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COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

Fire destroys Sinclair farm building



Columbia Fire Department

A fire Thursday night engulfed an out-of-use University of Missouri research building on Sinclair Road.

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A decommissioned University of Missouri research building was the site of a large fire Thursday night.

At 8:20 p.m., Columbia firefighters responded to the building on the Sinclair Research Farm property at 5735 S. Sinclair Road. They found heavy fire and smoke, with half the building in flames, according to a fire department news release.

With no indication that anyone was in the building, crews fought the fire from outside using ladder trucks. The Boone County Fire Protection District assisted at the scene. The firefighting

operation continued for several hours, with the building's walls and roof collapsing around 10:30 p.m.

Representatives from MU's Office of Environmental Health and Safety told the fire department that the building had been decommissioned in preparation for demolition. There were no chemical or biological risks involved.

Investigators were working to determine the cause of the fire; a damage estimate was not yet available. Because of the amount of damage, determining the fire's origins will be difficult, the news release said.

Reports indicated one or more vehicles was seen leaving the area shortly before the fire was reported. Anyone with information is asked to call the fire department or MU police.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Fire destroys abandoned building at former MU research farm

By Miranda Metheny

November 10, 2011 | 11:41 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A fire destroyed a building Thursday night on what was once Sinclair Farm, an MU research facility on Sinclair Road.

The fire, which began at about 8:40 p.m., engulfed the L-shaped building, which was made of metal with a wooden frame, and caused the roof to cave in.

Columbia Fire Department Battalion Chief Steven Sapp said by the time firefighters were able to get water, the 100-by-100-by-40 structure was 50 percent destroyed.

Sapp said there was no reason to believe anyone was in the building. He said because the building was consumed by fire and they didn't believe anyone was inside, the department decided early on to take a "defensive exterior tactic." As a result, he said, no firefighters were injured on duty.

Sapp said the cause of the fire was unknown, but because the building did not have utilities, the fire is "somewhat suspicious."

There have been reports of squatters and vandalism in the area, and there were reports of cars leaving the scene Thursday night, but the department has no more information at this point, he said.

The Boone County Fire Protection District assisted the department. Tanker trucks were used in a shuttle relay to draw water from fire hydrants at a nearby subdivision because there were no fire hydrants nearby in the rural area.

At 10:30 p.m., the fire was about 75 percent put out, Sapp said.

There were concerns there might be hazardous material in the building, but Sapp said MU Environmental Health and Safety assured the department that the building was properly decommissioned.

The farm opened in the mid-sixties. The 543-acre facility was used mainly as a research farm. It's work included looking at cancer in pigs and studying epileptic seizures in cattle.

MU closed the farm in September 1989 as a way to reallocate and save money, according to a Columbia Daily Tribune article from the time. If the property was ever sold, the person who donated the land stipulated that the proceeds go toward a home for nurses.

The building, still owned by MU, has been abandoned for about 10 years, Sapp said.



Mayor warns Columbia could lose air service

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, November 10, 2011

Columbia is at risk of losing its airport unless more residents turn to it for their travels and agree to invest in improvements.

That's a warning Mayor Bob McDavid is giving community leaders. It's based on predictions from a national consultant, Michael Boyd, who expects 50-passenger planes, such as the ones being flown out of Columbia Regional Airport, to be retired at an accelerated rate as oil prices rise.

Columbia isn't the only community facing the challenge: Boyd predicts some 100 small airports will lose service by 2020 as airlines consolidate to become more profitable.

"Basically, we need to assume we're in the cross hairs of this continued airport consolidation," McDavid said.

The city is hiring Boyd to better assess the situation and determine what Columbia needs to do to keep air service.

Several factors put Columbia at risk. First, although passenger counts are on the rise, they're far below numbers needed to be sustainable. It is predicted airports will need a minimum of 150,000 enplanements a year in the future to survive.

Columbia has fewer than 40,000, McDavid said. And it might be tougher to persuade residents to use Columbia's airport because the price gap is increasing between a ticket at Columbia Regional Airport and a ticket in St. Louis or Kansas City, he said.

