

Kinmundy-Alma Fire Protection District History

Fires and Fire Department

The first mention of a fire department is in the City Council minutes of a special meeting Sept. 16, 1867, when the mayor was instructed to procure 5 dozen buckets, either india rubber or leather, also half-dozen ladders and half dozen poles with hooks for fighting fire. In Sept. 1870, the mayor appointed a committee to inspect all flues in the business part of the city, and report on defective ones, and in October, a special committee was empowered to enter any house or building in the city, between sun up and sundown, on any week day, to examine any hearth, chimney, stove, oven, boiler, etc., and notify owner of the danger and that he should correct it. Failure to comply was subject to \$50 fine and costs and \$5 for every day the danger continued.

In December, 1873, an ordinance to establish fire limits was introduced and 2 dozen buckets, a 30 ft. ladder and necessary rakes and poles and other implements were ordered. In March, 1874 they voted to procure a wagon, and a place to keep it, and the implements ready and safe for use in case of fire. There were many bad fires - the lumber yard - the Mendenall Evaporator and others in the 90s.

In 1903 the business section was destroyed from the Masonic Temple to the bank and west to Dr. Camerer's office. The list of losses were: the Masonic temple, Weisberg clothing store; Gunn and Killie Grocery; M. A. Songer, drygood and Millinery; First National Bank, their safe remained in the fire but the contents were found to be unharmed; the offices above the bank, the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah halls on the third floor; John Spillman barber shop; C. T. Middleton grocery; J. P. Whitson Harness shop; Haworth Opera House; Gramley Bros., Meat market S. L. Bundy, clothing and shoes; Express Journal newspaper; S. R. Woolley, real estate; C. W. Witwer, real estate and building; W. H. Gray, building ; and the City Council who lost all the town records, or so they thought, till this year when the minutes of the very first meetings were found and lent us for this book.

The bucket brigade saved the buildings on the opposite side of the street, but were powerless to stop the blaze, till they tore down Dr. Camerer's office and the building' next to it. The Effingham fire department came down on a freight train, and made the run in 35 minutes but arrived too late to save the buildings. The next year the buildings to the south burned, and the Express was again destroyed.

In 1916 the Opera House which had been rebuilt, burned again, and this time there was a pump cart and hose to aid the bucket brigade, but it was not enough. Those buildings have never been rebuilt since that time. About 1919 a small Ford truck was purchased and that was used til 1940, when the city got a bigger Ford pumper. Almost immediately, there was another big fire which took the whole south side of the block of Third street between Madison and the alley. At this time the fire companies came from St. Peter, Farina and Salem. This block was never rebuilt.

In 1955 the Kinmundy-Alma fire protection district was organized. This takes in quite a bit of territory outside of the two towns and acts to lower the insurance rates for farmers living in the district. In addition to the old pumper the department now has a new and bigger Ford triple combination, low pressure, high pressure and combination ladder. A siren has replaced the old bell and light plant whistle, whose frightening sound we remember so well.

KINMUNDY-ALMA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS: Jim Alexander, Pres.; George Feather, Vice Pres.; Gilbert Doolen, Secy.-Treas.; Carl Dunlap, Fire Chief; Jesse George, Assistant Chief; P. H. Robnett, Captain; James Lane, Lieutenant

MEMBERS: Vernon Allen; R.R. Atkins; James Brasel; D.C. Day; Lowell I. Devore; Edward Elston; Fred Gammon; Robert Geiler; E.B. Jahraus; B.R. Lee; John W. McCulley; Everett Tate; O. Yates Jr.; E.O. Zimmer

November 15, 1883:

Dwelling Destroyed: About half-past eleven o'clock today a small frame dwelling owned by Mr. D.P. SNELLING and occupied by Mr. P. MURPHY on Third Street near Monroe, caught fire from a defective flue and was completely destroyed. The family succeed in getting everything out, but not without considerable damage. The loss on building, from \$300 to \$400; no insurance. A strong north wind was blowing and several buildings on the south were in immediate danger of being burned, but a vigilant watch was kept and every spark extinguished. The Express had just gone to press when the alarm of fire was given, but we stop to announce the conflagration. In this issue we publish an article on the advisability of organizing a fire company in Kinmundy. This blaze proves the sanity of the write on that subject. What will you do about it? Wake up, or burn down? A fire company would have saved that building. Let's have it.

Sept. 8, 1904:

Dad's Tavern Burned: About 10:30 this morning, fire was discovered in the old Squiers House, occupied by Dad's Tavern, and operated by S.B. SARCHET. A large crowd soon gathered and fought the flames bravely, but in spite of all that could be done, the hotel burned with all the contents on the upper floor. Most of the effects in the lower story were carried out and saved. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective flue and the flames were well spread before the fire was discovered. The building was owned by HOLT & DEW and was valued at about \$3000 and was insured for \$800. Mr. SARCHET carried \$400 insurance on the contents. The cottage on the east of the hotel was occupied by G.W. LAMONT and the greater portion of his household goods were saved. This building was

owned by C.H. WEST and was insured for \$500, and from the appearance it will take that amount to repair it. The residence of David WICKHAM on the west of the hotel was somewhat damaged but was saved by heroic work. Just two months ago today, Kinmundy had a \$25,000 fire and nine months ago, a \$100,000 fire and yet have no protection against fire. Citizens, what will it take to around you?

Will Buy Engine:

The recent big fires in Kinmundy have aroused the people to believe it necessary to have some sort of fire protection. A few days ago, a paper was circulated among our citizens for the purpose of buying a hand and chemical engine at a cost of \$1000 and the amount has been cheerfully subscribed and an engine will be purchased within the next few days. As a rule our people subscribed very liberally and it is hoped they will never have cause to regret it. We are informed that the rate of insurance will be lowered an in this event the money saved on insurance, will be better prepared to fight it than we have been in the past. The following is a list of subscribers on the engine and the amount given by each: W.H. GRAY-\$50; L.C. MATTHEWS - \$50; W.W. NEIL-\$25; C.B. ROHRBOUGH-\$25; Geo. FENSTER-\$25; A.W. SONGER-\$30; M.A. SONGER-\$20; F.A. PRUETT and Son-\$15; J.H. NELMS-\$10; G.W. ELDER-\$25; The Haymond State Bank-\$25; T.W. HAYMOND-\$25; John MOTCH-\$5; C.W. MAUS-\$5; S.J. ALLEN-\$5; C.B. FRENCH-\$5; Justus FRENCH-\$5; Jno. W. ALLEN-\$5; J.W. FINN-\$5; Howard GARRISON- \$5; C.H. WEST-\$25; Kinmundy Coal Company-\$25; W.W. LOWE-\$25; F.J. NIRIDER-\$25; M.P. GRAMLEY-\$25; Hugo MILLER-\$25; J.D. CAMERER-\$25; Geo. P. TOMLINSON-\$5; C. ROHRBOUGH-\$25; TOMLINSON & WOLFE-\$10; E.C. BARGH-\$20; Del EAGAN-\$10; A.V. SCHERMERHORN-\$15; F.E. NELMS-\$15; O.N. TYNER-\$10; J.P. WHITSON-\$5; F.O. GRISSOM-\$5; I.F. SUGG-\$5; W.B. ROSS-\$5; T.M. SMITH-\$10; J.F. DONOVAN-\$15; R.W. WITWER-\$5; Dora BRENNER-\$10; J.T. ARNOLD-\$5; Leslie ALLEN-\$5; Fannie SIMPSON-\$5; Earl C. HUGGINS, Guardian-\$20; F.W. KILLIE-\$10; Ed HALEY-\$10; J.F. HOWELL-\$10; Mrs. C.J. RYAN-\$5; O.J. PULLIAM-\$15; J.W. HAWORTH-\$5; W.H. SHRIVER-\$5; SULLENS Bros.-\$5; Jacob NELSON-\$10; A.M. YOUNG-\$5; J.E. LASATER-\$10; S.B. SARCHET-\$5; O.L. EIKENBERRY-\$5; Ellis WOLFE-\$5; J.W. SANDERS-\$5; S.L. BUNDY-\$10; R.P. McBRYDE-\$15; W.H. ALLEN-\$5; J.M. ROTAN & Son-\$15; G.L. EAGAN-\$5; Fay STOKLEY-\$5; WILSON & DAVIS-\$15; J.L. LASWELL-\$5; Lyman COX-\$18; Mrs. MILLICAN-\$5; Chas. E. HULL-\$25; W.H. WHITE-\$5; W.C. INGRAM-\$5; Martin ALLEN-\$2; John S. READNOUR-\$5; WOOLLEY & RICE-\$10

Sept. 15, 1904:

Fire Engine Purchased: The fire engine committee met Monday night and closed a deal with the Howe Engine Co., for an engine, hose cart, 500 feet of hose, 45 feet of suction hose, 50 feet of rope and hook, ladders, hooks, axes, etc., at a cost of \$1000, the cash to be paid when the engine is shipped here and thoroughly tested. This is an investment that everybody is interested in and when the test is made, all should be present to see it. All parties who subscribed for the purchase of the engine are requested to call at the Haymond State Bank on or before the 17th inst. and pay their subscription to W.H. GRAY. This money will be held until the engine is here and tested to the satisfaction of the committee. It has been hard work on the part of the committee to raise the necessary amount and all who subscribed should meet their obligation at once and thus avoid the committee any more necessary trouble. Everybody knows that the engine is all right as Mr. HOWE had one here a few weeks ago and the test given was satisfactory to everybody. The engine purchased by our people is expected to arrive the first of next week and when it is tested, the money must be paid. Don't neglect to pay your subscription by Saturday.

Sept. 29, 1904:

Fire Company Organized: Our new Howe fire engine arrived in this city last Tuesday evening and since that time it has been tested several times. The stockholders of the engine met last night and organized a fire company by electing the following officers: Chief - N.A. RICE; Ass't Chief - Ellis WOLFE; 2d Ass't Chief - L.M. ROTAN; Hose Foreman - C.F. PRUETT; Ladder Foreman - F.E. NELMS; Engine Foreman - Ed HALEY. The officers elected will be allowed to select their own company and the company will be drilled and in case of fire will know just what to do. The matter of building a place to put the engine was discussed and it was thought best to build a brick engine house on the land owned by the city, which is known as the public square. It is estimated that the cost of a suitable brick building we be \$300, the floor to be made of concrete. The place is as near centrally located as any place in town and the water conveniences are good at this place in case of a fire in the business portion. When a run has to be made with the engine this place will be a good starting point. If this place is selected and the building proposed erected, it will be necessary to raise more money, but all want to see the engine has a good home and will donate liberally.

