

## FIRE ZONE DISTRICT PROVIDED

A restricted district in which no frame buildings shall be erected except dwelling houses was created by the city council at a special meeting held last night.

The district embraces one block each side of Main street, from the O. W. P. depot on the south to Fifth street on the north.

The council also took up the matter seeing that the town should be protected on Friday night, when a large crowd is expected here to attend the opening of the new Regner opera house. Sheriff Word was requested to send two regular deputies here, and in addition two special policemen were appointed—M. M. Squire and Ezra Thomas.

Two cut-off nozzles were ordered for the fire department and 500 feet of new hose.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Portland fire brigade for their prompt action and good work on Sunday morning; also the Gresham department was remembered, several individual members coming in for merited praise.

A resolution was adopted requesting the P. R. L. & P. Co. to provide cut-offs in the power cables so that the current may be turned off at an instant's notice whenever the emergency arises.

F. D. Axtel, a competent contractor, who has erected many substantial buildings, was today appointed building inspector by Mayor Kenney for the city of Gresham. He will see to the enforcement of the ordinance passed last night by the city council on all future buildings of the city.

## OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS TREE

An old-fashioned Christmas tree will be a feature at the Gresham Baptist church on Wednesday evening, December 23. Everybody will be welcome. Old Santa Claus will be there with a treat for all the little ones. Bring them along. Following is the program:

Opening Chorus.....By the School  
Reading—Christmas Wish.....Phyllis Bates  
Duet—  
Dr. J. E. Clannahan and D. R. Shoemaker  
Parasol Drill.....Eight Girls  
Song—Silent Night.....Girls' Chorus  
Reading.....Dickey's Xmas  
Mrs. D. R. Shoemaker  
Solo.....Master O. J. Brown  
Reading.....Beatrice Bates  
Dialogue.....Four Girls  
Solo.....Mrs. O. J. Brown  
Reading.....The Sioux Chief's Daughter  
Mrs. E. Peterson

## COUNTY AGRICULTURIST MAY BE APPOINTED

H. A. Lewis, H. E. Davis and J. J. Johnson will take the matter up of having a county agricultural agent appointed by the county court for Multnomah county. The state pays one-half the agent's salary, the county the remainder.

The matter was before the granges last spring, but Rockwood grange was the only one to indorse the plan and the county commissioners refused to proceed without further sanction. Professor French has been explaining the advantages to be desired by the agricultural interests by having such an officer appointed from the O. A. C. and there is now a probability that the appointment will be made.

## REGNER BUILDING DECLARED TO BE SAFE

Gresham, Ore., Dec. 22, 1914.  
To Whom It May Concern:

As I, the undersigned, have been asked by the city council of Gresham to pass my opinion as to the safety of the Regner building now under construction, I beg to say that from that part of the building which I have been able to inspect, and from the information as to such parts as are not visible, I consider the building in a perfectly safe condition for public use.

Yours respectfully,  
F. D. AXTELL,  
Gresham's New City Building  
Inspector.

Notice.  
Gresham Shoe Shop has moved from the old location to John Metzger's building beside the Tailor Shop.  
CARL DAHL, Prop.

You can build 69 Toys all for 50c. Make your boy or girl a present of a set of Erectors for Xmas. At Sterling & Kidder's.

# Greatest Catastrophe in Gresham's History, Loss \$40,000; Half Insured

## Incidents.

John Bartelt had the terrifying experience of being entrapped in the upper story of his burning store. He slept directly over the office and was awakened by the smoke and noise of the flames beneath. He could not descend the inside stairway and the key to the door of the outside flight was in the possession of Mr. Walrad. There he was, and he broke a window and called for help, which was heard first by Bert Lindsey. After a terrifying delay, in which he succeeded in saving a portion of his clothing, the adding machine and typewriter, he was helped to the ground by the firemen who came with a ladder. He lost the greater part of his belongings, including his watch.