Delta already plans to temporarily cut services here. From December through February, there will be no midday flight, leaving only the early morning or afternoon options. Adding to the concern is the fact Delta has reduced flights out of Columbia's connector in Memphis by 25 percent.

Columbia Regional Airport does have a few things going for it. First, the number of passengers could rise when the University of Missouri becomes a member of the Southeastern Conference because that will require fans to travel farther for games.

"With the conference alignment, we will need to get all of those people into Columbia," said Greg Cecil, chairman of the airport advisory board.

And the airport is getting some improvements. The federal government is picking up 95 percent of a \$35 million tab to upgrade the runways, and the Missouri Department of Transportation is constructing an overpass that will improve access.

For another \$10 million, McDavid said, the city could build a three-gate terminal. Bloomington, Ill., made a similar investment a decade ago, he said, and now flies 500,000 passengers a year despite being 130 miles from O'Hare in Chicago.

"If we don't have air service, we're going to become an insignificant community, we're going to be a university that's hard to get to, and we're going to lose out," Cecil said.

MU would especially be hurt, said spokesman Christian Basi, who spoke with top administrators about the concern. MU relies on the airport to recruit out-of-state students, faculty, potential donors, guest speakers and those who oversee grant dollars.

"Folks do prefer to fly in to an airport close by; that's why we've always been supportive of efforts to help the airport," Basi said.

The ability to attract companies would take a hit, too. "We need to make it easy for those job creators to get in and out of Columbia," McDavid said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

GEORGE KENNEDY: Move to SEC comes with serious considerations — culturally and financially

By GEORGE KENNEDY

November 10, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — As I stood in the back of the crowd Sunday and listened to the love fest marking our university's abandonment of a century of tradition, I found it almost impossible to maintain my skepticism about the new union with the Old Confederacy Conference.

Almost impossible, but not quite. I couldn't help recalling the old saying, be careful what you wish for.

The excitement was certainly compelling. There on the temporary stage in the recently remodeled student center was my boss, Chancellor Brady Deaton, acting as ebullient as I've ever seen him.

This marriage made in Birmingham was "appropriate, timely and headed in the right direction," he enthused. It was the result of "a thoughtful and deliberate process."

A little later, when the celebration gave way to a press conference, he answered a journalist's question by explaining that MU was "looking for long-term stability and financial security." His tone switched from excited to regretful when he noted the "continuing instability" in the No Longer Big 12.

He might have added, I thought, that our athletics department was sick of playing third fiddle to Texas and Oklahoma. He might have said the last straw for him was being talked over and pushed around by OU President David Boren.

Senator Boren didn't make it to Sunday's symbolic exchange of football helmets; but University of Florida President Bernie Machen did.

He's also chairman of the Southeastern Conference, as the Old Confederacy prefers to be called. Welcoming and gracious, he dismissed any speculation that Missouri's culture wouldn't fit with the culture of our new playmates.

That's what has me at least a little worried. The culture of the SEC, when it comes to sports, is fanaticism. Did you see that Alabama-LSU game on television last week?

Remember when an Alabama fan deliberately poisoned the iconic trees on Auburn's campus? And speaking of Auburn, you probably recall how the father of that star quarterback tried to auction off his son's services before the lad led those Tigers to the national championship last year.

Have you ever seen the world's largest outdoor cocktail party, aka the Georgia-Florida football game?

These folks make our little Border War with KU look like a quick game of patty-cake.

Which brings to mind another old saying: When they say it's not about the money, it's about the money. In this case, we'll be talking serious money.

When it comes to academics, we can hold our own with any SEC institution except maybe Vanderbilt. In fact, a former student consoled me this week with the observation that while we may get whipped on the playing field, we'll be No. 1 in journalism schools. Of course, Florida might dispute that, but never mind.

In funding for athletics, it's a different story. We're near the bottom of the pack.

As you've probably heard, our university is quietly preparing for a fundraising drive with a goal somewhere north of \$1 billion. The number most often mentioned as the athletics department's share has been \$160 million, but an insider tells me that's far too low.

