

House Burned Down

Tuesday evening a rather spectacular blaze occurred when the house of Mr. Jeremiah Haines, a mile or so west of the Village, was totally destroyed by fire with the contents. A small stable in the rear of the house was also destroyed. The fire could be seen for miles around, which with the ringing of the fire alarm, caused a large crowd to gather. Hundreds of people and many automobiles visited the scene of the fire, but it was impossible to save anything at all.

It is not known how the fire started. Mr. Haines is working in the vicinity of Brighton setting out fruit trees and grafting on trees and is expected to be away about a month. Mr. John McCracken was living in the house, but was away when the fire started. He did not make any fire to get his supper and locked the house when he went out after supper. When he noticed the fire and returned he found the door partly open and the gate also open showing someone had been around.

The fire was too hot for him to enter and as a result Mr. McCracken lost all his clothes except what he was wearing. He had a large trunk full including two overcoats, a suit, underwear, shirts, socks and other articles. He also lost a sum of money and his watch. Fires started in the grass and nearby bush a number of times from sparks from the buildings, but were put out

before they had a chance to spread.
There was no insurance on anything.

Marmora Herald
April 23, 1931

A Dangerous Act

Last Saturday Mr. Harry Vansickle, County road foreman, arranged to use the fire hose to wash the loose dust off the business section of Forsythe Street.

Mr. Hugh Gillen went down to the pump house and opened up the wheel to start the pump, but found there was not enough water to speed the wheel up.

On looking for the cause he found that stop logs had been placed in front of the flume to shut off the flow of water.

The stop logs were removed and the wheel again opened, but it was found that when the water was drained out of the flume it carried a lot of sticks into the wheel and most of the afternoon was required to get the wheel cleaned out and in running shape. Mr. Gillen had his arm cut and bruised by the wheel as he took the last stick out.

If a fire had occurred in the village, particularly at night, it might have been a very serious matter. Half the village could have burned down while the stop logs were being removed and the wheel cleaned out ready to run. Whoever put the stop logs in should be given a warning that will not soon be forgotten.

The Pearce Co. must also be held res-

possible. When they are renting the use of the wheel for fire protection it is up to them to see that no obstruction is placed that will interfere with the use of the wheel or full flow of the water.

The danger of fire is serious enough under the most favourable conditions and fire insurance is high enough now.

If the present fire protection system cannot be depended on then the Council will find it necessary to secure power from some other source to operate the fire pump.

Marmora Herald
August 13, 1931

House Burned

While Mr. and Mrs. John Leonard were attending the dance given by George Wade and his Corn Huskers in Marmora town hall last Thursday night their home at Tiffin was destroyed by fire. When the blaze was first noticed by neighbors the fire had gained such headway that it was impossible to check it and the house and most of the contents were a total loss. It was feared for a time that the other farm buildings might also be burned, but fortunately all were saved without damage. It is not known how the fire started, or the cause of it.

Marmora Herald
October 27, 1932

House and Barn Burned

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the barn and residence of Mr. George Franklin at Shanick early Saturday morning. Mr. Franklin is a widower and has been living alone lately. Sometime after 8 o'clock he was awakened by the crackling of the fire in the barn. He rushed out hoping to save his stock, but was too late. Four horses, two cows, harness, feed and various other equipment was lost. The only thing saved around the barn was a pig. Mr. Franklin then attempted to save some of the furniture at the house, but about all he could get out was a trunk belonging to his daughter, Miss Gertie Franklin, and a small amount of clothing.

Mr. Franklin carried a small amount of insurance, but his loss will be quite heavy. Until he decides on his future plans he will live with Mr. and Mrs. John Neill, who lived quite near to him in a house also owned by Mr. Franklin.

Mrs. Neill is his neice.

