

THE SANDHILL CITIZEN

SUCCESSOR TO THE SOUTHERN PINES TOURIST

DEVOTED TO THE WINTER RESORTS, FRUIT INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANDHILL SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

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NEARLY \$100,000. FIRE

A Large Portion of Main Business Section of Southern Pines Burned to Ground.

PERKINS HOTEL, TARBELL BLOCK AND LOCEY BLOCK WIPED OUT.

Residents of Southern Pines were aroused at two forty-five o'clock Wednesday morning by the sound of the fire bell and upon looking toward town saw a great blaze well under way around the corner of Broad street and Pennsylvania avenue.

It is the general conclusion that the fire started in the rear of Mr. Windham's office, and from this point caught the Perkins Hotel and spread back to the Locey building on Pennsylvania Avenue, occupied by E. C. Eddy as a photograph studio, Thomas W. Cameron as a clothing store, and P. P. Pelton's Law Office and containing rooms up stairs used for the overflow of The Perkins. It then took the building next door containing a barber shop, dressmaking rooms and also some smaller buildings in the rear of the Hotel.

The fire boys gathered quickly and the chemical was brought to the scene but there was some delay in starting the engine and these few minutes delay allowed the flames, which were barely licking the posts supporting the porch of the Perkins Hotel to gain a good headway and the hotel which was an old landmark and a real home to many a travelling man, burned rapidly from the rear and side, the fat pine crackling and snapping and the coal in the rear lending body to the conflagration.

Mrs. Perkins, who having suffered heavy loss from fire in the past is always on the watch ready to investigate any unusual light at night, saw the flames and aroused Mr. Perkins and he hastened to give the alarm.

"Mother" Perkins warned all her guests and called the help in the rear of the hotel and then started out to do what she could but has not been strong for sometime and had to be taken to Mr. H. A. Lewis' across the street where she could not see the pride of her heart destroyed before her eyes. In this connection it should be said that but for this characteristic thoughtfulness for all around her, some of those in and about the hotel might have lost their lives.

Most of the furniture including the silver, table linen and piano from the lower floor of the hotel were saved but the up stairs furnishings, including a large number of new beds and an accumulation of ten years of fine furnishings that were to be placed in the Patrick building just bought, were totally destroyed.

After the Perkins Hotel was wiped out the Tarbell Block, recently bought by Mr. H. A. Lewis, occupied by Harry Howe as a jewelry store Harry A. Lewis' Market and Grocery Store and the Home Furniture Store was the next to start. The flames ate rapidly and very little was saved. Mr. Howe's safe contained money and a large number of watches and articles of value to him in his trade. The safe is in the ruins but cannot be opened for a few days until it cools when it is hoped the articles it contains will be found intact.

Mr. Lewis had closed out his store and market on the east side of the railroad track last Saturday night and had moved all of his stock across to the store in the building that was burned. Mr. Lewis runs a large market and grocery business and had goods to the amount of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in addition to the loss of the entire building which he owned.

A great deal of praise is due the fire boys whose careful planning and hard work saved the rest of the town from going wholly or in part. The Pinehurst Fire Co. boys were a fine example of good training and it was through their efforts that the Congregational Church and the Jefferson Inn were saved. The Aberdeen and Carthage boys also aided in the good work.

Sparks flew in all directions, and several roofs at some distance from the conflagration caught. Why Mr. Mills' feed store did not go was a wonder to most people, but those who were on the spot say that it

was the hard work of the Southern Pines Boys that helped to save this building. All those who lost through the fire have the sympathy of everyone. Some were insured and others were not. But owing to the high value of insurance no one was able to carry enough to cover anywhere near his entire loss.

The loss was more than enough to all but most everyone thinks first of Mr. and Mrs. Perkin's whose loss was the heaviest and who are not as young and strong as the others. They lost a popular business and the work of years but with cheerful faces and an ever present thought for the welfare of the town say "It is our loss but the towns gain" and set out to plan better things in the future or all concerned. For, as one man said, "Mother Perkins is not the one to sit down and cry but the one to stand up and fight," and another said "Mother Perkins sure is one "dead game sport," which fact makes us hope and believe that a new and finer building will soon arise where the old one stood, and will be a real beauty and pride to the town and its occupants.

The building occupied by C. L. Hayes, Stationery Store was badly damaged and a considerable amount of the stock in the store was more or less damaged. However, the store was open for business on Wednesday morning at the usual hour with the stock slightly disarranged but the daily papers etc were moving over the counter just the same as if there had not been a fire. All the contents of Mrs. Hayes store were carried out during the fire, but were safely back in the store again in time to open at the usual hour.

The Jefferson Inn lost the building back of the hotel which housed the heating plant, and contained rooms for several of the employees.

J. N. Mills lost the barn back of his feed store which was stocked full of hay and various commodities in connection with his feed business. Mr. Pelton saved the greater part of his office furnishings and his valuable law library. Mr. Windham saved about half of his office equipment but unfortunately lost his correspondence files and some valuable papers. There was very little salvage from the Eddy Studio. Mr. Cameron's store and the Home Furnishing store.

The firemen had a hard fight to save the telephone exchange building as the rear of the building was badly damaged. The operator, Mrs. Paine, struck to her post until she was forcibly taken from the building.

There were three principal elements that enabled the fire fighters to hold the fire to the half block that burned. First, and most important. The town water supply stood the test and did not give out, second. The efficient help that came from Pinehurst, Aberdeen and Carthage furnished a sufficient number of trained men and additional hose etc, third, there was very little wind at the time of the fire for which the entire northern end of the town can render thanks as it would have been impossible to save the Jefferson Inn if a strong south wind had been blowing.

THE FIRE LOSS

It is a very difficult matter to make an accurate estimate of the loss sustained by the property owners who had their buildings and goods destroyed. The loss is particularly heavy owing to the fact that very few people carried more than 33 per cent of their insurance value due to excessive high rate. The following list however will give some idea of the losses sustained.

L. W. Perkins, total loss \$20,000, insurance carried \$5,700.

H. A. Lewis, total loss \$18,500, insurance carried \$7,000.

R. E. Wiley total loss \$2,000, insurance carried \$600.

J. S. Reynolds total loss \$5,500, insurance carried \$1500.

Thomas W. Cameron, total loss \$4,500 partly covered by insurance.

E. C. Eddy total loss \$3,500, very small amount of insurance carried.

The Telephone Co., total loss \$2,500, small amount of insurance carried.

The following persons carried no insurance:

A. Shepherdson loss \$800; P. P. Pelton loss \$500; J. M. Windham loss \$600; H. F. Howe loss \$1000; J. N. Mills loss \$600.