Dec. 29, 1904:

The new fire bell has been placed in position on the public square

Sept. 28, 1905:

The Fire Bell: Aroused our People from their slumbers early Tuesday morning. At 2:30 Tuesday morning our people were aroused from "sweet slumber" by the mournful chimes of the city fire bell. People responded promptly and it was soon learned that the fire was in the interior of S.L. BUNDY's general merchandise store and the blaze was all on the ceiling. The bucket brigade soon got to work and the flames were almost extinguished by the time the engine arrived, but after it's arrival the fire company made a quick job of putting out the fire. The fire is supposed to have originated in the room above the store used as a lodge room by the U.M.W.A. and the A.F. of L. In this room were several small boxes filled with sawdust and used as cuspidors. The evening before the miners Union met and it is supposed someone dropped a lighted cigar in one of these boxes and it caught the saw dust on fire and smoldered, there for several hours before a blaze was started. It burned through the floor and ceiling and made an opening about six feet long and two feet wide. It was the making of a good fire when it was discovered by night watchman HULTS and prompt action is all that saved another disastrous conflagration. This is one occasion when a night watch proved beneficial and in this one occasion earned all the money that has been paid him. The damage to Mr. BUNDY's stock is estimated about \$150 and that to the building at \$50. The parties concerned are glad it was no more and are very thankful for the prompt work of our citizens.

Feb. 8, 1906:

An Early Blaze: Monday morning at 7 o'clock, the fire bell was sounded and it was reported that the Kinmundy Hotel, occupied by I.D. LEAR, was on fire. The citizens responded to the call and it was but a short time till the flames were extinguished. The fire originated from a defective flue in the room occupied by Dug FREEMAN and he is the one that discovered the fire. The fire department had the engine out in a very short time after the alarm was given, but ice soon froze in the nozzle of the hose and the bucket brigade had to do most of the work. The loss to the building and contents is estimated at about \$75 and it is very fortunate that it is not more.

Oct. 25, 1906:

A New City House: The question of building a new fire engine house with a council chamber above is being agitated by the members of the Council and will be left to a vote of the people to decide the matter. According to the plans now under advisement the new building will be erected over the public well and will be 23 x 30 feet on the inside, two stories high and be constructed of concrete building blocks. The lower story will be used for the fire engine and other fire fighting fixtures and will have concrete floor. The upper floor will be used as a Council room by the city officials and can also be used for other public meetings. A room like this is badly needed by the city as the Council have to rent a place from year to year and this is costly. How is this proposed building to be paid for is a question that will be asked by all when a petition is presented to hold a special election. We will try to answer this question so it may be plain and when the petition is presented you can sign it ready and willingly. A year or more ago the city passed an ordinance taxing all fire insurance companies doing business in this city and the tax derived from this source is about \$75 per year. The city council pay for their meeting place about \$50 per year. Now the plan proposed is to erect this building at a proposed cost is to erect this building at a cost not to exceed \$1000 and to levy bonds of \$100 each, payable every other year to pay for same. Now the fire tax money will pay for the building in twenty years and the taxpayers will never be out one cent and the city council will have a place to meet without cost, the fire engine will have a suitable place and the fire company will always know where to find it, and the proposed building will be an ornament to the city and will be a home that every citizen should justly be proud of. When the petition to submit this matter to a vote of the people is presented to you sign it. When the day of the election comes go to the polls and vote for the city building and do so feeling that you are doing a good deed and one you will never have reason to regret.

Feb. 14, 1907:

Sounded Loud: The city fire bell's tones sounded loud yesterday afternoon about 3:30 when the alarm was turned in. A small blaze was on the roof of the residence of Bob WILLIAMS, supposed to have caught from a spark out of the flue and the fire was extinguished before the crowd arrived. Del EAGAN, the drayman, was "Johnny on the Spot" and had a team hitched to the engine and was on his way to the fire when he was told it was all over. The property is located in the east part of town and is owned by L.C. ROHRBOUGH

April 18, 1907:

City Election:

The proposition: For - 53; Against - 38 (to borrow \$1400 for the purpose of erecting a Fire Engine House and suitable room for Council Chamber: the city to issue bonds seven in number, each for \$200, payable in 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, years respectively, same to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum, payable annually)

Sept. 12, 1907:

Injunction Served: Monday morning bright and early Deputy Sheriff CUNNINGHAM of Salem, served an injunction upon Mayor PRUETT, notifying him to stop the work on the new fire engine house and city council chamber. At the meeting of the city council Monday night, City Attorney E.C. HUGGINS was instructed to employ all the legal assistance necessary to fight the case, which is set for the 4th Monday in Sept., that being the day circuit court convenes at Salem. The city council claim they have a right to build the building on the site selected and if they have not the right to do so, they want to know it. It is likely that this matter will cause much litigation before the matter is settled and it taxes money to law. The developments of the case are being watched by all who are more or less interested.

November 7, 1907:

An Early Alarm: Tuesday morning about 7 o'clock the fire alarm was sounded and the call was responded to promptly by the fire department and others and it was announced that the residence of J.F. REEDER was on fire. The fire engine soon arrived and the flames were quickly put out and the building and contents saved although the house was badly damaged and some of the contents also damaged. The fire originated in an upstairs room from a flue and the contents in this room were almost ruined. During the fire, Arthur HUMPHREY was quite badly burned about the face, but not seriously. Roy HARRIS and Lawrence EAGAN both fell from the porch upstairs and the former received a fractured arm, while the latter was unhurt. There is no question but what the fire engine saved the property. The fire was on the inside, and the bucket brigade could not get at it to extinguish the flames. Some people poke fun at the engine, but it does the work just the same. The house and contents were insured for \$625.

April 16, 1908:

Corner Stone Laid: Last Monday morning at 8:30 the corner stone of the new city hall and fire engine house was laid with very appropriate ceremony, the principal speaker being Mayor Chas. F. PRUETT and Postmaster John F. DONOVAN. The contractor A.M. ALLEN, assisted by the mayor laid the corner stone, in which was treasured several valuable articles in the way of coins, business cards, etc., with a record of donors. As a whole the ceremony was a very impressive one and a larger crowd should have been present to participate in it. The new building will be two stories high, constructed of concrete building blocks, the lower story to be used as a fire

engine house, and the upper story as a home for the city council. When completed it will be a very pretty and substantial building and just what is needed. The city council has met with many obstacles, trials, and tribulations since the erection was first talked of, but now as the war is over and the town has become local option territory everything is lovely and the building is being constructed.

Oct. 22, 1908:

Large Barn Burned: Early last Friday morning the barn and contents on the farm of Thomas S. LACEY in Meacham twp. about six miles northeast of this city was completely destroyed by fire, the origin of the fire being unknown. The barn contained one spring colt, about ten tons of hay, a quantity of oats and corn, harness, etc. It was only by hard work of the crowd assembled that other outbuildings were saved and in this way the residence was not destroyed. The burned property was insured in the Kinmundy Twp. Mutual Fire Insurance Co., but for only about 1/3 of it's value. The origin of the fire is a mystery to Mr. LACEY, as he is not known to have an enemy in the world, and he is a man that is highly respected by everybody.

Dec. 17, 1908:

- On last Sunday the 40 acre peach orchard of G.N. HEATON was burned over and we are informed it was only by hard work of the neighbors that Mr. HEATON's barn and other outbuildings were saved. Just how the fire originated we are not informed, but the loss to Mr. HEATON is quite extensive.

- On Monday fire burned over a part of the farms of Dr. J.D. CAMERER, D.T. SCHOOLEY, Joseph KLINE and Mrs. Mary PRICKETT, a mile and a half south of this city. No particular damage was done except on the SCHOOLEY farm where three racks of hay and some fence were burned. At this place the barn was also damaged and it was only by heroic efforts the flames were put out before going through the orchard.

Dec. 31, 1908:

Big Fire at Alma: On Monday afternoon about three o'clock, fire was discovered in the large barn of J.R. CLOW at Alma. The barn contained a large quantity of baled hay, 50 tons belonging to Mr. CLOW, 53 tons to E.G. FORD, and 20 tons to John POWELL. From the barn, the flames soon spread to the CLOW business block and in a few minutes these buildings were in flames. The wind was from the southwest and the fire soon crossed the street and consumed six business houses and a portion of the contents. The telephones were but in immediate use and the Kinmundy Fire Dept. responded to the call and in about thirty or forty minutes after the call for help was received, the engine was in Alma. When the fire company arrived the flames had reached the business house of C.M. SEE & Co., and by hard work the fire spread no farther. By the use of the engine the Baptist church, the Tomlinson Hotel, the Henry YOST meat market and probably several other buildings were saved. If the engine had been on the scene at the beginning the fire could have been confined to the barn where the fire originated. The value of buildings and contents are as follows:

J.R. CLOW, barn and contents, \$3,500; insurance \$1,600. Store buildings \$5,500; insured for about half their value.

J.W. BROOM, stock of merchandise, estimated value \$7000; insurance \$3000.

Mrs. Jennie DEAN, restaurant stock, value \$1000, insurance \$400.

E.G. FORD, 53 tons of hay, no insurance.

John POWELL, 20 tons of hay, no insurance.

Citizens Bank, building and fixtures, value \$1730; insurance, \$400.

I.O.O.F. Lodge room and contents, value \$800; insurance \$300.

C.D. TOMLINSON, two business rooms, loss \$500, insurance, \$300.

Roy GREGORY, restaurant stock, value \$400, insurance, \$250.

C.M. SEE & Co., store building and stock of merchandise, value \$8500; insurance, \$2500.

BEECH & FULLER Basket Co., fruit packages, loss \$4000, no insurance.

