

Two fires on Tuesday

Tuesday forenoon fire of unknown origin totally destroyed the house and barn on the farm belonging to Mr. Fred Vincent, lot 4 in the 1st con. of Marmora township, formerly known as the Robson farm. Mr. Vincent was in Marmora village, and the house was unoccupied when he received a telephone message that the buildings were on fire. The house was a fairly large frame building in very good condition. The fire spread so rapidly it was soon beyond control and both house and barn were burned to the ground.

The same evening a fire alarm was sounded on St. Paul's church bell and word was spread that the fire was at Bonter's at Crowe Lake.

About thirty cars went from the village and a crowd of about one hundred soon gathered. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have started near one of the cabins near the lake shore a short distance east of the road down to Booster Park.

Two double cabins were completely destroyed. They were erected last fall, but were just furnished recently and made ready for the season. One was occupied and the other would have been almost immediately. A chemical engine was taken from the village, but by the time it arrived the fire had made too much headway

to be checked. There was quite a breeze at the time and sparks were carried quite a distance. They fell near Mr. Robt. Bonters house and barn and a hay stack was ignited once or twice, but fortunately was extinguished before it got a start. The loss is quite a serious one just at the beginning of the tourist season, especially with the prospects good for keeping them rented all season.

With everything so very dry extreme care should be taken in regard to fires. Every cigarette stub should be extinguished before being thrown away and fires started for picnics or any other purpose should be completely extinguished before leaving.

Marmora Herald
June 26, 1941

Very Badly Burned

Last Thursday morning Stafford Shannon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shannon, was very badly burned while starting up a fire. After putting wood in the stove he poured coal oil over it and the oil ignited from live coals, and the can exploded, sending the flaming oil over the lad's clothes. The flames were extinguished as quickly as possible by his mother and the clothing removed. After receiving first aid medical treatment, Stafford

was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital
in Peterboro.

His condition is still serious
but there is some improvement and
the many friends of the family now
hope for his recovery.

Marmora Herald
December 25, 1941

To Organize Fire Brigade

In order to more efficiently cope
with any fire which may break out
in the village a fire brigade is to be
organized. A meeting for that pur-
pose will be held in the Council
Chamber next Tuesday evening,
January 21st, at 8 o'clock and all
interested in better fire protection
are urged to attend.

When the changes which are
being made to the new fire engine
by the Fairbank-Morse Co. are
completed, there will be ample
power to operate all the hydrants at
capacity and if a fire brigade is
organized and has a few practices,
it should be possible to
extinguish any fire which does not
get a big start.

Marmora Herald
January 15, 1942

Fire at St. Andrews Church

About eight o'clock Sunday morning a fire alarm sounded and it was found fire had broken out in St. Andrews United Church. The fire was caused by the heat of the furnace pipe igniting the wooden ceiling above it. Mr. G. W. Henderson, the caretaker, had started the fire a short time previously and the first filling of the furnace had burned out. He filled it again, putting in a couple of sticks of hardwood and some pine and softwood slabs, and then went to the main body of the church to do some dusting and other work. Suddenly he noticed smoke coming up and hurried down to the furnace room, where he discovered the ceiling was on fire. He first sounded an alarm on the bell and then took a couple of pails and hurried for water. Wilbert Bedore joined him at the pump and rushed to the church with one pail of water, Mr. Henderson carrying the other, but when they reached the furnace room the smoke was so dense they could not get into it. The caretaker tried to go in but fell and was almost overcome by the smoke having difficulty finding his way out again. By that time people were gradually gathering and a difficult and stubborn fight to save the church started. The chemical engines were soon brought up and then a string of hose was run from the hydrant near the memorial building to the church, but it was almost impossible to get at the blaze, owing to the dense smoke. For a time the water pressure was very low and the fire appeared to be

gaining headway all the time. A couple of gas masks were borrowed from Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. Ltd. and it was then possible to enter the basement and get at the blaze. By that time the floor of the choir loft was blazing fiercely underneath and around the new organ, which was completely destroyed.

