

HAYTER — PROVOST — CADOGAN — CAIRNS — METISKOW — CZAR

THE PROVOST NEWS

"THE DISTRICT PAPER"

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FIRE LEVELS THREE BUSINESS PLACES

Disaster Hits Provost Early Sunday March 10 Starts In Red & White

Red & White, Ehlinger's
And News Office
Destroyed

PUMP ENGINE FAILS

A disastrous fire broke out on the Main Street of Provost in the heart of the business section early Sunday morning, March 10, which could have easily turned to a conflagration wiping out the entire business part of the village. As it was, however, three business buildings were completely destroyed and a third was extensively damaged.

The fire originated in the Red & White Store, operated by Ed. Lindberg, and spread to Ehlinger's Hardware, and from there took out The News Office building, and damaged the south wall of the Post Office, eating into the interior.

Start of the fire was first noticed by Dud Morrell about 6:20 a.m. when he reported smoke coming out of a window of the Red & White Store, and then helped remove the Walsh family who lived over the Ehlinger Hardware. The fire bell failed to arouse even half of the volunteer Fire Brigade, and on the third alarm the rope broke on the bell, and Dr. Perl with Blyth Seath ran around town in the doctors car sounding the horn and shouting, in an attempt to arouse more of the village's citizens.

There was some difficulty in getting the fire pump engine to start drawing water from the water reserve and the water reached the fire about 6:45 a.m. The chemical truck was run out to the fire, but because there was no member of the volunteer fire brigade present to operate the chemical, the pressure in the gas tank was wasted without the chemical ever being used at the most critical stage of the fire.

With a wind from the south, blowing the flames against the Post Office, one water hose was kept on the post office building which held the fire at bay. By 8 a.m. the Red & White Store was leveled, and before that the fire was well under control in the Ehlinger building when the water supply stopped allegedly caused by a kink in the hose when the back pressure stripped the gears on the pump engine. It was about this time that the chemical truck was replenished and with the aid of a bucket brigade from the Livery Barn and Hotel, formed by a group of hard-working teen agers, saved the Post Office from total destruction, and in so doing also saved many other buildings to the north and west, and due credit is handed out to the teen age bucket brigade many of whom were young school girls.

With no water supply to hold the fire at Ehlinger's Hardware, it was soon leveled, and the hopelessness then of saving The News Office was apparent, and willing hands turned in and removed all the heavy printing machinery from the building without mishap except to the Linotype typesetting machine which fell over and received extensive damage in the crash. Files and equipment in storage in the attic were lost. Nothing was removed from the Red & White and about half the stock was removed from the hardware, while some of the

PROVOST NEWS IS IN OPERATION TO SERVE COMMUNITY

Willing Hands Save Plant from Fire — Thank You

The Provost News after being burned out of its office on Main Street in the March 10, Sunday fire, is again in business and printing and publishing with office space in the Lewis & Bethune International Harvester building, after missing only one issue.

This gigantic feat of rescuing a whole printing plant from the flames, and making extensive temporary repairs to the Linotype, and moving and getting set up in new quarters in that short period of time could not have been accomplished without the aid of many willing hands working night and day. That is just how it was done — with the aid of many willing hands who worked late at night to get the machinery under cover in our temporary quarters at Lewis & Bethune's. To all these people and to many others who gave aid, unknown to us, we offer our grateful thanks. We are proud of Provost and we are proud of the people in it, and it is our intention to continue serving this community with all the services at our command for the betterment and advancement of all concerned.

Many were the letters and telegrams from other nearby printers who offered us their help, and these are acknowledged with gratitude and thanks. We would especially like to mention the generous co-operation we received from the Edmonton Journal who allowed their head machinist, W. "Shorty" Bryant, the time off to come down to Provost for two days and supervise and make the repairs to the Linotype, which were done by the genial and co-operative mechanics in Lewis & Bethune's. But for the expert knowledge of "Shorty" Bryant of The Journal, and his untiring efforts over 33 hours of the 49 hours he was here, The News would have been suspended for months.

Patients in Provost hospital Monday were: Ed. McPherson, N. G. Nelson, Metiskow; Carl Johnson, Mrs. B. Hansman, Cadogan; Sam Burtch Hayter; Mrs. W. G. Farquharson, Provost; Mrs. Bill England, E. W. Theaker, Mrs. W. Millbauer, Provost.

furnishings in the F. Walsh residence over the Hardware was also brought out, but much of it was lost.