J.W. WALKER, harness shop, contents nearly all saved.

B.G. PULLEN, building and contents, hardware and groceries, value \$4500; insurance \$1100.

H. CLARK, store building, loss \$2000, insurance \$800.

In many of these stock of merchandise, a large quantity of the goods were saved, but badly damaged in removing them from the buildings. This fire leaves only one general store in the village of Alma, and the loss is great for a town of that size.

Another story about the big fire in Alma:

"The Republican"; Salem, IL; Dec. 31, 1908

ALMA IS BURNED; Business Section of Village Swept Away; ONE STORE REMAINS

Loss Will Reach Several Thousand Dollars and is Severe One

The little Village of Alma, seven miles north of this city, was visited by a disastrous fire Monday afternoon and nearly the entire business section of the town was swept away by the flames. A total of fourteen business houses were destroyed including the Post Office building. The fire is believed to have originated in the hay barn of J.R. Clow which stood at the rear of his property on the street leading south along the Illinois Central Railroad. A large quantity of hay was stored in the barn and it is thought to have ignited by spontaneous combustion. The flames spread quickly to the large store building owned by Mr. Clow and then swept up the street running west from the Illinois Central depot. The large implement warehouse of B.G. Pullen, which stood south of the Clow hay barn, was also burned together with the contents. The losses as were given out Monday night are as follows:

B.G. Pullen, building and stock, \$4500, insurance, \$1100. I.O.O.F.P. Lodge, loss \$600, insurance, \$300; Citizens' Bank building and Square, \$1750, insurance, \$400; J.R. Clow, large hay barn and contents, \$3300, insurance and contents, \$1600; J.R. Clow, store and buildings, \$5500, insurance \$2250; E.G. Ford, fifty tons hay, no insurance; Mrs. Jennie Dean, restaurant, loss \$400, insurance, \$400; J.W. Broom, merchandise, loss \$7000, insurance \$3000; Roy Gregory, restaurant, loss \$400, insurance \$250; C.M. See & Co., merchandise and building, loss \$8500, insurance \$2500; Berch & Fuller, Basket Company, loss \$4000, no insurance; C.D. Tomlinson, barber shop, loss \$500, insurance \$300.

The post office building was entirely destroyed but Postmaster Winks succeeded in saving all the mail and equipment including stamps and money order forms.

After the fire had been under headway for some time, the Kinmundy fire department was appealed to for aid and they hastened to the scene of the disaster. The timely arrival doubtless saved the residence portion from destruction as the flying embers fired the roof of the Baptist church and other buildings were carefully watched until the flames burned out.

This is the second disastrous fire the little village has suffered within six months. On the night of July 4, the large cannery of W.S. Shrigley's was burned to the ground. This was Alma's chief industry and the loss was felt very heavily during the season. The fire Monday was even worse than the destruction of the cannery for the reason that very few of the owners of the establishments are prepared to stand such losses. Coming in midwinter as it did, the work of rebuilding is likely to be retarded owing to the probability of bad weather. Several of the persons who were suffered in the recent fire have announced the determination to rebuild at the earliest possible day. They are an enterprising set of fellows in Alma and the little city will rise from its ashes, and will be the busy little mart that it was before.

Feb. 11, 1909:

Fire Dept. Elects: A meeting of the members of the Kinmundy Volunteer Fire Department was held last Friday evening and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: N.A. RICE - Chief; Ellis WOLFE - 1st Ass't Chief; F.W. KILLIE - 2d Ass't Chief; J.T. BROWN - Engine Foreman; W.H. STORRS - Ass't Engine Foreman; C.F. PRUETT - Hose Captain; J.L. LASWELL - 1st Ass't Hose Captain; G.M. NIRIDER - 2d Ass't Hose Captain; F.E. NELMS, Marion BRANSON, F.O. GRISSOM - Ladder Man; F.O. GRISSOM - Sec. and Treas. The Treasurer's report for the past year was read showing a balance on hand of \$24.39. The 1st Assistant Chief was instructed two axes to be added to the engine equipment. On motion the department adjourned to meet on Friday night, Feb. 26, at which time all members are requested to be present.

Jan. 5, 1911:

Another Barn burned: The year of 1910 will certainly go down in history as the year of barn burning in Meacham township, as during that year 3 farmers have suffered such losses. The first was on the farm of Scott LACEY, the second was on the RIDDLE farm owned by A.C. BRANSON. The third fire occurred last Thursday night when a large barn on the William BUTTS farm was burned. The barn contained 5 head of good horses, 3 milch cows, harness, feed and other things and we understand that nothing was saved. This is a severe loss to Mr. BUTTS as the stock alone is valued at about \$1000. It looks as though some party or parties was the cause of these barn fires and every possible effort should be made to apprehend the guilty one.

July 6, 1911:

A Farm Barn Burned: About half past 3 o'clock Monday morning the barn on the farm of Ira C. MORRIS burned. Fortunately all his horses and other stock were in the pasture and escaped unhurt, but all the contents of the barn and adjoining sheds including hay, corn, oats, harness, wagons, buggy, surrey, and farm machinery were destroyed. The fire was discovered by Dan DOOLEN, who lives about a mile away and he went to the barn and got a horse and hastened to the fire and upon his arrival he found Mr. MORRIS and family all asleep. By this time it was impossible to save any of the contents and all they could do was to look at the ruins. The property and contents were partially insured. The cause of the fire is unknown. The fire occurring at this hour of the night might be ample grounds to suspicion that some one had applied the match to start the blaze, but on the other hand who could it be, as Mr. MORRIS does not possess a known enemy, and everybody that would stoop to such a deed would certainly be an enemy. Such fires can originate in many ways and often they are started by mice gnawing

the heads of matches, and the cause of this fire will probably never be known.

Feb. 8, 1912:

The members of the Kinmundy volunteers Fire Department met last Friday night in pursuant to a call by Chief Chas. F. PRUETT. The annual election of officers was one of the important features of the evening and resulted as follows: Geo. W. SNELLING - Chief; Ellis WOLFE - 1st Assistant; C.F. PRUETT - 2nd Assistant; J.L. LASWELL - Hose Captain; C.B. MENDENHALL - 1st Assistant; F.W. KILLIE - 2nd Assistant; G.M. NIRIDER - 3rd Assistant; F.E. NELMS - Ladder Captain; B.J. ROTAN - Assistant; J.T. BROWN - Engineman; Andrew JACKSON - Assistant; F.O. GRISSOM - Sec-Treas.

June 6, 1912:

Last Sunday just at noon our citizens were aroused from their quiet and peaceful Sabbath by the sound of the fire alarm. The sound of the bell caused church services to adjourn before the benediction, as those in attendance were too anxious to get out to wait for any further ceremony. The fire was the residence of Arthur HUMPHREY, and for a few minutes it looked like it would be utterly impossible to save the house as the smoke was pouring out of every crack and crevice. The fire department was soon on the scene and had the water flowing in a very few seconds, and the flames were soon extinguished. The interior of the two one-story rooms were badly burned and charred and the roof was considerably damaged. The fire originated from a coal oil stove.

June 18, 1914:

Barn Burned on F.M. ROBB Farm: Last Saturday afternoon during the electric and rain storm, the lightning struck a barn on the farm of F.M. ROBB, the place occupied by his son, Eli ROBB, and destroyed the building and contents. The blaze from this building caught another barn close by and burned it also. In one of the barns was three head of horses, but one of these animals displayed an unusual amount of "Horse Sense" and in some way unfastened the door of the farm and walked out the other two following. Mr. ROBB and family were away from home at the time of the fire and everything in the buildings in the way of feed, farm machinery, wagons, harness, etc. were destroyed.

July 9, 1914:

Farm House Burned: Tuesday before noon the house on the farm owned and occupied by Taylor GRIFFIN and family, six miles south of this city, was destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire was an explosion of an oil stove. Mrs. GRIFFIN was doing her weekly ironing and had her back to the stove when she heard an explosion and turning around the stove was all ablaze and the flames rapidly spreading. She grabbed a large cloth of some sort and tried to smother the flames, but her efforts were all in vain. The flames continued to spread and she soon decided it was impossible for her to extinguish them and she commenced to carry out the household effects, but the house burned so quickly that only a few things were saved. Mr. GRIFFIN was at work in the field and before he could get to the fire the house was almost burned to the ground. This is a severe loss to Mr. and Mrs. GRIFFIN at their age. The building was insured for \$400. He will rebuild at once.

July 30, 1914:

Alma Express: A wagon load of hay from Arnold Chapel caught fire Saturday at the Sunday school picnic at Friendship Baptist church and burned the hay, the frame and damaged the wagon.

May 18, 1916:

A Kinmundy coal mine was destroyed by fire. The mine had been abandoned for many years, and had become a rendezvous for tramps.

Jan. 17, 1918:

Sandy Branch School, located in Foster twp., was destroyed by fire last Friday. The high winds made the fire impossible to fight. The fire supposedly started in the belfry tower from sparks from the flue, and it was discovered about 5 p.m., an hour after school closed. This building was one of the best country school houses in the county having being built just a few years ago, and last year was remodeled at a cost of \$250 to conform to the new state law. It was insured for \$370.

Jan. 24, 1918:

The beautiful home of F.J. NIRIDER was completely destroyed by fire Sunday morning. It was situated on the hill near the C & E depot. Due to the effective work on the part of the department and others, nearly all of the household goods were saved.

April 22, 1920:

John MILLER and Joe FIELDS took quick action and gave a passenger train a narrow escape. A trestle caught fire on the Chicago and Eastern Ill. railroad 3 miles north of this city on Saturday night by the train's fire box. John and Joe, farmers who live near the site, waited and signaled the passenger train which came thru after the fire, and the train was able to stop just 30-40 feet from the ruins.

Oct. 21, 1920:

Shanghai Church: Last Wednesday, the barn owned by the Commercial Orchard Co. was destroyed by fire and burned five buggies and harness owned by the boys who were assisting in gathering the fruit.

Nov. 24, 1921:

A hay barn which contained about 80 tons of hay owned by C.E. WILKINSON was destroyed by fire Tuesday night. The cause is unknown, but it sits near the I.C. tracks so it could have been sparks from a passing train which started the fire.

