

Wallowa History Center

Preserving Our Past for the Future

Wallowa History Center
P.O. Box 481
Wallowa, OR 97885
Email: powwat@yahoo.com

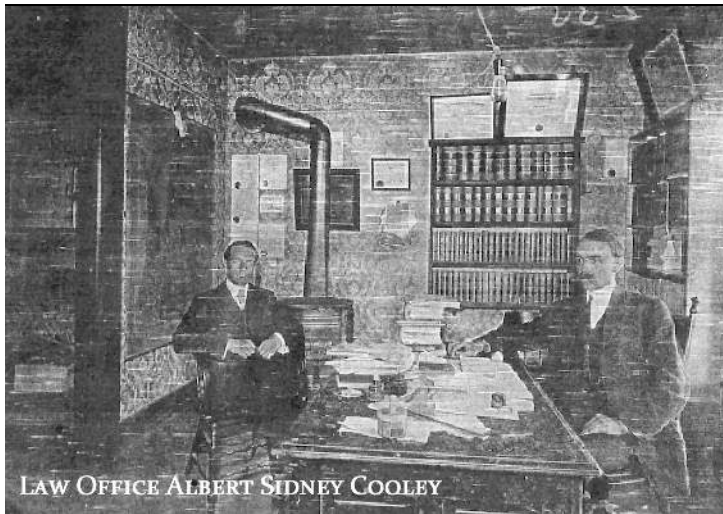
As a member you can request 3 free copies of historical photographs from our archives, and 10% off your purchases of regional history books.

Newsletter Number 21

Winter 2014

Elgin Recorder Friday May 5, 1905

A report reached Elgin Monday evening conveying the news that part of the business section of our sister town Wallowa, had been destroyed by fire. The cause of the conflagration is attributed to a defective flue in the Hotel Wallowa in which building the fire started at 3:50 pm



Monday afternoon(May 1, 1905) and ere the devastating fiend could not be subdued the hotel building and three other buildings were burned to the round. The buildings burned were the Hotel, belonging to R McCrae, the law office belonging to A.S. Cooley, variety store belonging to Charles Brown and

the Johnson Public Hall. None of the buildings or their contents were insured. From the hotel building a large amount of furniture and other articles were saved, as were the fixtures and books from Cooley's Law office. Articles amounting to a considerable value were saved from Brown's Store but were badly broken and smashed. Mr. Brown was severely burned about the neck and face.

The town has no fire protection and it was only by the hardest kind of work that the entire business section was not destroyed. Mr. McCrae has begun the construction of a new hotel building and will resume business as soon as possible.





Six Buildings Razed in Blaze at Wallowa

La Grande Observer Friday, December 7, 1928 Fire occurred December 4th

Fire early Thursday morning swept the south side of first street, Wallowa, from the City Pharmacy to the Sewwell Grocery, razing six buildings and incurring a loss to property owners of an amount estimated between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The buildings were: Northern Hotel, three stories, owned by R. McCrae and occupied by Mrs. J.M. Casteel as tenant of the hostelry, and C.E. Fisher of the barber shop. This building was a frame structure with brick front.

In addition Mr. McCrae lost a two-story frame building that was a combination dwelling and storehouse that stood directly back of the hotel but across the alleyway. This building almost abutted the structure occupied by The Sun Office and marked the southern terminal of the fire.

The third building was a one-story frame structure owned by E. A. Schiffler of Pendleton and occupied by W. F. Poole, radio and gift shop, Mrs. Dorothea Marshall, with women's wear and stamped goods.

The fourth building was a two-story frame structure occupied and owned by Mrs. Bessie Tulley.

The fifth building was the one-story building owned and occupied by J.C. Baird with Baird's Variety Store. The walls of this building remain.

The sixth building was a one-story frame structure owned by Miss Louise Waelty of Clarkston and occupied by H. M. Vaught

The estimated losses and insurance are as follows:

R. McCrae, \$8,000; insurance, \$3,000.

E. A. Schaeffer, \$3,000; insurance none.

Mrs. Bessie Tulley, \$8,000; insurance, none.

J. C. and Bessie Baird, stock \$5,000; insurance, \$3,000.

J. C. and Bessie Baird, stock \$4,500; insurance, \$3,000.

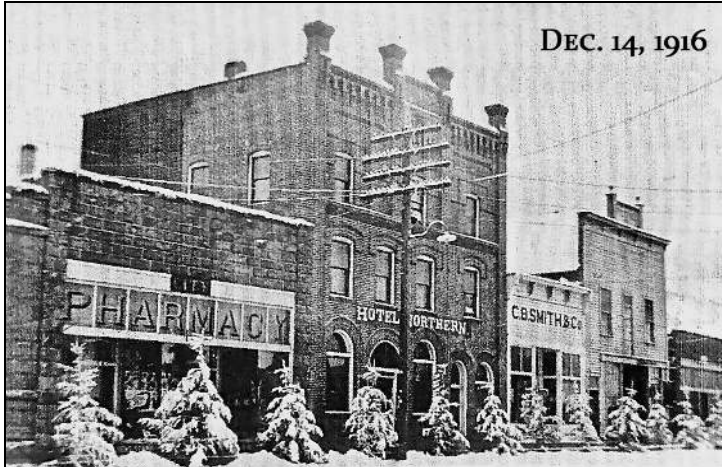
Miss Louise Waelty, \$1,500; insurance, none.

H. M. Vaught, \$1,500; insurance, \$1,000.

C. E. Fisher, \$1,500; insurance, \$1,000.

Mrs. Dorothea Marchall, \$300; insurance, none.

City Pharmacy, loss yet undetermined on account of water, but protected by insurance.



Barber Shop. The fire in taking this last building, jumped the Baird building which had been considered safe, and it was this fact that contributed largely to the burning of the stone structure.

Origin of the fire is undetermined, but is believed to have started in the unoccupied frame structure owned by Mrs. Tulley. It was first discovered by C. Jeumlauske, a hide buyer who had registered at the Northern Hotel and was occupying a room on the side adjoining the fires. The flames, breaking through the roof

aroused him and he hastened to turn in the house alarm, which aroused all the guests in the hotel. Mrs. Casteel forthwith turned in the general city alarm, and the alarm sounded three calls.

Better Buildings Rise Where Fire Ruin Ruled Wallowa Sun May 2, 1928

Rising from the ashes of the disastrous fire of last December which razed more than half of the buildings in the principal block on the south side of main street, new buildings are this week under way which will transform the town into a bigger and better and more beautiful city. The Baird, Marvin, Wealty and Fisher building are all under way and it is hoped that most of these buildings if not all of them, Will be ready for occupancy by June 1.

The Marvin Building, under construction for Edwin Marvin, veteran Wallowa Businessman will be a substantial, structure of brick, 34 by 60. Contract for this brick work was let to C.C. Roop and Coley Wray, R.F. Peterson of La Grande, assisted by Charles Briggs of LaGrande and Tully Johnson of Enterprise, yesterday began to lay brick on this building and on the Charlie Fisher Shop. The work on the two buildings will go forward simultaneously, a common ownership wall being constructed between the two. The Marvin building will be occupied by John Thompson and Alva Victor, and by W.F. Poole, jewelry.

The Fisher barbershop will be 14 by 40 feet

The contract for reconditioning the store building which was gutted by the fire has been let to Roop and Wray by J.C. Baird and concrete work has already been completed. Work on the super structure will proceed with all speed.

Miss Louise Wealty has let the contract to Elmer Biggs and Earl Haney to rebuild the shop occupied by Vaughts Barber Shop. Construction was begun yesterday. Mr. Vaught hopes to occupy the building in June.