A call to Macklin for help resulted in the Macklin Fire Fighting Brigade arriving on the scene about noon, when they were held in reserve until about 4 p.m. and played water on the charred remains to stop any chance of fire springing up again. Provost is thankful to the quick response made by Macklin, and their efforts in battling snow filled roads to get their fire fighting equipment here.

Of six people directly affected by the loss from the fire, five of them are veterans of this war.

SUNDAY BLAZE AT ITS HEIGHT



The above photo shows the March 10, Sunday fire at Provost, at its height. Of the three buildings destroyed, here is seen one down, one going, and one to go. On the left is the Post Office, next is where the Red & White Store stood, next to that is where the main front of Ehlinger's Hardware was and next is the hardware storeroom, adjacent to that is The News office still standing. —Photo courtesy Thorps Drug Store

Board to Sponsor Horse Race Meet June 21 Here

The Board of Trade meeting held in the hotel lunch room Wednesday was well attended with 32 members present and E. Dawson presiding. The Board of Trade Veterans' Advisory Committee was discharged and two other men are to be appointed to complete a similar committee in co-operation with the Provost Branch of the Legion.

The President gave a full and very enlightening report on the conference of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Edmonton Chamber held in Edmonton March 5 and 6 at which he was a delegate. National in its scope the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is a federation of around 200 Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in all the Provinces.

At the conference a program of work for Boards of Trade outlined by Evan McCormick, field service department Canadian Chamber of Commerce stressed a survey of the needs of the town; a questionnaire for the Community, and space in the local newspaper requesting ideas for prosecution, and co-operating with all bodies of the town or village, and definitely against contributions from local merchants.

At the meeting Provost representative was allotted a table in company with Red Deer, Lacombe, Camrose, Vegreville and Stettler. A Board of Trade as defined by W. J. Sheridan, manager of the Department of Economic Development of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce "is a voluntary organization, getting together to promote the good of the community," and advised that a Board of Trade should keep in close touch with the local newspaper.

The most interesting address of the Conference was delivered by D. G. McKenzie of Winnipeg, stressing that Boards of Trade should take great interest in agriculture, that being our largest export business.

Professor McGregor Smith spoke very strongly in aid of a farmer movement which should dignify the farm,

and was greatly in favor of the Master Farmer, that is one who has made a success right from the soil, not necessarily a wealthy man. The foregoing report by President E. Dawson was a most thorough one and very enlightening, and the President was commended for it. The Board of Trade is to make application to the Village Council for the Fair Grounds on July 1st, in the event only that the Community Chest does not see fit to conduct the usual sports program that day. The Board of Trade also went on record in a correspondence to the Village Council that the Board would back up the council should they decide to scrap the present fire fighting equipment and purchase new apparatus.

There is to be a Horse Race meet on June 21, and the Board of Trade unanimously agreed to sponsor the race meet, in an effort to provide the farmers of this community with some real live and exciting holiday sports program.

Delightful Program Is Offered Departing Guests

On Monday evening the United Church, Provost, was filled to capacity, the occasion being a farewell sponsored by the Church for Dr. and Mrs. W. O. York who will be leaving the Village in the near future. Dr. and Mrs. York have been strong supporting members of the United Church here since its inception on the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

The evening was in the form of a very delightful program which was under the chairmanship of Rev. E. Longmire who introduced the following numbers: Song and encore by the Male Quartette, Song by the Junior Girls' choir, violin solo by Wilber McElhinney.

At this point in the program W. Ironfield was called upon to make the presentation to the honored guests and in a few well chosen words expressed the felling of the whole crowd in the losing of Dr. and Mrs. York in church and community life. They were presented with a lovely Bible and two fountain pens by Mr. Ironfield on behalf of the Church and the Ladies Aid as a small token of esteem which the church held for them. Both Dr. and Mrs. York very ably thanked all present and said that wherever they lived in the future their home would always be open to any Provost and district residents. Rev. Longmire after the presentation very capably added the chairman's remarks and read a poem that he composed in honor of the guests.

The program was then continued with a song by the Senior choir, a solo "The Lord's Prayer" by Wm. Lewis and the whole gathering singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds" and "Auld Lang Syne."

The enjoyable evening was brought to a close with the serving of a sumptuous lunch by the ladies of the congregation.

Mrs. Arthur Bodi, of Hearts Hill, Sask., was a visitor last week at the Ruitan home in Provost, making the trip to bid farewell to Dr. and Mrs. W. O. York.

Fountain Tire

Congratulates the Town of Provost and
The Provost News on their 90th Anniversaries!

Don't forget about the
parade and talent show
on July 8!

753-6811 • Provost