Jan. 25, 1922:

Two fires broke out on Wednesday. The alarm sounded first when there was a fire at J.T. ARNOLD's residence. Thirty minutes after the first alarm it was sounded again when fire broke out at Murray JONES' residence. Flames were quickly extinguished at both homes.

Feb. 16, 1922:

A telephone has been installed in the Chief of Police's office. Anyone requiring police protection at night or in case of fire just call No. 100.

July 20, 1922:

Fire swept east of town on Wednesday. Forrest JOHNSON was living on the Chas. BOYD farm had 12 acres in hay cut by a binder and in shocks. While working in this field he lighted a cigarette and threw the match down thinking it was out, but it wasn't. The wind was strong and burned several stacks to the ground in W.R. JACK's wheat field also. Several autos filled with men went from here to fight the fire.

May 17, 1923:

A good deal of commotion was caused a few days ago when J.F. HELM was ordered to stop building his house. This property located within the fire zone, and according to the city ordinance, no wood building can be built within this zone. On account of this being a stucco building, the order was restrained and a permit granted Mr. Helm to proceed.

April 17, 1924:

The Kinmundy City Council met and purchased a La France Fire Engine. This engine is a motor truck equipped with a 40 gallon chemical tank and 2½ gallon fire extinguisher. It also has a rotary pump ran by the engine of the truck and will throw 90 gallons of water per minute. It cost the city \$1000.

March 12, 1925:

On Tuesday morning, Joe BACKENSTO's wash house caught fire and the flames had gained considerable headway before it was noticed. But the fire was extinguished by the bucket brigade consisting of Joe and his next door neighbors. Considerable damage was done.

Jan. 20, 1927:

The Farina High School Gymnasium burned to the ground on Saturday evening about 1 hour after the Farina boys had defeated the Effingham High School. The cause of the fire was an overheated stove and a defective flue. Coach HARTLY of Farina met with the Board of Education of this city on Monday and completed arrangements where by the Farina High School will use our gym for practicing and also to play their games.

Dec. 13, 1928:

A small blaze was discovered on the roof of the John HANSON home last Friday morning. The fire alarm sounded, and the bucket brigade extinguished the flames. A good sized hole was burned in.

April 18, 1929:

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. LYNCH suffered a severe home loss on Friday when their home was almost completely destroyed by fire. The entire roof was burned and a good deal of the walls. Practically all of the furniture was removed from the house. Mr. and Mrs. LYNCH are residing in the M.E. South parsonage. Friday night some culprits were mean to steal 36 of their flock of chickens. The Sheriff was notified Saturday and came immediately to work on the case. We are satisfied that the fellows who stole those chickens as well as others through out the country-side, are going to pay the penalty. The citizens of our city made a financial donation and presented it to Mr. LYNCH, and other citizens are busily donating their services toward repairing the house.

June 13, 1929:

Ordinance #240 was passed by the City Council which repealed Ordinance #239. This repealed ordinance had made it unlawful for any person, firm or corporation owning lots abutting on any public street within the fire limits of the city of Kinmundy to construct erect, or maintain any porch extending from the property line over any sidewalk, or other public property under control of the city. It had been first implemented this spring.

Feb. 5, 1931:

At noon last Thursday, a blaze was discovered on the roof of the Mrs. Etta VALLOW home, but due to the quick work of the fire department, it was soon extinguished. Quite a large patch of shingles was burned.

Aug. 18, 1932:

An Interstate Truck Trailer caught fire on the slab about 2 miles north of this city early Tuesday morning, and was completely burned. The truck was loaded with 200 cases of eggs, several cartons of canned goods, Listerine, toothpaste, candies, etc. Evidently the flat tire ran flat too long and caught fire. Highway patrolman, Guy ARNOLD, sure had a sweet mess in cleaning up the roasted eggs and tin cans.

April 13, 1933:

For the first time in many months, the fire bell sounded Tuesday morning which sent the firemen to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley WILLIAMS, just north of town. It was a false alarm but in a way Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAMS had plenty of room to think of their house on fire. When the fire department arrived, it was thought the house was on fire in the attic. But it proved to be the flue burning out. They had been burning green wood all winter, and the flue had become thickly coated with a gummy substance, and this substance had caught fire. The chimney soon became stopped up, filling the whole house with smoke. There was no damage done.

August 9, 1934:

Just as Mrs. F.A. MOTCH was preparing the noon day meal Tuesday, her stove ran low on kerosene and she proceeded to town to get some more. With pies in the oven, and green beans cooking, she did not turn out the fire. She had no more than reached the store until she was notified that her house was on fire. The E.E. BROWNS, living next door, had noticed smoke coming out of the house, notified Mrs. MOTCH at the store, and then went over and put the fire out. The stove was located in the pantry and this room as well as the contents were damaged considerably.

Nov. 15, 1934:

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. W.S. PRUETT caught fire this morning on the roof near the chimney. The fire was discovered by some school children who spread the alarm. Dwight ALEXANDER, from the White Star Filling Station, had the fire well under control with a hand extinguisher when the fire engine arrived. About \$300 in damage was done.

Feb. 7, 1935:

The fire alarm sounded last Thursday afternoon and the fire department was called to the Bud FEATHERS home in the north part of town. Mr. FEATHERS was working with a gasoline lamp and it exploded, doing quite a bit of damage to his furniture as well as the inside of the house. He received a minor burn on the hand and says that he considers himself lucky.

Dec. 19, 1935:

On last Thursday, the Norman BLACKBURN residence near the C & E.I. depot caught fire from the flue but was quickly extinguished by the local fire department. Practically all of the furniture was removed, but very little damage was done to the downstairs, except by water.

April 23, 1936:

The local fire department was deprived of a run Monday by the quick action of Mrs. E.R. LOWE, and her 2 children. Mrs. LOWE had been burning trash in the yard that afternoon which caught the roof of one of the out buildings on fire. The roof was ablaze when it was noticed. The son, David, brought a ladder, while the daughter, Nancy, carried the water, and Mrs. LOWE extinguished the flames. The shed required a new roof which was put on the next day.

July 9, 1936:

Yesterday noon, Farina witnessed quite a fire and in all probability, it would have been more disastrous had not the St. Peter and Kinmundy Fire Departments answered the call for help. The old hotel building located south of the depot, was the first to burn. Then Editor E.H. HALLIDAY's home, which was next to it, caught fire. The fire was stopped but not before the house was ruined. Next to burn was a barn located on the alley. It was reported to us that the roof of the Albert LOY home, located 2 blocks from there, was greatly damaged. Several of the other roofs caught fire but were quickly extinguished by bucket brigades. After the arrival of the St. Peter and Kinmundy engines, the fires were soon under control.

July 16, 1936:

Not to be outdone by their neighboring village of Farina, St. Peter staged a more spectacular fire last Monday noon when the northeast corner of their business section was totally destroyed at an estimated damage of \$20,000. The corner hardware belonging to Mr. NEUBAUER, the tavern on the east belonging to Henry KNECHT, a garage that was filled with oil barrels, all 3 buildings facing the south, and SHAW's blacksmith shop adjoining on the north, were completely destroyed. The fire originated in a room that was partitioned off from the blacksmith shop and filled with egg case material, including many excelsior pades. Mr. SHAW was busy repairing an automobile when a visitor, who was conversing with him, noticed that room to be a mass of flames. So great was the headway of the fire that all buildings were soon enveloped in flames before the occupants hardly knew it. Some hardware, a few cases of whiskey and several barrels of oil were saved. An S.O.S. was sent to Farina, Kinmundy and Vandalia fire departments, who all responded in record time. So intense was the heat that buildings across the street were soon on fire but the flames were extinguished by the constant work of the fire fighters. The west side of the GLUESENKAMP home, just a few yards east of the fire was soon enveloped in flames, but courageous fire fighters, who wrapped themselves in rugs, due to the intense heat, kept the fire hose of the Farina and Kinmundy fire engines on the wall. A high north wind made it look disastrous for the whole village, C.I.P.S. poles were soon ablaze and the current was shut off as wires were falling on the street. After all fire engines had arrived, the wind quieted down and it could readily be seen the fire was well under control; so all neighboring homes began moving their goods back inside.

Feb. 18, 1937:

The roof of the home of the Elnoe BROWNS was discovered on fire Tuesday evening, but by the prompt work of Mr. BROWN, Forrest JONES and a Standard Oil salesman, the fire was seen out. It was caused by the furnace flue burning out.

April 15, 1937:

The fire department was called to the home of Mrs. Sarah BROWN of Sunday morning when a small roof fire was discovered. The fire was quickly extinguished with very little damage done. The department was again called out Sunday evening when a fire was discovered on the roof of the George BARGH Building occupied by Art COCKRELL. Again the flames were quickly extinguished with very little damage done. This is the second time in the past year that this building has caught fire. It is a frame structure and the burning of which would endanger the entire business section of town. A movement is now on foot to lay a pipe line connecting the I.C. water tank with the large well on the square, just in case we need it.

May 20, 1937:

Mrs. Chas. FOX was awakened early Monday morning by the smoke which filled her house. She immediately spread the alarm and the fire department rushed to the scene. The fire proved to be in the basement. When it was extinguished, it was found that she had emptied some ashes from the furnace into some bushel baskets. The ashes evidently had some fire in them as they caught the baskets on fire, which in turn, caught a pile of kindling. The fire was making its way up toward the floor when it was put out. There was very little damage done from the fire but there was quite a bit of smoke damage.

Sept. 30, 1937:

Fire, believed to have started by defective wiring in the C.D. MARTIN general store, wiped out half of the Patoka business district Sunday morning, endangering 2 large oil wells located nearby and causing damage estimated at \$60,000. With only limited water supplies, fire departments from Vandalia, Centralia, and Salem battled the flames for more than 4 hours before bringing the fire under control. In addition to the Martin store which was a total loss, including a stock of merchandise valued at more than \$20,000, the Patoka State Bank and the W.E. FIELDS barber shop were leveled by the fire which threatened to wipe out the entire business district west of the railroad tracks because of the lack of water or equipment to fight fire. While making his usual rounds, night watchman, Allie VERNSMAN noticed the blaze in the MARTIN Store and turned in an alarm which brought out several hundred residents of the village who started to fight the fire with a bucket brigade.

