NEWS ARTICLES THE OCEANA TIMES

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7/1/1864, The fire which has been burning in the woods near here, has been doing great damage. A large number of logs and shingle bolts have been destroyed. Mr. C. Mears loss in logs and bolts is estimated at $1000.00. There are others who have also met with losses, but we have not been able to learn to what extent. Persons who set these fires at such dry seasons of the year as we have had here, should know better and if there is any law, by which such fellows can be punished, we hope they will be made acquainted with it.

9/1/1865, On Saturday last about 2 o’clock, the blacksmith shop at Hart & Maxwell’s mill was discovered on fire, and in a few moments the flames reached the carpenter-shop near it and both were burned to the ground with nearly all the tools, & c. Luckily for the village the wind was in the south west, blowing the flames away from the other buildings, as it was the boarding house caught fire in several places on the roof and it was only by hard work that it was saved. This is the first fire that has happened here for a long time, and should be a lesson to people to get insured. If the wind had been directly south it would have swept the fire straight up Hancock street. We would say in this connection that C.W. Deane, Esq., is the Agent for several of the best Insurance Companies in the country, and every on owning property in the village should get insured without delay.

11/22/1867, The Fire Extinguisher. The Bucks County (Pa.) Intelligeneer, gives the following account of a trial of the fire extinguisher, at the late agricultural exhibition held at Newtown: One of the most interesting features of the exhibition was the public trial of the Fire Extinguisher, which took place on Wednesday afternoon. A shanty about ten feet by twelve in size, and ten feet high, with door and window apertures, had been previously prepared. A large quantity of dry pine shavings had been place inside, and these, together with the sides of the building, were saturated with coal oil just before the fire was applied. The experiment began by setting fire to three oil barrels piled together and filled with shavings. As soon as the fire spread over them, one of the exhibitors, with the apparatus strapped on his back, turned the nozzle of the instrument upon the flames an in a very brief time they were extinguished. They were again fired and extinguished before the main trial began. When the building was red it became covered with a sheet of flame in about half a minute. Everybody thought it would be impossible to save it after the fire had acquired such a headway. The exhibitors, two in number, were nothing daunted. They walked up to within about ten feet of the fire, turned on the fluid and directed it upon the flames as coolly as if they were operating upon an iceberg. In a minute or two the fire had perceptibly abated, and in about three minutes was entirely subdued. Even the most in incredulous were thus satisfied of the efficiency of the apparatus. During the trial the track was surrounded by thousands of interested spectators, who could not but confess their admiration of the manner in which the thing was done. Six or eight of the machines were on exhibition, but only two were required to put out the fire. They are made of sheet iron, in the form of a cylinder, about two feet long and six or eight inches in diameter. When filled with the preparation they weigh about forty pounds each. When in use they are carried on the back by straps of webbing over the shoulders. Near the bottom of the cylinder is a brass stop-cock, worked by the left hand when it is in use. A small rubber hose connects with this at the extremity of which is a brass nozzle, with an orifice about as large as a goose quill, which is directed with the right hand toward the fire. The fluid inside of the cylinder is composed of water charged with some chemical substance which is effervescent like soda water. It is this tendency to expansion that forces it through the pipe when the cock is turned. The effect of this fluid upon burning substances is like that of carbonic acid gas, extinguishing fire almost or quite instantly. The machines cost about fifty dollars each, and the preparation for charging the $1.50 per package. It is represented that they will keep in perfect working order for an indefinite time or a long as the air is wholly excluded. A single charge will furnish a stream for five or six minutes, or long enough to put out a small fire.

12/13/1867, False Alarm, Some Wind, The severest gale of the season, and one of the severest we have ever witnessed, occurred last Friday. The day opened with a light south-wester, which increased rapidly, and in the afternoon veered to the west and north-west and increased to a gale about four o’clock. No accidents save the blowing down of chimneys on the new Congregational Church occurred. An alarm of fire was given, but happily no fire could be found. On the lake the gale was one of the most severe that has ever been witnessed here by the oldest residents of the place. The sea was unusually high, and running with great force. Nothing but the white foam of the waves could be seen as far as the eye could reach. Great anxiety was felt for the safety of the scow Supply, commanded by Capt. Reddic, which have in sight just about the time the waves were rolling the heaviest, and doubts were expressed as to her safety of making the harbor. But in she came, and that right over the old wreck and boiler, the large waves fairly lifting her over. The crowd that had gathered at the pier, as well as the captain and the crew of the vessel considered it almost a miracle, that she got in all right. She received no damages, save the tearing of some of her sails, and caring away part of the jib-boom. We are sorry to note that this good luck did not attend her during the whole trip. When out in the middle of the lake, the night before, she encountered a heavy gale and lost one of her men overboard, and all efforts to save him proved fruitless. Wild rumors were afloat here during the week that the Barber and Messenger had gone to the bottom of the lake. But happily these rumors were contradicted by the Barber making her appearance at the dock Wednesday morning.

12/15/1867, During the time of the fire last Saturday, several fellows carried off $5.00 in change from Mr. Lacreux’s Hair dressing establishment, while the proprietor had gone out into the street to see where the fire was.