Mike Alden, our perpetually optimistic athletics director, said Sunday that the new membership will require MU "to step up our game."

He didn't mean only recruiting stronger, faster athletes. He meant, I'm sure, recruiting stronger donors who'll be faster in coming across with big – really big – bucks.

We've got to have new luxury boxes above the east stands of the football stadium. That's just for starters. The real resource gap is in the nonrevenue sports.

A friend who raises money for MU predicts there won't be much competition for funds between the athletics and academic arms. The big sports donors are in it for entertainment, he said, while the significant money for academics is more philanthropic.

Most donors to athletics are delirious about the change of allegiance, but there's major "fence mending" to be done among the Kansas City-area philanthropists, he added.

I hope you see, and some of you may even share, my concern. Big-time college athletics is already more influential than it should be. Mike Alden likes to describe our athletics program as "the front porch" of the university.

In the SEC, athletics is more like the front lawn, complete with Olympic-sized swimming pool and a BMW in the four-car garage. Inside the academic house, however, the roof is leaking and the sheriff is hauling off the furniture.

Our former conference home was no paradise. As a loyal alum, I hope this is a move in the right direction. I'm just not as sure as our leaders seem to be.

George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism.



Haith era off to a complicated start at Missouri

By Joe Walljasper

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, November 10, 2011

When Frank Haith was hired as Missouri's basketball coach, nobody could believe his luck. A guy facing an NCAA Tournament-or-unemployment season at the basketball backwater of Miami was suddenly in charge of a senior-laden team built to contend for a Big 12 title.

If that sounded too good to be true for Haith, it was. Actually, neither side got what it bargained for. Missouri got more controversy than expected, and Haith got less team than advertised.

From the very beginning, this was a complicated relationship.

Fan reaction to the hire was so negative that Athletic Director Mike Alden held a pre-emptive press conference the night before Haith's introduction to defend his coach as a squeaky clean man of character and to let reporters get the negative questions out of their system. Haith struck the right tone the next day by making light of the underwhelming response to his hire. He soon won over many fans by volunteering in Joplin after the town was leveled by a tornado.

All the wonderful things we had heard about Haith rang true until ... uh, oh.

On Aug. 16, Yahoo! Sports published a story alleging that, among many other offenses that would keep NCAA investigators working overtime, Miami booster Nevin Shapiro paid \$10,000 to someone associated with basketball recruit DeQuan Jones to ensure Jones would play for the Hurricanes. Shapiro said Haith knew about the payoff and even thanked him for it.

There is no question Shapiro and Haith had a relationship — two photographs of them together accompanied the story and there were at least 85 calls or texts between them from 2005 to 2010 — but the coach denied knowing anything about a payoff.

"I did nothing wrong at the University of Miami," Haith said.

He might well be right. It's his word against a convicted felon's.

But if Haith's bosses at MU believe him, they haven't said so. Alden and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton have been neutral. They are complying with the NCAA's instructions to not conduct their own investigation of Haith because it would interfere with the NCAA's probe. Missouri had hoped that the NCAA would make a ruling before practices started last month or before the season starts tomorrow, but that hasn't happened. The wait continues at Miami, too, where Jones will not be allowed to play in games unless the NCAA clears him.

The Haith era at Missouri doesn't really begin until this matter is resolved, because the Haith era at Missouri will end if the NCAA finds him guilty. But the NCAA isn't his only problem.

Mike Anderson left the remnants of a good team but not the foundation of a good program. The only proven players who aren't seniors — Mike Dixon and Phil Pressey — both play point guard. Anderson didn't sign a recruit last year before leaving for Arkansas.

The best Haith could do over the summer was add three transfers, only one of whom, George Goode of Louisville, would be eligible at MU this season. Then Goode, a Kansas City native who could have filled a dire need in the frontcourt, made the strange decision right before school started to spurn Missouri in favor of Farleigh Dickinson, which went 5-24 last season.

Ricky Krecklow transferred over the summer, further thinning the roster. The biggest blow came on Oct. 3 when senior forward Laurence Bowers — not Missouri's best player, but the one it could least afford to lose — suffered a season-ending knee injury. That was a killer.

