

Weather Forecast: Warmer.

Are you helping to Make The Citizen better?

The Citizen.

Weather Forecast: Warmer.

YOUR PR... NG in our hands will put b... a in yours.

July 12
State Library

70th YEAR --NO. 5

HONESDALE, WAYNE CO., PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1912.

PRICE 2 CENTS

"RED STONE FRONT" A COMPLETE WRECK

Fire Destroyed Reif and Spettigue Building on Main Street Early Sunday Morning--Loss, \$45,000

Building Contained Quantity of Gunpowder and Other Destructible Substances--Firemen Deserve Praise--Boy Scouts Active--George Bergman Believed Buried in Ruins.

The large three-story brick building on Main street known as the Red Stone Front building, owned jointly by O. M. Spettigue and W. J. Reif, that was the scene of considerable business activity on Saturday, is a mass of ice-covered ruins to-day, owing to a fire which started in Reif's shoe store about twenty minutes to two on Sunday morning.

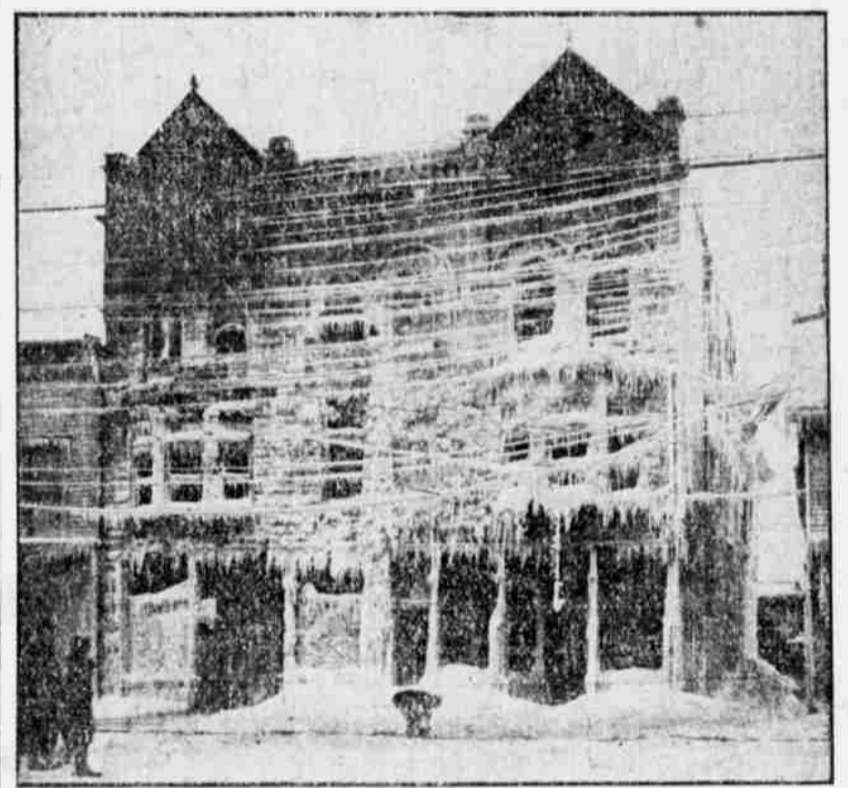
The absence of George Bergman was not thought seriously of until late Sunday afternoon. He is supposed to have perished in or near the scene of the fire. Searching parties are making an effort to recover the body dead or alive.

On account of the intense cold weather there was no one on the streets at that hour. The fire was discovered by Mrs. C. H. Rettew, wife of Councilman Rettew, who was awakened by the falling of plate glass. Going to the window she remarked to Mr. Rettew that Reif's shoe store was burning. She went to the telephone and called up central, who sent in the alarm. The fire is supposed to have started in the front of the store and worked its way backward and upward to the law offices of Homer Greene and C. A. McCarty.