Last Saturday, about noon, the barn of Mr. R. Atwood was discovered on fire, and in a few minutes the entire building was in flames. A valuable horse belonging to Mr. O.P. Cook was burned. A team belonging to Mr. J. Atwood was saved with great difficulty. A high wind was blowing at the time, and it was only through the greatest exertions of some of our citizens that some of the other buildings in the vicinity were not also burned. Mr. Cook’s loss is estimated at $400 and that of Mr. Atwood at $200. The barn was valued at $400 and was fully insured. Had this fire occurred during the night, or in some other locality, there is no telling where it would have ended, as we at present have nothing to fight the fires. Steps should be taken immediately towards this purpose. Some suggest a fire engine, but in our opinion, more service could be rendered with hooks, ladders and buckets; as in many cases an engine would be of no avail on account of the scarcity of water. Hooks and ladders would be a far cheaper investment, and could be used at almost any fire. We therefore urge upon our citizens to procure them as soon as possible, and without delay.

2/7/1868, The quite of our village was startled on Monday evening, by the xxx fire. The fire was caused by a xxxx chimney, in the Clothing establishment of Mr. Wm. Kuhn, and had it not been for the timely discovery, and prompt xxxx to the alarm, by our citizens, Pentwater would undoubtedly have suffered a most severe loss that it has yet be xxxx to record. At the time the xxxx was given a strong wind was blowing from the south-west, and it would have been most impossibility to have checked xxxx or prevented the fire from xxxx had it once got under headway. Xxxx another warning to us, that we should be prepared, to the best of our ability for fighting this most destructive enemy before it is too late.

2/28/1868, Proceedings Pentwater H. & L. Co.

At a meeting of the Pentwater Hook and Ladder Company, held at the School House. Monday evening, February 24th, the following business was transacted: Meeting called to order by the Chairman, Mr. G.W.Grant. Voted, that the minutes of the previous meeting be read, which was accordingly done by the Secretary. Voted, that the Constitution and By-Laws be read, as arranged by J.M. Lacey. Voted, that the Constitution and By-Laws be adopted as read. Voted, that the Membership Fee Be Twenty-five cents. After the signing of the Constitution and By-Laws, ballets were spread for the election of Officers, which resulted in the election of J.M. Lacey, Foreman, R.L.Hardy, 1st Assistant, B.S.Reed, 2nd Assistant, T.V. Purdy, Secretary, F.W. Ratzel, Treasurer. Voted, that the minutes of the meeting be published in the Oceana Times. The meeting was then adjourned until the first Monday in March. James N. Love, Sec. pro-tem.

4/22/1870, ORGANIZE FIRE COMPANIES. The great need of the villages and cities along this shore, the organization of efficient Hook and Ladder Companies. Shall we wait until we suffered still more severely from the burning element before we take measures to protect our lives and property? The town of Mediana, Ohio, was almost entirely destroyed by fire on the 15th inst., only two business blocks escaping. The only means used to stay the flames were the efforts of the citizens with buckets, and these were unavailing. We shudder to think of the consequences of a fire breaking out in the thickly settled portion of our own village under the existing circumstances. If any on in our village will take steps to or organize a Hook and Ladder Company, we are confident that he will find our citizens ready to assist by every means in their power. Our village ordinance makes it the duty of our Marshal to see that its provisions are enforced. Buckets and Ladders were procured in accordance with its requirements some months ago, but we fear if an investigation were now made by our Marshal, many of our dwellings and public buildings would be found lacking the required number.

7/19/1870, FIRE IN THE DOCK, On Tuesday afternoon, about two o’clock, a fire was discovered on the dock of Mr. Chas. Mears’, where was piled a large amount of lumber, the greater part of which was hard work. Crowds gathered at the scene of conflagration, and on preparing to the scene, we found men at their “work with a will,” removing lumber, pulling up dock and throwing water on the fire. Boom-logs were stretched across the river to keep the lumber, which was being thrown into the river, from going into the lake. Two force pumps were procured and put in operation; slabs and edgings, of which the dock was built, were removed to keep the fire from catching in the pier and warehouse on the one side and docks and warehouses on the other. The wind was blowing a gale from the south. The channel was so completely blocked up with lumber, when the Messenger came from the south, that it was obliged to stop and leave its mail and passengers at the piers. About five o’clock the tug “Richards” started for Lincoln to get the tug “Albion”, which has a steam force pump on board. The “Albion,” reached here about nine o’clock P.M. and soon began throwing water on the then somewhat subdued flames. We are unabled to ascertain the loss.

7/19/1870, FIRE DEPARTMENT, The Common Council took initiatory steps, Wednesday Evening last, for the organization of a Fire Department in our village. Good for the guardians of the public weal.

Fire-On Monday morning, about three o’clock, fire was discovered in the house of Mr. F. Duva, situated nearly opposite the Methodist church, and in a very short time the house lay in ashes. It was very hard to save houses adjoining, as they stood but a very few feet apart; but, by willing hearts and ready hand, the fire kept from spreading. We learn the insurance fully covers the loss.

