

PECKVILLE SWEEP BY FIERCE FLAMES

Thirty-four Wooden Buildings Were Reduced to Ashes.

FIVE OTHERS DAMAGED

Total Loss Is \$131,770, Which Is About Half Covered by Insurance. The Fire Is Believed to Be the Work of an Incendiary—Monroe Scott Was Terribly Burned in the Building in Which the Fire Originated and Cannot Recover—He Has Not Been Able to Talk Since He Was Burned—Scranton Companies Stayed the Flames.

Peckville early yesterday morning suffered one of the most disastrous fires that ever visited that part of the valley. Altogether thirty-four buildings were entirely destroyed and five badly damaged. The loss aggregates \$131,770, which is about half covered by insurance. All of the buildings were wooden structures. The arrival of Scranton companies alone saved the town from greater loss.

The fire was in the heart of the town, and almost all of the big buildings were burned to the ground. It is the general belief that the fire was of incendiary origin. Monroe Scott, a young man 29 years of age, was so badly burned in the building on Depot street, in which the fire originated, that he cannot recover. Late last night it was said he would die before morning.

Among the buildings destroyed were the Odd Fellows' building, the finest in the town; Ledyard's hall, the Harrison house, Clarke Bros.' general store, Roberts Bros.' general store, W. S. Bloes' drug store, the old Peckville hotel building, built nearly half a century ago, and a large number of dwellings, rendering nineteen families homeless.

The destruction of the Odd Fellows' and Ledyard's halls has been of incalculable injury to the societies of the town. Every one of them is homeless, and nearly all have lost their records and paraphernalia. A carefully compiled list of the losses is as follows:

MAIN STREET BUILDINGS.

W. F. Ketchum, two-story store	1,800
Shaffer & Dowd, stock and fixtures	2,000
Wilton Ketchum, furniture	500
W. F. Ketchum, two-story store	1,200
William Gunn, stock and fixtures	2,000
Mrs. Jennie Swingle, two-story dwelling	1,200
Mrs. C. A. Reynolds, furniture	600
Brundage estate, two-story store	2,500
Roberts Brothers, stock, etc.	12,000
Brundage estate, two-story double building	1,200
Harry Roberts, furniture, etc.	700
Dennis Barber	400
Brundage estate, storehouse	250
Ledyard estate, hall	5,000
W. W. Watkins, stock and fixtures	4,000
A. A. Ayers, furniture, etc.	600
Dr. S. A. Sanford, furniture, office fixtures	1,200
Modern Woodmen	150
Heptasophs	150
Knights of Pythias	200
Daughters of Phebe	100
Mine Workers local	100
Mrs. S. A. Sands, two-story dwelling	1,200
Mrs. S. A. Sands, furniture, etc.	500
E. H. Ehrhart, two-story dwelling	1,200
Windsor Foster, two-story dwelling	1,200
Dr. J. W. Beck, furniture, etc.	1,800
Mrs. J. B. Slicker, two-story dwelling	1,800
Dr. W. F. Budd	2,000
John English, dwelling	100
Sterrick Creek Coal Co., store	4,000
Sterrick Creek Coal Co., dwelling	1,000
Sterrick Creek Coal Co., hotel building	2,000
William Taylor, lums	800
George Tiffany, stock	2,000
Clarke Brothers, stock	12,000
E. Robinson's Sons, hotel building	2,000
G. A. Price, furniture, fixtures, stock	2,000
W. S. Bloes, building	2,500
M. S. Shaffer, two-story store	5,000
Brundage estate, two-story building	200
W. J. McKelvey, furniture, etc.	200
George Notsham, furniture, etc.	200
A. J. Schooley, furniture, etc.	200
Mrs. Stage, two-story dwelling	400
Total	\$86,650

DEPOT STREET BUILDINGS.

W. F. Ketchum, one-story store	250
Jay Barrett, stock in store	600
H. D. Dunn, stock in store	150
W. F. Ketchum, one-story store	150
William Davis, occupant	100
W. F. Ketchum, one-story store	200
E. E. Williams, stock and fixtures	100
W. F. Ketchum, two-story store and dwelling	5,000
W. F. Ketchum, stock and furniture	9,000
W. F. Ketchum, three bars	500
M. S. Shaffer, two-story store	1,500
Mrs. Budd, stock, fixtures and household effects	1,200
Brundage estate, two-story store	1,200
H. J. Taylor, stock and fixtures	200
Harper Lodge of Odd Fellows, building	10,000
Harper Lodge, paraphernalia, etc.	200
Red Men, paraphernalia, etc.	100
Jr. O. U. A. M., paraphernalia, etc.	150
Masons, paraphernalia, etc.	200
Order of Eastern Star, paraphernalia, etc.	150
F. A. Peck, stock and fixtures	8,000
Vandervort & Beardsley, stock, etc.	1,000
Brundage estate, barn	200
J. C. Tutball, two-story store	1,000
J. C. Tutball, furniture, etc.	200
Peck Lumber Co., lumber	1,000
Mrs. Jennie Sterns, two-story dwelling	200
Six bars fronting on alley	1,500
Total	\$53,100

An accurate statement of insurance could not be obtained yesterday, but in general it will about half cover the loss.