At one point the fire burned up between the outer and inner wall almost to the roof and a couple of small holes had to be cut through the ceiling of the church to get water on the fire. Most of the ceiling in the basement also had to be torn off as the fire kept spreading under the floor.

That the walls and roof and the big memorial window were saved was entirely due to the splendid efforts of quite a number of fire fighters, who in spite of smoke, which almost blinded and choked them, and intense heat in some parts of the building carried on although they were soaking wet and almost exhausted. The fire community spirit which exists in Marmora, was again in evidence in the fact men of all denominations worked side by side to save the church.

Until experts have time to assess the damage it is impossible to say what the loss will be, but estimates place it at \$10,000. or more. As soon as the insurance is adjusted and plans can be completed it is planned to start the work of restoring the church.

The members of the Official Board and of the congregation very much appreciate the generous offer of the rector and officials of St. Paul's Church for the use of their

church, but have decided to hold services in the town hall until St. Andrew's can be restored.

The kindly expression of sympathy extended by Rev. H. J. Farrell, on behalf of himself and his people at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday morning is also appreciated.

A special meeting of executive of the Belleville Presbytery was held on Monday and Rev. A. Poulter, of Madoc, secretary of the Presbytery, was requested to personally convey their sympathy with the officials and members of the church in the loss which they have sustained.

Marmora Herald
April 27, 1944

During the fire at St. Andrew's United Church last Sunday morning considerable disappointment was caused by the apparent lack of water pressure developed by the gasoline engine, which was installed three years ago. In the early stages the pressure would hardly throw a stream of water 10 feet high. When the governors on the engine were adjusted the pressure was a good deal better, but far from satisfactory.

Fortunately the priority has now been obtained to purchase a speed-up unit, which should make a very great difference in the speed and power of the engine. Efforts to obtain the unit have been made from the time the engine was installed, but authority to import was only given recently. It is expected it will be installed within a week or two and the fire protection system should

then be given a thorough test.

Marmora Herald

April 27, 1944

Fire Started at Threshing

On Monday threshing operations nearly resulted in a serious fire on the farm of Coun. Wm. J. Pack. Several neighbors were assisting Mr. Pack to stook thrash. The threshing machine was placed so as to blow the straw into the barn and the machine was operated by a tractor standing a little further from the barn. As the loads of grain came from the field they in turn backed up to the threshing machine, passing close to the tractor. One load, waiting for those ahead to unload, stopped too close to the exhaust from the tractor and the grain became ignited. Jim Crawford, who was driving, soon drove it away from the barn but not before Irwin McCoy's truck also caught fire. With the use of the tractor the grain was quickly pulled off the truck, but the platform of the truck was partly burned. The grain on the wagon and truck was burned and the wooden parts of the wagon were burned up. A grass fire started and some fences caught fire and for a short time the situation looked very dangerous for the barn and other buildings. An alarm was sent to the village and Sanderson's truck rushed out one of the fire engines. The men threshing and other neighbors

did great work with pails of water and the use of engines was not required. Mr. and Mrs. Pack's many friends are glad the damage was not more serious.

Marmora Herald
August 17, 1944

Barn Burned Down

During the severe electrical storm which passed over this district Monday night, the fine large barn on the farm of Edward King, on the Belmont boundary, was struck by lightning and totally destroyed by fire. The fire started about 11:30 p.m. and spread so rapidly it was impossible to get anything out except the horses. Quite a crowd soon gathered, but it was impossible to get into the building. The only thing that apparently saved the drive shed and house, as the wind was blowing towards them, was a downfall of rain.

In addition to the building the season's hay crop, a quantity of last year's grain, the harness, various tools, a hog and a number of hens were destroyed in the blaze. The loss will be heavy although it is partially covered by insurance.