3/10/1871, FIVE BUILDINGS BURN, At about half-past eleven, last night, a fire broke out in the store of Bacon & Jensen. It was first discovered by Mrs. Frank Spencer, who, with her husband, occupied rooms in the second story. The fire is supposed to have originated in the cellar, but in what manner is unknown. The flames ran up the building between the wall, and burst out of the second story. The whistles of the different mills sounded the alarm, and large numbers of our citizens were soon on the spot, but nothing could be done to save the building. The wind blew briskly from the north, and there seemed to be great danger that the whole street would be swept clean. Next to Bacon & Jensen’s store on the south was the law office of Messrs. Rice & Amber, and just beyond, two saloons stood in close proximity. Between the last saloon and the Post-office was a space of about forty feet, and here, if anywhere, was the place to stop the progress of the fire. The last saloon was hastily torn down, and by keeping the sides of the Post-office drenched with water, the fire was prevented from spreading further in this direction. The store of A.J. Underhill was immediately adjacent on the north, and it was soon evident that it could not be saved. All of the stock, however, was carried out, before the building burned. This store stood on the corner of Hancock and Fifth streets, and the direction of the wind prevented the fire from reaching to the Corlett House, which might otherwise have been in great danger. It was most fortunate that the roofs of our buildings were covered with snow, else the fire would undoubtedly have spread further. As we write, at 2 o’clock this morning, the fire is subdued, and although the ruins are still burning, all danger is past. The losses, as nearly as can be ascertained are as follows: Bacon & Jensen, grocers, store and contents: building valued at $1000.00, stock$7500.00. But little of the stock saved. Building insured for $1500.00, in the North American; stock for $1500.00 in the Security. A.J. Underhill, general merchandise; building valued at $2800.00, insured in the Andes for $1000.00; stock saved. Rice & Ambler, lawyers; office valued a $1200.00. Insured for $300.00, in the Underwriters, and for $300.00 in the Security; office furniture insured for $300.00, in the Underwriters; most of the latter was saved. George Smith, saloon keeper; building valued at $300.00; insured for $250.00, in the Etna; stock estimated at $200.00; mostly saved. J.M. Cahill, salon keeper; building owned by Robert Miller, and valued at $400.00; no insurance; stock estimated at $300.00; mostly saved. This is the fire that has ever visited the business portion of our village, and we hope it will be the last for many years to come. We hope our citizens will take warning and perfect on efficient fire department at once, so that we may not again be found unprepared. We are glad to add to the above that our citizens, with their accustomed generosity, have raised over $150.00 for Frank Spencer, who lost all his property in this fire. Mr. Underhill estimates his loss on stock, etc., at nearly $700.00, making his total loss about $2500.00. Mr. Jensen will not rebuild at once. Messrs. Lamont & Fagin have opened a new meat market in Mr. Clark’s building on Hancock St. Mr. Underhill has removed to the opposite corner, where he will be happy to meet his old customers, and form the acquaintance of new ones. He was selling goods the day after the fire, which shows commendable enterprise and pluck. Messrs. Rice & Ambler have moved into the building of Thos. Hopkins, nearly opposite their old office, and are all ready for business again. Thos. Hopkins, having given up his building, has moved into the front part of Mr. Purdy’s shop, next door to his old stand, where he has very comfortable quarters, and will be happy to meet those in need of anything in his line. We are sorry to say that J.M. Cahill still continues his old business at a new stand, and George Smith has begun to rebuild. We wish those men were engaged in a business in which we could wish them success. Just a quick note—all of the numbered streets in the village were numbered in the opposite direction than they are 2011.

5/12/1871, Yesterday afternoon the wagon shop of Messrs. Fisher & Cleveland, near the mill of Messrs. S.A. Browne & Co., caught fire, and narrowly escaped destruction. It is supposed that sparks from the smoke-stack set on fire the dry chips and shavings lying near the shop, and the flames crept underneath the building, and ran up underneath the siding, until they burst out at the roof. The hose was quickly attached to the steam force pump at the mill, and in a few moments the fire was subdued. Had it not been for this timely preparation for putting out fires, not only the shop but the adjacent building would now be in ashes. This should lead our Common Council to make suitable provisions as soon as possible for extinguishing fires in our village.

5/26/1871, On Wednesday last the Boarding House of S.A. Browne & Co., again caught fire from sparks from the smoke-stack of the adjacent mill, and this time the damage was more serious than on any former occasion. The flames spread rapidly, and a brisk South wind endangered the whole business part of our village. Fortunately an additional amount of hose had just been received, so that a stream from the steam force pump at the mill could be brought to bear on any portion of the building, and by strenuous efforts the flames were at length subdued. The house is much damaged by both by fire, water, and the ill-advised exertions of some individuals who were frantically breaking out windows, throwing lamps from the second story, and making other similar attempts to save property. We are informed that a certain individual, who certainly ought to have used different language, lost his temper on seeing so much zeal and so little discretion. “What, the d\_\_l, are you doing!” exclaimed he, preparing apparently for a free fight, to stop the unwarranted proceedings, but finding the occasion for warlike demonstration removed, he soon cooled down. The loss is estimated at $1000.00. Fully insured in the North America. The need of immediately forming an organization for extinguishing fires is plainly shown, or at least the appointment of a competent officer to direct the efforts of the citizens, and thus make their work effective.

7/7/1871, THE HOLLY WATER WORKS, We have received a letter stating that Horace Phelps, agent for Holly’s system of fire protection and water supply for cities and villages, will be in Pentwater next week. We therefore defer our promised description until we shall be able to make at the same time a statement of the estimated cost of introduction in this place.