START OF THE FIRE.

A little one-story frame building, scarce more than a hand box, was the scene of the origin of the fire. It was occupied jointly by Jay Barrett and H. D. Dunn. Wednesday, Barrett went to Binghamton, and the place was closed up that night about 9 o'clock by Dunn, who said that he left everything in good shape. There was a fire in a stove in the rear of the store, but it was low and in no way likely to prove dangerous during the rest of the night. Last Saturday Barrett placed \$400 insurance on his stock.

Monroe Scott, a young man 29 years of age, was a friend of Barrett's and spent a good deal of time at his place. Wednesday night he slept at Barrett's house, two blocks from the store, to protect it during the absence of the head of the house. Mrs. Barrett said yesterday that as soon as fire was cried Scott ran to the store to try and save some of the things.

He reached the store, it seems, and found inside, the spring latch snapped,

and for a few moments made him a prisoner. Then a can of gasoline, which Barrett says he has had in the place for many months, burst, and the interior of the little store became a raging furnace. Scott burst out through the window, and the early ones who had rushed to the fire heard his screams of agony. He rushed to his home on Prospect avenue, where doctors were called to attend him. He has not been able to speak since he was burned and his story of the condition of affairs in the store when he arrived will probably die with him. Barrett could not yesterday give any probable cause for the fire.

PROGRESS OF FIRE.

The one-story frame building, where the fire started, is on the south side of Depot street, about 400 feet from Main street. This building was occupied by Jay Barrett, a newsdealer, and H. D. Dunn, jeweler. An alarm was turned in from Box 15 by Howard Barber, who lives a short distance away. His mother was awakened by a light shining through her bed room window and she roused her son, who rushed out without waiting to dress and turned in the alarm.

The interior of the building in which the fire originated was now a mass of flames. It was only about 12x15 feet in size and was owned by W. F. Ketchum, who is one of the heaviest losers by the fire. On the east side of the building where the fire started was a one-story frame blacksmith shop, owned by Ketchum and occupied by William Dunn. The flames quickly spread to this, and thence to the one-story frame barber shop of E. E. Williams, east of the blacksmith shop, also owned by Ketchum. Adjoining the barber shop was the two-story frame residence in which Williams lives, which was saved by the wind which veered around from east to northwest.

While the flames were still confined to the building in which they originated, the Wilson Hose company, headed by Chief of the Fire Department W. J. Broad, was on the scene, but quickly realized that they could be of little assistance, owing to the lack of water pressure. The company attached lines of hose to the hydrants and the pressure was so low that the water did not reach the second story of the buildings. Messengers were sent in hot haste to the officials of the Archbold Water company and after a time gates were lifted that let additional water into the Peckville mains and the pressure went up and enabled the firemen to do more effective work.

LACKED PRESSURE.

During the period when the fire had its own way through lack of water it was making progress with giant strides, and Chief Broad appealed to Chief Ferber in this city by telephone to send a steamer and hose company as he feared the fate of Peckville was sealed. The Crystal Engine and Liberty Hose company were rushed up the valley with the greatest haste possible, but the journey was a long one, and it was after 4 o'clock when the companies arrived at Peckville.

The steamer at once began to draw water from the river and the fight against the fire took on renewed vigor. It did not spread after that time, but it was not until 8 a. m. that the firemen felt they had the fire fully in hand. When the wind changed from an easterly to north western direction, soon after the fire broke out the flames were blown against the big frame building on Depot street adjoining the one in which the fire started. This was also owned by W. F. Ketchum, and occupied by him as a residence and general store.

OLD HOTEL PROPERTY.

The next building to go down to ashes adjoining this old hotel property on Main street on the south. It was a two-story frame building, owned by W. F. Ketchum and occupied by William Gunn as a gentlemen's furnishing store. Adjoining this was the two-story frame building owned by Mrs. Jennie Swingle and occupied by Mrs. C. A. Reynolds and family. The building was badly damaged, but can be rebuilt. The fire did not get beyond that point on the east side of Main street looking south from Depot street.