The work was very difficult in the bitter cold but the firemen succeeded in keeping the flames from spreading to the wooden building to the south occupied by A. Eberhardt, and the wooden building to the north occupied by the H. K. B. store and also the Hveries of Fred Rickard and M. Lee Braman in the rear. Councilman Rettew told a Citizen man that he never saw a quicker response by the fire companies. He claimed that when he reached the street after the alarm had been given two strings of hose had been laid ready for action. Among the first to arrive were members of Hose Company No. 1, Protection Engine No. 3, followed by the Chemical Engine Company of Texas No. 4, and the Alert Hook and Ladder Company of East Honesdale. On their arrival the fire had reached the front of the building and was rapidly gaining headway upward. While some of the men were removing the show case of Photographer Bodie from the building the Reif awning, which was a mass of flames, fell upon them. They, however, escaped injury.

After the first alarm of fire the gong blew incessantly for a period of about ten minutes. Firemen responded, but still there were not enough men to manipulate the nozzles to play the streams of water upon the now fiercely burning building. Fire Chief H. A. Oday called for more men and soon there were from two to three men on each hose. These men were soon a mass of ice and with aching fingers and ears they remained at their post until relieved by new men. Many of the stores opened their doors to the men to warm themselves. Frozen and bursting hoses, bodies aching from the exertion and extreme cold, blundered the men in their attempt to fight the blaze and at about five o'clock it was thought that the fire was at last under control. The fire fighters worked gallantly to confine the flames to the Reif side of the building but to no purpose for a portion of the 18-inch brick wall fell through and the flames leaped through the opening into the hardware store of O. M. Spettigue, and soon that side of the building was a mass of flames. The dynamite, cartridges, shot gun shells and gun powder which he carried in stock had been removed from the building soon after the first alarm had been sounded.

The steamer had been stationed at the plug in front of the Union depot and there were ten streams of water being played upon the building, which formed ice as soon as it fell. The front of the building was a solid mass of ice. When the Spettigue part of the building caught fire it was necessary to make another call for help and about five o'clock the second alarm was turned in. This call for help brought the Seelyville boys, who laid a line of hose from the city hall to the H. K. B. store, F. G. Terwilliger, proprietor, and after a fearless fight, enduring the pangs of the extreme cold night bravely, the thermometer registering almost 25 degrees below zero, they helped save many of the adjoining buildings from possible destruction. Much credit is due the Seelyville fire company for the manner in which they worked, also for coming the distance they did to help out the Honesdale boys. The fire was not under complete control until about 10 o'clock Sunday morning, and then it was necessary to keep one line of hose, playing water on the building nearly all day.



REIF AND SPETTIGUE'S BUILDING THE MORNING AFTER THE FIRE. THE BUILDING IS CAKED WITH ICE.

Some of the men were on duty all night and were nearly exhausted when morning came. O. M. Spettigue, Jr., after the flames had broken out in the hardware store, entered the building in an attempt to save some of his father's property. He crept along the floor and before he had gone many feet he was overcome by the smoke and had to be carried out by some of the men. Miss Theresa Gerrity, stenographer in the law office of Attorney C. A. McCarty, attempted to enter the building to secure some valuable papers but when she was driven back by a quantity of smoke which nearly suffocated her. A fireman however reached the top of the stairs but was compelled to flee for his life.

About 5,000 feet of hose were used in fighting the fire and the temperature was so low all night that they had a hard time keeping the steam up in the engine and at the end of seven hours' running the grates were burnt out. Much of the hose used by the Honesdale and Seelyville companies was frozen so badly that it burst apart much of it was rendered useless. Sunday it was necessary to telephone to Fire Chief Ferber at Scranton for more hose and also a 1000 feet from Carbondale so that in case of another fire some good hose would be on hand.

Too much praise cannot be given to the fire fighters by the people of Honesdale for the good work done Sunday morning and in weather that would test the mettle of the best of men. Probably one-half of the men who worked that morning will have marked upon their persons painful remembrances of the occasion. The home of Councilman and Mrs. C. H. Rettew was converted into a hospital for the firemen. They were given hot coffee and sandwiches and in some instances put to bed with flat irons until they became warm enough to strain go out and brave the awful night. The firemen are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Rettew and all others whose names appear elsewhere in this article, for the many kindnesses shown and assistance rendered.

