

LORIMOR'S FIRES

In 1895 a fire broke out in the business section of the town which destroyed seventeen business buildings. The estimated cost was \$50,000.00. The town records were destroyed.

On January 26, 1898, another fire broke out which destroyed about eleven buildings, including a livery barn and many horses. On June 27, 1898, another fire swept the north side of the street. Again in this fire the town records were destroyed. An ordinance was passed by the city council prohibiting the building of anything but brick, stone or other indestructible material on business streets. Some of the business buildings were the Carl Room which was a complete loss, estimated at \$3,500 with \$2,700 insurance. The building was owned by E. T. Dufur. The Sullivan Drug Store owned by a Mr. Newell. The fire spread from the drug store eastward to the bank. Many of the fixtures were carried out and the vault safely held all valuable papers. In the rear of the bank was a story-and-a-half dwelling, unoccupied and also belonging to Mr. Dufur. Two small buildings belonging to S. E. Magner were the next victims. In these were the Ballard Barber Shop. It had small damage. The last building to burn was the post office. The new brick room recently finished by Asa Berry stopped the flames. Workmen began to erect a bank building 12 by 14 feet in front of the vault. The next morning the bank reopened its doors for business. One wooden building remained in the business section, The Hillman Hotel.

The Delmege brick and the Berry brick were both hot but stood the trial without damage. Dr. Bailey's barn was also hot, but hoses and plenty of water saved it.

On April 5, 1928 a fire was started when sparks from a passing railroad engine ignited a pile of shingles at the south end of the Hunter Lumber Yard. The shingles were laid about 60 feet from the main building. The fire resulted in a \$500.00 loss. Good help and the use of mechanical fire equipment prevented the fire from spreading to the main building and probably a portion of the town with a strong south wind. Also the same year the farm home of the Delmege brothers (Will and Ray) was totally destroyed by fire. Neighbors came to help but were unable to save the home and practically all the contents. It was thought a defective chimney was the cause.

On July 2, 1930 fire destroyed the Ehle Cafe, Dodd Shoe Shop and McKibbon Barber Shop.

A fire in the fine store of J. D. Hillman was discovered



The morning after—Tragic fire destroyed all business buildings—1895.

early by Dr. Ayers who slept in his office within twenty feet of the Hillman store. People responded promptly and the hand pump with its heavy stream was soon manned but was inadequate to cope with the mass of flames. A thirteen inch wall of masonry separated the Hillman and Gose storerooms. There seemed to be no doubt that the fire was the work of an incendiary, for the first arrivals found the back door open and a new coat had been dropped in the backyard. People were aroused by a rapidly passing wagon in the west part of town, just before the alarm went off. Scouting parties and rapid drivers were out early but no trace could be found. This was taken from an early clipping with no date or year.

MURPHY'S WHITE HOUSE DECEMBER 8, 1982



White House
The End of a Landmark
Murphy's White House Burns