After the flames attacked the Ketchum store and residence on Depot street they dashed across the street and fastened themselves on the frame building on the north side of the street, occupied by Mrs. Budd as a millinery store and residence. It was quickly reduced to ashes. This building was the property of M. S. Shaffer, of Wilkes-Barre. While this building was being consumed the flames were eating their way into the buildings east and west of it. The adjoining building on the east was owned by the Brundage estate and occupied by R. J. Taylor as a harness and boot and shoe repair shop. This fed the flames but an instant and they passed on to the big Odd Fellows' hall, the property of Harper Lodge and the finest building in the town. It was three stories high and the ground floor was occupied by F. A. Peck, who conducted a general store. The second floor was used as a banquet hall, and the carpenter's work and G. A. B. had their meeting rooms there. The third floor was the meeting place of Harper Lodge of Odd Fellows, Red Men, Eastern Star, O. U. A. M., and Order of Eastern Star. All of these societies lost the greater part of their books and paraphernalia.

BURNS DESTROYED.

Two burns in the rear of Odd Fellows hall, one owned by that organization and the other by the Brundage estate, were also destroyed. One was occupied by F. A. Peck and had a large quantity of feed, hay, etc., stored in it, and the other was occupied by Vandervort & Beardsley as a livery stable. Adjoining Odd Fellows hall on the east was a frame residence, owned and occupied by J. C. Tutball. Not a vestige of it was left. The journey of the fire eastward on Depot street was stopped at the adjoining two-story

frame house of Mrs. Jennie Sterns. It is badly damaged and will have to be almost entirely rebuilt. In the rear of these buildings is the yard of the Peck Lumber and Manufacturing company, and six or seven barns facing on an alley running from Depot to Mill street. All of these barns were licked up clean by the flames and two big stacks of lumber in the yard were destroyed. The flames were prevented from getting a further hold in the Peck's domain.

When the fire attacked the building occupied by Mrs. Budd, it spread to the adjoining building on the west, occupied by Roberts Brothers, as a general store, and owned by the Brundage estate, and occupied by Harry Roberts, of the firm of Roberts Brothers, and Dennis Barber and their families. In the rear of this and the store buildings was a one-story structure used by Roberts Brothers as a store house. It was burned to the ground.

LEDYARD HALL.

The next building on this side of the street got up in smoke was the Ledyard hall building, owned by the Ledyard estate. One of the stores on the first floor was occupied by W. W. Watkins, druggist. The other store room was vacant. The second floor was tenanted by A. A. Ayres and family and Dr. S. A. Sanford, dentist. The third floor was a hall and was the meeting place of the Modern Woodmen of America, Heptasophs, Knights of Pythias, Daughters of Phebe and the Mine Workers local of the River-Street colliery. All of these organizations lost all of their property.

This big frame building added to the ferocity of the flames, and they smote the two adjoining buildings almost at once. The first was the two-story frame residence of Mrs. S. A. Sands. She occupied the first floor, and H. Ehrhart the second. Windsor Foster's two-story frame house, occupied by Dr. J. W. Beck was the other building consumed.

At the adjoining big frame building of Mrs. J. B. Slicker, occupied by Dr. W. F. Budd, the flames met their Waterloo on that side of the street, but not until the building was damaged beyond repair. The next building to the north owned by John English escaped with a scorching.

DAINTY ACROSS STREET.

While the flames were moving down these buildings on the east side of Main street, between Depot and Mill street, they were neglecting the other side. They darted across the Main street in several places and almost simultaneously buildings for a distance of a block on the west side of the street burst into flames. Those destroyed were the big three-story frame store building of the Sterrick Creek company, which was occupied by Clarke Brothers of this city, as a general store. Adjoining this on the north was a frame dwelling owned by the same company, and occupied by A. J. Schooley. Nothing remains of it. In the rear of these two buildings were three big barns, one used by the Clarke Brothers and owned by the Sterrick Creek company, the other two owned by William Taylor. In them were stored the carriages and fixtures of George Tiffany, who recently retired from the heavy business. Everything was destroyed.

CALL BOY'S NARROW ESCAPE.

George Davis, employed as a call boy at the Hotel Jermyn, had a narrow escape from death yesterday.

He was talking to the elevator runner, when he received a call from an upper floor. He started to enter the elevator shaft, through the door he had opened, when he fell, striking on his face. He was quickly removed to Dr. O'Malley's office, where it was learned that three teeth had been knocked out, and he sustained other bruises.

IT WORRIED HIM.

Her King's daughter, Gretchen, had been serving as domestic about two weeks in the household of Judge Vaughan, when father and employer met on the village street.

"Like her?" returned the judge in his blunt way, "why, she's just great! We never had any one in the house in her line that entered into work with as much spirit; she's full of snap all the time."—Richmond Dispatch.

