

Smoke billowed out of Apartment 1101 at 60 Park Avenue, where an unattended halogen lamp is suspected of starting a fire Thursday afternoon. No one was injured, but damage is estimated at \$40,000.

Air conditioner blamed for \$100,000 house fire

An air conditioner is the suspected cause of a \$100,000 house fire on Five Sideroad Wednesday night.

A 15-year-old occupant was alone at a house, which is between Sixth Line and Trafalgar Rd. He smelled smoke and went to investigate, then called the fire department.

Twenty-six fire fighters from the Halton Hills Fire Department and about 12 from the Milton Fire

Department were at the scene from about 8:15 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., along with about eight or nine vehicles.

No one was injured in the fire, which caused extensive damage to the family room, where the air conditioner was located. There was also smoke and heat damage to the rest of the home, according to a spokesperson for the Halton Hills

Apartment damage set at \$40,000

By PAUL FERREIRA

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The Halton Hills Fire Department suspects an unattended halogen lamp caused a fire at a downtown Georgetown apartment Thursday afternoon.

"We think that a breeze may have blown curtains on top of the bulb. The drapes would have ignited," department fire spokesperson.

The fire started in the bedroom of Apartment 1101 on the top floor of 60 Park Ave. and caused an estimated \$40,000 in damage - \$25,000 to the building and \$15,000 to the apartment's contents. No one was in the apartment at the time of the fire and there were no injuries.

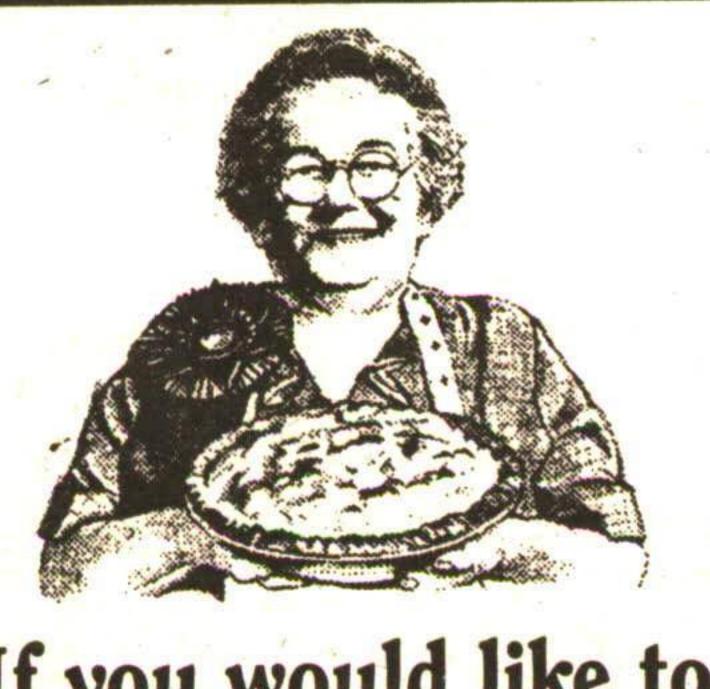
Pat Shortill and Sid Spear, who live down the hall from from where the fire took place, said they originally thought it was a false alarm.

"I came downstairs and then looked up and saw smoke. I ran right back up to get my cats," said Shortill, holding one of his cats.

Debbie Rodgers, who lives on the 11th floor of 62 Park Ave. right next to the burned out apartment, also didn't think it was a fire at first.

"It got really dark," said Rodgers, "I thought it was a storm, but then I looked out my window and saw that it was a fire."

The fire, which left residents outside for approximately an hour, was the second at 60 Park Ave. in less than five months. In late February, a fire started by children including two firefighters.



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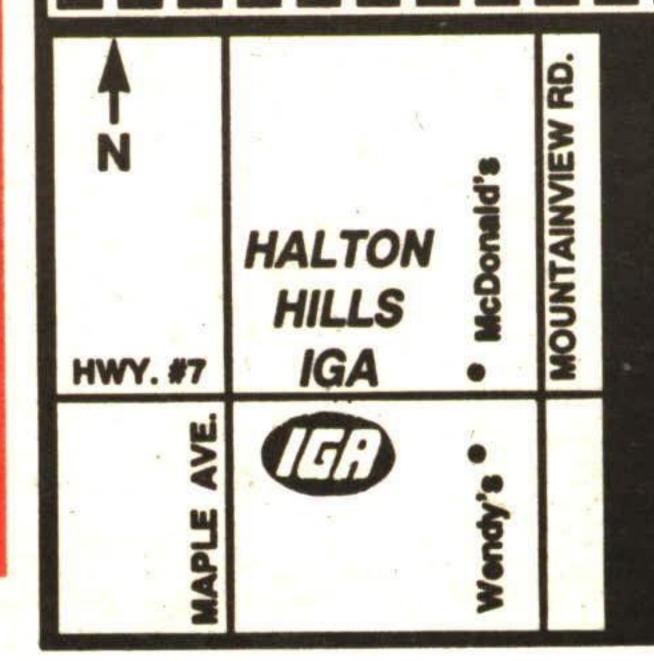
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