Marmora Herald
August 20, 1944

Spectacular Fire

The worst fire to occur in Marmora for several years broke out Saturday night shortly after 11 o'clock. It started in the new lunch bar and spread very rapidly. It was caused by the explosion of gasoline. Cooking in the restaurant was done with a gasoline stove. The stove ran out of fuel and went out and the proprietor started to fill it from a gasoline can. There was no sign of a fire around the stove, but suddenly the gasoline exploded and in a few minutes the whole interior of the restaurant was a mass of flames. The rear part of the building was of frame construction and it burned so fiercely that the flames could be seen for quite a distance. It was impossible to save any of the contents the fire spread so rapidly.

The fire soon spread to George Aunger's grocery and meat shop next door and nearly everything was a total loss. During the past few years he had built up a large stock, every shelf being piled up with goods and many articles were also piled on the counter and on the floor of the shop. Mr. Aunger's loss is heavy.

The fire also started under the roof of the big stone building, formerly the St. James Hotel, and caused considerable damage. The roof had to be cut in places to get at the blaze and the water and smoke did a lot of damage. The upstairs was in apartments and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gray, Mr. Aunger and the proprietors of the Glossy Café.

Most of the contents were water soaked. The lower floor is occupied by W. B. Wilde's Boot and Shoe store, Marmora Fruit Market and the Glossy Café. The shoe store and the fruit market suffered some loss and considerable inconvenience in removing goods from the premises. The restaurant suffered quite a loss from water and smoke, but even more from vandalism. Cigarettes, tobacco and other articles were stolen in a shameful manner. If the names of the guilty parties can be secured charges should be laid. The buildings were owned by Mr. John Jones and Miss Jennie Jones. The loss on the buildings and the lunch bar is partly covered by insurance, but we understand Mr. George Auger had no insurance.

Marmora Herald
October 3, 1946

The Fire Bells Ring Out

Quite a commotion was caused in town last evening when Mr. T. Clement's chimney burned out. All the church bells gave the alarm and a large number of citizens turned out but fortunately no damage was done.

Marmora Herald
December 5, 1946

Fire Destroys Fine Residence

At an early hour last Friday morning the big brick house on the farm recently purchased by Ross Carman was totally destroyed by fire, together with all its contents. For many years it had been known as the Robt. Lough residence and was one of the finest brick houses in this part of the county.

The cause of the fire will not likely ever be known. There was no fire in the stoves and apparently nothing around to start a fire. The family, which includes Mr. and Mrs. Ross Carman and six children, had a narrow escape. They were awakened by the smoke, but the fire had made such headway that they had no time to save anything. Mrs. Carman fell while carrying the youngest child down the stairs, but fortunately suffered only minor injuries. Even their clothing was destroyed, with the exception of a few articles.

The house, which was erected years ago for the late Robt. Lough, was a solid brick structure, the walls of the main part having three tiers of brick. With the wide verandahs at the front and a large woodshed at the rear of the kitchen, it was an imposing looking farm home.

Most of the brick walls are still standing, but every bit of wood in the building was completely burned from top to bottom, showing how

fiercely the fire burned.
Fortunately the barns and other farm buildings escaped damage. Some insurance was carried on the house, but the loss is very heavy. One contractor has given an estimate of \$32,000. as the cost of rebuilding which is three or four times the amount of insurance. As the present cost of materials and labor even a small house costs a lot of money. The total loss of their furniture, wearing apparel, food stuffs in the house and a sum of money makes the loss even more serious.

Mother Injured Saving Children

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the residence of Ross Carman, Marmora township, and its contents early Friday morning.

The farm situated about five miles north of the village was known for many years as the Robert Lough farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Carman and their six children were able to leave the residence without being burned but Mrs. Carman fell and injured her leg while assisting the children to escape.

The nearby barn was not affected by the conflagration. It is only a few months since Mr. Carman moved to the farm.

Marmora Herald
June 12, 1947

Organize for Fire Protection

A meeting was held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday evening of last week for the purpose of organizing a fire brigade in order to get the greatest protection possible from the use of Marmora's fire fighting equipment. Unfortunately the attendance was very small and it is regrettable that so few of the member of Marmora District Chamber of Commerce, which requested action were present. The unprecedented number of fires across Canada during the past year and the serious results in villages such as Sunderland, Wroxeter and many others emphasize the need of greater efforts to provide fire protection.