February 3, 1938:

While about half of Kinmundy's population was sleeping, the other half witnessed the gigantic blaze made by the burning of the A.J. JACKSON Store along the hard road Sunday night at about 10 o'clock. The local fire department could not get the blaze under control and a call for help was sent to Farina and Salem. Both departments responded immediately and arrived in time to be of considerable help. The building was all ablaze when the fire was discovered. All that was saved from the building was 2 sacks of flour, 2 sacks of meal, a few clothes pins, some cigarettes, a table with a broken leg, and a chair. The total loss was estimated at \$4000. The building was owned by Merle JACKSON while the stock and fixtures were owned by his father, A.J. JACKSON. Both building and stock were partially covered by insurance. Just what caused the fire, no one will ever know, but it was thought that it might have been caused from a kerosene stove which was used in cooking lunches while others think it might have been defective wiring. The fire was banked for the night in the stove and it could have been caused by that. There was a very high wind from the west on this night, which sent sparks all over the east end of town. Naturally, the neighbors were frantic with fright. This was the cause of sending to Farina and Salem for help. And we sure want to thank Farina and Salem for responding to our call. It was certainly a cold ride for these men as fire engines are not equipped with windshields. We do not know just what Mr. JACKSON's intentions are regarding the rebuilding, of his business. For the past few years he has been employed as a guard at the State Penal Farm near Vandalia. The business was carried on by his family in his absence.

April 7, 1938:

The E.E. BROWN residence witnessed another roof fire Saturday morning. By the help of the neighbors, the fire was well under control before the arrival of the fire dept. This is the second time this winter that this roof has caught from a spark from the flue, but the entire house is now covered with the asbestos shingles.

April 28, 1938:

The little inland town of Omega, southeast of here, witnessed quite a fire Tuesday morning when the telephone exchange and the Ray SCHOOLEY blacksmith shop were destroyed by fire. The Salem fire department answered the call for help but could render very little service due to the lack of water. The telephone exchange was being operated by Bert PRATHER but the home in which it was situated was owned by Frank CHEELEY. The burning of the SCHOOLEY blacksmith shop marks the passing of an old landmark of that community. It was formerly a store building and one of the first buildings in Omega.

- Pleasant Grove: Erwin DAY's car caught fire Sunday night and was damaged beyond repair. Monday he purchased a new Chevrolet.

Oct. 13, 1938:

St. Elmo was the victim of a \$200,000 fire Tuesday night when a refinery at that place was completely burned. The fire was said to have been caused by a boiler blowing up. Flames shot 400 feet, and luckily no one was killed, although there were 3 of the workmen injured. The flames threatened the entire city and a call was sent out to the surrounding cities for help. The blaze was not brought under control until Wednesday.

Jan. 26, 1939:

The City Council had the City Inspector, J.T. BROWN, busy the past few days making a general inspection of stoves and flues in the fire limits. He found 15 places where the law was being violated.

Sept. 14, 1939:

Shortly after midnight on Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Lou ROTAN were awakened by smoke. They soon discovered their home on fire and spread the alarm. The whole upstairs was ruined by fire and downstairs ruined by the water. So the house is in awful shape. The ROTANs had just finished remodeling their home and now it is all to do over again. Just what caused the fire, no one will ever know. Some think it was defective wiring while others are of the opinion it was just spontaneous combustion. It was partially covered by insurance. On Monday evening, the Mike SEE home was discovered on fire, but not until the whole upstairs was ablaze. It spread very rapidly and was not long burning to the ground. Most of the contents were saved. From all appearance, this house caught fire from the flue. It is the opinion of several that a portion of the house might have been saved had the first well held up, but just when water was needed most, a change of wells had to be made. When it was seen the fire could not be brought under control, a call for help was sent to Farina, but they didn't make it in time to do any good. Although we were thankful they came because it looked as though some of the neighboring homes would catch fire. The home was partially covered by insurance. As you know, Mr. SEE has been without eyesight for several years and has been in failing health for the past few years. They spent the night with Mrs. Alice MILLER and on Tuesday went to the home of Mrs. SEE's brother, Mr. Ed HARRELL, east of this city, where they will remain until they can get their thoughts collected. Some of the citizens are criticizing our fire department to some extent. We do not think they should do this too strongly because we really do not have a fire department. There is absolutely no organization at all. Not even a chief to stand back and figure out the best means of combating a fire. It is true, our engine has seen better days, but it will still do a lot of good, providing it is put up in shape, which should be done without further delay. When it gets to the place where it has to be pushed up a hill, it is time to do something about it. Our water supply is our greatest liability. The engine will do good enough work when it arrives on the scene providing the water supply holds out. But most all the wells are shallow and contain barely enough water for the owner's use. Our suggestion is that the City Council see to it that the fire engine is put in good shape. And next, they should organize a volunteer fire department. They may not have much money on hands, but they could rake up enough for something like this.

Nov. 16, 1939:

A fire which started from an overheated stove Monday destroyed 2 business buildings in Luka, causing damage estimated at \$27,000. The Phillips Building, which housed a tavern and apartment, and the other which housed a grocery store, and the Masonic Temple were destroyed. The Luka bank building was threatened. The fire started in the rear of the Phillips Building and quickly spread to the other structures. Firemen from Salem, Centralia, Xenia, and Flora brought the flames under control after 4 hours.

March 7, 1940:

In the special city election held Friday for the issuance of \$1000 worth of bonds for the improvement of the fire engine and engine house, there were 120 votes cast. The tally shows 115 voted yes and 5 voted no. From what has been reported to us, it is the plan of the city council to purchase a new truck chassis and mount the pump from the old engine on it. This should make a good fire engine. We couldn't ask for better work than is done by this old engine after it reaches the scene of fire, but it is necessary very often, to push it a part of the way at least. When the new truck is purchased it will be necessary to widen the doors to the engine room. Thus the necessary repairs to the engine house was included in the bond issue. As soon as this is all done, Kimmundy will then have some mighty fine fire fighting equipment.

March 28, 1940:

A dance will be given on April 12 in the high school gym for the benefit of the Kinmundy Fire Dept. The newly organized Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the dance.

- The Fireman's ball given made a profit of \$328.58.

May 9, 1940:

The Kinmundy Chamber of Commerce held their regular monthly meeting in the basement of the Kinmundy Christian Church Tuesday with 32 members and 3 guests present. Mr. A. GORMAN, Train Master, and Mr. FORTH, Traffic Agent of the Illinois Central Railroad of Champaign, and Mr. P.E. BRANCH of San Antonio were the speakers. A delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the church. In the business meeting, Carl DUNLAP reported that the organization of a volunteer fire department was underway.

May 16, 1940:

The new electric fire siren has been mounted above the fire bell and is now ready to go. When it was being tested last week, it could be heard for several miles, which is an improvement over the old bell. Arrangements are now being made with the Bell Telephone Co. whereby a switch can be placed in the telephone office to be operated by the telephone operators. There is also a switch at the bell tower. The pump from the old fire engine has been mounted on a new Ford truck chassis. The old chemical tank was discarded and was replaced with a tank which will be filled with water.

May 30, 1940:

\$10,000 Fire in Kinmundy: Another one of Kinmundy's old landmarks passed into history Sunday morning when this old frame building owned by C.B. ROHRBOUGH, H.L. WARREN, the ROHRBOUGH estate and George H. BARGH, was destroyed by fire. This building was occupied by John CURRY Barber Shop, R.J. FULFER Café, Dr. G.P. DOUGHERTY office, 2 vacant store rooms, and 3 sleeping apartments occupied by the FULFER family, Mr. Frank WILSON and Mr. Sam BANGS. Len LEWIN, who was at work at his cheese factory, noticed a blaze as if an oil stove had exploded in a back window of one of the upstairs apartments. The blaze soon disappeared and he thought no more about it until about a half hour later when he noticed smoke coming from the eaves of the building. Then he turned in the alarm. It was not long before several were on the scene. But the blaze could not be located. Soon there was an explosion and then the whole building appeared to be in flames. Then help from Salem, Farina and St. Peter was summoned and it was not long before they were on the scene. The 4 engines pumped water from the well on the square into which a pipeline was laid only last year from the Illinois Central Water tank. The firemen battled the flames from 8 a.m. until noon. The contents of the CURRY Barber Shop, FULFER's Café, and Dr. DOUGHERTY's office were mostly saved. Practically nothing was saved from the sleeping apartments. During the course of the fire, there were 2 explosions. The first came as we explained before. At that time there were several men on the roof and some just ready to burst in an upstairs window. But the blast sent them all hurrying to the ground. The second came when the fire was at it's best. Just what this was, no one knows, but at the time there were small fragments of iron flying thru the air. Some were of the opinion that an old cannonball had exploded. Mr. ROHRBOUGH had old Civil War relics stored in his building and there was one of the old cannonballs cast hollow and filled with powder, and the heat exploded it. Taking everything into consideration, there is no question but what the fire really started in the apartment occupied by Mr. BANGS, supposedly from an oil or gasoline stove. The brick building owned by J.R. TELFORD just across the alley east was damaged considerably. The building north, owned by W.S. PRUETT and occupied by COLE & ROLLINSON was damaged considerably by water. A light rain aided considerably in keeping the flames from spreading. This building was one of the very first buildings built in the business district. As near as we can trace its history, it was built in the early 60's. And for the past 50 years, it has been considered a fire hazard, but it has seen some mighty fine brick buildings destroyed across the street. Under present conditions, it will not be rebuilt. Both the Bell Telephone Co. and the Central Illinois Public Service Co. sustained considerable loss to some of their equipment. Guin VALLOW had presence of mind enough to run home after his camera and during the scene, made 44 shots. It was estimated that 1000 visitors came from other towns nearby to witness the ruins. (Pictures of the fire were included in this issue.)

