

# Daily News

PC# L

## BARREL OF TROUBLE



City ordinance forbids open burning within the Robinson City limits. The Robinson Fire Department was called to the old Briggs plant Wednesday afternoon on the report by a passerby that smoke was coming from the west side of the building. Arriving on the scene, firefighters discovered this old vat converted into a burning barrel for wood debris. The fire was extinguished, but no citation was issued. (Tom Compton photo)

Thursday, March 6, 2008



**SPORTS:**  
Lady Statesmen



**RECEIVED**  
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APR 24 2012

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

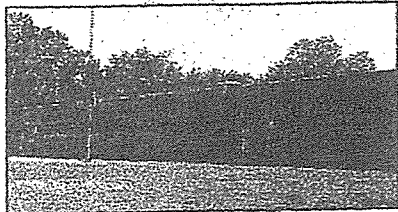
# Former factory up for lease

By RANDY HARRISON  
Daily News

A prime piece of commercial Robinson real estate is available for lease.

While the fate of the Robinson Briggs Manufacturing plant remains in limbo, the company has announced it will not renew its monthly lease on the former Etlebrick Shoe Company property, next to Hershey on West Main. Briggs has used the three buildings there as warehouses.

That means the 35,000-square-foot block building and two metal buildings (25,000 and 20,000-



The former Etlebrick Shoe Factory

square feet, respectively) will again be available for lease as of today, according to Robinson attorney Max Tedford.

Tedford, spokesman for Eastern Leasing Company, said the local investors group has owned the entire city block since July 5, 1988. Briggs began leasing the property later that month.

"We've really enjoyed a good relationship with Briggs," Tedford said. "We're sorry they will no longer be leasing it." He added the Briggs employees are "extremely hard workers" and he regrets the situation at the plant.

Briggs' union employees went on strike May 1, upset over proposed wage and benefit cuts. Attempts to restart negotiations have failed and the company is now considering closing the 79-year-old pottery.

Etlebrick Shoe Company opened here in 1946 and at its height also had plants in Casey and Greenup. The firm closed in the early 1980s.

Tedford said the buildings are "primarily for warehousing, but could be remodeled to accommodate just about anything." The property also has a large parking lot.

Anyone interested in leasing the property can contact Tedford at 544-8661 or PO Box 250, Robinson, Ill. 62454.

NEVER

## THE RECORD

Monday, April 9, 2012 • Page 11

EAST

PUBLIC NOTICES

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT CASE

The Attorney General has brought a case against Briggs Industries, Inc., for violation of State Pollution control rules. On March 30, 2012, the parties filed a proposed settlement agreement. The parties agree that a hearing is unnecessary, and in accordance with State law, have requested that the settlement be adopted without holding a public hearing.

Any person desiring that a hearing be held may demand a public hearing in this case by filing a written hearing request with the Illinois Pollution Control Board within 21 days after the publication of this notice. The hearing request should refer to People of the State of Illinois v. Briggs Industries, Inc., PCB 08-51, and should be mailed to the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Additional information can be obtained through the Office of the Clerk at 312/814-3461 and the Board's website at: <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us>  
Thomas Holbrook

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ne as of  
\$8.70.

**SPORTS:**

Post 69 loses slugfest at Terre Haute/Page 8

# Daily News

by **NICOLE WESKERNA**  
*Daily News*

After heavy weekend rains, several homeowners who live near West Locust Lane brought their flooding problems to the Robinson City Council Tuesday night.

Bonnie and Eldon Cooper, 804 W. Locust Lane, said they have been dealing with drainage problems for too long and they want to know how long it will take the city to finally fix it. "I've been complaining for years," Bonnie Cooper said. "I don't think we should have to keep begging."

The city received a grant totaling nearly \$2 million to fund a project to fix the drainage problem in that area. Now, the city has to wait for a settlement between Briggs Manufacturing and the Environmental Protection Agency before construction can begin. City Attorney Frank Weber said he is not sure how long it will take Briggs to resolve the issue with the EPA, but the project cannot get started until they find a resolution.

The Coopers passed around a picture of a fenced-in hole in their yard that has been temporarily helping the drainage problem in the area. The hole has been in place for three years and the flooding is too much for the drain to handle.

Bonnie said the flooding during the weekend completely tore the fence out and she's nervous about letting her grandchildren play in her yard.

"We pay high taxes, too," she said. "What would you do if this was your yard?"

