

LEAVENWORTH ECHO

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\$1 00 per Year

SIX BUILDINGS BURNED

Leavenworth Again the Victim of a Destructive Fire Third Time in Seven Years the City Has Suffered

LOSS REACHES NEARLY \$25,000

Partially Covered by Insurance---Already the Work of Re-building Has Commenced---Brick Blocks Will Take The Place of The Burned Ones---The Want of Fire Protection Very Much in Evidence.

Leavenworth's third fire in seven years occurred on last Sunday morning at 4:30 o'clock. Six business houses were consumed, all of which were occupied. The total loss will amount to approximately fifty thousand dollars. Plisch & Bliss and John Bjork were the heaviest losers.

The fire started in Adams & Burke's hall, which was occupied by the Wenatchee band boys who gave a dance on Saturday night which broke up, suppositively, at 12 o'clock, but in fact about one o'clock. Just exactly how the fire originated is not definitely known.

John Adams, one of the owners, said all was safe when he locked up. J. Nelson says when he first discovered it, the entire interior of the building was like a roaring furnace. A number of people think the place was set on fire from beneath. Just how it originated will never be known. The first to discover the fire were the Great Northern car inspecting crew, John Nelson and Jay Wyckoff, who gave the first alarm.

At the time the writer got there about five o'clock, the American hotel which adjoins the hall on the west was on fire and of course without water or fire fighting appliances of any kind it was idle to think of saving any of the buildings in the path of the flames as they were all frame and of course dry. When the fire reached the Overland hotel a half hearted effort was made to save it but with little water and no organization it was not possible to do much. When one stops to think how easily not only the Overland hotel but Bloom's market and Plisch & Bliss's building might have been saved, had the town been provided with some kind of fire protection it would appear as if the town could be indicted for criminal negligence.

A Spectacular Display

Considered purely from the pictorial standpoint the fire has never been equalled in this state. It was theatrically a spectacular masterpiece. The people looked upon it with an appreciation of its tragic character. Those who took up positions on high elevations and some distance away saw the buildings converted into a pillar of flame that seemed itself to be on the point of toppling. Such was the effect of the flickering mass of lurid light that played around it from the base to a point far above the roofs. Those who were near their station so that the broad stretch of the valley was before them, seemed to be in the midst of a blaze, the included every building within view, for flames danced in every window in reflected beauty, and the sky gave out the hues of a tropical sunset a thousand times intensified.

A Picture of Utter Ruin

By six o'clock the people who stood without the fire lines along the street were regaled with a view of ruin such as is seldom seen in a small community. Only two chimneys remained and only for a moment when they toppled over and nothing but a black smouldering ruin remained and for the third time the people of this city have been warned that a first class system of water works for fire purposes must be had and at once.

While the Overland hotel, which was the largest and highest was burning the Great Northern depot was threatened. The Jap section hands were kept busy shovelling snow on the roof and thus kept it from catching fire until the fire burned down, and in a short space of time was out of danger. At the same time L. H. Laden, Jay Wyckoff and Harry Curtis were working like Trojans to save the store room belonging to the car department, situated just east of the depot. Jay Wyckoff was on

the roof with a hose playing upon the building despite his efforts at times the roof was smoking but the boys below were doing good work with buckets and kept the sides wet down and saved the building with its contents.

The buildings destroyed were six in number. Commencing with the Lobby saloon, which is at the west end of the row, and which belonged to W. W. Walker, loss on building and fixtures \$2,700; on stock, \$1,500. Insurance \$1,300.

M. H. Cahill, American hotel, loss on building, \$2,500, on stock and furniture \$1,000. No insurance.

Adams & Burke's Hall. Loss on building \$2,000. Insurance \$1,000.

Plisch & Bliss, dealers in general merchandise. Loss on building and fixtures \$1,000; on stock \$6,500. Insurance \$3,000. L. W. Bloom, meat market. Loss on fixtures and stock \$1,200. Insurance \$400.

John Bjork, Overland hotel and building in which meat market was located. Loss on buildings \$3,500, on furniture and hotel fixtures \$1,500. No insurance.

About two hundred dollars damage to the roof of the Adams & Burke building. Fully covered by insurance.

Fortunately there was no wind at the time or the fire would have spread to adjoining buildings. The Adams & Burke saloon building, which is brick and was completed about December first last acted as a barrier and stopped the further progress of the fire. In the same block, east of the Adams & Burke building are three other frame buildings which owe their salvation to the brick.

On Monday morning Plisch & Bliss promptly began the erection of a temporary frame building which will be ready for occupancy by the last of the week.

L. W. Bloom will also begin at once the erection of a new market. Others have not fully decided yet what they will do.

Reminiscent.

The first fire in Leavenworth that the oldest inhabitant remembers occurred in November 1894. A frame building on the big rock corner, occupied jointly by Bill James with a barber shop and T. C. Owens jeweler was burned. The loss was small and there was no insurance.

