

WATERBURY RECORD
OCTOBER 02, 1947

Ravlin Mill, Razed by Fire, Will Be Rebuilt

Fire destroyed the lumber mill in Duxbury, owned by Fred Ravlin, about 8 o'clock Tuesday morning. The loss is set at about \$20,000 at present replacement costs. There was partial insurance coverage.

The fire started in an unexplained manner from the semi-deisel engine which was set in a cement engine room partially underground. William Griffith, employee at the mill, was operating a saw at the time, discovered the fire and ran to the house to tell Mrs. Ravlin to summon the fire dept.

Three buildings were burned besides the mill itself; a 24 foot square addition on the front of the south end of the main building in which there was some machinery in operation and some stored, together with \$1000 worth of dry dressed lumber; a

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FIRE

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24 by 40 foot building to the rear of the main mill, fully equipped with modern machinery arranged for complete production; and a 24 foot square detached storage room for extra machinery and the sawdust bin. Some of the machinery had been stored there by Crossett Shonio of South Burlington.

The Waterbury fire dept, who were delayed by the necessity of digging a hole in the nearby brook deep enough to get sufficient water to use the pump, saved the house at a distance of 40 feet, and also checked the fire from destroying the lumber piles in the yard, though the piles nearest the mill were badly scorched.

Men from the hospital barn came with milk pail of water to assist in fighting the fire and were credited with saving the small office building.

The wind was blowing the flames from the front to the back of the property which is the reason that the house was saved.

The roof of a barn belonging to Miss Jessie Davis just beyond the Ravlin property caught fire, and was saved by John Dillon, who climbed up a ladder with pails of water to extinguish the flames. Mr. Dillon is employed at the Ravlin mill.

Mr. Ravlin, a lumber dealer in Duxbury for many years, built and equipped this mill in 1942. He plans to rebuild. He expressed his gratitude for the assistance of the Waterbury Fire Dept., "They did a very fine job," he said.