

Devastating Fires

Most of the time, the fires that devastated Winkler's business community destroyed only buildings and their contents, and sometimes the dreams of the owners, as they burned themselves out at the end of the street.

Most of the time. But not always.
Buildings can be rebuilt, and goods can be replaced.
However, the cost is incalculable when lives are lost.
Several such fires have also occurred in Winkler.

On Saturday, March 18, 1962, a fire at Dave's Service Station at the corner of First St. and Stanley Ave. took one life and injured six others.

While a Shell Oil tanker truck was filling the pumps, gasoline overflowed and ran into the garage.

As the gas was being mopped up, it exploded, turning the garage into an inferno. Clifford Derksen died as a result of this fire. His father Dave Derksen and brother La Vern, Jake Enns, and brothers Corny, Pete and Henry Peters were injured.

On September 2, 1965, Peter Wall was injured in a fire at Schmidt Manufacturing. He succumbed to his injuries on September 22.

The cause of the fire was uncertain, it appears, but likely due to a defect on an acetylene welder.