof collapsed. A boat used for canal rescue was lost and there was no assessment of other equipment losses at press time. At noon on Friday, the memorial plaques and the name of the station were being removed from the front of the building. On site, spectators related that early firefighters on the scene were fighting the fire in their street clothes. Neighboring fire companies responding to the call provided gear for their use.