

# Three New Businesses To Locate In Downtown Area

Three new stores will open their doors in the downtown Lithonia area in the next two weeks.

They include a dollar store, crafts and gift shop and a shoe store.

Family Dollar Store expects to open its doors in

Lithonia on June 1. The store will be located in Lithonia Plaza in the old location of the American Hardware Store.

The dollar store will carry a number of household and clothing items at discount prices. It will be operated

by Family Dollar Stores, Inc., headquartered in Charlotte, N.C.

Everything Under The Sun will sell just that -- everything under the sun, according to owner Doris Lawson who will operate the shop with her daughter,

Gail Thomas. The shop will specialize in gift and crafts items and its inventory will include silk flowers and ceramics.

The new business is located on Johnson Street just off Main Street in a sunshiny yellow and or-

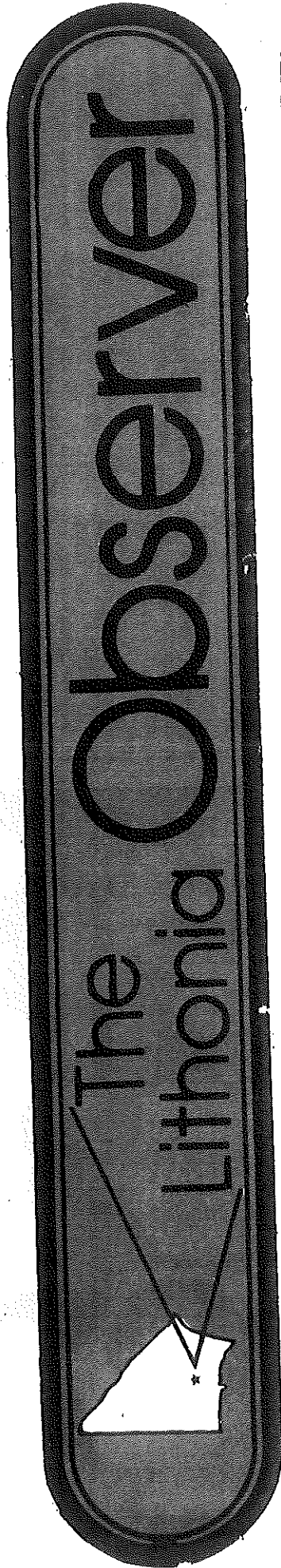
ange building. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Everything Under The Sun will open its doors on Friday, May 22.

Pro-Discount Shoes in Lithonia Plaza will open for business on Friday, June 5,

according to owner Bob Whitehead. The store will sell all kinds of shoes at discount prices.

The business will be located in the Plaza next to the House of Type and near the Lithonia Police Station.



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## Family Dollar Store Is Opening In Lithonia

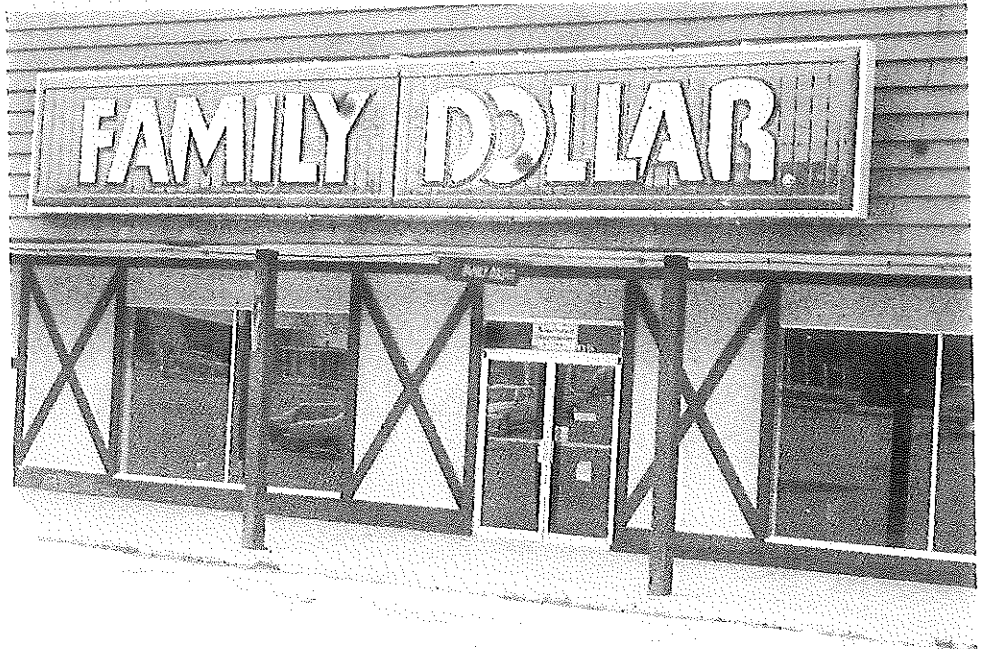
The 38th Family Dollar Store in Georgia and the 443rd in the fast-growing North Carolina based discount variety chain will open in Lithonia on Thursday, June 4.