- The City Council has appointed Carl DUNLAP as fire chief of a volunteer fire department. He called some of the boys together Monday and the group selected 3 assistants, B.F. LINTON, 1st Lieut.; E.O. ZIMMER, Captain; and Ralph FEATHER, 2nd Lieut. Alonzo CHURCH was elected secretary-treasurer. Nozzel Men: Len LEWIN, Walter MURPHY, J.B. MAXEY, E.E. BROWN.

Hose: E.R. LOWE; Ora SCHWABE, Ralph LUX, R.J. FULFER, Wayne PIGG, James PIGG, George BARGH.

Engine: P.F. ROBNETT, W.G. SNELLING, Elwin INGRAM, Jim EAGAN.

Salage: Alonzo CHURCH, G.R. ROLLINSON, Lester HOWELL, J.N. VALLOW, J.R. MAHAN, F.A. MOTCH.

Coupling: Jesse GEORGE, D.J. ALEXANDER, William COLE, L.C. INGRAM.

Suction Hose: Harry BURGE, Elwin TROUT, and Richard SCHWABE.

A meeting will be held Friday evening at the City Hall. Those who are not there will be fined 25 cents. There will be a drill that evening.

Aug. 15, 1940:

The barn on the Clyde HIESTAND farm east of Brubaker caught fire Tuesday morning and burned to the ground. The farm is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph HIESTAND, who sustained the loss of the hay and grain in the barn, his harness, and 20 sacks of grass seed. The Frank EMBSER threshing machine was threshing red top on the farm and blowing the hay into the barn. They had threshed the day previous and had threshed about 45 minutes that morning when the fire started. No one knows how the fire started but the barn seemed to be ablaze all of a sudden. 3 calves, 21 sacks of grass seed, and a tractor were rescued from the barn. The separator was hurriedly pulled away but not until after the blower was damaged beyond repair and a new one had to be made before threshing was resumed. Fires caused by threshing into barns used to be numerous but this is the first one to occur within the past 3 or 4 years in this community.

Aug. 22, 1940:

The fire siren was touched off Monday and the fire department responded to extinguish a grass fire in the east end of town which was threatening the F.O. GRISSOM barn. The fire wasn't so big, but what could have been extinguished by means of sacks, but the boys needed the practice anyway. Luckily, we have not had any fires during the dry weather because we do not have very much water in the wells.

Nov. 7, 1940:

The residence of Earl SHANAFELT in Alma caught fire yesterday and a call for help was sent here to the local fire dept. Upon arriving, they found the fire had been extinguished by the efficient bucket brigade of Alma. A small hole was burned in the roof.

Jan. 16, 1941:

The fire siren is still in good working order but the department is not getting much practice. The siren sounded last Friday and the engine made a run to the home of Lulu YOEDER on account of a flu burning out. No damage was done. On Monday a run was made to the Chas. GAMMON home where the flue was burning out. And this was under control by the time the engine arrived.

April 24, 1941:

The Annual Fireman's Ball was held last Friday and was well attended. The receipts were about \$125. The money is to be used to buy smoke masks for the fire dept. as well as some civic improvement for the city and community in general.

Jan. 8, 1942:

Farina Business District Threatened by Fire Tuesday; Total Damage Near \$6000: Farina witnessed a fire in the business district Tuesday afternoon which threatened the entire district. The fire started in the Masonic Hall where most of the damage was done. The janitor had built a fire in the lodge room as the Eastern Stars were to meet that evening. As soon as he lighted the fire, an auto accident happened on the highway directly in front of the hall. He left the hall to witness the accident. When he returned, he found the ceiling ablaze. The alarm was spread and the St. Peter and Kinmundy Departments were asked to come and help. The 3 departments were able to confine the fire to which the Masonic Hall and Woodman Hall just south of it. The Masons estimated their loss at \$3000 which was partially covered by insurance. The Kinmundy Lodge has offered use of their hall for the time being. The Woodman Hall was damaged to some extent. The Randolph Jewelry Store, which is located under the Woodmen Hall, and the Harvey Drug Store under the Masonic Hall suffered quite a bit of damage from water. The Farina people went to thank the Kinmundy department, but really, the credit is all due A.C. DUNLAP and B.F. LINTON, who made the trip on the fire truck, because it was certainly 1 cold trip for them.

April 30, 1942:

The united efforts of the Salem, Centralia, Mt. Vernon, Odin and Flora Fire Departments late Monday night failed to save the new Salem Theater Building from almost complete destruction, but without question they saved the South Broadway block from a like fate. At 11:30 the south side door suddenly blew open freeing a cloud of smoke. Windows also burst under the terrific gas pressure.

July 9, 1942:

Salem has had another fire, this time the McMACKIN Furniture Store located on East Broadway. The fire started about 10 o'clock last night on the second floor. The cause of the fire is believed to be from bad wiring or from lightning running in on the wire. The estimated damage is about \$5000. The Salem fire department was called and much damage was caused by water and smoke.

- Fireman Roy RAVER, 41, of the Salem Fire Department was drowned yesterday in the swollen creek about 2 and ½ miles west of Salem on Route 50. RAVER and 3 other firemen were called out to this bridge where it was reported that a car had been stalled in the creek and was being swept down stream. As the firemen reached the scene, the car had been pulled to safety by an Army truck but RAVER walked in the creek and was reportedly swept under. The creek was 5 feet above the bridge.

Oct. 29, 1942:

The Allen School south of Kinmundy was seriously threatened by fire late Wednesday, when a field east of the school house

caught fire and with the wind behind, burned toward the school. The teacher saw that the fire was getting close to the school and took the children out and to their homes. The Kinmundy Fire Dept. was called to the scene of the grass fire and with the help of several men and neighbors, were able to throw enough water on the School house and on the grass around the school to keep the fire from doing any harm when it reached the school. The fire was the second serious grass fire near Kinmundy in the past 2 weeks. The other fire was north of Kinmundy on the O. GORDON farm.

Nov. 19, 1942:

A serious grass fire, which started at the JACK place in Kinmundy twp., swept across miles of Meacham twp. Thursday doing a lot of damage. The fire was helped by a strong south wind. The fire was fought for several hours by the citizens of that township. The Kinmundy fire dept. was called to the scene, but due to the lack of water they were unable to do much to stop the fire. In the fire, Miss Florence STORRS lost a large pile of hedge posts, and Lowell REESE lost 7 stacks of bean hay. The fire then burned to the F.M. REESE farm, and was finally stopped by plowing and backfiring.

Prairie Grove: The Kinmundy and Farina fire departments were called to the vicinity Thursday to a field fire covering between 500-600 acres. A field of corn burned for Glen McCARTY and several hay stacks of Lowell REESE burned.

Sept. 16, 1943:

Beginning Saturday of this week, the fire siren will be sounded once at 12 noon each day. In case of fire, there will be at least 2 blasts sounded. This is being done so that we will know the siren is in working order at all times.

Nov. 25, 1943:

A northbound Greyhound bus burned Sunday night between Kinmundy and Alma. It was a total loss, but luckily, no passengers injured nor baggage burned. This was the regular Memphis to Chicago bus. It was loaded with passengers, being about 40 in all, 15 of whom were Kinmundy residents who had spent the evening in Salem attending the show and were returning home. The driver had thought he smelled rubber burning and stopped to make an examination. The bus soon burst into flames. There was 1 fire extinguisher on the bus, but that was not enough, and the bus soon burst into flames. It was supposed that a short circuit in the engine was the cause of the fire.

Jan. 27, 1944

The fire siren was sounded Saturday afternoon when a small blaze was discovered on the roof of the building occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J.E. WILLIAMS. But due to the efficient fire department the blaze was quickly extinguished with very little damage done.

March 16, 1944

The local fire department was called out this morning to extinguish the flames from Burdette SHAFFER's smoke-house. The building was too far gone when the alarm was given and consequently burned to the ground. Mr. SHAFFER was smoking his meat and when he left for work last night, thought his fire was out. His entire supply of meat, as well as many other things were burned.

Jan. 23, 1947:

Fire Department Makes Run: Last evening, about 9 o'clock, the fire department was called to the home of Mrs. Pauline WEST, in the west part of the city, and quickly extinguished a blaze which caused about \$250 damage. The fire was confined between the studding which is evidence that the fire caught from the flue which is built on the outside of the house. It took quite a while to get at the blaze.

July 17, 1947:

The fire department was called to the Kinmundy Ice Plant yesterday afternoon to be in readiness should a burning exhaust from the engines get out of control. The fire burned itself out and no damage was done.

July 31, 1947:

Fire Department Called to Glen BRASEL home: A defective coal oil stove exploding and bursting into flames caused considerable damage to the Glenn BRASEL home three miles north of this city, Saturday afternoon. The Kinmundy Fire Department responded to a call which came through the local telephone office. As the fire department arrived at the scene, neighbors of Mr. BRASEL as well as himself, were fighting the fire with a bucket brigade. The fire was held to the inside of the wall and roof over the kitchen of the house. Only one large well provided the water at the home. After a little confusion 50 feet of fire hose was laid. The fire department was used for around 30 minutes still the stubborn blaze was extinguished. Most of the damage to home was from water for while throwing on gallons of water and afterwards the plaster in two rooms began to fall. Mrs. BRASEL with the help from neighbors removed two rooms of furniture while the men were fighting the fire. Mr. BRASEL reported that the house was fully covered by insurance. As to our fire department, we might say the fighting equipment was in far better shape than at previous

fires. The city officials are trying to replace and repair the department in order to keep it up in the best condition. However, the city fire department would be a little more effective if the city would organize a good volunteer department having each man learn to do a certain thing, in this way the department could respond a little more quickly to fires, and it would cause less confusion at the fire.

Sept. 11, 1947:

Kinmundy Ice Plant has second fire: Fuel oil around the large diesel engine in the Kinmundy Ice Plant was the cause of a 5 a.m. fire Wednesday. The oilfire was started when the exhaust from the engine burned out, thus causing the oil around the engine to ignite. Mr. Ray GEORGE, who was on duty at this time in the morning, noticed smoke coming through the windows of the plant. After inspecting the engine, he called for the city fire dept., then went to the roof of the building to watch for fire. The city fire dept. arrived on the scene in a few minutes and laid 100 feet hose. The fire was placed under control a few minutes after their arrival. Inspection afterwards showed no damage to the large engine or the building.