The next fire occurred on Thanksgiving day in 1896, and was almost a knock-out for the town and some of its people. Seven buildings were consumed, all occupied, and not a dollar of insurance on either buildings or contents. The buildings were all located in the same block where the first fire occurred and also where the fire of last Sunday morning took place. John Bjork's Overland Hotel, Bisbee & Donahoe's saloon, Posey's barber shop, Severson's saloon, Mrs. H. A. Anderson's restaurant, J. M. Duffy's saloon and a dwelling occupied by Mr. Belvel. John Bjork was one of the heaviest losers in this fire, which started in his hotel, and he saved nothing and carried no insurance. His loss alone was close to eleven thousand dollars on building and furniture.

So far as we have been able to learn there was no insurance on any of the property destroyed in this fire. With one exception however all managed to rebuild and go into business again, and on last Sunday morning the fire swept over almost the same ground. The loss by this fire has been variously estimated at from \$25,000 to \$50,000 dollars.

The next fire occurred on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 28th, 1902. The sufferers by this fire were G. C. Merriam, dealer in general merchandise, whose

loss on stock and building was over \$20,000, without insurance. Mrs. Beamish, millinery; loss small. No insurance. J. W. Poag, restaurant and confectionary; loss on stock and fixtures estimated at \$600. No insurance. Dr. Hoxsey, loss on library and instruments about \$300. No insurance. C. C. Christensen owned the building in which the millinery store was located, and carried no insurance.

As near as the Echo reporter could glean the historical facts in regard to the fires that have visited this town from such old-timers as John Bjork, Jack Smith, G. C. Merriam and Mrs. H. A. Anderson, they are here set down with the hope that they may prove interesting to the old-time residents. No doubt the perusal will recall many long forgotten incidents, some that will be remembered with pleasure while others will cause pain and regret. Ah, well! Of such is the thread of life spun.

Mr. Al Hilbron, of Mission, spent Sunday last in town.

J. L. Wheeler left Tuesday for Wenatchee on business.

Old papers for sale at this office, 25c per hundred, all sizes.

For good bargains in real estate call at the ECHO business office.

Mr. T. Morarity, of Everett, made a business trip to town last Tuesday.

Mr. Richards proprietor of the Wenatchee bakery was in town Monday on business.

Unless a long cold snap arrives soon ice will have to be shipped in for next summer's consumption.

The west bound passenger trains were delayed the forepart of the week on account of snow in Montana.

John Henry the genial road master of the Cascade division made this office a pleasant visit last Thursday.

A good eighty acre ranch for sale at a bargain, close in. Call at the Echo office for further particulars.

George L. Hopp, who recently bought out Messrs. Duffy & Bloom will shortly move his family to Leavenworth.

FOUND--And left at this office a gold ring which owner can have by describing and paying for this notice.

Home seekers rates will go into effect March 1. The Great Northern expects to carry more home seekers than ever before.

If you don't think the growth of the Echo will keep pace with the growth of the town, just watch and pray, but be sure to watch.

C. W. Gibbs, one of the prosperous ranchers from Peshastin, was in the city Tuesday and had his name enrolled on the Echo list.

Fred Staub one of the employees at the Lamb-Davis Mill had his foot very severely mashed by a heavy timber falling on it this morning.

Ira D. Edwards, of Wenatchee, was in our town last Monday settling his fire losses in Leavenworth's last blaze and while here called on the Echo.

Mr. Hugh Buchanan departed last Thursday for Alberta, Canada, where he expects to take up a homestead and settle down to the quiet life of a farmer.

Mr. F. Lane, of Seattle, passed through on his way to Wenatchee, his former home. Mr. Lane met a number of friends while the engine was being changed.

Business on the Great Northern has picked up considerable the past week due the fact that wheat is moving more rapidly. The farmers have shown a willingness to sell.

E. R. Bell, of St. Paul, a decorator and house furnisher, arrived in town the forepart of the week and may conclude to settle here, at present he is visiting with his sister, Mrs. Frank Sutton.

We regret to state that Mrs. Ed Mills, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Martin, was taken with diphtheria last Monday. The lady is at the home of her parents and is rapidly recovering.

The Forresters lost their charter and a picture of the founders of the order in the fire of Sunday morning. Fortunately F. S. Taylor had the balance of the paraphernalia in his store and it was saved.

O. C. Moore, of Spokane, has been here for the past ten days relieving the Great Northern storekeeper, A. Walker, who has been quarantined on account of diphtheria but is now out again, his children having recovered.

A Handsome Boy



EDWIN WYCKOFF, Two and a half years old.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sprague met with a mishap last Monday morning. The little lady tripped and striking her face against some furniture cut a deep gash over the right eye. Five stitches were taken and she is now doing well.

