

# Waterbury Block Burned; Inn Threatened

Special to the Free Press

**WATERBURY, Oct. 25.**—Fire late tonight destroyed three wooden frame blocks on Park st., three families having to flee for their lives. At a late hour the Waterbury inn is being threatened as the still burning buildings are almost directly back of it. The Montpelier fire department has men here aiding the local fire fighters, and aid has been sent from Stowe and Morrisville.

In a block owned by Joe Izor, the Izor family of 11 fled from the second floor. The first floor was occupied by a bowling alley.

Next to it was a garage owned by Bernard Merrill. Trips' meat market occupied the lower floor of the Trip block next to that. The state liquor store occupied a store next to the meat market. The third block was occupied on the first floor by the second hand store of Herman Sherman. The Gadaree family fled from the upper floor.

Loss on the blocks is set at \$30,000. The fire is believed to have started in the Sherman shop.

Earlier this evening the Sumner Stearns house and barn on Blush hill were destroyed, together with 30 head of cattle. The loss here is set at \$5,000. The place was formerly owned by the late Harry C. Whitehill.

# Friday's Blaze Destroys Three Buildings

## Five Disastrous Fires in 5 Weeks Cause Big Loss

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**WATERBURY, Oct. 27.**—Chief of Police John Griffith said tonight it was expected state officials will conduct an investigation to determine the origin of the recent epidemic of fires which has broken out in this vicinity in the night time.

Griffith said that Fire Marshal Donald A. Hemenway of Montpelier investigated the business blocks fire here yesterday and assured him that Deputy Fire Marshal Francis S. Regan will make a more detailed probe of the origin of the fires at once.

The police chief explained that a large number of citizens are of the opinion a fire bug is at large in the neighborhood. Thousands of dollars worth of damage has resulted from five blazes within the past six weeks. Four of the fires leveled large barns, destroying many head of cattle, besides tons of hay and valuable farm equipment.

Friday night's late hour blaze which razed two wooden business blocks, a garage, and gutted another business block on Park street near the railroad depot, besides making 18 persons homeless is expected to be thoroughly investigated.

On the same night fire destroyed the Sumner Stearns house and barn on Blush hill.

## Waterbury Fire Loss Is \$60,000

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**WATERBURY, Oct. 27.**—Fire that destroyed three blocks on Park Row late Friday night is estimated to have caused a loss of more than \$60,000. The Waterbury Inn was saved from destruction by the efforts of the local firemen and aid from Montpelier, Stowe and Morrisville. The inn alone is valued at \$50,000 by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Davis.

Firemen made a circle around the inn to protect it from igniting and played streams on the inn recreation building and garage. Guests remained in the inn, having been told that they would be notified in time if danger threatened.

The fire destroyed three buildings, the Izor block, a building remodeled into a garage, and the Farnsworth structure. The blaze is believed to have originated in the second-hand store conducted by Frank Farnsworth, the building being owned by his son, Frank Farnsworth. The block had been under repair for sometime. It is near the block owned by Mrs. William Shontell and an alleyway was being made. The Shontell block was badly damaged.

The flames quickly destroyed the small Farnsworth block, and swept to the Izor building. A bowling alley and pool room occupied the first floor and upstairs lived Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Izor and their nine children. In the rear of the upstairs lived Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Sherman, the former being employed by the Pilgrim Plywood firm. The Izors went to the home of his brother, Sherman Izor of Butler st. The filling station and garage building, occupied by Bernard Merrill, was owned by Mason Greenburg of Montpelier.

The Shontell block, the upper part of which was practically destroyed, was occupied on the first floor by the state liquor store and Tripp's market. Three families lived upstairs, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Martin and son, Leon Gadree and four children and Walter Peatman.

Flames broke out again Saturday afternoon in the second story of the Shontell block, but firemen soon extinguished them.

### Farm Burns

Just shortly before the Park Row fire, flames destroyed the house and barn on the Blush hill farm owned by Sumner Stearns and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hunter and their five children. The family was in bed when the eldest son saw what he thought was fire coming from the barn. Not having a telephone he ran to the home of Stearns, which is only a short distance, but the buildings could not be saved. Thirty-three head of cattle, a fine mixed dairy, two horses, 65 tons of hay, 15 hens, blacksmith shop with first class tools, hen-house, large barn and house, were burned. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000. Hunter, who is employed by Stearns, with his wife and five children went to the home of John King on North Main st.