The Shattuck building, in which the fire originated, was built by Lewis and Carl Shattuck in the late fall of 1901, shortly after they had been burnt out on Powell street, where the old livery barn now stands. The business was just entering on its 22d year, but since last spring had been under new management, when Lewis Shattuck sold out. During the period of its existence it had probably a larger and more thriving trade than any similar house east of Portland, its sales sometimes going as high as \$15,000 a month. It was the largest store building in eastern Multnomah or Clackamas counties.

One of the bravest deeds of fire fighting was performed by a little girl. While the sparks and pieces of burning shingles were being carried by the wind and endangering residences along West Powell street, Mrs. J. G. Metzger and her youngest daughter Mabel watched their home with considerably anxiety. Mabel, who is 12 years old and small for her years, hurried to the barn, procured a heavy 16-foot ladder and placed it against the house. She then carried water to the very top of the roof in preparation for any blaze which might start.

Captain William Hansen, of Engine Co. No. 9, located at East 35th and Belmont streets, responded to the call for help. Besides himself his crew consisted of Lieutenant Frank J. McFarland, Hushel Thomas, chauffeur; George Holsheimer, Jack Kline, Ira Gardner, T. O. Baker and A. J. Conrad. They were given a good breakfast after their work was done and were heartily thanked by the business men and other citizens of Gresham for their valiant work.

Several telephones and electric wire poles will have to be replaced, as they are not only unsightly in their damaged condition but highly dangerous in their weakened condition. Very fortunately no one was injured during the fire, except for a few minor bruises and scratches and a few shower baths from the fire hose, although several narrow escapes were reported.

Bert Lindsey was the first person to respond to the warning of fire and plunged out of bed with the mercury at 24 degrees below freezing, pulling on his pants as he ran. Taking in the situation at a glance he spurted over to the city hall in his bare feet and turned in the alarm which awoke a slumbering city.

The telephone company lost five phones and was put to considerable expense in repairing the fallen lines. Prompt action on the part of Superintendent Frank Christensen probably saved the switchboard at "central" from burning out as the heavy power cables fell, taking with them the telephone wires.

Broken windows were seen in the new Regner building, the Sell building, the Todd Brothers' building, Sterling & Kidder's hardware store, the Gresham bank and the C. C. store. No goods were damaged in any of those places and temporary repairs were made with sheets of galvanized iron.

Flying sparks fell as far away as the schoolhouse, fully three hundred yards. Several persons in that vicinity were kept busy watching that their houses did not take fire.

A throng of curious sightseers blocked Main street all day on Sunday, many persons coming from miles around to view the ruins.



VIEW OF BURNED DISTRICT, LOOKING WEST.

## Losses and Insurance.

- Bartelt Mercantile Co., loss, stock and fixtures \$17,000; insurance \$11,000.
- C. E. Osburn, loss, buildings, stock and tools, \$6000; insurance \$2400.
- D. C. Ely, loss on buildings \$5000; insurance \$3500
- J. C. Hessel, loss, stock and fixtures, \$4000; insurance, \$2500.
- S. E. Palmquist, loss, stock and fixtures, \$2000; insurance, \$1200.
- Gust Larson, loss on building, \$1500; insurance \$800.
- Henry Sell, loss \$50; fully insured.
- Maxwell Schneider, loss, stock and fixtures, \$1000; insurance \$250.
- Adolf Tietze, loss, buildings, stock and fixtures, \$1200; insurance \$850.
- J. J. Halligan, loss, stock and fixtures, \$300; no insurance.
- Mrs. John Crawford, loss on dwelling, \$500; no insurance.
- Arthur Regner, loss, broken windows, \$100; covered by insurance.
- Congdon Hotel, damaged by water, smoke and broken windows; fully covered by insurance.
- Telephone Company, loss, \$100.
- P. R. L. & P. Company, loss, \$300.
- Todd Bros., loss, \$10; fully insured.
- Sterling & Kidder, \$10; fully insured.
- Bank of Gresham, plate glass loss \$50; fully insured

Gresham's third holocaust in thirteen years, two of them entailing great loss, overtook the town early on Sunday morning, when seven business houses, one residence and one barn were destroyed by fire, leaving an unsightly district in the center of the business portion and a consequent loss of property.