Also at the meeting, aldermen learned they have a \$13,500.95 deficit in the budget this year. Next year's budget will be \$50,000 less than it was last year. The general fund budget for the next year will total \$3,305,905.95.

Council members also agreed to patch the tennis courts at Washington Park after accepting a bid for \$50,699. Unit 2 school district pays the city \$1,000 a year to use the tennis courts and the city agreed to ask for \$10,000 to pay for the

next 10 years so the city would have more seed money. Money for the tennis court repairs will also come from a tourism grant that would total near \$10,000. It would cost the city approximately \$26,000 to finish the tennis court project.

The city also agreed to adopt ordinances to approve annexation agreements with Lincoln Trail College Foundation, LTC Booster Club and LTC so annexation procedures can begin. The agreements will be presented to the three parties so they can be signed.

The council agreed to hire Jeff Hill as a part-time police officer. He is currently a correctional officer at the Robinson Correctional Center and he is also the head of the auxiliary police department. Hill will have to complete a part-time academy for training, which will not start until September. The training will last nine months and will cost between \$500 and \$1,000, but the city will be reimbursed for the expenses.

A new treadmill will be added to the Parker-Ragon Training Center after aldermen agreed to spend \$5,627.24. Also, the council accepted a bid for a new fire department roof at a cost of \$28,200. However, the city will only pay half of the cost of the roof, totaling \$14,100 for its half.

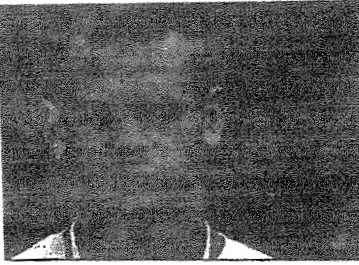
The council approved the purchase of a Hustler-brand mower from Rural King for \$8,520.30 to replace an old mower that has logged 26,000 hours of use.

**Aldermen also:**

- Accepted two tourism grant applications: \$2,600 for entertainment and expenses for Robinson's July Fourth celebration and \$1,550 for advertising and entertainment for the Hutsonville Community Days July 31 and Aug. 1.

- Heard about a property at 307 N. Alexander that is considered a dangerous and unsafe building. The owners have both died and no action can be taken to demolish the house until the title has been transferred, which could take between 30 and 45 days.

## City waiting for Briggs/EPA pact to fix drainage



**SPORTS:**  
**NMS's Christian**  
**wins state**  
**hurdles title/**  
**Page 12**

**Industrial park**  
**would benefit**  
**from \$2M grant**

By **NICOLE WESKERA**  
*Daily News*

Those who attended Tuesday's Robinson City Council meeting shook their umbrellas and wiped wet shoes after a heavy rain fell in a short amount of time. And dealing with water happened to be one of the meeting's main topics.

Bob Berty, executive director of Crawford County Development Association, reported to the council that CCDA has applied for a grant from the United States Economic Development Administration for \$1,990,729.05 for storm-sewer and other infrastructure improvements near Ridgeway Industrial Park and the Hershey plant.

Berty told the council that the grant has been completely submitted to the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission and it is a 25-75 grant, which means the city has to pay for 25 percent of the grant if it is approved. Robinson became eligible to apply for the grant after the state declared the city a "disaster area" for flooding.

Infrastructure development in the industrial park would provide access to eight lots in the park. If the grant is approved, improvements would include the extension of West Mulberry Street with 30 feet of new concrete pavement curb, 2,140 feet of water main, 3,000 feet of sanitary sewer main, one duplex sanitary pumping station and 5,114 feet of storm sewer. Berty said he would know if the grant is approved by next week.

It was clarified at the meeting that these improvements will not be coming from the federal economic stimulus plan.

Also at the meeting, two Robinson neighbors, Eldon Cooper and Gerald Gordy, brought up concerns about flooding on their properties on Reed and Locust Lane. Cooper said his yard floods in excess and Gordy said he has been waiting for the city to take action for several years.

Council members also discussed changing an ordinance that would remove some of the mayor's power when it came to

**ALSO TUESDAY:**

- **Change on committee appointments OK'd**
- **New alderman sworn in**
- **Locust Lane flooding complaints heard**

choosing committees. Alderman John Birkofer said changing the ordinance would spread out the responsibility of appointing committees to several people rather than just one.

