

Destructive Fire Wednesday Morning

Wednesday morning shortly after seven o'clock fire was discovered in the rear of the building occupied by E. E. Keng's grocery store. It soon spread to the Johnson barber shop and to the building occupied by Droemer Bros bakery. All these buildings were frame structures. The Keng store and contents were total loss with no insurance on either the building or the stock. The Johnson shop lost everything except the tools of Mr. Rohrer, who managed to save them by making the second attempt after being driven out the first time by the smoke. Johnson carried some insurance on his fixtures, but there was none on the building. Droemer Bros. removed all contents and the building was badly damaged, with no insurance. On the other side from where the fire originated, Paul's Cafe removed all fixtures and stock, but the building was not damaged to any extent.

At one time, it seemed as if it would be impossible to prevent the fire spreading to the brick buildings, but the galvanized iron roofing on two of the burning buildings prevented the flames from rising high and spreading over the roof.

The fire-fighting apparatus was somewhat slow in getting into action, due to a difficulty in cranking the pumper and some breaks in the hose after the water was turned on. However, these were soon overcome and two streams from that source were played on the flames. Another hose line was coupled to a fire plug of the waterworks system and good pressure from the plant (the Creamery) soon brought another stream of water into use. There was plenty of water in the reservoirs and the mains.

The flames were checked after consuming a portion of the bakery building, but it required heroic work on the parts of the firemen and many citizens. Young men would rush into the buildings and carry out goods, scale walls, become drenched and even venture right into the flames at times in order to do whatever was to be done. Giddings people always put up a game fight at a fire.

The grocery and barber shop buildings were owned by Herman Luecke and the bakery building was owned by Ernst Schulze. The property owners have not announced any plans as to what they will do in the future. Keng and Johnson are yet undecided.

The origin of the fire is yet undetermined. The first indications were smoke arising from a corner of the building near which there were about twenty-five gallons of oil in a can, but the store had not been opened that morning.