

BIRCH FOUNDRY FIRE

Source: [Weekly Argus News June 22, 1895 p 3](#)

At 9:30 o'clock this morning the department was summoned to Birchs' foundry on east College street. It was a remarkably short time until the boys went speeding on their way but they were doomed to disappoint so far as putting out the flames were concerned. The fire started in the roof, just how, no one knows. It is thought that a spark from coss' saw mill on the south or a passing train may have started it. Being very dry the flames soon had the entire building wrapped in a mass of fire and the valuable machinery was soon ruined. The plant was valued at \$6,000 and was built by the Birch Brothers about 10 years ago. They have always done a big business and it has been one of the leading industries of the city. Just now is a busy time with them and ruins a summer's work. It is to be hoped they will be able to rebuild at once.

The plant was insured for \$1,500 in the NY Home. Wabash college held a mortgage on it for \$3,000.

Just west of the foundry across the street a cottage belonging to Miss Carrol and occupied by George Burton, the blacksmith, caught fire and was badly damaged. Burton succeeded in removing all of his goods fortunately however. Miss Maggie had \$500 insurance on it in the Ohio Farmers.

The fireman made a good fight and their promptness is to be commended. A number of people were of the opinion that the water pressure was low at the start but Chief Dorsey said it was all right.

Another Blaze

At 1 o'clock this afternoon the department was picking its teeth when another call came in from the Serring planing mill and the boys responded. The roof over the engine room was on fire but was soon put out.