The hardest item to write concerning the fire of Sunday morning is the loss of one of Protection Engine company's faithful and alert members, George Bergman. He was last seen about 6 o'clock Sunday morning and was nearly overcome by the smoke. It is supposed that his body lies in the ruins of the building and men have been searching in vain for the remains. C. Harry Rockwell says that he and George Bergman worked together as a team on a stream on the first floor in the Reif apartment until the fire was killed on that floor. He said that they took turns going out to get air as the smoke was very thick where they were working. At 3 o'clock the line of hose was withdrawn from the Reif store and taken to another part of the building. Mr. Rockwell stated to a Citizen man that he went into Mr. Rettew's for coffee at 3 o'clock and afterwards returned to the fire. Mr. Bergman then got

coffee and sandwiches at the same place. That was the last he saw of him. Other members of the fire company state that they saw him as late as 6 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Bergman was janitor of Protection Engine Company quarters and as he did not return home after a reasonable time after the fire was out his family became alarmed and sent messengers to a number of persons in Honesdale to inquire as to his whereabouts. No word has been received up to the time of going to press and it is feared by members of his family and friends that he returned to the burning building after he had lunched and being overcome by smoke he perished in the debris of the building. As soon as it was reported that he was missing searching parties were formed and looked for Fireman Bergman from the cellar to the roof of the building but could find no trace of him.

The members of his company speak in words of highest praise and esteem for him, stating that he was always on duty and attended every fire. He had been a member of Protection Engine Company No. 3 for twenty-eight years, having joined the company in 1884. For the past six years he had been sexton of the fire department in the city hall and was one of the most reliable men in the volunteer service.

In case that Mr. Bergman lost his life in the fire his widow would receive from the Honesdale Firemen's Relief Association not more than \$15 per month as long as she remains a widow and each child under 15 years not more than \$5 per month.

Mr. Bergman's age is 45 years and his family consists of a wife and five children. Owing to the extreme dangerous condition of the building the search for the body was stopped shortly after it was commenced on Monday.

The building which was destroyed was known as the "Red Stone Front" and was one of the most imposing structures in Honesdale. It was erected in 1894 on the site of the old Kiple House which burnt nineteen years ago, on March 19. Mr. Reif also lost a stock of goods in the fire which destroyed this building, making two fires for him in the same location. Barberi and Mangini were also in this building. During the same night the town experienced several fires, the Honesdale opera house, which was located on West and Park streets and Dunkleberg's slaughter house, also a fire nearly wiped Seelyville off the map. The building as it stood recently was 45x75 feet with an extension of 25 feet in the rear of O. M. Spettigue's section. Mr. Spettigue and Mr. Reif, the owners, have occupied the building for the past 18 years. The former had the entire left hand side for his business, while the latter conducted a shoe store in the lower right hand side. The upper floors were occupied by Attorneys Homer Greene, Burgess C. A. McCarty and Miss Mable Broad, music instructor, occupied the offices on the second floor and J. A. Bodie, photographer, occupied the entire upper floor.

The walls of the building remain uninjured with the exception that at present they are covered with ice, which might have a tendency to weaken them temporarily. The smoke and fire did not discolor the brick and stone to a great extent. Most of the floors have fallen through as well as a portion of the roof. The walls in front and back have settled several inches out of plumb and are in a dangerous condition. They will be reinforced with props and supports run along the side walls and anchored to the upper side of the building. Krieter Bros. are doing the work.

The first real test of the metal of the local troupe of Boy Scouts came with the bitter hours of Sunday morning and how well they stood the test only those who watched them know. Nearly all the larger boy scouts were ill. Under the direction of Scout Master Edward Jenkins they did excellent work and carried coffee and sandwiches to the men. Too much credit cannot be given them for the work they did.

The loss and damage incurred by the fire cannot be reckoned accurately until the insurance companies have gone over the ground and made their report. The damage by fire to the building and stock of goods in Spettigue's and Reif's stores respectively, and in the law offices of Greene and McCarty, Bodie, photographer, and Miss Mable Broad, will reach in the neighborhood of \$45,000. The H. K. B. store to the left of the burned building although a wooden structure was very slightly damaged in the roof. A Eberhardt suffered a loss from water. The buildings in the rear were slightly damaged by water. The heavy losers were the owners of the building, O. M. Spettigue and W. J. Reif.

