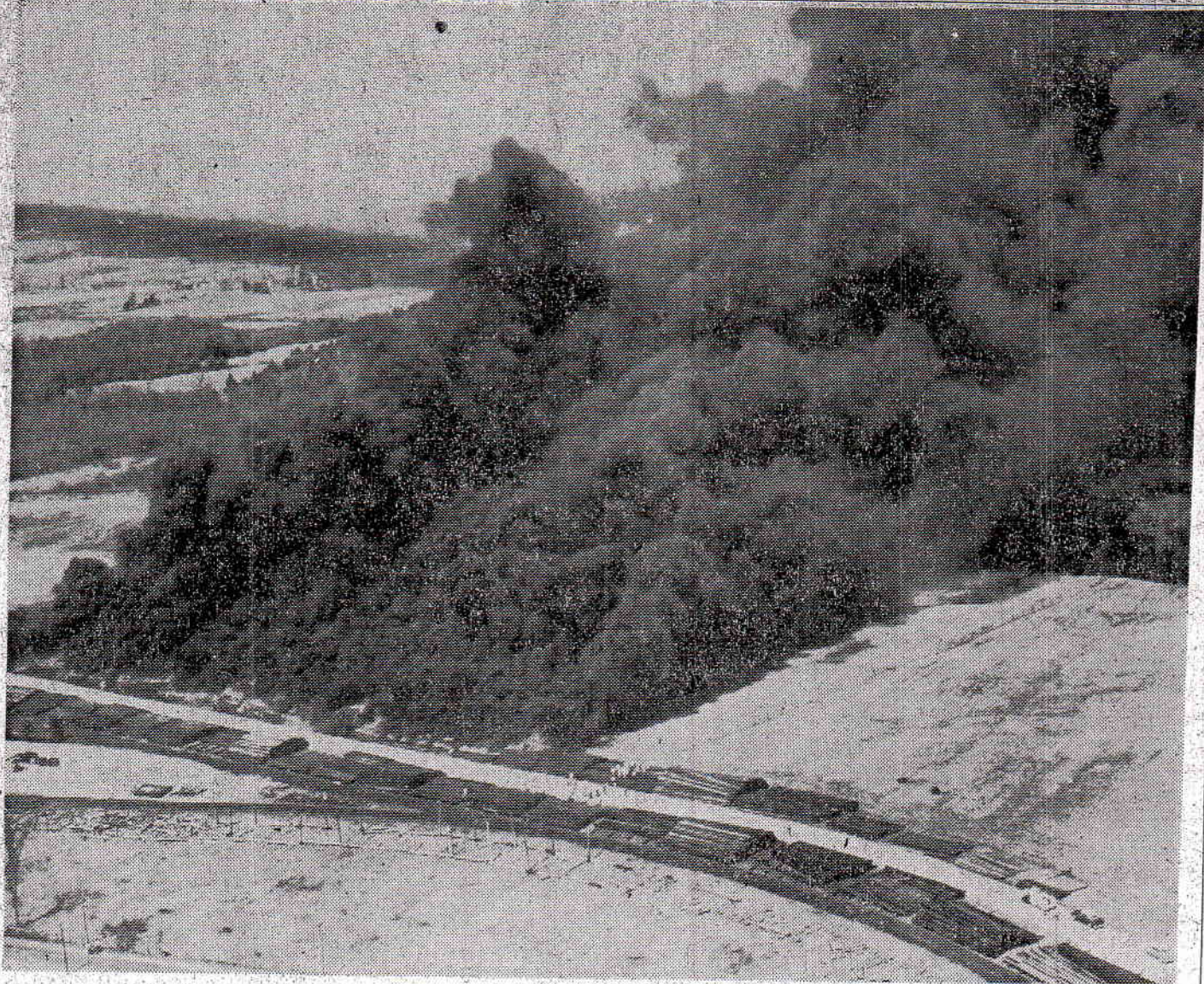


the fire with water from a pail but the wind drove the fire up into
TURNER, May 9 — Fire be-
lied sparked near a high ten-
tained. No dwellings were threat-
ened.
Fire Chief Kenneth Sawyer
An investigation into the cause
of the fire was planned for to-
morrow.

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A Black Day In North Yarmouth

Huge clouds of black smoke billowed above the Koppers Co., Inc. treatment plant yesterday as freshly creosoted utility poles burned. The smoke brought a new hue to Maine skies that were filled with clouds of grey smoke. But the eventual result was the same—more clouds of grey as this fire blossomed into a full scale forest blaze which jumped the Royal River and headed for Freeport. (Gannett Air Photo by Roberts)

May 8 1957

most of the day. comfortably tonight at Wepper Hospital, Biddeford.

1,000 Stacked Utility Poles Lost In Yarmouth Blaze

YARMOUTH, May 9.—A spectacular fire erupted today in huge piles of creosote treated utility poles which sent up inky black clouds of smoke visible for miles.

The white foam blanket dispersed the extreme heat of the burning creosote so that firemen could get in close with hoses.

(See Picture Page 40)

from the burning pile quickly spread the flames to others close by, and to grass and a wooded area at the rear of the pole processing yard on Sligo Road.

Several railroad cars loaded with logs on a siding menaced by the flames were pulled to safety.

A STIFF BREEZE whipped the flames through the wooded area and across Royal River toward the Eastern Builders lumber yard and homes in the area.

Fire companies from Brunswick Naval Air Station, Cumberland, Gray, North Yarmouth, Pownal, Falmouth and Freeport also joined in battling the wind-driven flames.

A shift in the wind swerved the racing blaze away from the lumber yard toward the area bounded by East Elm street and the North road.

Fire officials estimated nearly 1,000 of the 40 to 50 foot poles stacked in 10 foot high piles in the processing yard operated by Koppers Co., Inc., were destroyed.

So intense was the heat from the burning poles that piles on the other side of a separating road in the yard caught fire.

THREE BULLDOZERS, two from a nearby construction site, were pressed into service to scatter the burning piles of poles, so that firemen could get at the hidden flames.

Firemen, reddened and sweating from the blazing heat, quickly doused the flames, saving many thousands of poles.

Cause of the explosive blaze, which started about 3 p. m. and was reported under control at 7:30 p. m., is undetermined. No estimate of the loss was available, but an unofficial source reported the poles were valued at about \$1 a foot up to 35 feet long.

SOUTH PORTLAND firemen were called in with their special foam firefighting equipment. A full truck load of foam hauled from the fire department and at the American Oil Co. tank farm, was used.

The firm supplies poles for power companies, telephone lines and others.