Reeve V. M Lynch acted as chairman and first outlined the equipment which is now available in the village in case of fire. First there is the fire pump, main hydrants and several hundred feet of hose for the business and central portion of the village. Next there is the fire truck with Johnson pump and about 150 feet of small hose. There are also two chemical engines, ladders and other equipment. A number of suggestions were made in regard to extinguishers and other equipment which could be obtained at a moderate cost and some action may be taken in the near future. The opinion of the meeting appeared to be that if a strong brigade was

organized so that in case of a fire each one would know what to do and how to do it a great deal could be accomplished with the present equipment. It was also felt that nearly all citizens would be willing to assist in such an organization for the sake of the village as well as the protection of their own property.

Confident that their action would be supported by all concerned the following citizens were appointed to act as members of the brigade in the departments indicated.

Fire Chief – Arnold Walker

For Operation of Fire Pump at River-
Thos. McCann, Alymer Moffatt, Frank
Bobyk, William Lavender, Michael
Logan, James Walker

For Operation of Hydrants- A. M. Jones,
D. P. Marett, W. A. Shannon

For Running Large Hose- G. Forestell,
Jas. Gordineer, Clayton Potts, Vaughn
Glover, Floyd Loveless, Carl Heath,
Geo. Kerr, Chas. Archer, Garth Sabine

For Fire Truck (operation of chemical
engines and Johnson pump) P. Gray,
F. R. Wells, F. S. Johnston, R. E. Neal,
Harry Johnston, Frank Hannah, Cecil
Neal, W. R. Bonter, Eugene Brady,
Alex Fraser, Ritchie Wells, Basil Mc-
Taggart, Doug Smith, Robert Gray,
Joseph Clairmont, John Fox and
Percy Emmorey.

Special Fire Police- E. C. Prentice
Electrician- Jas. E. O'Sullivan

As soon as the weather permits,
chief Walker will arrange fire brigade

practices and instruction classes so that all the above named will become acquainted with the operation of our fire equipment.

The Village Council are considering a plan whereby each volunteer fireman will receive remuneration for his services while fighting village fires.

Marmora Herald
February 24, 1949

Chimney Fire

A fire alarm was sounded on Monday evening owing to a chimney fire at Harold Landon's and the chemical engines were rushed down, but fortunately the fire was extinguished before any serious damage was done.

The siren sounded for about five minutes, but a lot of people didn't hear it. It is more convenient than the ringing of the church bells, but is not as easy to hear.

Marmora Herald
March 17, 1949

Public Notice

Last spring a public meeting was called to organize a volunteer Fire Brigade for our village. At that time a tentative Fire Brigade was set up. Since then our Village Council has made several decided improvements

and additions to our fire fighting equipment with the purchase of a new pumper fire truck.

We had hoped to get our volunteer fire brigade organized earlier this fall but due to the delay in the delivery of the pumper has caused us to leave it until now.

It is now compulsory by Provincial Law that each municipality set up under a By-Law, a Voluntary Fire Brigade in order to qualify for subsidy on the purchase of equipment and fire protection operations.

The Statute states that a Volunteer Fire Department shall consist of a Chief, Deputy Chief, two Captains and not less than sixteen able bodied fire fighters. The municipality is authorized to pay all voluntary fire fighters, while on duty, and is required to cover all liability of operations under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Having been advised that our new Pumper Fire Truck will arrive in Marmora on Thursday afternoon, we are setting Friday, December 16th, as the day to organize our Fire Brigade. Our new pumper will be demonstrated by an instructor sent by the manufacturer, who will assist in organizing and instructing the volunteers.

Marmora Village Council
V. M. Lynch, Reeve, A. Walter, Fire Chief

Marmora Herald
December 15, 1949

Former St. James Hotel Burns

The heaviest loss in Marmora in many years was suffered this morning when the old St. James Hotel on the corner of Forsythe street and No 7 Highway was destroyed by fire.