Homer Greene's safe was opened Monday morning and everything therein was found to be in excellent condition. Most of his law books were recovered. He estimates his loss at about \$2,500 and he carried a small insurance.

Attorney C. A. McCarty was less fortunate. His safe in which he had placed many valuable papers, crashed through the floor with all his law books and other articles in the rooms. He carried no insurance upon his office equipment. He estimates his loss at \$2,500.

J. A. Bodie states that his insurance will about half cover his loss. He carried \$1,200 insurance. Miss Mable Broad had insurance on the piano and music in her studio to the amount of \$500. Loss partially covered.

W. J. Reif states that his loss is \$10,000. He had policies to the amount of \$8,000 on stock and \$5,000 on building.

O. M. Spettigue estimates his loss at about \$20,000. He carried \$12,000 insurance on his stock and about \$4,000 on the building.

A. A. Grambs, F. G. Terwilliger and A. Eberhardt, suffered loss which was covered by insurance.

Protection Engine Company No. 3, of which George Bergman has been a member for 28 years, held a special meeting on Monday evening to take action upon recovering the body of Mr. Bergman, dead or alive. The committee, which is composed of Harry Richards, J. A. Bodie, Jr., W. Wood, E. H. Cortright, Frank MacMullen, Jr., C. H. Rockwell and N. B. Spencer, was empowered to spare no expense in the search of Mr. Bergman, whether the body be in the building or elsewhere.

Protection Engine Co. No. 3 is to be commended upon its action. Homer Greene will have his office with Attorney W. H. Lee in the Foster building. Mr. Greene says he has lost a number of valuable records that are over 30 years old and can never be replaced. He opened his large safe Monday morning and stated that all papers and documents found therein were not damaged.

The family of C. H. Rettew have vacated their home and the store of A. Eberhardt has been ordered closed. The town council has provided day and night watchmen for the safety of the public.

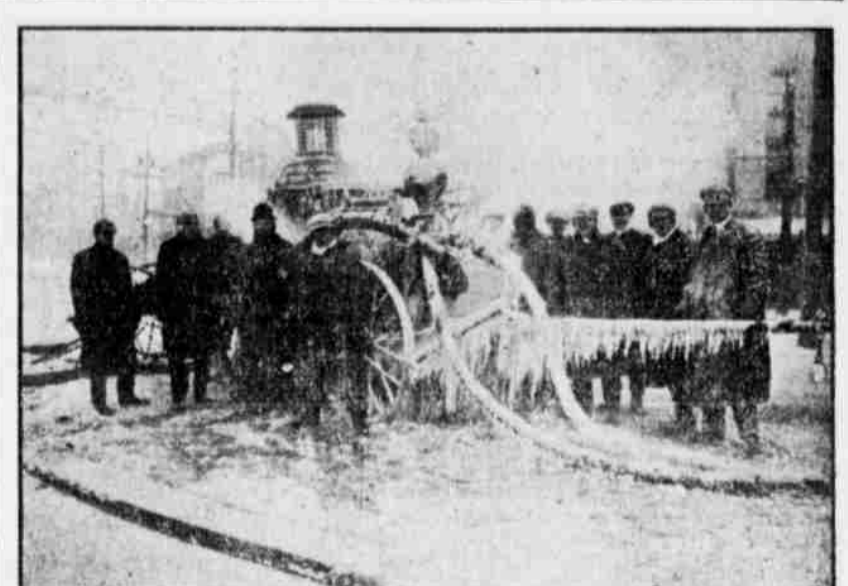
A. A. Grambs is minus a tooth as the result of the fire. He was approaching his building and when in front of it he fell over a line of hose. Mr. Grambs also had his right ear frozen.