Nov. 20, 1947:

Young School Destroyed by Fire Monday Evening: The one-room school house of School District No. 19, known as the Young School, was completely destroyed by fire Monday evening. The Kinmundy Fire Department was called by the building was too far gone to do any good at all. The teacher, Mrs. Velma EDWARDS, has 13 pupils, and Mr. Earl LANE, one of the directors who happened to be there to get his small daughter, left the schoolhouse at 4 o'clock. The fire in the furnace had been banked for the night as per usual. Thirty minutes later, neighbors discovered smoke pouring from the attic and in just a few seconds, flames began to leap from the roof. Just what really caused the fire, no one will ever know. But it is presumed that possibly an overheated stove pipe was the cause. The neighbors say this because just one day last week, the overheated pipe caused the building to catch fire around the flue during school hours. The fire was quickly extinguished. The building had been wired for electricity, and the wires from the poles were strung just last Friday. But as yet, no electricity has been turned on. So it couldn't have been defective wiring. This building was built in the summer of 1916 after the former building was burned. So this is the second fire this district has suffered. The building was partially covered by insurance. The directors of the district held a short meeting directly after the fire and declared a school holiday of one week until they can make arrangements to get school started again or get the pupils in school somewhere. (A picture accompanied this article.)

Dec. 25, 1947:

Kinmundy High School Gym Suffers \$3,000.00 Loss in a Early Morning Fire: Over Heated Furnace Believed Cause of Blaze: The Kinmundy Community High School Gym suffered a \$3,000 or more loss by fire about school time here Monday morning. The fire was caused by an overheated furnace in the heating room of the local school gym. The Kinmundy Fire Department was called at 8 a.m. when Mr. Mel BOYD, the school janitor discovered the blaze and large amount of smoke. The local fire department laid 400 feet of hose in order to fight the stubborn blaze. The fire department pumped the small well on the school ground dry in a short time, and then continued pumping from the large well. Mr. BOYD reported that he had fired up the furnace about 7 a.m. Monday morning for the high school morning assembly which is held in the gym. He continued with his duties about the gym for awhile and then fired the furnace again. Mr. BOYD continued his duties over at the main school building for the next 30 minutes. About 8 a.m. he returned to the Gym to check his fire. When he opened the south side door to the Gym, the smoke coming out of the building forced him back. He closed the door and called for the Kinmundy Fire Department. Mr. BOYD reported that Monday morning wasn't any different than any other morning this winter. He stated when he left the building everything was in order and the blower of the furnace was working properly. The main fire was located in the basement of the gym above the furnace burning the top sills that supported the gym stage. The fire also burned its way to the top part of the stage, causing the top part of the stage curtain to catch afire. This in turn caught the fibre board ceiling afire. This part of the fire was not noticed until the main fire of the basement was put out. It was then the firemen noticed fire in the ceiling. At this time the Farina Fire Department arrived on the scene. Their chemical hose was laid and chemical was used in order to extinguish the ceiling fire. However, the fire had spread so far that it wasn't possible to extinguish the ceiling fire. The local fire department then started pumping water again with a great amount of water being used to stop this smoldering fire in the fibre board ceiling. In all the local firemen fought the stubborn blaze for two hours. After the smoke had cleared away, Mr. Lewis J.T. O'DELL, high school principal, had several of the boys at work mopping up the water on the Gym floor in order to keep it from being water damaged. It was either mop up water or be in English class, one of the boys stated. Most of the damage was done by water and smoke. The remaining fibre board-ceiling that didn't burn was blackened by the smoke, with the wall of the Gym black and water streaked. Carpenters were on the scene early in the afternoon estimating the damage to the Gym and surveying the work to be done. The School Boards had \$10,000 fire damage on the Gym, and an insurance adjustor arrived in Kinmundy Tuesday morning to make the adjustment of the fire damage. Mr. O'DELL reported that he hoped that they could make the most of the repairs on the Gym during the coming Christmas vacation. Mr. O'DELL also stated that Mr. Paul MONICAL, Principal of the LaGrove Community H.S. of Farina had offered the Kinmundy Community H.S. the use of their Gym for basketball practice or for any of their home games till the local Gym is repaired. We think this swell of Mr. MONICAL to do this. It is fine to have such fine neighbors to help our local school. Of course, the friendship between our two towns is a little strained when the two basketball teams meet. (Two pictures were included with this article.)

Jan. 15, 1948:

Town Meeting Well Attended: Many citizens of Kinmundy were present at Tuesday night at the "Town Meeting" sponsored by the Kinmundy Post of the American Legion which was held in the Legion Hall. The meeting was called to order by Comd. Calvin BARBEE, with the election of a chairman for the meeting in order. Mr. Carl DUNLAP was elected as chairman and presided over the meeting. The main subject of the evening was the repair of the Kinmundy Fire Engine. Mr. DUNLAP reported that he had visited the HOWELL Fire Company in Anderson, Ind., and gave a report of his findings. On a motion, two committees were appointed by the chairman. The first committee, which consisted of five members, are to find out the equipment that will be needed to place our fire engine in tip-top shape. Three different fire fighting equipment companies have been contacted to send out representatives to inspect our fire engine and give their estimated cost of repair to this committee. The second committee will act as a finance committee; they will plan and work out some type of program for raising funds to pay for the new equipment. Both of these committees will meet with the city council in a special meeting of the city council. The committee will report their findings to the group at another "Town Meeting" which will be held the 22nd of January.

Feb. 5, 1948:

City Council Votes to Purchase New Fire Engine at Regular Meeting: The City Council met in regular session Monday evening with all members present. After the usual business was disposed of, the proposition of buying a fire engine was discussed. For the past few weeks, meetings have been held in the Legion Hall regarding the improving of our fire department. Salesmen from different companies have been present and presented the good features about their respective engines. The members of the City Council were present at these meetings and so they know just what the populace was expecting. The aldermen voted to buy a piston type engine. Then the mayor appointed Lowell DISS, Ben JENKINS and James PIGG, as a committee, to select the equipment needed and get the lowest price on the installing of a piston type engine on our present truck chassis. It was the consensus of opinion of the aldermen that a bond issue would have to be floated in order to pay for this engine. A few interested citizens present offered to underwrite the needed amount until the bonds could be sold, in order to hasten the matter. We wish to commend the action of the City Council in going ahead with the purchasing of the fire engine.

Feb. 26, 1948:

City Council To Take Final Action Monday Night on New Fire Engine: The City Council will take final action in their monthly meeting Monday night on the city fire engine. At their last meeting the council voted to let the contract of repairing the engine to the Howe Fire Fighting Equipment Co., of Anderson, Ind. A Howe representative was here last week to confer with the city officials and a citizens committee. The citizens committee along with the council's committee are in favor of replacing the old engine with all new equipment. When the local fire engine goes to the factory for reports, the Howe Co. will provide the city with a fire engine so the city will not be without fire protection.

March 4, 1948:

The regular meeting of the City Council was held Monday evening. Action was to be taken on the proposition of buying a new fire engine for the city. So there were several citizens present, as well as representatives of a concern selling fire fighting apparatus. At a previous meeting the council voted to buy a piston type pump. But his concern will not take no for an answer and are doing their best to sell them a centrifugal pump. It is generally agreed by several representative citizens as well as the councilmen, that a piston type pump will work to a better advantage in our community, more especially because we do not have water works support. Our present engine is of the piston type and has served its purpose well, lasting over a period of about 25 years. But so many parts are worn and some cannot be replaced. However, it is the intention of the councilmen to use the present truck chassis under the new engine. This chassis is in good shape and has been driven less than 500 miles. However, they do plan to put on dual wheels and overload springs. The committee appointed at a previous meeting of the purpose of getting bids and specifications.

March 18, 1948:

The Kinmundy Fire Department made two calls this week. The first was Monday morning around 11 a.m. to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve RAINEY in Alma. However, the fire was under control when the department arrived. The fire was caused by oil leaking under a oil heater. Some damage was reported. The second call was to the residence of Mrs. W.B. VALLOW, Wednesday afternoon, when a grass fire got out of control. Water from the engine's booster tank was used with the fire being brought under control in a few minutes.

April 1, 1948:

Omega: The house occupied by Donald SHAFFER on the A.A. MILLICAN farm southeast of here, burned Monday morning. Mrs. SHAFFER had built a fire in the summer kitchen to heat warm water and had gone to the house to care for the baby. When she returned to the summer kitchen, it was afire and the high wind quickly spread the flames to the house. The fire department from Salem arrived but were unable to get to the fire on account of the dirt road which was very bad.

April 29, 1948:

Voters approve Bond Issue For Fire Equipment: A special election was held Tuesday for the city of Kinmundy and the voters placed their approval on a bond issue of \$2500 for repairing the fire engine. The vote was 74 - Yes; and 2 - No. This was

evidently a surprise to the members of the City Council because they were just a little doubtful about it carrying. But we believe that they will always find the people of Kinmundy behind them when it comes to making needed improvements of any kind.

July 8, 1948:

The Kinmundy Fire Department made a call Saturday morning to the Leo STOCK farm south and east of here. The department laid 200 feet of hose to fight a fire in the hayloft of the barn. The smoke coming from the barn was discovered by members of the STOCK family at 8:15 a.m. During the fire no blaze developed. Only a great deal of smoke from the smoldering bean hay. The fire was believed to have started from the bean hay overheating in the loft. This section of the barn roof was torn off this spring in a wind storm, letting a great amount of rain in on the hay.