Alderman Joe Hayden voted against changing the ordinance because he does not want to take away the mayor's responsibilities. He said the ordinance has been in effect since 1923 and it has worked well.

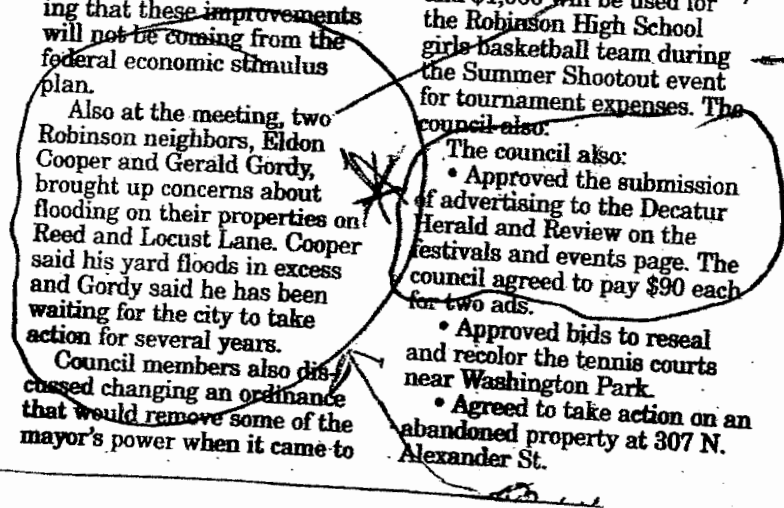
But Birkofer argued that changing the ordinance now would protect the city in the event a future mayor has an "agenda" and the council has little control over the mayor's decisions. A motion to change the ordinance passed with three "no" votes from Russell Snider, Hayden and newly-appointed alderman Susan Kerr.

Kerr was sworn in as a new alderman Tuesday and took the open seat Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Pethel left behind after spending more than 23 years as an alderman. Kerr was born and raised in Robinson and she has two children. She works as a registered nurse and is currently employed as an health-care administrator with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The Tourism Committee also plans on using \$3,500 for the Robinson Girls Softball Association for umpire fees and \$1,000 will be used for the Robinson High School girls basketball team during the Summer Shootout event for tournament expenses. The council also:

- Approved the submission of advertising to the Decatur Herald and Review on the festivals and events page. The council agreed to pay \$90 each for two ads.
- Approved bids to reseal and recolor the tennis courts near Washington Park.
- Agreed to take action on an abandoned property at 307 N. Alexander St.

*Flood*



# Daily News

Robinson, Ill. • Crawford County's Newspaper since 1919

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107

50 Cents



Thursday, March 29, 2007

**SPORTS:**  
Lady Statesmen  
sweep Olney  
Central/page 8



# Coming DOWN

*Former Briggs pottery landmarks fall as property cleanup continues*

By **TOM COMPTON**  
*Daily News*

Salvage work continued at the former Briggs Manufacturing plant this week as the two porcelain slip silos were taken down Wednesday.

For the past several days the crew from TNT Excavating & Transport LLC, the property's new owner who are doing the demolition/renovation work on the former "pottery," have been preparing the two silos for demolition. Bolts and interior bracing were cut, as were all exterior connections. A crescent-shaped notch was also cut in the bottom of each of the two silos. Workers also had to clear the area where the silos were expected to fall.

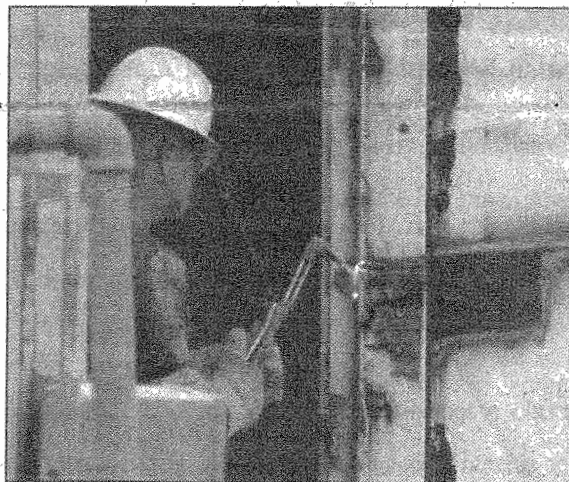
Jon Mericle, manager for TNT Excavation, said after discussing the situation with Larry Lambert of Lambert's Hauling, Marshall, and going over several options for taking down the 48-foot and 81-foot silos, it was decided that dropping them in one piece would be faster and safer than trying to cut them apart while they were still standing.