Marmora Herald
December 1, 1932

Barn and Stock Burned

The barn belonging to Mr. Michael Ryan, lot 13, concession 4, Marmora township, on a farm occupied by Mr. Robert Webber was totally destroyed by fire last Friday Night. The origin Of the fire

is a mystery. 12 cattle, 3 horses, 60 hens, 50 bushel of grain a quantity of hay, harnesses and other articles belonging to Mr. Webber were destroyed in the fire. He had no insurance and under present conditions his loss is a heavy one.

Marmora Herald
March 2, 1933

House Burned Down

Fire which broke out in the roof of the farm home of Mr. Howard Hamilton, about two miles south east of Cordova on the Marmora Road, destroyed the two storey building last Friday afternoon about 4:30.

Mr. Hamilton, who is employed by Mr. Bruce Airhart, was away at work at the time and Mrs. Hamilton was engaged in weeding the garden. The fire which was first noticed by Mrs. Hamilton apparently started in the enclosure between the upstairs rooms and the roof and almost immediately after its discovers broke out all over the roof. Neighbors who were summoned by phone arrived quickly, and succeeded in removing a part of the furniture from the downstairs rooms, and a bucket brigade was formed, but despite their efforts the building was completely gone. A bit of insurance was carried.

Marmora Herald
June 22, 1933

Grist Mill Burned

One of the worst fires to occur in Marmora in several years destroyed the big grist mill on Main Street early Monday morning. The fire was discovered about 8 a.m. by Doug Jones, who happened to be driving past and noticed the reflection of the fire on his windshield. He stopped to investigate and found quite a fire in the basement of the mill. He first rushed to the residence of Clifford Spry and gave an alarm and then drove to the telephone office and roused Miss Mary Ryan, the night operator, who immediately called the Rectory. The fire alarm was soon ringing, but for some reason it was unusually difficult to arouse most people and those who did turn out first didn't know where to look for the fire. As a result it was probably 15 or 20 minutes before the chemical engines reached the scene of the blaze and by that time the fire had assumed serious proportions.

About 5000 feet of lumber was stored in the basement of the mill, along with other material, and when the lumber caught fire it made a very hot blaze, which the chemical engines would not check. In some way one of the pulleys, which operate the fire shaft had been loosened so that it turned on the shaft and as a result it was impossible to get any water pressure to operate the fire hose, with only a small stream coming from the nozzle. By strenuous efforts the

fire was prevented from spreading to the adjoining house or stable, but everything about the mill except the old stone walls was destroyed.

The mill was one of the oldest, as well as largest, buildings in Marmora and had been in operation for over fifty years. It had three stories, besides the basement, with a one story store house on the south side. It would be difficult to estimate the value of the building. To erect a building of equal size would probably cost \$15,000. or more, but the value at the time of the fire would be a good deal less. The equipment which was destroyed would also cost over \$1000. to replace. The Pearce Company had no insurance on the building or equipment.

For a good many years the mill was successfully operated as a flour mill. Among those who operated it as a flour mill being the late W. H. Hubbell. It Had suffered from fire on previous occasions, but had always been restored and was generally enlarge or improved.

The first fire remembered was in 1884, when the building was badly damaged. A fire occurred while Mr. W. H. Hubbell was in operation but no serious damage was done at the time. The flour milling machinery was taken out a few months ago.

Mr. G. B. Airhart occupied the mill for several years, carrying on a flour

and feed business and doing a large amount of grain grinding. He gave up the mill some six or more years ago and had taken it over again the latter part of last year. Fortunately his stock was comparatively low, one car had arrived, but was not unloaded, and another was on the way. Most of the feed in the bags was saved before the fire reached it. Mr. Airhart's loss is estimated at from \$200. to \$300. and was not covered by insurance.

There is very strong reason to believe the fire was of incendiary origin. It started in the basement of the mill where there was no stove, no electric wiring or anything else to start a fire and where no one would have occasion to go on any legitimate business at that time. It is hard to believe any one would be vindictive enough or degraded enough to deliberately set the mill on fire, under present conditions especially, but there doesn't appear to be any other explanation. The Provincial Police are investigating.

