

BINFORD IS MINUS STORE BY EARLY MORNING BLAZE

GENERAL MERCHANDISE ESTABLISHMENT OF C. F. RINGLEE & SONS BURNED TO GROUND YESTERDAY MORNING

Fire, from an unknown origin, completely destroyed the C. F. Ringlee & Sons general store in Binford early yesterday morning. When discovered, the flames had gained such headway that all attention was spent in saving nearby buildings, and but for the concrete walls of the drug store adjoining it is very probable that the other buildings in the block would also have gone up in flames.

Discovery of the fire was made at about 1:30 o'clock, by two persons. Harry Parks, who sleeps in the office of the Dahlin livery barn, arose to fix the fire in his stove, when he noticed the flames shooting from the store building. He immediately rang the fire alarm. Also, Mrs. F. G. Lewis, who had retired at about 12 o'clock, after returning from a meeting of the Rebekah lodge, and had not fallen asleep, when the light of the flames cast a reflection into her room. She aroused the Oscar Alm family, living in the same building, and Mr. Alm called the central office when the alarm was given. Fire fighters arrived on the scene in a few minutes, and though efforts were made to save some of the stock from the burning building, it proved a fruitless task, as by that time the whole interior was enveloped in flames. Judging by the headway the fire had gained when discovered, it is likely that it had been burning for more than an hour. Several theories have been advanced for its origin. Some think it might have started from an overheated furnace pipe, others are of the opinion that matches might have been ignited by mice, or that defective electric wiring might have been the cause. However, proof for any of these theories can never be furnished.

Valiant service was done by the fire fighters in saving the Hammer-Thingelstad Co. barn. Sparks were continually threatening this building and others near by. The ice house and garage, owned by Druggist Anderson was burned and some damage done to the drug store.

The exact amount of insurance carried on the Ringlee store was not known when this story was written, but one member of the firm stated he believed it to be in the neighborhood of \$27,000.