Aug. 12, 1948:

Businessmen and Citizens Organized Volunteer Fire Company for Kinmundy: Kinmundy's new fire engine was delivered Sunday, Aug. 1, and has been pretty well scrutinized by most of the populace. When the subject of buying a new engine was being discussed, it was thought best that as soon as the new engine arrived, a volunteer fire company should be organized. At a meeting held in the City Hall, Friday evening, Carl DUNLAP, was elected by the body as the fire chief of the new Kinmundy Volunteer Fire Company. E.O. ZIMMER was elected assistant chief, Jesse GEORGE, engineer, and Wydell PIGG, secretary- treasurer. A group of 15 business men and citizens were present at this organizing meeting. It was voted that the newly formed company should follow a set of by-laws used in other cities throughout the state. Each man at this meeting was given a job in conjunction with the new engine which he will be held responsible to perform at each fire. The chief appointed a committee of 3 to meet with the City Council at their next meeting to report the company's organization. The volunteers hope to be given complete charge of the new engine. They believe in this way, the equipment will be kept in better shape. The fire company will have two meetings each month, and at those times, the engines will be used for practice. The company hopes to have at least 5 members who will be thoroughly trained in the priming and operation of the new centrifugal type pump. And also to be able to take complete charge of a fire. One of the greatest improvements on this engine is the fog spray nozzles which helps the hosemen to play a high pressure fog on the blaze using far less water and using far less water damage than before. We hope these boys will make a success of their newly formed organization.

Oct 28, 1948:

The newly organized volunteer fire department made their first official run Wed. morning in response to a call from the Hugh COPPLE farm two miles east of Kinmundy. The fire was only the chimney burning out and a small section of wall paper catching fire. The small blaze was out by the time the department arrived on the scene. Every member of the volunteers reported and were at the scene of the fire.

April 7, 1949:

Mrs. MAXWELL Dies in Effingham Hospital Fire: Mrs. Matilda MAXWELL of this city lost her life in the St. Anthony's Hospital fire in Effingham Monday night. Mrs. MAXWELL was a patient in the 3rd floor of the hospital, and from all reports only a few totaling less than four, were able to get to safety from this floor. Twelve hours after the fire her body had not been found in the ruins of the 84 year old hospital. By now most of our readers know all about the terrible fire that gutted the Effingham Hospital. Effingham's radio station went on the air three hours before their regular time to give their listeners the latest news of the disaster, and they did a splendid job throughout the day. Tuesday's daily papers carried scare face headings of the fire along with pictures during the night and pictures of the ruins. Even news from Russia only got a small play up in Tuesday's papers. All you could read was eye witness stories from Effingham people who were at the fire trying to help those patients to get out. As a weekly paper, we can't expect to make a big news break and be the first to let the people know about a big news story as this fire was, but we can give you our personal story of what we saw and how we felt at the scene of the fire. I didn't learn of the fire until about 5:45 Tuesday morning when Mr. Fred KLEISS woke us to tell us of the fire. By 6:45 we were in the car rolling to Effingham for pictures and what we could find out to report to our readers. By 7:20, we were in Effingham, and at the hospital. A heavy smoke hung over the city as we arrived at the scene. A news photo plane was making several passes at the ruins photographing the scene from the air. After taking several pictures of the ruins we talked to several people at the scene. One man stated to us, "I was staying with my boy in the hospital when the fire broke out. I grabbed my boy and the next one to him and made it out of the hospital. I then tried to return to help out more, but it was then too late to do any good." We talked to Effingham's Ass't. fire chief, who stated that he was on the first fire truck to reach the fire. He stated that it was the practice of the hospital to keep the halls in fine order, keeping the floors highly waxed and polished. The chief said, "I could hear the fire sweeping through the halls, just like a gasoline trash fire." And this is exactly what happened. The fire being fed by the wax on the floor and the paint on the wall. It was a terrible sight for all to see. Even the hardened newspaper photographers from the city showed this as they went around recording this disaster on film. We noticed two or three firemen playing a stream of water into the first floor window, and in a short while came out with a body in a blanket. The bodies were taken to the rear of the hospital to a large garage which served as a morgue. We saw relatives going back to the morgue as a body would be removed from the ruins. Men who looked like they could stand anything were crying as they went to the morgue. We later saw firemen and helpers carrying blanket covered baskets from the nursery. We couldn't take too much of this, and went to the front of the hospital. We noticed the hospital office worker had a list of all those in the hospital, standing along with several sisters. It was wonderful how several of them could remember how many people were in each room and their names too. It was from this list we saw the name of Mrs. MAXWELL, who was on the third floor. From the reports in the daily papers and from the reports at the scene of the fire, we heard the fire chief state that two nurses had a chance to get out, but refused to do so, but chose death and stayed with their patients. This deed was truly living up to their oaths as nurses. We made five photos of the fire of which you will see three in this issue due to the early morning when these photos were taken and with

the smoke still heavy around the ruins, the photos aren't as good as they would have been if the day had been clear. We hope that we have been able to give you a word picture of this terrible fire for those of you who were not able to go and see for yourself. As we go to press, we learn that the body of Mrs. MAXWELL has not been identified. All the bodies have not been removed from the ruins but they hope to complete the task today.

Three from Kinmundy Lose Life in Effingham Fire: According to the latest incomplete official list of known dead in the St. Anthony's Hospital fire, three persons are from Kinmundy. At the present time, those that are identified from here are the infant twins of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond SIGRIST, living north and east of Kinmundy. Mrs. Cora CALDWELL, age 80, of Edgewood, sister of Mrs. George SHUMAKER of this city, and aunt of Mrs. Glen JAHRAUS, and grandmother of Mr. Jamie McGEE, local community high school teacher. Mrs. Matilda MAXWELL of this city is known dead, but her body has not been found or identified yet.

Fear 74 Died in St. Anthony's Fire: It is believed that 74 persons are dead or missing in the tragic fire that swept through the St. Anthony Hospital Monday night. By this morning the hospital registrar stated that of the 69 bodies recovered, seven were still unidentified. Five other persons listed as missing are presumed to be dead under the ruins. Complete records of the hospital were destroyed by the fire, but hospital registrar stated that 124 patients and staff members were believed in the building at the time of the fire. Effingham fire officials stated today that it may be several days before all the bodies will be recovered from the blackened ruins of the hospital. A sister stated that the fire started in a laundry chute.

May 26, 1949:

Lightening Strikes PITTS Home: There is nothing in the old saying that "lightening will not strike twice in the same place". About 2 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan PITTS had the living daylight scared out of them when lightning struck the chimney on their house. History repeated itself Monday evening at about 9 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. PITTS had just gone to bed when lightening again struck the chimney. They were soon up and surveying the damage done. The house was filled with smoke and noises coming from the attic sounded much like there was fire there. Bryan drove his Ford to town and spread the alarm. The siren was sounded and the volunteer fire department was soon on the run in a downpour of rain. On their arrival they found the smoke had died down and they couldn't find any fire. However, the inside of the house was covered with soot. When our fire engine was rebuilt, some wanted to have a cab or at least a windshield put on the truck. Others thought that was just a lot of tommy rot and added expense. But anyone who makes a run with the truck in a downpour of rain will tell you different. Besides being drenched to the hide, they couldn't make any speed because of the rain hitting them in the face. So this is something for the new council to consider.

March 23, 1950:

Farm Home Burns: The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman SOLDNER in Meacham twp. caught fire Friday afternoon and considerable damage was done before the blaze was brought under control by the local fire department. Mr. and Mrs. SOLDNER were in Kinmundy at the time the fire was discovered by a sister-in-law, Mrs. Raymond SOLDNER living on the adjoining farm. It was not long after the alarm was spread until there were several there with the fire engine. Luckily, the well held out until the fire was extinguished. From all appearance, the fire was caused by a defective flue. The whole upstairs as well as the contents were destroyed. The contents of the downstairs were carried out but practically every room in the house was ruined with smoke and water damage. Mr. and Mrs. SOLDNER are now at home in one room of the house which they hurriedly fitted up.

Dec. 7, 1950:

The fire department was called to the Edwin YUND home on Friday of last week when, due to a defective kitchen flue, a fire broke out and did extensive damage to the roof. Due to the fast action of the fire department, the fire was held to the roof.

Jan. 11, 1951:

Kinmundy Citizens Deprived of a lot of Excitement as well as Financial Loss: A lot of excitement as well as what might have terminated in the loss of Kinmundy's whole business district, was nipped in the bud Tuesday afternoon when a floor fire was discovered in the second floor of the Masonic Temple building. As it was, the damage was confined to an estimated \$600 loss. The furnace for the Masonic Temple sets on the second floor of the building. The Masons converted this furnace from coal to oil. The installation had been made and a test was being made Tuesday afternoon, heating the lodge room for the Eastern Star Chapter scheduled to meet that night. The writer made frequent trips to the Temple to check on the performance of the furnace as well as gather statistical data in the rise in temperature of the hall. On his visit to the furnace room at 3:30, he noticed some smoke but just supposed it was some of the "new" burning off the oil burner. He also noticed that the thermostat was not working like it should. At that he summoned Carl DUNLAP. Together they returned to the furnace room. This time, we decided to make a thorough investigation as to the source of the smoke. We found it was coming from the floor. At this time, Jess GARRISON, who has his hardware on the ground floor came up to investigate. As a board was pulled in the floor, the smoke became stifling. The fire was in the floor under the furnace. Water was thrown back under the furnace between the floor joist which retarded it to a great extent. But we just couldn't reach the source with our water. At that, Mr. DUNLAP brought out the fire engine. While he was gone after the engine, flames began to leap up from the hole in the floor. Eight or ten dippers of water tamed them down to some extent, however, the water from the fire engine soon killed the flames, but there was still some smoke coming. By this time, E.E. BROWN and Gene WILLIAMS arrived on the scene. Then others came which was a good thing because it was decided that the furnace would have to be moved to make certain no fire remained. This was done with as great a care as possible, and yet the furnace was damaged in the moving. So considerable damage

was done to the floor as well as the furnace, and, we might add, some electric wiring in the floor which caused us to grit our teeth when the water hit it. It was really a 'lucky' fire.

April 5, 1951:

Margaret GRAY Home Burned Wednesday Morning: The fire department was called to the home of Mrs. Margaret GRAY in the east part of town Wednesday morning when she discovered her home to be on fire. She said that she had smelled smoke and kept looking for it. After making a trip outside and glancing at her roof, she returned inside and just happened to look in a closet in which the chimney is built. She found this closet all ablaze. When the fire department arrived on the scene, the whole attic was afire, as well as the interior of the rooms. The fire was soon extinguished but not until the house was what would be termed a total loss. None of the contents were carried from the house until after the flames were extinguished. Consequently, only a few things were taken from the back part of the home and they were damaged considerably.