The building was occupied on the ground floor by W. B. Wilde, boot and shoe dealer and repairer and issuer of motor licenses, Jones and Potts Hardware store and Josephine's Beauty Salon. On the second floor Mr. and Mrs. Damon King, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bell and Mr. George Auger had living apartments.

The cause of the fire is not known but shortly before 6 a.m. George Auger was roused by the smell of smoke and on opening his door found the upstairs full of smoke and fire. He grabbed his clothes and rushed to his store where he dressed. An alarm was sounded and Roy Moss and Joe Murray roused Mr. and Mrs. King. Joe Murray picked Mrs. King up and carried her to Dunlay and Murray's store, where she was joined by her husband.

They later went to Mrs. Seymour Henry's residence, Mr. and Mrs. Bell were away from home.

The fire was not a spectacular one, as very little blaze was seen, but it was one of the most stubborn fires every to occur in the village. In spite of the efforts of the local firemen the fire spread in the framework and partitions of the building and it seem-



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**MARMORA'S \$50,000 FIRE EARLY TO-
DAY** gutted the old St. James Hotel Block
at the village's main corner. Five people
were made homeless and three businesses
destroyed. In Top Right photo a general
view of the fire shows a pumper truck from
the Belleville Fire Department working on
the flames. Bank accountant Roy Moss,
Top Left, turned in the general alarm.
Merchant Joseph Murray, Lower Left, car-
ried away invalid Mrs. Damon King, who is
shown in the Lower Right photo with her
husband, 86, who is partially blind.—(Ex-
aminer Staff Photos).

ed impossible to extinguish it. The heavy timbers used when it was built burned for a long while. Belleville fire chief, Gerald Vance, and a number of men with a pumper came to the assistance of the local firemen, and four streams of water were poured into the building for several hours. Everything upstairs as destroyed by the fire and water. In hardware, much, if not all the stock, will be a loss. Considerable of the stock was carried from Wilde's Boots and Shoe store, but its loss will also be quite heavy. Miss Josephine Kouri was able to save most of her equipment and the balance is covered by insurance.

It will take some time to determine the total loss, but estimates vary all the way from \$60,000. to double that amount. The loss of a place to do business will be a serious matter

Marmora Herald

January 24, 1952

Mother and Six Children Perish

Mrs. Gordon Jones and her three sons and three daughters were burned to death in a fire which destroyed their frame home in Marmora Township early yesterday morning. The disaster has shocked the whole district and the outmost sympathy is extended to the husband and be-

reaved relatives.

Mr. Jones, a member of Marmora and Lake Township Council, was the only member of the family to survive and he was taken to Peterborough Hospital, suffering from severe burns.

The cause of the fire is as yet unknown. Mr. Jones is reported to have told his cousin, Mr. Wilbert Jones, that he had just got up and started the fire and had gone into another part of the house. When he returned to the room the walls were blazing and the stairway was a mass of flame. He attempted to rouse the family and get them out but was forced out of the house with his clothing burning. When discovered by Mr. Wilbert Jones, who had seen the fire from his home, he was frantically trying to attract help. Neighbours soon arrived on the scene but by this time the whole house was a raging inferno and the occupants did not have a chance. Dr. R. C. Shatford was called and was one of the first to arrive at the fire. He and Wilbert Jones took Gordon Jones to the hospital.

The fire had started between six and six-thirty but Marmora Fire Department were not notified until around 8:00 a.m. and when the pumper arrived at the fire there was little they could do except pour water on the ashes and rubble in an effort to cool them so that a search could be made for the bodies of the victims.

The bodies of three, thought to be the eldest daughter and two boys, were discovered in the forenoon but the remains of the others were not discovered until late in the afternoon. They were burned beyond recognition as humans.

The victims were Mrs. Jessie Jones, aged 35; Phyllis, 17; Elwood, 12; Harold, 9; Ernest, 7; Wanda, 3; and June, 1.