7/11/1871, STEAM FIRE ENGINE, A No. 2 steam fire engine has been ordered by the village authorities from the factory of Clapp and Jones, Hudson, New York. As also hose cart, hose, etc. It will be here in about sixty days. In the meantime a house for it well be erected xxxx the lot purchased for the purpose, just in rear of the News building.

8/4/1871, INCENDIARIES AT WORK, The building, or buildings of H.J. Slater, situated on the corner of Second and Hancock streets were set on fire on Wednesday night last at about one o’clock. Mrs. S.L. Slater, wife of T.F. Slater, was awakened by smoke and the cracking of glass and immediately aroused her husband. He discovered a fire burning the side of a building attached to their residence and store, but some barrels filled with rain water standing near enabled him to extinguish the flames. The locality of the fire shows that it was a deliberate and cool-headed attempt to destroy the buildings, though for what reason. Mr. H.J. Slater, the owner of the property, who lives the w re in the family of his son, is unable to determine. He informs us that he cannot give a reason that would prompt any one to do this dastardly work. The flames had burned out two of the boards forming the sides of the building and were within two feet of the roof when discovered, and it seems a miracle that the property is saved. Not ten feet from where the fire was started stands a keg containing twenty five pounds of gun powder, and the close proximity of the adjoining buildings leads us to the belief that a very destructive conflagration was prevented by the promptness of Mr. Slater, if not a great saving of life. It is hoped that the authorities will take this first attempt at building burning in hand and thoroughly investigate it.

February 14, 1873. The Oceana did good service in pumping out the tug Messenger, on Tuesday afternoon.

March 14, 1873. The following correspondence explains itself, and needs no comment from us. We will only say that it is gratifying to know that the efforts of the Pentwater boys to aid in extinguishing the disastrous fire in Montague, were fully appreciated.

Dear Sir:-The citizens of Montague deeply feel the active sympathy shown them by the prompt dispatch of your fire engine to their assistance on the 25th of February, when much of the business portion of the town was destroyed by fire. In their behalf, we tender you sincere thanks, and assure your citizens that the kind action will not soon be forgotten. Very truly yours, Ferry Dowling & Co.

Wm. B.O. Sands Chief Engineer Fire Department: Dear Sir:-We acknowledge with heartfelt thanks the efforts of the Firemen of Pentwater under your supervision, at the fire that occurred here on the 25th of February. The readiness to come so long a distance, and the cheerful assistance rendered will not soon pass from mind. We herewith enclose an offering for the benefit of the Firemen’s Fund a check for $100. Very truly yours, Ferry, Dowling & Co.

Gentlemen:-We acknowledge your favor of date March 6th, and are instructed by Oceana Engine and Hose Co. No. 1 to extend to you a vote of thanks for your very generous offering. Hoping that you may not again have occasion for the use of firemen, we remain, Very truly yours, Wm. B.O. Sands, Rollin L. Rice and Sewell Moulton, Committee.

March 28, 1873. Fire! Fire! Our exchanges contain frequent accounts of disastrous fires, and it seems to us that we should take warning from the losses we have experienced in the past, and prepare ourselves as well as may be for the contingencies of the future. Our village has been very fortunate during the past year in having suffered no more than it has done from the ravages of fire. The loss of Eldred’s large mill fell heavily upon us, it is true, but other villages near by have met with much more serious losses. But our turn is coming, and it is only a question of time. We need a hook and ladder company to co-operate with our engine and hose company, and the efficiency of our fire department would thereby be greatly increased, particularly in the more crowded portion of our village. We hope our Common Council will at once take measures to procure the necessary appliances, and we will guarantee that men will be found ready to use them.

April 11, 1873. An alarm of fire was given last Saturday, and the engine called out, but the flames were extinguished without the assistance of the department. A vessel of boiling pitch became ignited, and had it not been for the presence of mind shown by some gentlemen nearby, the building would most likely have burned.

May 9, 1783. Meeting of Oceana Fire Company next Monday night. More members are wanted. Turn out.

May 30, 1783. At a meeting of the Oceana Fire Company last Monday evening, it was decided to purchase 40 hats for the Company, which will cost $5 each. There are at present only 33 members, and it is desirable that the number be raised to forty at once. Hand in your names to either E.B. Flagg, Foreman, or R.N. Faulkner, Secretary, and fill up the ranks.

June 20, 1873. An alarm was sounded Wednesday afternoon on account of another fire on the north pier. When it was known where the fire was located, the members of the department took matters very leisurely and it was 22 minutes before a stream of water was brought to bear on the flames. We believe in having the engine and the company do their best every time, if called out for nothing more than practice. It may be that the ability to promptly put a stream of water on a fire will sometime save our village from destruction.

June 22, 1873. The Fire Company were called out last Saturday, and after running a good half mile, got two streams on the fire within ten minutes after the alarm was sounded. This seems more like “business.” The fire was in a quantity of shavings east of Hanna’s Shingle Mill, and was extinguished before any serious damage was done.

Our Fire Company needs more members, and everyman who owns property in Pentwater should see that this want is promptly supplied. It is a matter in which we are all interested, and which we cannot afford to neglect.