One cable from a semi tow truck belonging to Lambert was attached to the top of the silo and another was attached to the notch that had been cut in the bottom. With tension on the top cable, the notch at the bottom was pulled out and the silo was felled like a tree.

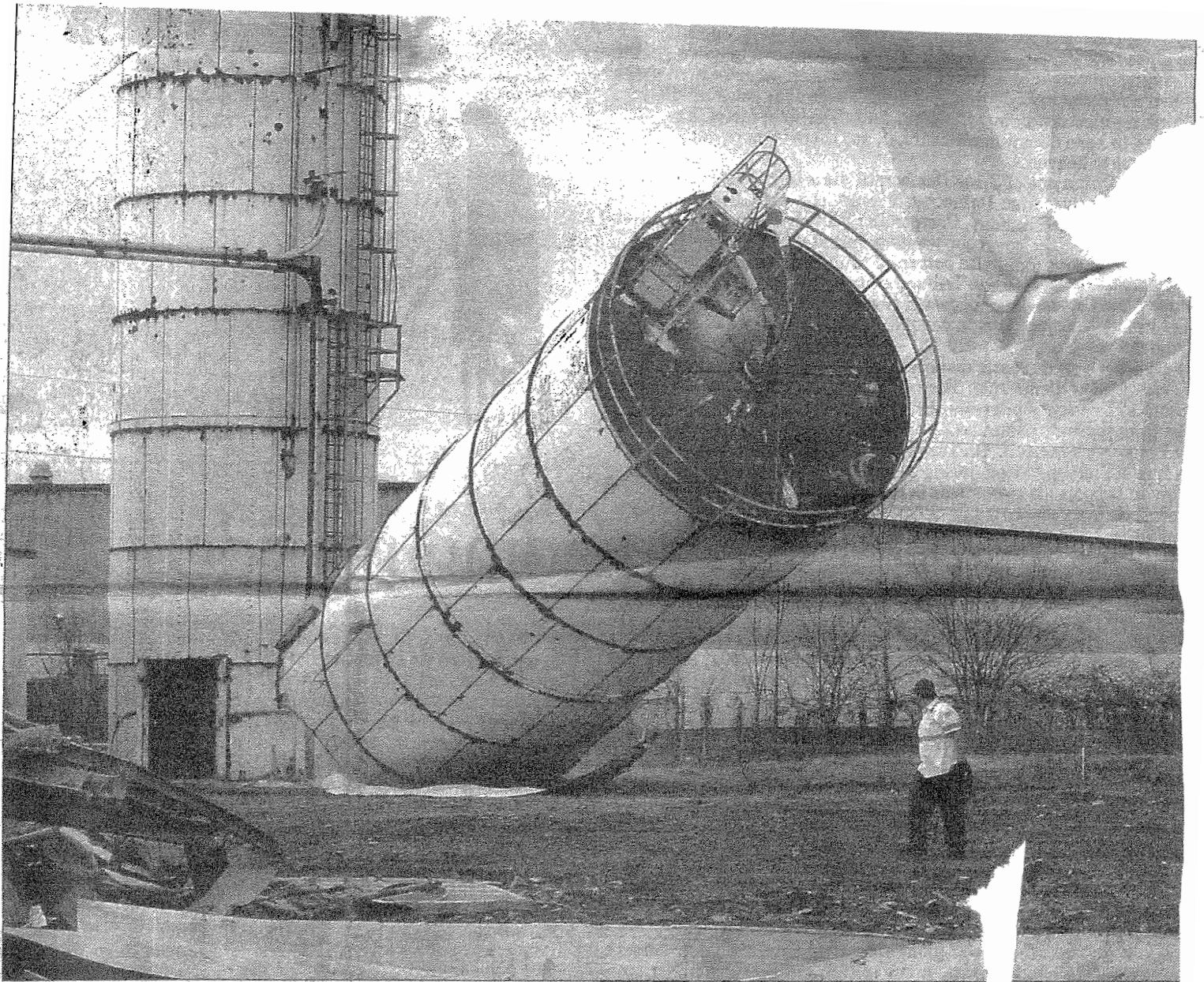
Lambert, who has experience in this type of demolition, supervised the project. The silos will now be cut up and sold for salvage.

