

WOODLAND DAILY DEMOCRAT

Wednesday Evening, August 25, 1920

Article

JULIAN HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE BLAZE STARTS IN REAR; NINE LARGE OWNERS LOSERS

Fire at 3:15 o'clock this afternoon originating in one of the second story rooms of the Julian hotel over the fruit and soft drink store of Frank P. Seno, gutted and practically destroyed the structure. The fire seemed to have its own source in oil, the heavy clouds of black and brown smoke attracting attention of men far away from the blaze, and who rushed to the scene.

An alarm was turned in promptly but before the department could reach the scene the entire building seemed to be ablaze. Streams of water for awhile seemed to have little effect on the fire and the entire second and third floors were soon in flames with the center of the building ablaze.

The building will be a total loss. Fire walls confined the fire which with a lack of wind kept the fire from spreading.

C.C. Knight, hotel manager, was out of town.

THE LOSSES.

D.N. Hershey Estate, owners of the structure, insured.

Chris Knight, lessee of the hotel, owner of some of the furnishings, insured.

Alexander and Davinas, proprietors of the Julian Grill.

C.S. Bentz, notion store and dry goods house, insured.

Jacobs Motor Company, practically no loss.

The waffle kitchen operated by Mrs. H.T. Barnes.

Barber shop recently installed by newcomer.

Frank P. Seno, notions, soft drinks and fruits, probably insured.

Many roomers, personal effects.

WORK OF RESCUE

As the fire department continued to fight the blaze it switched from the west end of the structure to the east where the rear of the restaurant served as fuel for the flames, which for awhile defied any effort to quench them or get the fire under control.

Men of all classes, however, rushed to the building and assisted in saving a large portion of the principal articles of value. Clothes, money, trunks and the like were saved. Mrs. Seno with her children was in charge of her store. Mr. Seno being absent, and outsiders had to show her that the fire was breaking into her apartments before she would realize that the place was doomed.

HOUSEKEEPER TRAPPED

Mrs. E. Gerth, housekeeper, was trapped in a room on the third floor. She detected smoke and opened the door to the hall. Almost overcome with the smoke she was given a helping hand

by G.C. Donnelly, Wells-Fargo agent, as she groped her way through the hall, down the stairs and to a window in a room on the second floor. From here she was carried down a ladder to safety, held in the arms of L.M. Lamb, auto salesman for the McBroom Motor Sales Co.

Mrs. Gerth declares that she walked through the halls on the second and third floor only five minutes before the fire started and did not smell the odor of smoke. "I can't imagine how it started so quickly and how it spread so rapidly," declared Mrs. Gerth.

VALUABLE WARDROBE SAVED

Volunteers rushed into the rooms of friends, succeeding in saving much furniture and valuable personal effects of roomers on the second floor. Several hundred dollars worth of clothing, jewelry and keepsakes were carried from the rooms of Frank R. Doyle, stockman. Mr. and Mrs. Doyle and their little son, Robert, remained in the rooms until the last, all of them being forced to leave by the latter route.

Little Robert Doyle entered the hotel a second time, fearing that his mother had been trapped. He was persuaded that she had left and then was helped down the ladder himself.

Many volunteers risked their lives groping their way around the various rooms, making sure that all of the roomers and other fire-fighters were not caught in the smoke or flames.

CALL FOR HELP

Harry Maddox who happened to be in Woodland, sent in a hurry call to Sacramento at 4 o'clock for help and at a time when the fire threatened the entire block. Sacramento responded, stating that she would send aid immediately, the local equipment was inadequate to handle the situation, though the whole city was ready and willing to aid, and the fire department fought bravely.

F.P. Seno, who lost everything telephoned to the "Democrat" from Sacramento, asking: "How are my folks"

He expressed no concern over his property. He carried insurance.