

# Sunshine Advocate

## Arsonist starts town hall fire

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**Arsonist  
started  
town  
hall fire**

Police are convinced that a fire in the old Sunshine Town Hall early on Friday morning last week was the work of an arsonist.

The firebug forced a window to gain entry and lit three separate fires in the rear section of the hall.

Police believe that the fact that Sunshine Court is at present being conducted at the hall could be a possible motive for the offence.

The main damage was to \$8000 worth of library books stored in the hall (picture).

A full report appears on Page 3.

● Picture by Norm Plant of Mudford Studio, Sunshine.



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# Sunshine Advocate

## Firebug hits town hall

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**FIREBUG HITS TOWN HALL**

Police are convinced that a fire in the old Sunshine Town Hall early on Friday morning last week was the work of an arsonist.

The evidence is that three separate fires were lit and containers of inflammable fluid were left in positions where they would be ignited as the fire spread.

And it was found that a window at the rear of the hall had been forced open.

A possible motive for the lighting of the fire is the fact that Sunshine Court is at present being held in the building while renovations are carried out at the courthouse.

The hall is to be demolished and the actual damage to the building itself will be accounted as irreparable.

That \$3000 worth of damage was done to books in the Sunshine Central Library stored in the hall. The alarm was raised by a passer-by who saw smoke coming from the roof of the hall at 1 o'clock on Friday morning.

Members of the Sunshine Fire Brigade were on the scene at five past one and as the blaze was under control.

Investigations by Sunshine detectives and members of the Arson Squad revealed that three separate fires had been lit in the Baby Centre section of the hall.

One was lit in a cupboard, one in a hallway

and one in a store-room where the library books were stacked.

In the store-room, police found two wire crates containing small glass cups — "something the Arson Squad had never seen before," said Detective Doug Hilton, of Sunshine CIB.

The presence of the containers had convinced the investigators that the fire was a premeditated work of a firebug.

"We can't overlook the fact that Sunshine Court is at present being held upstairs," Det. Hilton told The Advocate.

**It's all set for the big fair**

Preparations are nearing completion for Sunshine's Captain Cook Bi-centennial Festival Fair to be held in Hampshire Rd. on Saturday, March 14.

"Every effort is being made to make the festival fair an outstanding success for local charities," Mr. Brian Carter, secretary of the fair committee, said this week, giving details of the fair.

"We intend to have merry-go-rounds, aerial rides, spinning wheels, lucky envelopes, clowns, side shows, marching girls and a wide variety of stalls.

"Arrangements have been made with local groups and important community project.

The four service clubs—Apex, Jaycees, Lions and Rotary—have been having joint meetings with members of Sunshine Council, including the Mayor Cr. Bon Thomas, and Cr. Jack Tighe to ensure that the fair is a community effort.

"The fair is under the patronage of the Sunshine Community Chest. Of course, funds raised by local charitable groups will be retained by those who assist the fair.

This month's lucky car sticker, number 3718, has been drawn by the Director of Welfare Services Mr. Colin Benjamin, and the person with this number on his car should contact Mr. Benjamin at the Municipal Offices.

**Tooth and nail**