The old factory was purchased by Martinsville Warehouse & Logistics, owned by Dan and Christina Truelove, and its subsidiary, TNT Excavating & Transport LLC, Martinsville, in 2006.

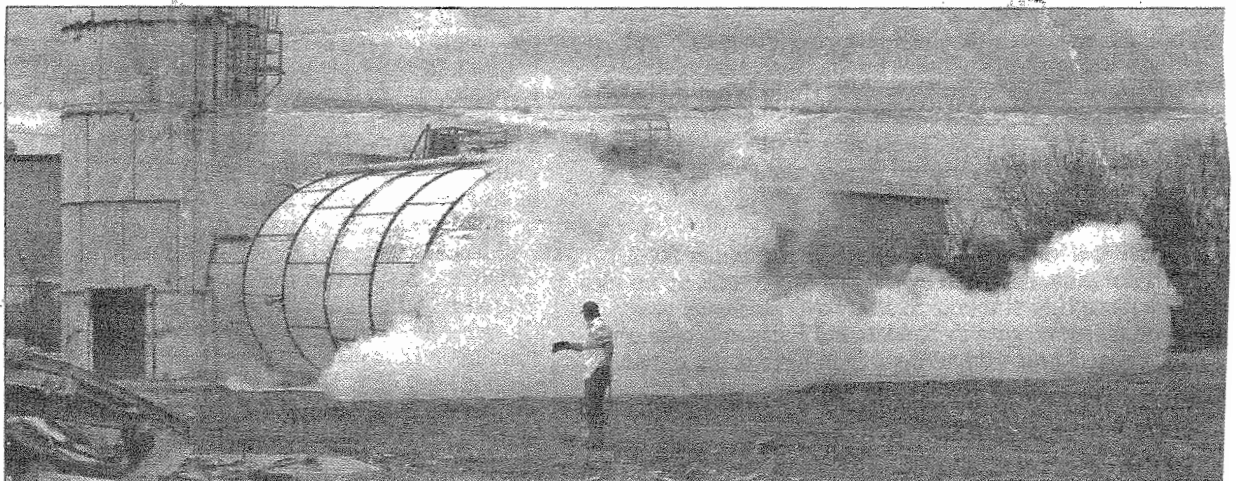
Mericle said after the unused buildings have been cleared away they plan to take down the old water tower in much the



**A TNT Excavating crewman uses a cutting torch to prepare one of the two silos for demolition. (Tom Compton photo)**



**Never turn your back on a falling object: A Lambert's Hauling employee keeps watch from a distance of at least 50 feet as the 48 foot silo falls during demolition. (Tom Compton photo)**



**Crash! It's down in a cloud of dust — the dust being from remnants of the porcelain "slip" the silo once contained that was used in the manufacturing process. Proper planning and execution brought down the first of two slip silos without a mishap Wednesday. (Tom Compton photo)**