Marmora Herald
January 13, 1934

Barn Burned

Shortly after 12 midnight Sunday morning fire broke out in Mr. Robert Wright's barn just west of Crowe River on the south side of the Highway. It is not known how the fire started, but it is thought someone had been smoking and had thrown down a lighted match or a cigarette stub. The fire had quite a start before it was noticed and the whole building was in flames by the time an alarm was sounded and a crowd had gathered. The chemical engines were taken to the scene of the blaze, but it had made such headway that it was considered useless to put them in operation. Fortunately the wind was from the northeast so that the sparks were blown away from the village and no other fire was started.

The barn, which was a good sized frame structure, collapsed almost half an hour after the fire was noticed and was totally destroyed. The horses and cattle were out on pasture, but a quantity of hay, some feed, harness, some machinery and various other articles were burned. Mr. Wright's loss will be heavy and there was very little if any insurance.

Marmora Herald
June 5, 1934

Razed By Fire

Early Saturday morning fire completely destroyed the blacksmith shop and adjoining buildings, belonging to Mr. Thos. Cranston. The cause of the fire, which it is thought started in the blacksmith shop operated by Mr. Wm. Moshier, is unknown. Mr. Fred Hulin, postmaster, who resides nearby, first noticed the blaze at about 4:45. Hurriedly donning his clothes, he turned in an alarm, but before the firemen arrived on the scene the buildings were doomed, and they directed their efforts towards saving nearby buildings.

In the garages east of the blacksmith shop were a Ford coupe owned by Mr. Cranston. A service truck to the crane of which was attached another car, were standing close to the building and the service truck was badly damaged; the coupe was almost totally destroyed. Mr. Moshier also was a heavy loser, all his tools and stock falling prey to the flames. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

The buildings, which were of frame construction, made a spectacular blaze and the illumination, which could be seen for miles around, attracted a large crowd of spectators.

Serious Fire Menace

For a time about noon last Friday Marmora was threatened with one of the worst fires in years, but fortunately it was got under control before any very serious damage was done. The fire started in an old stable or shed on Main Street, in the rear of one of the Pearce Company's houses, and as it was very dry the fire spread very rapidly.

An alarm was sounded and a large crowd gathered. One chemical engine was soon in action, but the fire had too big a start for the engine to handle. The other engine was damaged the day previous in being rushed to an incipient fire and had not been repaired when the Friday fire started.

Owing to the water power being used to run the air compressor for work on the bridge and highway, there was a short delay in getting the water pressure up in the water mains and the roof of the large double house and portions of the two adjoining buildings were blazing before the water could be turned on. For a few minutes it seemed as though the building was doomed, but a few minutes after the power was turned on and in a surprisingly short time the blaze was extinguished on each building.

In the meantime an alarm came in that Patrick O'Brien's stable or garage had been ignited by a flying ember and a number rushed off to save it which was accomplished without difficulty.

Mr. Dan Champion's house, the house occupied by Mr. Louis Green and one or two other buildings also caught fire from flying embers and several other buildings had pieces of burning shingles or other burning material drop near them. Had one of the larger buildings burned down no one knows how far the fire might have spread.

The large double house and a single house owned by the Pearce Company were badly damaged by the water and will require quite extensive repairs. The household effects of the persons living in the houses were carried out and some furniture, dishes etc, were broken or otherwise damaged.

The volunteer fire fighters did great work and deserve all kinds of credit for preventing the fire spreading in all directions.

Marmora Herald
May, 1934

Barn Destroyed

Mr. Henry Clemenger had the misfortune to have his barn burned to the ground on Tuesday. It is not known how the fire started, but it may have ignited from a spark from the chimney at the house. The fire was first noticed in the roof of the barn and there does not appear to have been any other way

it could have started. The blaze had made considerable headway when noticed and it was impossible to extinguish it. There was no hay and little feed in the building at the time and the stock was all out except one large sow. An effort was made to drive her out but she refused to go and it became so hot that the effort was given up. However she was found wallowing in the swamp after the fire was all over. A considerable quantity of harness and many other articles usually found in a barn were destroyed. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

Marmora Herald

July 5, 1934

Barn Burned

Last Thursday evening Mr. Howard Hamilton's barn in Marmora Township was destroyed by fire. The blaze started as a result of a lantern exploding when being used while putting down hay. Two cows, two calves, and a winter's supply of hay, straw, grain and other articles were destroyed as well as the barn. The loss was partly covered by insurance. Mr. Hamilton is using the stable at the cheese factory for the present as a shelter for his stock, but it will be inconvenient going so far to do the chores.