Mrs. Jones was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Archer of Marmora. Besides her husband and parents she is survived by six sisters and one brother. They are Mrs. Clifford (Eleanor) Wannamaker, Peterborough; Mrs. Orville (Joyce) McGarvey, Marmora; Mrs. Gerald (Patricia) Fluke; Mrs. Otis (Lois) Fluke; Mrs. Jack (Enid) Fluke; Mrs. Ralph (Mona) Gilman, all of Marmora and Alex Archer of Peterborough.

Gordon "Buck" Jones has been employed by Deloro Smelting & Refining Co. Ltd. He is a member of Marmora Lodge A.F. & A. M. No.222 and a prominent member of the Orange and Black Lodges. He has five sisters and four brothers: Mrs. Bruce (Mary) Baker; Mrs. Herb (Verna) Young; Mrs. Roy (Debbie) Brown, all of Peterborough; Mrs. Bill (Ruth) Kelly and Mrs. George (Carrie) Fox of Malone; Arthur, U.S.A. Herbert and Bill of Peterborough, and Hugh of Rawdon Township. His mother Mrs. Jas. Jones lives about a quarter of a mile

from the burned dwelling.

Marmora Herald

January 18, 1956

Marmora Fire Truck Stolen

On Tuesday morning it was discovered that sometime during Monday night the pumper has been stolen from Marmora Fire Hall. It was later recovered in a ditch on the old Deloro road near Marmora Station.

The loss was discovered shortly after 7 o'clock by George Lummiss when he opened his service station. He noticed the truck was out of the fire hall and called Fire Chief Jim Walker to find out where the fire was. The police were immediately called and a search started and the truck was discovered by Dean Lavender who was going to the station for freight and express.

A couple of local men were later arrested and taken to Belleville charged with theft.

Fortunately it was not an extremely cold night or the pumper would probably have been ruined. It is also very fortunate that there was not a fire alarm through the night as the only fire equipment available immediately was the old chemical tanks and it is reported that the thieves stole the gas out of the town truck which is used to draw the

chemical engines.

A call was put through to Fire Chief Vance at Belleville when the loss was discovered and he offered to send a truck through Mutual Aid to stand by until the Marmora truck was returned. However the truck was discovered shortly after.

It was one of the craziest stunts that has ever been tried here and the guilty parties should be given a mental examination in addition to a good stiff penalty.

**Marmora Herald
February 19, 1959**

13 People Left Homeless

A fire that did an estimated \$80,000. in damage to two Marmora business buildings was under control by noon on Tuesday.

The fire broke out at 4:30 a.m. and within two hours had driven 13 persons from their homes, injured one of them and destroyed much of the two buildings.

Flames at one time licked 50 feet in the air above the Maynes and Spencer blocks in the village.

A penthouse apartment, from which three men had fled an hour or more earlier, crashed through the roof of one building about 7 a.m.

Cause of the fire, which began in Richards Restaurant on the west side of Forsythe St., is not yet known.

The buildings and contents were largely covered by insurance.

Reeve William Shannon of Marmora described the fire as the village's worst in more than a decade.

Most heavily damaged is the Maynes Block , in which two stores, the restaurant and a penthouse apartment were lost. South part of the block, where a Liquor Control Board store, the Plaza Theatre, and a second penthouse are located, was relatively lightly damaged.

The Spencer Block to the north, nearly 100 years old, is gutted. It contained an empty store, one ground floor apartment and two second floor apartments.

The Maynes building was built about 10 years ago, soon after the iron mining boom in the district began. Only person injured was Archie Wong, one of the proprietors of the restaurant.

He was severely cut by glass while escaping through his penthouse apartment window.

By 7 a.m. the fire was considered under control in the Maynes block, but not until the La Reine Fashion Shop (owned by Mrs. Reine Bourbeau) an empty store and the restaurant had been destroyed.

The penthouse apartment in which Mr. Wong lived with Tom Wong and George Mah was also a total loss as it crashed through the roof in the ground level.

