

many members of its faculty also lost their personal music collections.

Warren Walker, professor of music, returned to campus after the basketball game to watch Nichols burn.

Because only the gym area was burning when he got there, Walker and a fireman "tore up the stairs" to his studio on the east side in an attempt to save instruments and music.

Walker said he had his key in the door when the fireman's mask failed to work. So he accompanied the man back downstairs.

"I was really frustrated. I could have brought out my cello. That part of the building didn't burn for another hour and a half," Walker said.

Walker's cello was a 200-year-old Italian Tecchler, which would be valued today at \$150,000.

"Cellos are pieces of art," he said, and the loss of the Tecchler cello was "like burning up the Mona Lisa in the Louvre. Once they're gone, they're gone."

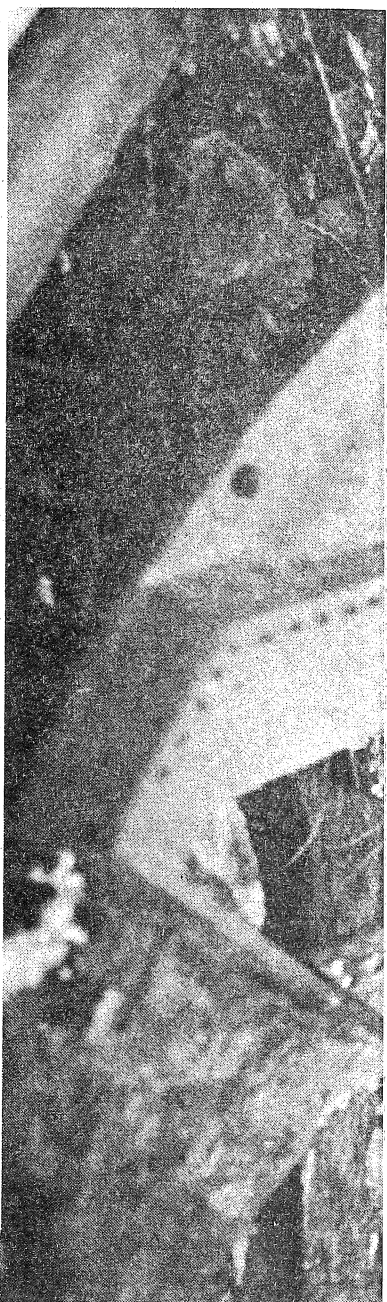
NOT ONLY WAS SHEET MUSIC lost in the fire, but musical ideas and directions were lost as well.

Walker said he considers the loss of sheet music, with marked directions from his previous instructors, to be a greater loss than even his cello.

Not everything can be remembered, he said, and the loss of the ideas that were written on the destroyed music hurts today's students most because they cannot learn these ideas beyond their instructor's memory.

According to Margaret Walker, assistant professor of music, another tragic loss was the life's work of Thomas Steinemberg, a musicologist and professor of music.

"As a musicologist, Steinemberg studied the history and



Staff/Scott Williams

Tuneless... The skeleton of a Steinway piano lays useless in the basement level of Nichols scientific aspect of music. The loss of his works were a real tragedy," she said.

In the basement of Nichols, there are the skeletal remains of the Steinway pianos that were destroyed.

Several Grand and upright rehearsal pianos were lost in the fire, including an upright Steinway, according to Walker. These were replaced shortly after the beginning of the next semester.

"We kind of cleaned out the Steinway factory. They were very good about it; we didn't have to wait long at all for our pianos," she said.

WHILE THE BAND had little to play on or from, the choral department had little to sing about. It too suffered from the loss of music and instruments.

Gym. The piano was one of the music department's losses resulting from the fire.

The choir lost its choral library, practice pianos, robes and risers. It also lost the string instruments used for accompaniment in some of productions.

According to Rod Walker, associate professor of music, the vocal students practiced in what was then the International Student Center and now is part of the Manhattan Christian College.

"We were lucky to have some place to go," he said.

After the fire, parts of the music department could be found all over campus. The office was first located in Cardwell Hall, with studios and practice rooms in the trailers outside Calvin Hall. Some of the faculty had offices in East Stadium.

The department was relocated in McCain Auditorium in 1975.

Destruction fails to silence campus radio stations

By DARCY McPHERSON
Staff Writer
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Collegian Reporter

Nothing.
When the fire that swept through Nichols Gymnasium Dec. 13, 1968, was finally put out, nothing was left of radio stations KSDB-FM and KSAC.

KSAC, the University's extension AM radio station, was located on the first and second floors, where it had been since its inception in 1924. Student-operated KSDB-FM was located on the third floor.

According to Jack Burke, manager of the

extension radio and TV department, the students and staff involved with the station at that time worked night and day to prepare new studios in order to broadcast on schedule Monday.

"We didn't have a fire sale, because we didn't have anything to sell," Burke said.

"We remodeled some motion picture studios in Calvin Hall during the weekend so we could broadcast on Monday," he said.

At that time KSAC was broadcasting from 12:30 to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. Because of the hard work and long hours put in during the weekend, Burke said, no air time was lost.

Radio station KMAN offered KSDB-FM an unoccupied auditorium in its offices on North Fourth Street, Lowell Jack, general manager of KMAN/KMKF, said.

KMAN conducted a community campaign and raised money to build studios for KSDB-FM in the auditorium. Other Kansas broadcasters supplied equipment and the student station was back on the air within a month.

Destroyed in the fire was a new radio transmitter, valued at \$27,000, according to an article in the 1969 Royal Purple. Also lost, according to Collegian articles, was a history of the radio station and campus in more than 44 years of tapes.

According to Burke, some of the tapes were those of musical performances of the band, guests and tapes of Landon Lectures.

Ralph Titus, assistant manager of KSAC, lost videotapes of his last TV newscast and all of his radio work. Four original motion picture scripts, including "Bonnie and Clyde," on loan to him from the Writer's Guild West, a screenwriter's organization, also went up in smoke.

What films Titus salvaged from the charred remains he also lost.

(See RADIO, p. 11)