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## Royalton Blaze

Courier-Express Lockport Bureau

**LOCKPORT** — A bolt of lightning started a fire which destroyed a barn and threatened an adjacent house on Tonawanda Creek Rd., Town of Royalton, Wednesday afternoon.

Sheriff's deputies said the barn belonged to Mrs. Jane A. Kaczmarek, of 6663 Tonawanda Creek Rd. The blaze broke out about 2:40 p.m. during a thunderstorm shower which swept through Niagara County.

The Sheriff's Dept. Arson Investigator, Jack Fitch, investigated at the scene and said there was no indication of arson. Lighting was blamed for the blaze, he said.

**Barn Destroyed**  
The 30 by 100 foot barn was completely destroyed, but there was no immediate estimate of the cost of the damage.

The roof of a rear porch of Mrs. Kaczmarek's house was scorched by the flames, but was wetted down by members of the rapid volunteer fire department to prevent it from igniting.

Lost in the barn blaze was a lawn mower, refrigerator and stove which were stored there. No one was injured, deputies said.

## Motorcycle Accident Injures 2 in Batavia

Courier-Express Batavia Bureau

**BATAVIA** — Two Batavians were injured at 12:45 Wednesday morning when a motorcycle went out of control on Swan St. and overturned.

Thomas Hyde, 17, of 12 Fisher Park, fractured his right elbow and was admitted to St. Jerome Hospital.

Robert Szczepanek, 23, of 14 Fisher Park, was treated and released for abrasions of the right elbow and lacerations of the right foot.

Police said the motorcycle operated by Szczepanek was southbound south of School St. The operator said the machine struck a raised manhole cover, causing him to lose control.

Burnett said he would look into all the service contracts with various areas outside the city and report to the council at its next meeting.

The areas outside the city, however, have access to the Niagara County Water Dist. Also, sewer treatment plants are being constructed in the Towns of Wheatfield and Lewiston to handle sewage outside the city.

The discussion was prompted by a request of consulting engineers for the Town of Niagara to tap into city water lines in the Hyde Park Bl. area. Burnett said it was only a preliminary request to study the engineering feasibility of the tap.

Under the revolving, an advisory committee consisting of the county auditor, treasurer, director of tax services, and the majority and minority leaders will oversee operations.

## Thieves Continue Probe

By Allegany County Bureau

**WHEELING** — State Police here on Wednesday continued their investigation into the theft on Monday night of \$5,000 in cash and a \$5,000 coin collection.

Police reported that a safe containing the money and coin collection were taken from the home of Darwin Long, Beach Hill Rd., here, between 7 and 11 Monday night. Long was not at home at the time.

# Model City's Groundwater Pollution Is Called Best-Documented in Area

By M. E. LINDBERG

Courier-Express Staff Reporter

The best-documented case of contaminated ground water in the Erie-Niagara region is in the Model City area of Lewiston, according to a draft report released Wednesday.

That Niagara County site, once occupied by an Atomic Energy Commission rocket fuel production plant, is the present location of Chem-Trol Pollution Services Inc.

A report prepared by the Erie and Niagara Counties Regional Planning Board states the compound sodium borate, otherwise known as boron, has contaminated ground water "sufficient to raise havoc with growing plants but ... not present in concentrations high enough to be a health hazard."

**Migrates to Well**  
The chemical, over a 20-year period, migrated through ground surrounding the abandoned atomic site and was discovered in a domestic well on River Rd. in the Village of Youngstown.

"Chem-Trol is located in this same area and is underlain by the same type of material," the planning board's draft report states.

The report cautions that while "contamination from Chem-Trol has not yet had time enough to migrate as the boron has," this "potential problem" should be studied in depth "so that Chem-Trol may take necessary steps to avoid massive contamination of ground water supplies."

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## Monitored Frequently

The report acknowledges that the Model City contamination is best-documented because Chem-Trol is one of two areas in the Erie-Niagara region where ground-water is monitored frequently.

The other area is in Niagara Falls, bounded by Pine Ave., Oakard Rd. and I-190, where wells monitor leachate from landfills owned by DuPont, Niagara Recycling and Newco.

The wells are new and the first findings are yet to be submitted, but the report states this area "as well as along the Buffalo Ave. industrial district is suspected of having large scale ground water contamination."

In all, the report says, "It is hypothe-

size that ground water in eight areas in the region is either contaminated or is highly suspected of being contaminated by leachate produced from landfills."

## Artpark Included

These include the Village of Lewiston, where leachate problems have been experienced at an old landfill at the present Artpark location, and the Niagara County Refuse Disposal Dist. landfill in Lockport.

The leachate, in general reflects the byproducts of whatever is placed in the landfill.

The report states there is a "notable lack of groundwater monitoring wells in the two-county area. It is necessary to initiate monitoring of this type as soon as possible ..."

Ground water usage in the bi-county area accounts for roughly 10 per cent of the total water used for domestic purposes, it explains.

## Issue Debated

The supplies come from both individual and municipal wells and about 100,000 people are dependent on the water's protection and preservation.

## Pageant Pretties

A native of Texas, Lesly Carol Braun has adopted Staten Island as her home and will be its representative in the 1977 Miss New York State Pageant. The pageant gets under way on Wednesday at Shea's Buffalo Theater. Miss Braun is a cum laude graduate of the University of Texas and does freelance fashion designing. The 21-year-old will show the pageant judges her talent with the flute during the three-day competition.

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