The alarm of fire came about 3 o'clock, when everybody was wrapped in slumber, and there was a hurried effort to combat the flames which proved unavailing until the work of destruction was over. But for the prompt arrival of a fire truck from Portland which probably saved the Congdon hotel building, there is no doubt but that the loss would have been greater than it was.

The fire originated in the store of the Bartelt Mercantile company, and was first discovered by John Bartelt who was sleeping in the second story. His room was directly over the office and the big sheetiron stove which furnished heat for the building.

It is believed that the cause of the fire was the collapse of the heater filled with hot coals, as it was old and unsafe. The flames had gained great headway before they awoke Mr. Bartelt, who was cut off from escape by the stairway and was eventually rescued by the firemen from a rear window by means of a ladder.

There was no hope of saving the doomed building, but every effort was made to prevent its spread. A high wind from the east, however, took the flames across the street into a row of six other business houses, all of which fell victims to the devouring element, with attendant damage to several other buildings by the breaking of windows and the scorching of paint.

Those who were burned out with almost a total loss were the Bartelt Mercantile company, general merchandise; J. J. Halligan, barber shop; Adolf Tietze, meat market; S. E. Palmquist, harness; J. C. Hessel, farm machinery; C. E. Osburn, blacksmith; Maxwell Schneider, photographer; Mrs. John Crawford, dwelling house.

The owners of the buildings were D. C. Ely, who recently bought the Shattuck building, occupied by the Mercantile company; C. E. Osburn, owner of his own shop, the photograph studio and the Hessel store; Gust Larson, owner of the harness store building; and Adolf Tietze, who owned his own place and the barber shop building.

The total loss is estimated at about \$40,000 with something near \$22,000 insurance. The policies were carried in several commercial companies, of which the two banks, James Elkington and John Brown are agents.

Loss adjustments were begun before noon on Sunday, but a full statement is not available. In no case was there any over insurance and as the fire was purely accidental there is no trouble anticipated in the final settlements.

On Sunday morning last, while setting it on fire. The blaze was seen from the street by Mrs. Hoetzel, and was promptly extinguished before it had gained any considerable headway. The bedding was thrown out of the window and the building was saved with probably several more.

D. A. Hart was "bathing" in Mrs. Crawford's house, which was burned. He saved the most of his effects, as the house was not entirely destroyed and was the last building to catch fire.

## Incidents.

It is a remarkable fact that Adolf Tietze, proprietor of the Sanitary Market; was probably the only person in Gresham who knew nothing of the fire until about 9 o'clock, six hours after it broke out. He sent his boy down to feed the horse, stabled at the rear of the shop. The lad found the horse gone. It and a buggy had been saved, but a good single harness was overlooked and was destroyed. Mr. Tietze had arranged to move into the Regner store, vacated by Bert Lindsey, but had postponed moving until next week.

There was great danger for awhile from the power cables of the railroad company which connect the O. W. P. and Mount Hood trolley lines. The cable runs along Main street and is heavily charged, as both the power houses at Estacada and Bull Run are connected together by it, forming one continuous circuit. The cable was finally cut in two and a repairing crew was kept busy all day Sunday splicing it together again and elevating it to its former position at the top of the charred poles.

Captain William Hanson, of the Portland fire department, who brought out the motor engine has this to say of the Gresham firemen: "Gresham has a good little fire department, and they were doing good work when we got there. But the east wind was too strong for them. We had plenty of water, but the buildings were all close together and it was a hard job to fight the fire."

Maxwell Schneider had a streak of good luck in his misfortune. He had been without insurance, but on Saturday afternoon was persuaded to take out a policy for \$250, which will be of material help in getting him started again. He saved his valuable cameras, with some of his pictures and stock, but lost all his negatives saved up during the past six years, valued at nearly a thousand dollars.