July 4, 1873. An alarm of fire called out the company last Tuesday morning, and they promptly responded, although no one knew the locality of the fire. As luck would see it, when they reached Hancock St. they started on a dead run away from the fire instead of towards it, but fortunately the fire by this time been extinguished, so that harm was caused by the delay. In order to prevent, if possible, any confusion in the future, the Chief Engineer, Mr. W.B.O. Sands, has ordered cards to be printed and placed in the mills and other prominent business places of the village, containing the list of the fire and code of signals therefor, which was published in the NEWS some months since.

Fire. Scarcely a week passes by without fires being set in Pentwater by sparks from tugs. We know that our village will in all probability be destroyed sooner or later, but would like to put off the date as far as possible. We beg to quote one of the provisions of our general harbor ordinance.

Sec.6. All vessels using steam shall have their smoke stacks so constructed and managed as to prevent sparks and coals of fire escaping there from, under a penalty of fifty dollars after having been notified by the Harbor Master.

This section appears to have a little or no effect in its present form. We beg to suggest that if one half of the fine was to go to the informer upon the conviction of any vessel for the violation of the provision, it would add materially to the vigilance with which these vessels are watched, and in all probability would secure compliance on the part of captains and owners. It also appears to us that a notification by the Harbor Master should hardly be required. A proper publication of the ordinance ought to be sufficient, and the provisions there laid down ought to be so specific, that any one could tell whether they were complied with or not. Every vessel should be required to be provided with spark catchers with meshes of sufficient closeness to prevent any danger whatever from sparks. We hope our village Fathers will take this matter into consideration at once.

The Firemen have received their hats, and will appear in uniform on the Fourth. The citizens, as a general rule, have been very liberal in subscribing the necessary funds for purchasing these hats, and the Department is now well equipped in every respect but one. A hook and ladder company should be organized and furnished with the necessary implements. This would require but a small outlay, and would prove to be a most efficient aid to the service.

February 13, 1874. The annual dance of the Pentwater Fire Department will take place at Gardner’s Hall on Thursday evening, February 19. All members are expected to appear in uniform. The Firemen of Montague and Muskegon have been invited. Music by Hyde’s full band. Supper will be served at both hotels. Turn out and give the boys a bumper.

March 13, 1874. “Fireman” express the following opinion in regard to the obstruction of the streets:- “I see by the last issue of the NEWS that you call the attention of the Council to the fact that the foot of the streets are nearly all occupied by lumber, shingles, etc., and that it should be removed so that in case of fire the steamer can get to Pentwater Lake. The suggestion is a good one; but in my opinion, the Street Commissioner and the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department have full control upon the premises without any legislation of the Council.”

Fortunately the “Oceana” was only called out for practice last Saturday, instead of actual service. Had there been a fire, the engine would have done little good,-valves wouldn’t work for several minutes after the engineer attempted to start her, and when they did, she threw a very weak stream. We understand that it is the intention of the new officers to call the company out frequently for practice hereafter, and we shall hope to give a better report next time.

March 20, 1874. The Firemen’s Dance was quite well attended last Thursday evening. We have not learned the proceeds.

April 3, 1874. 125 M. feet of lumber has burned at the Messrs lumber yard. The quality of microfilm was not very good and hard to read. TLC

April 24, 1874. The engine was tested on Friday of last week, and appears to be in pretty good condition, excepting that some of the flues leak a little. She got up steam in 7 minutes. The “Atlantic” has also been put in repair, so that our entire fire equipment is now ready for service. If we only had a few hooks and ladders, our fire department would be pretty well fixed.

May 8, 1874. A very pretty fire was spoiled by the interference of “Birney” on Sunday night last. Some boys were playing with powder in the barn belonging to Mr. Brillhart, and probably left some smoldering fire which broke out about twelve o’clock, and but for the above circumstance quite a neat fire could have been had.

May 15, 1874. An alarm sounded last Thursday night, caused by a quantity of shaving being set on fire by sparks from the smoke stack of Hanna’s mill. The engine put up steam in a good time, but the fire was extinguished with bucket before the Company reached the spot. Several fires have been set by sparks from this mill and seems to us that the necessary precautions should be taken to prevent their xxxx in the future.

May 29, 1874. Saturday last was a bad day for fires. The mill at Crystal Valley was burned down early in the morning, and the boarding house of Gardner & Moulton, the Pentwater planning mill, and the warehouse of Bailey & St. Ores caught fire during the day, but fortunately the flames were extinguished before much damage was done. During the summer, great care should be taken in regard to fires. All rubbish should be cleared away from buildings, and every mill should be provided with a force pump with which the roof and sides should be frequently wet down during dry weather. By exercising these necessary precautions, much loss bay be prevented.

June 5, 1874. Members of Hose Co. No. 1 will be at the Engine House on Saturday at 4 o’clock PM sharp, for practice.

Almost a fire.-Gardner’s mill caught fire last Wednesday but the flames were fortunately extinguished before damage was done.

June 19, 1874. We learn that the supposition that the “Messenger” set fire to the shavings near the Foundry last week, was not very well founded. The tug was no where near the place where the fire broke out.

July 17, 1874. Fires have been raging in all directions during the last week, but we have no definite information in regard to damage done. The buildings on the river house farm of Hon. Charles Mears were seriously threatened on Tuesday, so that the furniture was all removed from the house, and distributed around the orchard. The fence caught fire in several places, and the fire seriously injured the fruit trees. In the evening, the fire department, after wetting down the streets of the village pretty thoroughly, went up and extinguished all fires within a thousand feet of the river house, affording a little rest to its occupant, Mr. Hawkins, which was sadly needed. Capt. Boswell lent a helping hand by taking the boys as far as the upper dock on the “Magnet.” Early Wednesday morning a welcome and copious shower of rain put out every trace of fire in the vicinity of Pentwater, and we once more breathe freely.