The new store, located in Lithonia Plaza, Main and Boulevard will open at 10 a.m.

Local officials and Family Dollar executives will take part in a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at the main entrance to the store immediately before the opening. The company expects a large crowd to attend the ribbon cutting and take advantage of special grand opening sale prices afterward.

William Stoneking will be the store manager. Bill and his wife, Mona, are moving to Lithonia from Columbus where he has been working in Family Dollar's Manager Training Program.

Jim Seagraves, vice-president of store operations, said, "Family Dollar looks forward to locating in Lithonia and being part of a fine business market." Lee Jansen, the firm's district manager for the area said, "Family Dollar offers excellent employment opportun-



ities in this area and throughout the Southeast. As many local people as possible will be employed at the new store." In addition, Jansen added that Family Dollar is a rapidly expanding company and always interested in talking with management trainee candidates.

The store will carry a complete line of merchandise for the family and home, including clothing

and shoes, health and beauty aids, housewares, school supplies, candy, toys, paint and auto supplies.

Family Dollar was founded in 1959 with a single store in Charlotte, North Carolina and today is the fastest growing retail discount chain in the Southeast. There are more than 3,183,500 square feet of total sales space in the chain's 443 stores.

The company presently operates in the two Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The General Offices and Distribution Center are located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Family Dollar Stores, Inc., is a publicly-held company with stock traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FDO."

# Blaze Destroys 4 Stores In Lithonia Shopping Area

KEITH  
Edition

OCT 3 - 1973

The southeastern DeKalb County city of Lithonia suffered another disaster last weekend when a fire broke out in the city's major shopping center, destroying four shops and damaging several others before firemen extinguished the blaze.

This fire came four months to the day after a fire gutted the upper story of Lithonia City Hall, damaging city offices and police headquarters to the tune of \$35,000. City Hall is across the parking lot from Sundays' fire.

More than 50 DeKalb County firemen battled smoke and mist for several hours before a combination of rain and well-built fire walls brought the blaze into submission.

Police Chief Wallace Moore said the fire started in the center of the 3-year-old shopping center, around the old

movie theater which is being used as a warehouse for the Lithonia Furniture Co. It has not been determined what caused the blaze.

As in the city hall fire last May, firefighters were plagued in their efforts by a lack of water pressure and had to summon additional pressure from the DeKalb Water and Sewer Department.

Wild's Department Store and the old theater were completely gutted while Cheney's wholesale bedding company suffered massive damage. Several other stores nearby received large degrees of smoke and water damage.

Chief Moore said had it not been for the fire walls in the shopping center he believes the blaze could have possibly destroyed the entire shopping complex.

No damage estimates have

been given, but it is believed the figures could be as high as \$1 million.

# Local Fire Destroys New Downtown Plaza

Lithonia  
Observer - October 4, 19

Lithonians feel sick inside this week as they look at the charred ruins in a large portion of the new Lithonia Plaza in downtown Lithonia, blackened by flames Sunday afternoon.

In a short time the fire completely devoured Wild's Department Store, Cheney's wholesale place and Lithonia Furniture Store's warehouse in the theatre building. Half Price Factory Outlet, a ladies apparel store on the lower level of the Plaza, was burned overhead and covered with water and debris from the overhead ceiling. Their merchandise was not burned. Nibbles, Watkins Jewelry, P&S Electric, Marilyn's Magic Mirror beauty salon, One Hour Martinizing and Wages, Landers & Wages all received water and smoke damage but were doing business as usual Monday. American Home & Hardware received considerable water and smoke damage but Joe Keown, owner said that hopefully they will be cleaned up in a few days and back to normal. McM Appliance & Furniture Co., whose building apparently escaped damage, evacuated

their merchandise with the help of employees and passersby as the fire gained momentum and seemed for a time to be out of control. W.M. Blackmon, president of the company said they had no major damage and expressed appreciation for the voluntary help during the emergency. Men and women, black and white, young and older pitched in to help try to save the threatened merchandise. Wild's Department Store