Marmora Herald

December 24, 1936

Fire thought to have originated from overheated stovepipes, totally destroyed the William Broadworth home at Broadworth Corners on the Stirling-Marmora highway early on Saturday afternoon.

Fanned by a strong north wind the flames spread rapidly through the house, the top part of which was ablaze and beyond salvage before the fire was noticed. Neighbors and passing motorists flocked to the scene but so intense was the heat and smoke that only a few articles of furniture were saved. Spreading of the alarm and calls for assistance were handicapped by the lack of telephones in the area. The house which housed two families, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broadworth, was one of the old landmarks of Hastings County. Built in the early pioneer days, it was originally a Hotel, and was constructed of square timbers. It was remodelled some years ago by the late John Fanning and converted into a double dwelling. The Broadworth family have resided there for the past thirty-five years.

Practically everything in the William Broadworth part of the home was destroyed, with the exception of a piano. A small amount of furniture was salvaged from the Ernest Broadworth section of the house. A strong, prevailing north wind carried burning embers to the barn of Blake Ketcheson,

a short distance away, and ignited the roof, but the flames were extinguished before any damage was done.

The loss is estimated in the vicinity of \$3000. There was little insurance carried. The families are being looked after by neighbors.

Marmora Herald

March 4, 1937

Two Fires Extinguished

Two outbreaks of fire occurred Saturday evening about 10:30 and Sunday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock. The first fire occurred in part of the large double house on McGill street, owned by Mrs. B. C. Hubbell and occupied by Mr. Thos. McInroy and family. The fire apparently started from a defective chimney and a hole was burned in the roof before the blaze was extinguished by the use of the chemical engines. In addition to the damage to the roof from fire, some damage was also occasioned by smoke and water or chemicals. Dishes, a stove and other household articles were broken while being carried out of the building.

The fire Sunday afternoon was in an unused ice house at the rear of the Royal Hotel and is thought to it while smoking. The blaze was also extinguished by the use of the chemical engines, as it was found the flume to the water wheel, which

operates the fire pump was nearly blocked by dead wood carried down by high water during the winter.

The loss of the ice house is not serious, but it is very fortunate that the fire did not spread to any of the other buildings at that time.

The flume has now been cleaned out, stop logs placed in the dam and other necessary changes made so that in case of another fire there should be no delay in getting a good stream of water from any of the hydrants.

Marmora Herald
April 1, 1937

Fire Brigade Would Help

While the fires Saturday night and Sunday are regrettable, as far as the loss occasioned is concerned, they may prove a blessing in disguise in calling attention to conditions concerning the water wheel. Where driftwood, carried down by high water during the winter floods, had nearly blocked the flume. If a serious fire had started it might have got beyond control before sufficient pressure could be developed to throw a stream over an ordinary building. The chemical engines have proved the best possible protection in the early stages of a fire and have paid for themselves many times over in extinguishing fires in the village.

Mr. Percy Gray, who is in charge of village fire equipment, and Coun. Warren, chairman of the Fire and Light Com. of the Council, deserve a lot of credit for always having the engines ready for action and also having the fire hose in good shape for any emergency. The one place where difficulty arises is at the fire pump and it is unfair to expect two men to take all the responsibility in case of a fire, when they receive little or no remuneration for their services.

If a volunteer fire brigade was formed regular practices could be held and various members assigned certain duties. In that way any trouble which occurs would be reported immediately and repairs could be made without delay. In case of a fire there would be no confusion and the fire could be fought more effectively. The village officials would co-operate and see that necessary repairs or improvements are made promptly. A good volunteer fire brigade would also place the village in a more favorable position with the Insurance Companies.