July 24, 1874. The rain last week subdued the flames for a short time only, and they were then fanned into increased fury by the high winds that soon followed. Mr. J.S. Kinney, residing on the south side of Pentwater Lake, lost everything he had by the fire last week Thursday. His place was surrounded by the flames, and himself and son only escaped with their lives by lying down on their faces in the plowed ground. Mr. W.H. Flory lost heavily by the fire, but saved his house and furniture. John Brown lost his fences, crops and fruit trees. As we write this paragraph the village of Pentwater is surrounded by fire on three sides, but is only threatened with danger from the north. A heavy rain is earnestly desired, and without it we dread to think of the possible future.

Messrs. Editors:-Allow me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to return my sincere thanks to the Fire Department and citizens of Pentwater for their prompt and generous assistance in subduing the fire on Tuesday evening of last week. The river house farm building, together with all it fences, without the timely aid rendered by them, must certainly have been consumed. Again thanking you, I am most respectfully, Eli Hawkins.

October 19, 1874. The barn of George Reed on First street, was discovered to be on fire about 2 o’clock last Monday morning, and, with a dwelling house belonging to Messrs. Rice, Ambler & Montgomery which stood near, was entirely consumed. The boarding house was severely scorched, and narrowly escaped destruction. The engine was entirely useless. We understand that 20 minutes elapsed before steam was up, and then she refused to work. We learn that on subsequent examination the valves were found clogged with bark. Had the wind been in a different direction, our village would doubtless have sustained a severe loss, as it was by strenuous efforts the fire was confined to the two buildings above mentioned. We believe the loss is nearly covered by insurance.

November 20, 1874. The residence of Ole Peterson, on the west side of Pentwater Lake, was with its contents totally destroyed by fire last Sunday night. Insured for $200, but as the place was not yet paid for, Mr. Peterson will receive no benefit. The los falls quite heavily upon him, as he lost nearly everything that the house contained.

December 17, 1874. Ole Peterson lost his house by fire November 14. He was insured in the Fire Association of Philadelphia, Pa., for $200. Proof of loss was not made until the 20th of November, and was adjusted without any quibbling or reduction by the company. The 27tjh of Nov. they paid the loss like a “little man.” Now who wants the next policy. There is danger in delay. E.D. Richmond, Agt., Post office Building.

January 21, 1875. In speaking of the services of the department at the recent fire at Whitehall, which we briefly noticed last week, the xxxx says: “A hole was cut into the first ice, but the water thus obtained was soon used, and before a hole could be cut through the other layers of ice, the engine was frozen up and rendered useless. If a fire should break out in Pentwater any of these cold nights, how soon would our engine probably get a supply of water from the lake? Inasmuch as this is our only reservoir, a hole should be constantly kept open in the ice, during the winter months.

February 18, 1875. FIRE! Just as we were going to press this morning, the alarm bell sounded and hurrying forth we found that the Corlett House was on fire. The engine was promptly on hand, water was in readiness, steam up in a very short time, and the department did excellent service, considering the extreme cold, and the great length of hose necessarily used. When the location o the fire was discovered, it was judged by all that several other adjacent buildings must also burn, but contrary to all expectations, the fire was subdued in the building where it originated. Several members of the department particularly distinguished themselves and the citizens have reason to be proud of the work which the boys have this day accomplished. Without the aid of the department, the fresh, south wind which was blowing, would unquestionably have carried the flames to the adjacent buildings, and it is hard to say where the fire would have stopped. We are informed that the fire caught from the sitting room stove, which was so hot as to melt the zinc which stood behind it, and the flames getting behind the partitions, spread rapidly. We understand that the building is insured for $1,000, but did not learn in what company.

March 4, 1875. After every fire, talk of getting hooks and ladders for out fire department is prevalent. Don’t let the matter stop here. The expense will be comparatively xxxx and the possible benefits can hardly be computed.

March 12, 1875. The Firemen give another hop xxxx week Friday, March 19, and all are cordially invited. Members are requested to appear in uniform.

March 18, 1875. Last Friday morning, at about five o’clock, the alarm of fire was sounded, and the department promptly responded. The dwelling owned by Mr. Collister and occupied by Mr. Boyd was found to be in flames, and the fire was under such headway when discovered, that the building was almost a total loss. The origin of the fire is a mystery. Mr. Boyd was awakened by the plastering falling off in his bedroom, and had barely time to escape with his family before this portion of the dwelling was wrapped in flames. Considerable furniture and many household goods were saved from other portions of the building. The building was insured for $1300.

March 25, 1875. A Firemen’s State Convention is to be held in Battle Creek, Tuesday, April 13, 1875, at 2 PM for the purpose of organizing a State Firemen’s Association. Each company is entitled to two delegates, with the chief engineer of each department as delegate at large. The move is a good one, and we hope the convention will be largely attended.