# \$60,000 Fire In Waterbury; Inn Was Saved

Row of Three Blocks On  
One Side of Railroad  
Square Burned Out

FLAMES FOUGHT  
ALL THROUGH NIGHT

## Many People Were Forced To Flee—Heavy Damage By Farm Fire Also

Waterbury, Oct. 26.—Three blocks, containing three business establishments and several apartments, were destroyed and two other places of business badly damaged when fire that broke out at about 11 o'clock last night swept along Park Row causing loss estimated at \$60,000.

So fast did the fire spread that firemen from Waterbury, Montpelier and Stowe were hard pressed to keep it confined to the Park Row area. Streams of water were played on the Waterbury Inn and adjoining buildings as the roaring flames threatened to jump out of control.

### Saw Reflection in Mirror.

Patrick Grace, night operator at the Central Vermont station, which is located at the end of Park Row by the common, discovered the fire when he saw the reflection of flames in a mirror at the station office. He immediately notified the fire department.

The blaze started in the second-hand store operated by Frank Farnsworth, located in a building owned by his son, Roy Farnsworth. Quickly, the flames consumed this small structure and were starting on the large block owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Izor who, with their nine children, occupied apartments upstairs. The Izor block is located on the end of Park Row, set apart by itself. The Izors were forced out, as were Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Sherman. The building, which housed a bowling alley and pool room, was leveled to the ground.

Third building to fall before the flames was the block owned by Mason Greenberg of Montpelier which was a livery stable before being converted into a garage and filling station now operated by Bernard Merle. Gasoline in the tanks exploded in a series of small blasts, each time sending spurts of flames in all directions which threatened to extend the fire to the large hostelry and other buildings.

The Farnsworth block was being repaired and considerable old lumber in the vicinity furnished quick kindling for the blaze.

### State Liquor Store Damaged.

The block housing the state liquor store and Tripp's market was badly damaged, apartments upstairs being ruined and considerable damage from smoke, heat and water being caused to the market and liquor store. Routed from their homes in this block were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Martin and son, who went to stay with Mr. Martin's parents, Leon Gaderee and four children and Walter Peatman. The Gaderee girls went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Herbert and the two boys to the home of Henry Charles for the night. Mrs. William Shontell is owner of this block.

Six lines of hose were laid and eight nozzles poured streams of water onto the flames which leaped high into the air. Firemen made a complete circle around the Waterbury Inn to keep it from igniting and also played streams on the Inn recreation building and garages set back from the street. Hose was hitched to the pump on the common which was constructed in conjunction with a well system to provide adequate water facilities for fire fighting.

### Village in Darkness.

Lights were put out in the village for more than half an hour. A large crowd was attracted to the blaze and Main street was jammed with automobiles. A heavy smudge, partly from the burning gasoline and oil in the garage, settled over the immediate area.

Firemen were still pouring water on the blaze today and it was expected a detail would be on hand all day.

Mr. Izor had gone to the Hunter farm fire earlier in the night and heard the village alarm while there. It was not until he returned from Blush hill, however, that he found his block destroyed. The Izors have gone to the home of his brother, Raymond Izor, for the time being.

None of the tenants forced to vacate were able to save any of their furniture or much of their personal belongings. Although the Waterbury Inn was threatened, guests remained there, having been informed they would be warned if there was danger.

### LOST 33 HEAD OF CATTLE

In Fire Which Levelled C. D. Hunter's Farm Buildings In Waterbury.

Waterbury, Oct. 26.—Just prior to outbreak of the conflagration in the village last night, firemen were called to Blush hill where fire leveled the buildings on the farm owned by Sumner Stearns and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hunter and their five children.

The oldest Hunter boy saw flames in the large barn from his bedroom, warning the rest of the family, he sped down the hill to the Stearns farm to telephone the alarm to the Waterbury fire department.

The fire quickly spread. Before the Hunters could do a thing, the flames roared through the large barn, cremated 33 head of cattle and two horses

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