"Uncle" Dick Giblin arrived here last Sunday to visit his numerous friends. He was enroute to his home at Chiwaukum from Wenatchee where he had been visiting for some three weeks. He became a member of the Eastern Star.

The local lodge Degree of Honor will not give the dance scheduled for Feb. 15, a notice of which appeared in last week's issue. This step has been found necessary owing to the burning of the hall last Sunday.

Among the Wenatchee people who came up on the band excursion and called on the Echo were: Major Lindsey and wife, Leonard Fowler, of the Republic, Ed Ferguson, Mrs. Cole Webster and Henry Crass.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fridd departed the first of the week for Seattle where Mr. Fridd has accepted a position. They closed their bakery owing Mrs. Fridd's health, she being troubled with rheumatism. The best wishes of their many friends go with them to their new home.

The family of Mr. Huxtable have had diphtheria for sometime. The children are improving and out of danger. The mother was taken down with the disease last Sunday and this makes it very hard on the family. Mrs. A. J. Martin is nursing the family and if good care will pull them through Mrs. Martin will do it.

Plisch & Bliss, the energetic and enterprising business men of this city who were burned out in the big fire last Sunday started in Monday morning to build a temporary building and will be in business again in a day or two. It is the intention of this enterprising firm to build a brick building in the spring. A live business firm can not be downed.

The Echo acknowledges a pleasant call from Mrs. J. J. Griffith and Mrs. C. R. Zinke, of this place and Mrs. Thos. Stewart, of Peshastin. Mrs. Stewart tells the local editor of the Echo that Peshastin is on the high road to prosperity and now has three sawmills, a literary society and a prayer meeting which meets each week.

Mr. Okey Algreen, of Wellington, arrived in town last Saturday to see his girl and visit old acquaintances. He put up at the Overland hotel and in his hasty departure forgot a valuable overcoat which was burned in the fire. Mr. Algreen subscribed for five copies of the Echo for which he has the thanks of the publishers.

The friends of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Reed, of Rock Island, will regret to learn of the death of their daughter, Mrs. E. T. Balch, which occurred in Seattle last week. Mr. Balch is well known in this city. Mr. Balch and Mr. and Mrs. Reed have the sympathy of their many friends in Leavenworth. The interment took place at Wenatchee last Sunday.

The man who advertises gets the trade and has no competition.

Mr. C. R. Lamb, Minneapolis, Minn., Vice President of the Lamb-Davis Lumber Company, and G. E. Lamb, Clinton, Iowa, Secretary of the same company, arrived in the city last Tuesday morning. They will spend about a week in and around Leavenworth. On Wednesday, accompanied by Petrel Davis, the General Manager for the company, they drove up to Lake Wenatchee, where the company is having a large and elegant private hotel built for the use of the members of the company, which will be completed in the early part of the coming summer.

Lake Wenatchee is sure to become quite a resort for hunters and fishermen. It has been for a number of years the resort on each recurring summer of an ever increasing number of seekers after health and pleasure from the west side of the mountains who camp about the shores of the beautiful lake during the pleasant summer days, and who when they return to their homes give such glowing accounts of the beauty of the spot and the delightfully invigorating atmosphere that results in an increased number of visitors the following year. W. T. Blankenship, who owns a large hay farm on the shores of Lake Wenatchee is building a large and commodious hotel near the lake. It will be on the rustic order and will be constructed of hewn logs and thoroughly finished and fitted up on the inside.

The Echo is in receipt of a communication this week from one of its readers to which the writer has failed to put his own proper name. When writing to us for publication you must sign your name to your letter. Not necessarily that we may publish it, though we would in all cases prefer to do so, but that we may be assured of your good faith. Always sign your name and if you do not wish it published, say so, and we will decide if we can print your matter without a name to it.

Subscribe for the Echo and get all the important news, personal, social and general.

Dr. W. M. McCoy's article in this issue contains valuable information to the people and his advice should be taken and acted upon.

Tumwater Lodge, No. 71, A. O. U. W. held a very interesting meeting last Wednesday night. A large number turned out and a good time was had. Mr. Frank Sutton was initiated into the mysteries of the order. It was decided to hold a social meeting on the evening of February 10 when a reception will be tendered the members of the Degree of Honor and their families. It will be a reunion of the two lodges, and the entire evening will be given up to entertaining the ladies. It is expected that that both lodges will turn out in large numbers. A banquet will be an attraction. Two applications for membership are awaiting action. Mr. A. M. Phelan presented the members of the lodge with a box of choice Havana cigars and at the conclusion of the meeting a smoker was enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be present. The social meetings will be held often in the future it is intended to hold joint meetings with the ladies of the Degree each month.

Mr. Bosford, of Wenatchee, arrived in town the first of the week and may decide to reside here in the future.

Keep posted on what is going on in this city and district. This can only be done by subscribing for the Echo, only \$1.00 per year.