One of the curiosities of the fire was the quantity of fish that had come through the hose. Perch, bullheads and shiners were among the variety. Some were so large that they clogged in the nozzle of the hose. The walk in front of the scene of the fire was covered with small fish. The water came from Cajaw pond.

Old time firemen claim that the fire of Sunday was the worst they ever experienced since 1851, owing to the extreme cold weather.

Attorney C. A. McCarty ordered new law books and other office equipment necessary early Monday morning. He will have his office in the council room of the City Hall. Most of the hose used by the Honesdale and Texas fire companies and also the hose brought from Seelyville was frozen stiff so that in case of future outbreak of fire, it was found necessary to wire Scranton and Carbondale for more hose. Coffee was served among the men, it having been prepared by Mrs. C. H. Rettew, Mrs. Oscar Terrell, Misses Charlotte Lane and Dora Conger and this served to stimulate the men to a greater effort. The boys certainly worked hard and deserve great credit.

Many of the firemen suffered from frozen limbs and bruises, among whom were: Charles W. MacMullen, West Eleventh street, left hand and forearm badly frozen.



THE ATKINSON STEAMER WHICH WAS STATIONED AT THE PLUG NEAR THE DEPOT.

Charles Smith, Erie street, feet, hands and face frozen.

Fred Rickard, Church street, feet, hands and face frost bitten.

Frank Alberty, East Street Extension, two fingers on right hand badly frozen.

C. A. Cortright, Ridge street, both heels frozen and left ear.

The snow on nearby buildings saved them from destruction Sunday morning.

The roof of the A. A. Grambs building is somewhat damaged. Four feet of water entered the cellar of the building. Loss covered by insurance.

W. J. Reif claims that at 9:30 he heard rumbling noises in his store, and went to the cellar to investigate, but could not see anything. He said the steam boiler was all right, but from the course of the fire, taking an upward path in the front part of the building, thought perhaps that the fire might have started from the crossing of electric wires.

Mr. Reif said his daughters heard plate glass falling and looking out of their bedroom window discovered his store to be on fire. The alarm was sounded a couple of minutes later.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTS--PROVIDES MEANS FOR RECOVERING BODY OF GEORGE BERGMAN.

The Town Council met at City Hall in special session, Monday morning, at 11:30 o'clock to take up the matter of their legal rights in the complications that arose following the destructive fire Sunday morning in the Red Front Store building.

Present at the meeting were: President Martin Caulfield; Secretary John Erk, Treasurer George W. Penwarden, Messrs. Harry Rettew and S. T. Ham and Mayor Chas. A. McCarty.

Christopher Bergman made an earnest appeal to the council asking them to take some action looking to the recovery of his brother, George Bergman, whose body, it is believed, is buried under tons of ice-covered debris in the basement of the gutted Spettigue building.

After some discussion of the question it was decided, upon motion of S. T. Ham, seconded by Harry Rettew, that the Borough Council ask for two volunteers to go with Mr. Bergman to the stores of Reif and Spettigue, with the permission of Reif and Spettigue, to make a search to see if the body of George Bergman is in the ruins, the volunteers to be paid for their services; that the Borough Council will not be responsible for any damage or loss in so doing; the Borough Council to appropriate money for that purpose.

It was also resolved, upon motion of G. W. Penwarden, seconded by S. T. Ham, that Mr. Reif be notified to do all he could to care for the South wall of the building to avoid danger to life and adjoining property.

FIRE AT SEELYVILLE.

A fire in the clothes press of William Kane, who lives at the top of Dein's hill, did damage to the amount of \$50 on Saturday night.

Mrs. Kane had emptied an ash pan, using a piece of cloth to prevent her fingers from burning. She afterwards hung the cloth in a closet.

The seven-year-old daughter discovered the fire, told her mother and then gave the alarm to Mr. Kane, who was employed in C. W. Dein's slaughter house. Mr. Kane extinguished the fire with the aid of a few pailsful of water. Loss covered by insurance in J. B. Robinson's agency. The fire occurred at 5:45 p. m.

IOWAN FOR GREENE.