A second penthouse apartment at

the south end of the Maynes Block is undamaged, except for smoke. Owners of the block, Robert Maynes, lives there with his wife and mother, Mrs. Albert Maynes. Below their apartment is a Liquor Control Board store, also undamaged by flames. To the north of the Maynes Block, in the Spencer building, three other families have been left homeless.

Driven from their second floor apartments were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce King and their daughter, 16, and Ronald Henry and his mother Mrs. Seymour Henry. Also homeless are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baker, who lived in the apartment at the rear.

Pumpers from Stirling, Madoc and Marmora Township assisted the Marmora brigade under Chief Cecil Neal in battling the fire. Help was also provided by Fire Chief Gerald Vance of Belleville.

Firemen praised the village's new water supply system, put into use last summer, which provided a steady pressure for hose lines. The system taps the Crowe River at the west side of Marmora.

The Spencer Block, one of the community's oldest buildings, once was the site of one of the first general stores in Marmora. The store premises are now unoccupied.

Marmora Herald
March 12, 1964

Fire Levels Village Heart

Fire not only levelled the village hall of Deloro, Dec. 29th, it destroyed the community's heart and soul.

The hall, modernized in 1969-70, was the centre of activities for this community, the smallest incorporated village in Ontario. In addition to council meetings and the library, it was used a great deal for card parties, dances, parties and family gatherings. Fortunately the usual Friday Night Teenager's Dance was cancelled for that evening or the fire might have had tragic results.

The fire is believed to have started in the furnace room or in the pipes. The Marmora Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to the call at 9 p.m., but the 63 year old building was beyond saving so the firemen concentrated their efforts on protecting nearby Deloro General Store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Nichol of Marmora.

Two Deloro ladies, Mrs. Michael Horvath and Mrs. Doug Lynch, were at the hall earlier in the evening decorating for the New Year's Dance.

There was no sign of fire or smoke when they left the building at 8:30. Fifteen minutes later Leonard Bicknell returned with his sons from the Marmora Arena and was about to enter his home across from the hall when he smelled

smoke. Thirteen year old Michael was directed to run and tell his mother to call the fire department while Mr. Bicknell investigated the source of the smoke.

After securing a key from Mrs. Wm. Regan, the village librarian, Mr. Bicknell entered the hall with his visiting friend Jack Reid and found the downstairs back of the building ablaze.

The building burned until 12 o'clock, during which time Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell opened their home to the firefighters. Mrs. Bicknell manned the telephone line, calling Ontario Hydro and the O.P.P. while Mrs. Reid assisted in supplying hot coffee and refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Horvath of the Centre Hastings Home also assisted the firefighters with hot drinks and food.

Over \$4000. was spent in 1970 to renovate the hall including new panelling, lowered ceilings, a work kitchen upstairs and a remodelled kitchen downstairs, a hot water tank and improved toilet facilities.

Also lost in the fire were the dishes, silverware, new tables and chairs and drapes which had been purchased over the last two years through the efforts of the Deloro Village Social Association.

The building was erected in 1909 by volunteer labour with materials supplied by the Deloro Smelting and Refining Co. It was used as a public school on week-days for seven years until the new school across the road was erected and on Sundays the various denominations held church

services there. The inter-denominational Sunday School conducted Sunday afternoons was always well attended.

An unusual and beautiful feature of the building were the stained glass windows which had been contributed by the company.

The two bronze memorial plaques bearing the names of the Deloro men who enlisted in the two Great Wars and which hung on either side of the hall have been recovered. Unfortunately the First World War one is broken and the Second World War one warped but it is hoped something can be done to salvage these priceless memorials.

The excellent library which had been situated downstairs and was therefore in a vulnerable part of the building, contained approximately 3500 volumes.

It was started in 1915 and during the war received a donation of 18 books from England in appreciation for food and clothing parcels which the Deloro residents had sent overseas.

In addition to all the books, a large movie house type of screen was lost in the fire. Replacement value of the screen would probably be about \$600.

Mrs. Regan said.

Marmora Herald
January 3, 1973