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# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Devoted to the Interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Center of the Northwest

VOL. 2

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1906.

NO. 21

**Will Open Sunday, April 1**

## The New St. Johns Hotel

J. B. NYE, Manager

This new and up-to-the-hour hostelry will be finely equipped in every way. Rooms may now be booked. Cuisine will be excellent. Grill-room and bar connected with the hotel. Corner Philadelphia and Ivanhoe Streets.

## Furious Flames Feast!

Only Strenuous Effort Prevented A Loss To The City of All Business Blocks.

### Fire Company Does Good Work

It was just before eight o'clock Sunday night that a blaze was discovered in the entry on the second floor of the block of frame buildings cornering on Jersey and Burlington streets—and an alarm was quickly given. By scores and by hundreds came those within alarm distance of the city's centre—till about 1500 were working, yelling, or merely shuddering over the prospects of the city's loss.

There was a fierce gale blowing from the south—varying occasionally to the east or the west—and the night was the coldest in years. Yet the very chill of the air prevented a greater conflagration; for, as the water struck surrounding buildings it formed an icy shield that warded off oncoming sparks and embers.

Elliott's drugstore was the first building to be thoroughly enveloped in the flames—but before it was wiped out the adjoining property, the store vacated by the St. Johns grocery, owned by H. W. Light, of Salem, was doomed. An instant later the flames, fanned by an awful gale, had spread to the building occupied by E. O. Magoon as a secondhand store, and to the Hazelwood restaurant, operated by E. P. Tognini.

It was quickly realized by the fire department that nothing could save the flimsy structures; and, while a stream was kept upon them, heroic efforts were made to protect the Bickner store and hall—as well as the Central hotel and adjoining buildings. Jersey street resembled a tract covered by living coals—which dropped from high in the air, rolled a space, and were again lit by the whirling breeze to drop farther and farther away—still ablaze. Some burning embers were carried far: some flying over the residence of H. W. Brice—and some alighting upon the roof of the Baptist church, in which services continued.

It was realized that if Bickner's block went it was a clearing of city lots as far north as the Chinese block. No fire department on earth could have done more or come out with a greater victory over the flames than did the volunteer department of St. Johns—assisted and bathed as it was by the multitude. With heroic nerve the boys saved the Bickner property—although for fifteen minutes it would not have sold for more than \$30—so fated did it seem. From THE REVIEW office the lighter stuff was removed to a point of safety—but a couple thousand dollars worth of machinery and type were left. Twice the office caught fire—but discerning eyes soon detected the flames.

Wilson's jewelry store was once on fire but it was promptly saved. The buildings between Tacoma and Burlington, on the west side of Jersey, were saved only by the most careful eye and strenuous effort. Every window on the east side of the Holbrook brick block was broken by the heat—although a 100-foot street separated it from the flames. These windows included the immense plateglass show-windows of the St. Johns Grocery Company. The upper part of the brick block was somewhat scorched—but all damage is covered by insurance.

Someone burst open the entrance to the grocery and commenced to save the valuable papers—but it was quickly realized that there was no danger of destruction.

There was some delay in getting the pumps started at the powerhouse and the pressure of water quickly subsided as the tank emptied. But once started the pressure came up a bit.

In two hours it was all over—and only a smouldering mass of ruins occasionally flamed up as a heavy gust of wind grasped the debris. Yet it was an awful two hours for all having property or other interests in the city. It was a quick blaze—and a hot one.

The building occupied by Dr. Rossiter was badly scorched as the Elliott building was almost against it. The side next to the fire was the only part affected. About 9:10 the explosion of a gasoline tank at the warehouse of the Portland Suburban jarred residences as far away as three blocks—and bits of the tank were driven with fearful force in all directions. The pieces were red-hot—and several narrow escapes from injury are reported.

Elliott's loss is estimated at \$4000 with insurance of \$2000; H. W. Light, vacant building, \$2000 with \$1000 insurance; W. H. Stine, the Hazelwood and the Magoon building, \$2000 with a \$1000 insurance. Magoon carried \$500 insurance on his \$1000 stock. E. P. Tognini carried \$1000 on his \$2000 loss. This brings the loss to nearly \$11,000—about half covered by policies. That it was not more than double that is accredited to the fire workers and their helpers.

F. A. Yates, by the breaking of a ladder, fell from the eaves of the Bickner block but was not seriously injured. Another party was with him on the ladder at the time. There were several minor injuries and many coats burned by the embers.

The local Odd Fellows lost their entire records since the lodge was instituted. These were in possession of E. E. Elliott, who is secretary, and he had them in his store for safe keeping. The lodge has been formed one year only—but the records were valuable and cannot be replaced.

M. L. Holbrook viewed the flames from his home in Portland—and believed the entire business had burned. Monday morning he circulated a subscription paper for the fire department—heading it with \$50. Bickner Brothers gave \$30—and others swelled the total with lesser amounts. Over \$290 was quickly pledged.

In the old St. Johns grocery store were close to \$500 worth of groceries that had not been removed to the new store. These went into smoke quickly.

Too much praise cannot be given those who so valiantly fought the flames—facing many dangers in the piercing cold of the furious gale. The men came from the church, from the home, from different walks—but all were determined to work to the utmost. Hats blew away and were lost; clothing was ruined in many cases; numbed hands were bruised and bleeding—but the work went on—and the flames defeated.

When it was found by those who first sought the fire house that the doors were strongly locked—with not an axe in sight—there was a fearful howl against the practice. THE REVIEW has before mentioned the danger of such a practice—and this night it cost ten minutes' time. The plan is a bad one.

## St. Johns Land Co.

PHONE UNION 3104

### JERSEY STREET BUSINESS LOTS

Corner Lot, 50x90, close in - \$4,000  
Corner Lot, 50x100, with Alley 5,000  
Two Inside Lots, 25x100, opposite School House, each 1,000  
Fine Corner, Jersey and John sts., 50x100 4,000

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Fine lots in St. Johns Park, 50x100, with 16-foot alleys—\$275.00 and upwards—\$5.00 down and \$5.00 per month. These lots are near the great Weyerhaeuser site

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

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JERSEY STREET

## Bickner Brothers

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All Goods Sold at Portland Prices!

Keep a large stock of General Merchandise, including Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Hardware, House Furnishings, Feed, Etc. In fact everything. Their Prices are right. Don't waste your time going to Portland, but come in and see our stock and prices.

Remember The Big Department Store

Corner Jersey Street and Broadway

St. Johns, Oregon

### HARD TIMES.

Prize For The Worst-Dressed, And Fines For Those Who Come Well-Dressed.

The fire company has decided to give a dance this (Friday) evening to help swell the fund necessary to put the organization upon its feet. There was a fair sized amount netted from the last dance—but there is still money needed to help the boys along in the good work they have started on.

The dance this evening will be of the nature of a hard times affair and it is believed that there will be a lot of sport for all who participate. Hanna's seven-piece orchestra is to furnish the music, and the affair will be pulled off at the hall of the M. W. A.

An admission fee of fifty cents will be charged for gentlemen—while ladies will be admitted free of cost. The man who is dressed in the garb of the "hardest times" will receive his admission back as a prize—while those who attend the dance in their "glad rags" will be fined. There promises to be lots of fun—so do not miss the opportunity of having a good time and help the fireboys at the same time.

Postpone to March 26.

The "Just A Little Different" benefit advertised by the Methodist church people has been postponed to Monday, March 26. The cause of the postponement is the many meetings that have been held, the bad weather, and the fact that it was difficult to secure a hall for the date contemplated. Remember the change of date! Admission will be 25c and 15c.

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