Marmora Herald
April 1, 1937

John Bell's House Destroyed

Last Friday afternoon the residence of Mr. John Bell, on the Cordova road about half a mile north of the village, was totally destroyed by fire, together with most of the contents. Just how the fire started is not known, but it is thought to have been from a defective chimney.

The fire was noticed by the occupants of the house and two or three other persons at about the same time.

Mrs. C. Spry was calling on Mrs. Arch Jones and happened to look out the window when she noticed flames coming through the roof of Mr. Bell's house.

A man passing along the road noticed the flames and rushed in to warn Mr. and Mrs. Bell. An alarm was quickly sent to the village and the chemical engines taken to the fire, but by the time they arrived the blaze had such a start that it was impossible to check it and the house was quickly destroyed. Some of the downstairs contents were got out, but most of the furniture was destroyed.

It was fortunate the fire did not occur at night or it might have resulted in loss of life it spread so rapidly. It was quite a shock to Mrs. Bell, particularly, as she has been in poor health for some time. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Marmora Herald

October 14, 1937

McElwain's Garage Destroyed

The garage on the corner of No. 7 and No. 14 highways, known as Matthew and Forsythe streets, was totally destroyed by fire at noon yesterday and adjoining buildings narrowly escaped the same fate. Just how the fire started is not known. Mr. McElwain and his mechanic, 'Dusty' Miller, were at dinner and Gordon Jarvis had just driven one of G. B. Airhart's trucks in a few minutes before the fire was noticed. Everything appeared to be O.K. at the time.

The fire was first noticed by Garth Sabine, who was on his way home. He saw smoke coming out at the edges of the roof in a number of places and ran to McElwain's residence to give the alarm.

When the door was opened the fire had made such headway that it was impossible to enter the building. Gas and oil, tires and other flammable material around a garage cause a fire to spread with amazing rapidity.

Whether the fire started from a stove, defective electric wiring or some other cause will not likely ever be known.

A fire bell rang and a large crowd quickly gathered, but for a time there seemed to be little they could do. The chemical engines were rushed over, but the fire had too big a start for them to be any particular use except to keep the fire from spreading. Percy Gray, who looks after the fire pump in case of fire, was ill in bed and he had to get up and go to the pump house before the pump operated properly. The delay almost caused

the loss of the adjoining buildings. Both Mr. McElwain's residence and the big frame building just east of the garage were on fire before it was possible to get a stream of water. A few minutes longer and it might have swept the row of buildings on the west side of Bursthall Street, south of No. 7 highway.

Once the pressure became sufficient two streams of water were turned on, the one against the building. It was surprising how quickly the fire was kept from spreading once it was possible to throw the water on it. There is no doubt of the value of the fire protection if it was only kept in shape so it could be turned on instantly in the case of need. Many thought it would be impossible to save the big Dunlay building after the fire had started along the side of it, but in about fifteen minutes the fire was out and the stream turned on the garage. The fire at the rear of McElwain's residence was also quickly checked and the water turned on the garage from the other side removed any danger of spreading. The men who handled the hose deserve a lot of credit. The heat was intense and on the west side it was only by using a couple of doors as a screen they were able to stand it. Before danger of the fire spreading was over the doors were blazing and the water had to be turned on them. There was also a number of explosions in the garage, which made it dangerous to stand too close, but the men took the chance. The garage and tools belonged to the J. D. Dale estate and were leased to Mr. C. E. McElwain. He had a lot of his own tools, parts for cars, oil, etc., which will be a complete loss. Quite a stock of tires were also destroyed, but they were pretty well covered by insurance. Whether the garage will be rebuilt will not

be known for a time. It was one of the best business corners in the village and Mr. McElwain's business has been steadily growing. Mr. G. B. Airhart's big truck was completely destroyed. We understand it was covered by insurance, but in spite of that there is always considerable loss. Wm. Sweet & Son's truck was also in the building and was completely destroyed. Other cars close to the Garage were drawn away with the towing truck without suffering any particular damage

It will be some time before it will be possible to get a close estimate of the loss.

