

The Giddings Star

February 2, 1956

Fire Destroys Peanut Warehouse Friday in Downtown Lexington

A \$140,000 fire destroyed a frame and sheet metal warehouse at Lexington filled with 560 tons of 1955 Lee County peanuts Friday.

The fire was noticed at 10:30 a. m. and both Lexington and Giddings fire departments battled the blaze until late in the afternoon.

The building and contents, partially covered by insurance, were owned by the Quality Peanut Co. of Fredericksburg, H. H. Fricke, owner.

Cause of the fire was undetermined, but is presumed to have started by spontaneous combustion.

The building had not been opened since the last peanuts were stored in it last fall.

The Quality Peanut Co. had started moving the contents of another warehouse last week. This other warehouse is several blocks south of the destroyed building.

The Brinkman Chevrolet Co. just north of the burned warehouse, and the warehouse of E. M. Peebles and Co. just south of it, were cleared of their contents. Although both suffered damage from water and smoke, neither caught fire.

The fire was under control late Friday afternoon but was still smoldering Monday in the huge pile of peanut sacks, laid bare when the building collapsed around it.