There were several narrow escapes from death by the falling power wires. T. R. Howitt had the closest call and was taken home almost insensible but recovered in a few hours. Harold Kern also had a narrow escape. Others who had close calls were Leslie St. Clair and Fire Chief Jones who were in great danger when the power cables fell.

S. E. Palmquist saved some of his harness stock which he stored in the Sell building, formerly occupied by the Outlook. He leased the place on Sunday morning and will reopen there with a new and complete stock as soon as the insurance has been adjusted.

T. J. Halligan saved the two chairs from his barber shop, and a few other things. He has rented the north half of the Gresham Real Estate company's building, where he will reopen in a few days.

The big water meter records the use of 207,000 gallons of water thrown from the fire hydrants. A great portion of it is still in evidence in the shape of ice along the gutters of Main street.

## WINNERS IN CONTEST FOR PIANO PRIZE

### THE WINNERS.

Name	No. Votes
Miss Gertrude Eastman	1,945,775
Mrs. S. G. Carrell	1,031,095
Mrs. C. A. Hoffman	828,113
Miss Gladys Miller	324,835
Miss Frances Bliss	140,500
Mrs. James McKinney	44,092
Miss Georgina Hamlin	36,977

Great interest centered around the last counting of ballots in the piano contest, which was closed last night by the Pulfer Mercantile company and Gresham Outlook. While it was a foregone conclusion that the choice of first winner lay between Miss Gertrude Eastman and Mrs. S. G. Carrell, yet the friends and partisans of both were eager and anxious to know how the count would terminate and were on hand in large numbers; also, many others were present to watch the count and ascertain who were to be the lucky contestants for the six coupons that will each win another piano upon the payment of a small sum.

Yesterday was a rush day for all of the seven leaders but the hardest work was done by the friends of the two leading contestants. Orders flooded the Pulfer store, and subscriptions poured into the Outlook office with such volume that the clerical force of both places was kept busy all day until the closing hour.

The result is shown in the tabulated vote given above. Miss Eastman polled 1,481,472 votes yesterday; Mrs. Carrell increased her lead by 512,803. Four of the others made substantial gains. One of the leading seven of last week dropped out, being overtaken by Miss Georgina Hamlin who is the seventh winner in the final count.

All of the contestants express themselves as very thankful for the support they received from their friends, but it was observed that the hardest workers stood the highest. Extra efforts were made in behalf of Miss Eastman and Mrs. Carrell and both are to be congratulated on their excellent showings.

**Winner Expresses Obligations.**  
I wish to thank my many friends who assisted me in the piano contest. I assure you I will ever remember your kindness and I wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

GERTRUDE EASTMAN.

## CHRISTMAS EXERCISES AT M. E. CHURCH

On Thursday evening, December 24, the Methodist Sunday school will celebrate at the Christmastide with a program of recitations, drills and songs. The exercises will be in the auditorium of the church. A large temporary stage has been erected especially for the occasion. There will be a lighted Christmas tree. Santa Claus will also be there as of yore, but instead of giving candy this year he will take up an offering for the European war sufferers. No presents of any sort will be given out during the evening. The program promises to be a good one. All are invited. Exercises begin at 7:30 o'clock.

## MAXWELL SCHNEIDER'S STUDIO TO REOPEN

Schneider's photographic studio will reopen on Thursday in the second story of the Sell building. He is moving the skylight to the north balcony where an operating room will be arranged temporarily for the holiday trade.

Mr. Schneider had a number of unfinished orders and several new ones in prospect. He will guarantee just as good work as before but the delay will be the only inconvenience. His studio will be retained there only for the period necessary to establish his business in a permanent location.

## SANITARY MARKET TO REOPEN DEC. 31

Adolf Tietze has a force of men at work in his new quarters, lately vacated by Bert Lindsey, and will reopen his meat market there Dec. 31. He saved his electric grinder and scales and the most of his tools. He will reopen with a complete stock of fresh meats of all kinds.