THREE BUSINESS FIRMS TURNED INTO THE STREET. At two o’clock this morning, Carl Sorensen was awakened by an unusual noise, and hastily rising he opened the door leading into the drug store of Herrington & Nielsen, and found that it was completely enveloped in flames. He has been in the employ of the firm for some months past, and slept in a room at the back of their store. Snatching his trunk, and without waiting to put on his clothes, he rushed from the store by the rear entrance, and flying to the engine house gave the alarm. He succeeded in getting hold of the bell rope through the window. Frank Gardner was one of the first to reach the engine house, where he found Carl Standing, with nothing on but his shirt, and pulling the rope as if for his life. The engine was promptly on hand, and did a noble work, but the fire was under such headway when discovered before the flames could be checked. The fire broke out in one of nine wooden buildings, standing close together, and the only wonder is that the flames were checked without doing farther damage. The “Oceana” has done well, and if the department was only equipped with hooks and ladders, the village would be well protected.

The origin of the fire is unknown. Dr. T. A. Herrington came in on the evening train, and entered the store about eleven o’clock. Everything appeared as usual. Carl was the first to discover the fire, and the store was then enveloped in flames.

The losses, as nearly as can be ascertained, are as follows:

Herrington & Nielsen, building $1200, stock, $4000. Building insured for $800, in the State; stock for $1500 in German American.

A.J. Underhill, stock, valued at $6000, insured for $3000, equally in the Fire Association, the north American and the Franklin. Stock partially saved. Damage, probably $1500.

J.G. Gray, building valued at $1500, insurance, $500 in American. George Schmidt, building, valued at $700, insurance $500 in Lancaster.

Besides the above, losses were sustained that cannot well be estimated. Herington & Nielsen saved a portion of their books in a damaged condition, but will undoubtedly lose many of their accounts. Dr. J.H. Herrington lost a set of surgical instruments worth $200, and Dr. T.A. Herrington his books of account and other articles of value. W.E. Ambler,Esq., had just placed two oil portraits, by Miss Eva Fowler, on exhibition in the store, both of which were destroyed. Carl Sorensen lost a watch and a new suit of clothes.

Herrington & Nielsen had just put in a valuable addition to their stock and had a very neat and attractive store. Their loss is a heavy one. Mr. Gran was intending to occupy his building very soon, but his plans are necessarily changed. We hope he will rebuild with brick.

Pentwater has been very fortunate in regard to fires for sometime past, but we have now had three in the past five weeks. Every possible precaution should be taken to prevent any further loss.

April 1, 1875. FIRE ! FIRE ! FIRE! On the morning of the 25th of March, A.J. Underhill’s stock was damaged by fire. To-day he was made happy by the Insurance Co’s of N.A. and Fire Association, who paid their losses without discount, $900. The above staunch and reliable companies are represented by E.D. Richmond, who represents six first class institutions.

OUR CHIEF ENGINEER, Mr. J.G. B. Atwood, is looking out for the interests of our citizens. Several additions to the equipments of the fire department are being made, among which we are glad to see a good hook. Other necessaries will soon follow.

April 15,1875. Andrew J. Underhill burned out March 25, 1875; insured in Fire Association of Philadelphia, and Ins. Co. of North America; losses adjusted and paid March 31,1875.

James G. Gray burned out March 25, 1875, insured in American; of Philadelphia; loss adjusted and paid in full April 5, 1875.

James Roddy burned out Feb. 18, 1875; insured in Northwestern National, of Milwaukee; loss paid in full March 31, 1875. E.D. Richmond, Agent.

April 22, 1875. The State Firemen’s Association was well attended and was a complete success. Oceana was represented by Chief Atwood, of Pentwater.

April 29, 1875. FIRE! The M.E. Church, Parsonage and Sherman House totally destroyed. Other Damage Done. About one o’clock last Saturday morning, another destructive fire visited our village. The wind was blowing fiercely from the forth and most of the residents of the upper part of town knew nothing of the ruin which had been wrought, until the fire had fully dawned. The fire originated in the church, and was well under way before the alarm was given. Mr. C. M. Jensen, who was returning from Weare that night, says he saw the reflection of the fire nearly half an hour before he heard the alarm.

It soon became evident that the church, the parsonage which stood nearby, and the Sherman House which was on the opposite side of the street, could not be saved, and it was regarded as doubtful whether the fire could be stopped without going still further. The building owned by Mr. Pendleton, which stood just south of the Sherman House, was at length enveloped in flames despite the utmost exertions of the department, but here the fire was entirely subdued.

With the strong wind that prevailed, and the headway that had been gained by the flames before they were discovered, it is marvel that no more buildings were not swept away. The citizens and the fire department all worked nobly. Mr. Glading’s residence was only a few feet east of the parsonage, but it was saved with but comparatively little damage, although the heat was intense. The building lately occupied by Palmer & Pollok was scorched, and caught fire several times, but was not materially injured. The store of Mr. N.L. Bouton, which stood on the opposite corner from the Sherman House, was also scorched and the glass front almost entirely destroyed. Cinders from the burning buildings were borne by the wind the entire length of the street, and some of them found a quiet resting place in the lake beyond. Fortunately they were of pine, and soon went out.

Nothing whatever was saved from the church, and the losses of Mr. Doust and Mr. Haughey were also quite heavy. Mr. Bouton is fully insured. Mr. Glading has no insurance. A subscription has been started for the benefit of Mr. Haughey, and our citizens are liberally responding.