Marmora Herald
January 6, 1938

Card of Thanks

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all who gave their assistance in any way on the day of the fire which destroyed the garage.

As soon as possible we will open for business as usual in the large red frame building immediately east of the former garage on No. 7 highway and a new garage will be erected at an early date where the fire occurred. In the meantime we will continue to sell gasoline and oil and would appreciate your patronage.

C. E. McElwain

Marmora Herald
January 13, 1938

Fire Alarm at School

Yesterday afternoon fire started in some unknown manner in a box of dust and waste paper in the basement of the public school. Mr. Prentice, principal of the school, smelt smoke and went down to the basement to investigate. He found flames blazing up the joists and floor of the school and in a few minutes longer a serious fire might have started. He rushed up, sounded the fire alarm and then by using one of the chemical fire extinguishers was able to put the fire out before any damage was done.

When the alarm was sounded the children immediately rose and marched out two by two through the escape door, without any confusion. In less than a minute all pupils were lined up outside the school and in two of the rooms at least, no orders were issued by the teachers. The pupils were so well drilled that each child knew just what to do and acted without any hesitation or disorder.

Great stress is being laid on the importance of fire drills in schools by the Department of Education, the Fire Marshall's Department, School Boards and various other organizations. The recent tragedies, such as occurred in the Province of Quebec, have wakened many to the danger of outbreaks of fire in schools. The experience of yesterday proved that

Marmora pupils are well trained and had the fire proved serious there would have been no danger or loss of life or injury to any of the pupils.

Marmora Herald

March 3, 1938

Cronkrights' Saw Mill Burns

Residents of the village were awakened about a quarter to five yesterday morning by the fire bell after fire had been discovered at the saw mill just west of Crowe River.

A large number gathered quickly at the scene and the chemical engine was taken over but the fire had gained too much headway and the mill was completely destroyed.

It is thought the fire was started by a spark from the engine.

Fortunately the lumber was piled a distance from the mill and a pile of slabs close by were moved before many of them burned. Other machinery close to the mill was moved to safety.

The mill has been operated by John Cronkright and sons and the seasons cut of logs was nearly all saved.

Marmora Herald

June 2, 1938

Barn Burned

On Tuesday night fire of an unknown origin destroyed the barn on the farm of Joseph Peever, about three miles west of Marmora village. The barn is reported to have contained a quantity of grain, several tons of hay and a pig, all of which were destroyed. The house on the farm was destroyed by fire some years ago and a drive shed was burned on another occasion.

The loss is said to be covered by insurance.

Marmora Herald
September 21, 1939

House Burned Down

Shortly after two o'clock Wednesday morning fire was discovered in the residence of Mr. Hilliard McGarvey, Bursthall street south. Mr. McGarvey left about 11:30 to go on his night shift at Deloro and when he left the house the fire in the kitchen appeared to be pretty well burned out. Between two and three hours afterwards smoke began to penetrate through the other parts of the house and on opening the kitchen door it was found to be a mass of flames. An alarm was sounded as quickly as possible, but by the time a few began to gather and the chemical engines arrived the fire had gained such

headway that it was impossible to extinguish it and the building was completely destroyed.

Some of the furniture from the front part of the house was removed to a safe place, but Mrs. McGarvey and her six children escaped in their night attire. All their clothing, bedding and furniture upstairs were lost and most of the household effects downstairs also burned up with the building. It is reported that about \$40.00 collected by Mr. McGarvey for goods, which he sells in his spare time, was also burned with his clothing. There was some insurance on the building but none on the contents.

That the fire did not spread to other buildings was probably due to the weather, as burning embers and large sparks settled on nearby buildings. Roofs of buildings were pretty well covered with ice and it was raining heavily at the time of the fire.

Marmora Herald
December 21, 1939