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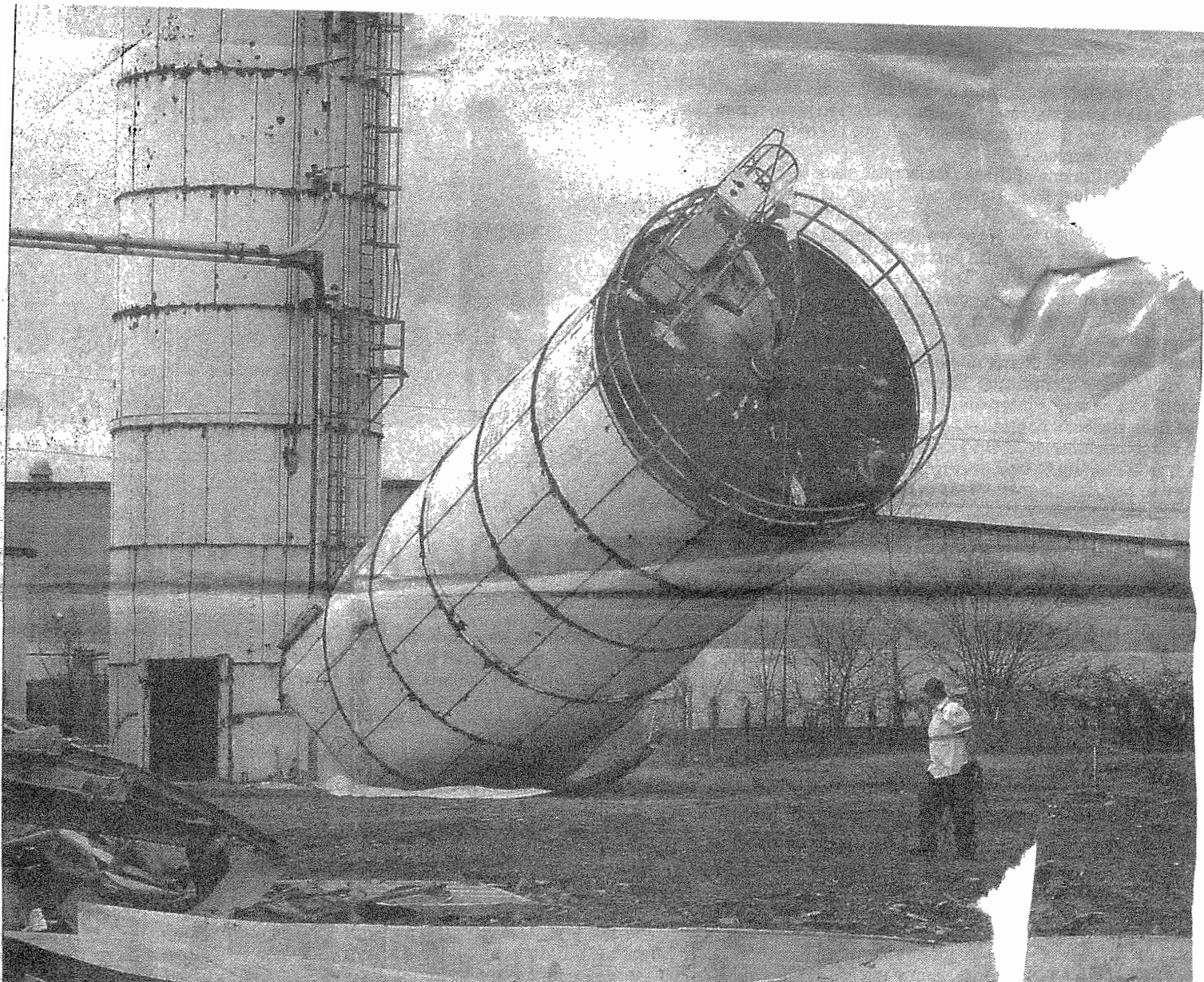
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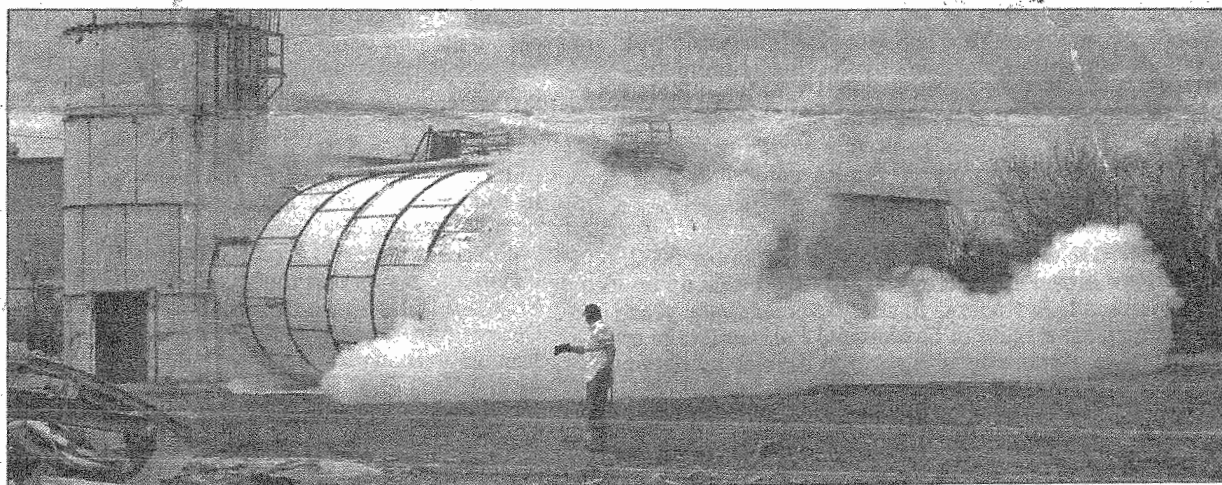
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