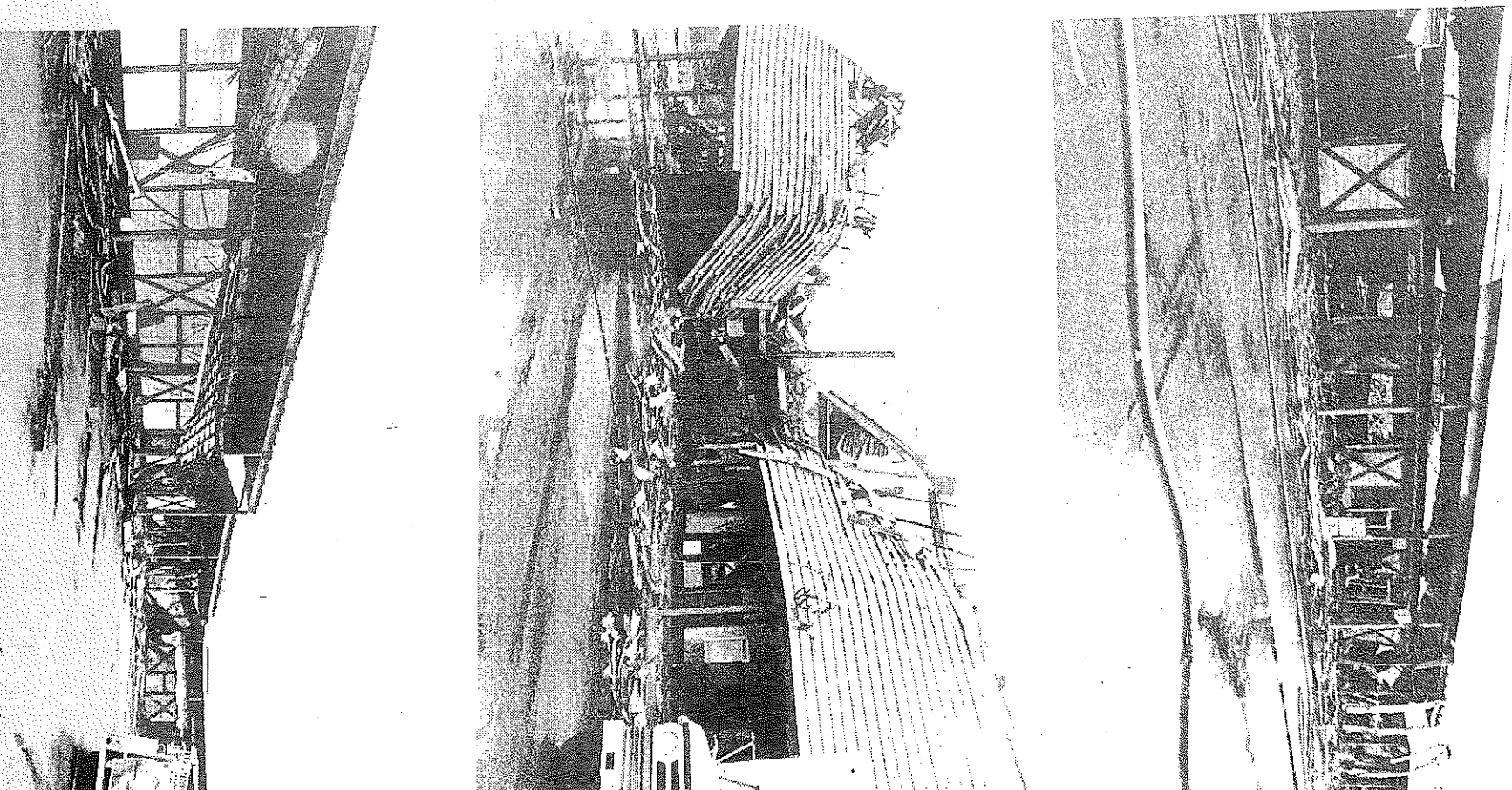
was open for business at the time of the fire. By the time employees were told to evacuate the building, which they did immediately, the store was completely enveloped in smoke and flames and the roof collapsed shortly thereafter. There was no time to save any of the merchandise.

This was a three alarm fire, with 8 pumps and 2 aerial units. According to Acting Deputy C.L. Rogers, the fire was "well involved" when they arrived with the equipment, shortly after the first alarm at 3:34 p.m.

Firemen worked through the night Sunday and were still at the scene all day Monday making sure the smoking ruins did not rekindle into flames.

Low water pressure in the city is believed to have prevented firemen from extinguished the fire earlier. Dekalb Fire Chief D.P. Martin was at the scene Sunday directing efforts of the fire department. Acting Deputy C.L. Rogers and Captain Joe Myers, with Station # 14 just outside Lithonia were also assisting with the effort.

J.T. Morgan, head of Morgan Properties, who recently purchased the Plaza property from Horace Pendley, said this week that he hopes to have the Plaza rebuilt as soon as possible and in as good or better condition than before the fire. He said that Morgan Black Construction Company is beginning the clean up this week in preparation for the rebuilding. Mr. Morgan said he hopes to have all the Plaza tenants back in business as soon as possible.



An Afternoon Fire in Lithonia Plaza Sunday Brought Devastation To Parts of the S Center. Pictures show the damage.