Souvenir Opening

Men's Hat and Furnishing Shop, 309 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

A handsome souvenir to every purchaser on opening day

BRANCH STORE OF LOUIS H. ISAACS.

MOVEMENTS:

Elgin
Waltham
Hamilton

CASES:

Gold Filled
Silver

RELIABLE FLAKES

GUARANTEED CHAINS:

Gents' Vests,
Pony Vests,
Dickens Vests,
Ladies' Guards,
Secret Locket Chains.

RINGS

The designers of artistic jewelry have given special attention to rings this season with the result that the perfection point has nearly, or quite, been reached. The arrangement of Opals, Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires, Diamonds and other costly stones is exquisite and charming while the rich settings add to their beauty.

DIAMONDS

THIRTY STORES

CREDIT

We'll Trust You for Easter Clothing

You can be as stylishly dressed as your wealthy neighbor, on Easter Sunday, by opening an account with us.

Don't let the money question bother you. Come to this store and choose anything you desire, our system of liberal credit makes buying easier and paying easier.

LADIES' EASTER GARMENTS

Our Ladies' Costumes are strictly fashionable; many of them are exact duplicates of the most exclusive and aristocratic European styles. Others are the designs of America's leading dress artists.

EASTER CLOTHING for MAN or BOY

Men and Boys will find here clothing that has character. Stylish, dependable Suits and Overcoats in all popular colors and prevailing materials. Stylish Hats for men and boys in Derbys and Fedoras.

People's Credit Clothing Co., 317 Lacka. Avenue

OPEN EVENINGS. SECOND FLOOR.

Queen Quality

MANY women run hither and thither and think they are buying Shoes, but they are not. They are simply buying experience. The woman who once has by wearing experienced the difference between "Queen Quality," the Famous Shoe for Women, and other shoes, will not wear the others. There is no longer in such a case any need for argument. "Queen Quality" Shoes are the handsomest and easiest shoes ever made. They are elegant in construction, superior in quality, and yet modest in price. They fit the foot to perfection, and in this respect are unapproached. All styles, for all uses and occasions.



Mahon's Shoe Store,
328 Lackawanna Avenue.

WATCHES

An excellent assortment of 1901 styles. Stem winders, stem setters, open face or hunting cases, ladies' or gentlemen's sizes, correct time keepers. Guaranteed against original defects.

MOVEMENTS: Elgin, Waltham, Hamilton

CASES: Gold Filled, Silver

RELIABLE FLAKES

RINGS

The designers of artistic jewelry have given special attention to rings this season with the result that the perfection point has nearly, or quite, been reached. The arrangement of Opals, Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires, Diamonds and other costly stones is exquisite and charming while the rich settings add to their beauty.

A. E. Rogers, 213 Lackawanna Avenue.
Jeweler and Optician.

People's Credit Clothing Co., 317 Lacka. Avenue

OPEN EVENINGS. SECOND FLOOR.

Thirty Stores

CREDIT

Have It Charged

We'll Trust You for Easter Clothing

You can be as stylishly dressed as your wealthy neighbor, on Easter Sunday, by opening an account with us.

Don't let the money question bother you. Come to this store and choose anything you desire, our system of liberal credit makes buying easier and paying easier.

Do not procrastinate! Come and pick your Spring Clothing now while the lines are new and the season young.

LADIES' EASTER GARMENTS

Our Ladies' Costumes are strictly fashionable; many of them are exact duplicates of the most exclusive and aristocratic European styles. Others are the designs of America's leading dress artists.

Modish Tailor-made Suits, Rich Waists, Swell Raglans, Smart Jackets, Elegant Skirts and Artistic Millinery.

EASTER CLOTHING for MAN or BOY

Men and Boys will find here clothing that has character. Stylish, dependable Suits and Overcoats in all popular colors and prevailing materials. Stylish Hats for men and boys in Derbys and Fedoras.



Office Desks and Office Furniture

Men

As well as women, have desires for new headgear at this season of the year, not only for the reason of display, but it's the time to cast aside the old for the new and look springlike. Nature does it, why not humanity?

Hats

Are an important part of man's outfit, why not buy one now and get the benefit of our large variety.

Never Had A Larger Stock Better Values.

CONRAD'S

305 Lackawanna Avenue.
(Trading Stamps, Green.)

Office Desks and Office Furniture

New and Complete Assortment

Being the LARGEST FURNITURE DEALERS IN SCRANTON

We carry the greatest assortment of up-to-date Office Furniture. You are invited to examine our new line before purchasing.

Hill & Connell

121 Washington Avenue.

