

Interlaken Has Two Fires in One Day

Three Stores on Fire at One Time

Close Call to Business Section

Sunday morning at 12:55 Interlaken people were aroused by the clanging of the fire bell; and many turned out. It proved to be in the rooms of Lynn Stewart. Mr. Stewart was in bed and asleep when he had a coughing spell which woke him up, and as he rolled over in bed, he discovered paper burning near the chimney. He tried to smother it with bed clothes but as it got the best of him, he turned in the alarm. He had burned a lot of rubbish in the furnace Saturday afternoon and, the chimney was overheated and caused the fire. Not much damage was done.

At 10:15 a. m. the fire alarm was again sounded. This fire was discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blauvelt, who live over the Review office, and who saw smoke coming from the building on the corner of Railroad and Main streets, owned by Mrs. Z. G. Boyer and occupied by Freudenheim's Toggery Shoppe on the first floor; the second floor being occupied by the Feudenheims as living quarters. When discovered the fire had gained considerable headway, evidently starting in the kitchen in the north-east corner and had burned through the floor and was burning its way to the store below. Mr. and Mrs. Freudenheim, son Elwin, Alfred Robinson, Owen Lee and Wilbur Emmons had left at nine o'clock and drove to Rochester—one hour and 15 minutes before the fire was discovered. The building was heated by steam, oil stove used for cooking. How the fire started is unknown. As soon as the men reached the scene, Chief Haskin realized that outside help was necessary to save the business section of Interlaken from destruction and help was asked from Trumansburg, Ovid, Willard and Ithaca, all responding very quickly and all doing gallant service.

Four pumpers were soon at work at Dr. Hill's pond, Ithaca held in reserve. After a hard four hours fight the fire was under control. The Interlaken Fire Department had hard luck in getting started, five lengths of hose bursting before a good stream could be put on the fire. By this time the Frudenheim store was a roaring furnace.

The flames caught in the L of W.E. Peterson's store east and north of the Boyer block and worked around behind and into Fred Barber's building, also in through a window opening in the brick wall of the South side of Peterson's building, gutting the interior of second floor and ruining the roof. The wooden building, at east of the Boyer block, was totally ruined. Working still further north the flames got into the second story rear of Barber's building and burned all his kitchen furniture and other goods stored there, badly damaging the roof. The first floor of the Barber block is occupied by E. N. Clair as a drug store. Water did all the damage there. Mr. Clair had insurance. Barber had no insurance on building or furniture.

Mr. Freudenheim estimated his clothing stock and fixtures worth \$10, 000 and his household goods at \$3,000. He had \$8,000 insurance on the stock and fixtures, \$1,200 on household furniture. Nothing was saved from this building.

Mrs. Boyer estimated her building at \$4,000 of which she had \$2,500 insurance.

W. E. Peterson estimated his stock of shoes, and men's furnishings at \$6,000, on which he carried \$8,000 insurance. On the building he carried \$3,200. It would take at least \$7,000 to rebuild the wooden structure east and repair the upper part of brick and building. He will not rebuild the wood part.

It will take at least \$1,000 to repair the Barber building. He had no insurance on building or contents.

The damage in Clair's drug store was mostly from water, and is covered by insurance.

The north side of Hotel Goodman was on fire several times but quickly extinguished. It was badly blistered and a number of windows broken. Damage is covered by insurance.

No other buildings were damaged, thanks to the heroic efforts of the Interlaken Fire Department and its helpers, the Willard, Ovid, Trumansburg and Ithaca fire departments.

The Ovid Fire Department under the Chief Bristol, the Trumansburg Department under Chief Chas. Holton, was the Interlaken Department under Chief Roy Haskin, and the Willard firemen under their chief, worked like machines—in perfect harmony.

Particular mention should be made of the work of the Interlaken Boy Scouts, who have recently been drilled by Chief Haskin in fire work. Each boy came to the fire with a coil of rope. They roped off the streets and acted as traffic officers, also carried all the water for and helped fill the chemical engine.

The chemical engine used all the soda in town and the Lodi Department sent over a supply of soda and acid, just in the nick of time.

The Babcocks, Harold and Fred Blauvelt had their furniture moved out and some of the material in the Review office was taken out, as at one time it looked as if the fire would sweep Railroad Street and perhaps the whole business section. But for the timely arrival of the other departments, all would have been lost.

Dr. Hill's pond was the source of water supply and that was lowered 18 inches. All are under obligations to Dr. Hill for maintaining that pond.

Interlaken streets were crowded with automobiles Sunday, parked in every direction. Thousands of people came, from many miles away.

Interlaken Review April 20, 1928