

# MILO STREET CAR BARN BURN

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## Children Start Fire Playing In Street Car

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## Turn on Power of Car Left In barns with Brakes set, Causing Friction.

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### SPREADS RAPIDLY

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## Twenty-Five Street Cars either destroyed or Damaged by Fire.

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**(Columbus Evening Dispatch, August 22, 1930)** – Fire caused by children playing in the Milo street car barns of the Columbus Railway, Power & Light Co., at noon Friday, threatened the total destruction of the barns with the loss of several street cars.

The barns are located in Cleveland avenue at Reynolds avenue.

Children playing in a street car in the barns were said by employees at the barns to have turned on the power in one car on which the control handle had been left by the motorman of the car.

### CAUSED BY FRICTION.

The brakes of the street car had been set and the friction of the wheels against the rails, when the power was turned on, caused the car to catch fire.

The blaze spread to another car and then to the building, a frame structure. A large portion of the roof was in flames when the firemen arrived.

A second alarm brought additional firemen who poured water on other street cars in the barn, and on adjoining buildings.

The fire attracted a large crowd of spectators and police had difficulty keeping the right-of-way open. Cleveland avenue street cars and traffic in Cleveland avenue were rerouted.

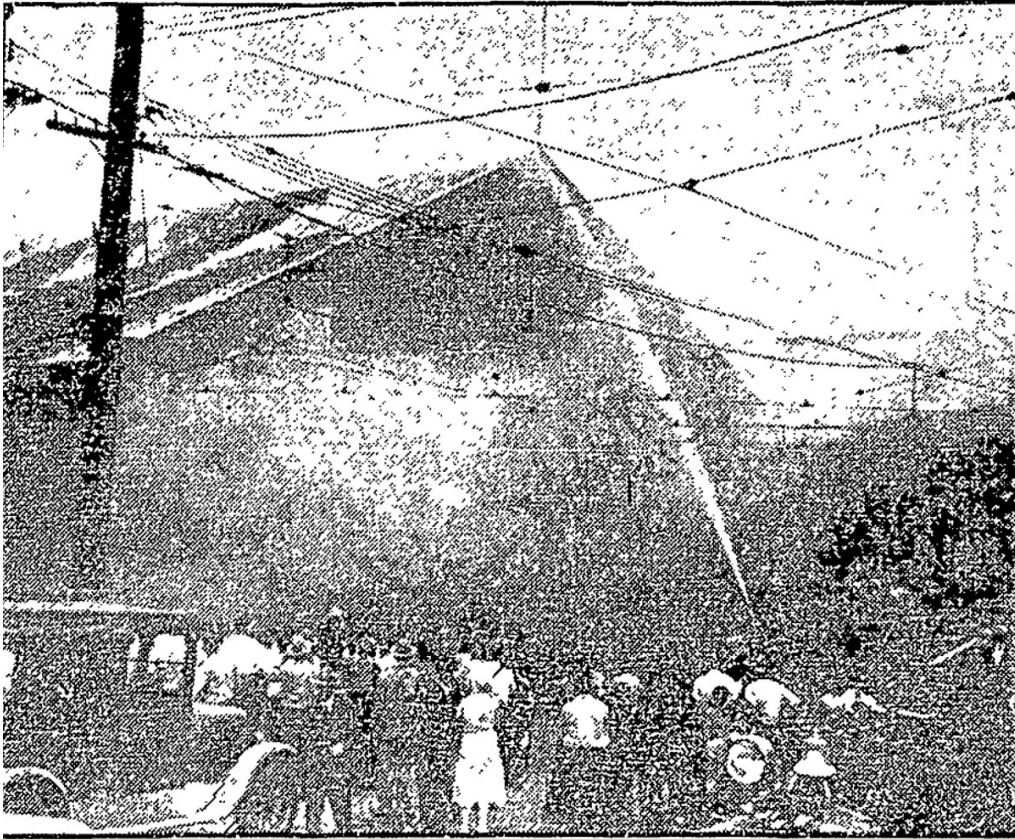
### 25 CARS DAMAGED.

Twenty-five street cars either were destroyed or badly damaged. Windows were broken, seats and furnishings were burned, roofs were burned off and trolley connections were melted away.

Electricity was turned off for two blocks around the barns shortly after the fire was discovered to prevent possible tragedy from that source.

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## Milo Street Car Barns Are Destroyed



TWENTY-FIVE street cars either were destroyed or badly damaged and the Milo car barns at Cleveland and Reynolds avenues were practically destroyed Friday noon by fire caused by children playing in a street car in the barns. This picture was taken while firemen were fighting the blaze to keep it from spreading.

## Sees Flames Destroy His Handiwork of 37 Years Ago

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(Columbus Evening Dispatch, August 23, 1930) – C. W. EWING sat on the front porch of his home Friday and saw his handiwork go up in flames.

From his residence at 825 Cleveland avenue he witnessed the fire which swept through the Milo car barns, located directly across the street, Friday afternoon.

Memories of almost 40 years ago were recalled when the fire started in the building.

“It was way back in 1893, when I started to work on the building for the old Columbus Central Railway Co.,” he said.

“Let me see, I was only 37 years old then and believe me I could lay as many bricks and nail together many boards as the best of them.”

And he has not yet lost the art of sawing boards and nailing them together.

Saturday morning, he was found in the back yard of his home tinkering around with a saw and hammer doing a little repair work on his back fence.

He has retired from active business and now owns a restaurant at 827 Cleveland avenue.

Ewing is also proud to relate the fact that he was one of the first to operate a street car out of the Milo car barns shortly after it was completed in 1894.

After the barns were completed, he was a motorman on the old Central Columbus Railway Co. lines for three years. His run was from the barns to Town and High Street to Linden.

“In those day you could buy six tickets for a quarter and get a transfer on the side. But there are several things to take into consideration. There was no heat on the cars and the tracks in some sections ran over dirt roads.” He said.”

Ewing is 77 years old.



*C. W. Ewing.*