Charles I. Van, an attorney at Blairtown, Iowa, in writing to the Citizen recently said in a letter:

"I hope Pennsylvania will stay by Mr. Taft for renomination and reelection, and while I am hoping, I hope Pennsylvanians will choose Mr. Homer Greene for one of their Congressmen-at-Large. Mr. Greene is a graduate of Union College, New York, where the writer graduated, and this, with my knowledge of his ability and integrity, make me wish he be elected to Congress."

Chapman Homestead Burns.

Fire at Pink, four miles from Hoadleys, Wayne county, Saturday morning, destroyed the Chapman homestead, occupied by Frank Chapman. The family saved their household furniture, but the summer crops of apples and potatoes that were stored in the cellar, is a total loss. The Chapmans are living temporarily in the Grange house near their old home. They had about \$600 fire insurance.

BARN BURNERS AGAIN ACTIVE AT ADELIA

Seventh Fire in Two Years

Barn burners at Adelia, three miles from Hawley, pulled off their seventh successful job in a little more than two years Sunday night, when they put the torch to the barn owned by W. F. Hayne, a prosperous farmer of that place. It was Mr. Hayne's third loss at the hands of the barn burners. His property loss will pass \$1,000, it is said, and will include his farm implements, his hay and grain crops and other contents of the barn. Aided by neighbors, Mr. Hayne succeeded in saving twenty head of cattle housed in the barn.

The Adelia barn-burners have spread terror in that little community for the past two years. Their first job was the torching of August Lintner's stables Sept. 19, 1909. Less than a month later Mr. Hayne's barn went up in a blaze, a total loss. Dec. 15, 1909, the firebugs put the match to barns and outbuildings owned by W. D. Rowe, and everything in them burned. March 28 last year A. Latorio, a farmer near Adelia, was the victim of the barn burners, his barn and seventy head of cattle being their toll from him. September 19 last John Rose's barn was fired by the incendiaries, and June 29, 1911, the barn-burners made their second successful attempt to destroy Mr. Hayne's barns. Sunday night they took another toll from Mr. Hayne.

The fire Sunday night started just after darkness had set in. Mr. Hayne and his neighbor, W. D. Rowe, had just returned from Hawley, where they had attended church, when Mrs. Hayne, attracted by a glare outside, ran to the kitchen door and saw the barn in flames. By quick work the cattle were rescued but the building and its other contents were completely destroyed.

Just who the barn burners of Adelia are the farmers of the countryside have never been able to find out. Several months ago an irresponsible man, who made his living by begging from farm to farm, was arrested, charged with being the firebug. He was sent to Danville, but his incarceration in the asylum did not put a stop to the fires. The man has been dead for several weeks.

BIG HOLE BURNED IN DICKSON CITY PROPERTY

FIVE BUSINESS PLACES BURN WHILE FIREMEN FIGHT IN ZERO WEATHER.

Five business places, including three saloons, a meat shop and a clothing store, were burned to the foundation walls and three frame dwellings were destroyed by a fire that left \$30,000 worth of property in ruins Sunday morning on Main street, Dixon City. The blaze started either in Kryzwicki's saloon or in Rosenschwar's clothing store, spread to Frank Rosiewski's building and the saloon of Mike Walochowicz; then leaped to the rear of the properties and destroyed three frame buildings. All tenants got out with their furnishings.

Kryzwicki's saloon and Rosenschwar's clothing store were in one block, a frame affair of two stories. Adjoining stood Rosiewski's building, occupied by Morris Weiss's meat shop and Rosiewski's saloon and the bombish building occupied by Walochowicz's saloon and a tenant in the basement. Both blocks were doomed as surely as if built of paper ten minutes after the blaze was discovered and all that the two fire companies, the J. B. Dickson and the Eagles, could do was to prevent the flames from getting to the large Goodman block on the south side and at the same time see the dwellings in the rear go up.

Uncle Sam's Big Paper Bill.

During 1912 the Government will purchase more than \$1,000,000 worth of paper to supply the big Government printing office in Washington. The amount of paper required is 25,600,000 pounds. Included in this vast amount are 6,000,000 pounds of bristol board for United States postal cards and nearly 1,000,000 pounds of bristol board for other purposes.