The Tigers do have talent, but it's bunched in the backcourt, where Marcus Denmon is an All-America candidate and the Pressey/Dixon combination is potent. Rebounding will be a problem, as it was last year even with Bowers on the court. The two biggest starters, the 6-foot-8 Ricardo Ratliffe and the 6-6 Kim English, are both below-the-rim players. English will routinely give up 3 inches and 40 pounds to the power forwards he guards. If Ratliffe gets in foul trouble, Steve Moore will have to hold it down in the middle. Ready or not, raw redshirt freshman Kadeem Green will play significant minutes.

That's one thin team.

The Tigers enter the season ranked 25th in the AP Poll. I'm guessing voters around the country weren't paying close attention to Missouri's roster situation and just noticed the number of returning starters. If Haith can coax this team to its fourth straight NCAA Tournament appearance — assuming he's still the coach in March — he will deserve Big 12 Coach of the Year consideration. Luck will have nothing to do with it.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU rededicating memorial to WWI veterans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | Posted: Friday, November 11, 2011 7:06 am |

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri will rededicate a restored memorial to World War I veterans during a campus Veterans Day ceremony on Friday.

The American War Mothers' memorial honors the 117 MU students killed during World War I. It was originally dedicated in 1930 but removed in 1987 for a Rollins Street widening project.

The memorial was recently restored on the east side of the university's Memorial Union, which also honors war veterans. Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton and others will help rededicate the monument at a noon ceremony on Friday.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Local events commemorate Veterans Day

By [Caitlin Sole](#)

November 10, 2011 | 6:03 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Here's a list of events commemorating Veterans Day on Friday.

Remembrance Day National Roll Call

- When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Where: Columbia College, Atkins-Holman Student Commons
- What: The names of those who have died during the past 10 years during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom will be read, followed by a moment of silence at 1 p.m.

Mizzou Joint ROTC Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony

- When: 10:40 a.m.
- Where: The parade starts at the Columns on Francis Quadrangle and travels north on Eighth Street to the Boone County Courthouse.
- What: The parade will include Boone County veterans, the [Railsplitters](#) and other commemorative organizations, World War II vehicles and the Boone County Fire Protection District Pipes & Drums band. The parade will also feature for the first year Mizzou ROTC's Joint Pershing Rifle Team.
- At 11 a.m., there will be a ceremony at the Boone County Courthouse honoring veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The ceremony will feature Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields and will conclude with a three-volley salute and taps at 11:11 a.m. that will signal the end of a vigil that began Thursday in front of the war memorials at the Boone County Courthouse.

Outward Bound for Veterans Benefit

- When: 11:11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.
- Where: The atrium at Boone Landing, 109 N Keene St.

- What: A Veterans Day observance will be held at 11:11 a.m. Local singer Lois Ann Marler will perform patriotic songs at 6:45 p.m.
- The event is open to the public, and donations will be accepted. All proceeds go toward Outward Bound for Veterans, which helps returning service members and veterans readjust to life at home through wilderness courses. To RSVP, call 443-2007.

Rededication of the American War Mothers' Memorial

- When: Noon
- Where: East of Memorial Union
- What: The public is invited to remember the 117 MU heroes who died during World War I with the rededication of the American War Mothers' Memorial at its new site, outside of Stewart Hall.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

- When: 12:30 p.m.
- Where: Memorial Union tower, 518 Hitt St.
- What: The ceremony will recognize those who have served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces by laying a wreath at the Memorial Union tower. There will be a short commemorative ceremony and a reception for the veterans in attendance.

Presentation of the Purple Heart Stamp

- When: 1 p.m.
- Where: Stotler Lounge, Memorial Union
- What: The U.S. Postal Service will present a new Forever Stamp that will commemorate veterans indefinitely. The event will feature the stories of Purple Heart recipients followed by a reception.

University of Missouri Veterans Center Open House

- When: 1 to 3 p.m.
- Where: N5 Memorial Union
- What: Visit with MU student veterans and staff.