It now appears that the fire originated from the carelessness, to use a mild term, of some boys who had by some means obtained entrance to the basement. Some of those who were suspected have left town, and the exact facts are not yet known. We hope they may be fully developed.

Early on Saturday morning, the trustees of the Congregational Society held an impromptu meeting, and tendered the use of their house to the Methodists. The Episcopal Society also freely opened the Mission Hall, and both offers were partially accepted. Sunday services being held in the church, and meetings during the week being appointed in the hall

We understand that steps are already being taken to rebuild the church with brick, and hope work on the same will soon be begun. The church was not insured.

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Chief Atwood has a supply of ladders under way at the Planing mill, and Mr. Binnie will have them completed in a few days. Our fire department is now in a better condition for work than it has ever been before, and our Chief Engineer sees that everything is kept in readiness for service.

May 6, 1875. The Chief Engineer presented the following report, showing the condition of the Fire Apparatus of the village, as follow:

1 3rd class steamer in good order, 1 hose reel, 996 feet rubber hose, 10 hose wrenches, 1 monkey wrench, 1 S wrench, 1 coal hook, 1 hammer, 1 shovel, 2 flue scrapers, 1 small ax, 1 fire ax, 3 oil cans, 2 new hose couplings, 1 Siamese coupling, 40 fire hats, 3 pair leggings, 2 hooks and poles, 10 pulley blocks and lines, 2 pails, 1 broom, 4 lamps, 150 lbs. coal.

We are in need of the following supplies;

3 single blocks 4 inch, 3330 ft. ¾ rope, 6 brass clamps, 2 tons of soft coal, 1 ton hard coal, 1-2-wheel coal cart, 1 cold chisel,1 punch. All of which is respectfully submitted. J.G.B. Atwood, Chief Engineer.

May 13, 1875. Mr. Thos. Collister is rebuilding the residence on 6th street, recently burned. We hope to see all the damage done by fires this spring, soon repaired, but can hardly expect that it will all be accomplished this year.

Chief Atwood has just completed a coal house at the rear of the Engine House, which will not only be convenient, but will enable the boys to keep their rooms in much neater condition than it has been possible to do heretofore.

May 20, 1875. Chief Atwood has a fine set of ladders in the engine house, just made for the department at the Pentwater Planing Mill.

May 20, 1875. The Lumberman announces a glorious old-fashioned celebration in Montague on the Fourth of July next. In addition to the usual fourth of July exercises, the preliminaries have been arranged with the Chief Engineer of the Muskegon Fir Department for a grand steam fire engine contest in the afternoon, for a silver trumpet. The Muskegon, Whitehall and Pentwater Departments will be invited to take part in the contest. Our almanac says the fourth of July comes on Sunday this year, and we are not informed as to whether the celebration comes on Saturday the 3rd, or Monday the 5th. We hope our neighbors will decide on Monday, for Pentwater has already advertised a celebration and races on Friday and Saturday, and we should like to attend both. We believe the “Oceana” will enter in the proposed contest, if it is fixed for Monday the 5th.

June 17, 1875. Chief Atwood has received the new rubber coats for the fire department, and has put his mark on them, so that if they become strayed or stolen they can be identified.

June 24, 1875. Chief Engineer, J.G.B. Atwood, has resigned his position, for reasons which we need not mention here. It is due him to say that under his faithful care the department has been put in the best possible order, and during his term of office the efficiency of the boys has been repeatedly put to the test. We sincerely regret that he has seen fit to abandon the place which he has so admirably filled.

July 8, 1875. This is an excerpt from a speech of Will M. Carleton;

The great procession came up the street,

With firemen uniformed flashily neat,

There was Tubbs, the foreman, with voice like five,

The happiest, proudest man alive,

With a trumpet half as long as a gun,

Which he used for the glory of “Number 1”,

There was Nubbs, who had climbed a ladder high,

And saved a dog that was left to die,

There was Cubbs, who had dressed in black and blue,

The eye of the foreman of Number 2,

And each marched on with a steady stride,

And each had a look of fiery pride,

And each glanced slyly round, with a whim,

That all of the girls were looking at him,

And that was the way,

With grand display,

They marched through the blaze of the glowing day,

That Gave us-

Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!

August 5, 1875. There will be a meeting of the Fire Company at their room, on Monday evening next, at 71/2 PM.

March 9, 1876. The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of Oceana Engine & Hose Co. No. 1, March 6, 1876.

Chief Engineer; E.B. Flagg

1st Ass’t; W.A. Rounds

2d Ass’t; E.W. Hodges

Foreman; C.R. Whittington

1st Ass’t; Foreman; Eugene Moody

2d Ass’t; Foreman; H.j. Nelson

Foreman of Hose; Charles Moddy

1st Ass’t; of Hose; Theodore Mero

2d Ass’t; of Hose; Charles Perkins

Secretary; R.N. Faulkner

Treasure; Jacob Jesson

Fire Police; P. Adams, Geo Piper

April 27, 1876. FIRE! The Dwelling of G.W. Davis a Total Loss. On last Friday, while the family were seated at dinner, a suspicious crackling was notice by Mr. Davis, which seemed to proceed from the upper story, and on opening the stairway door, the house was discovered to be in flames. Every effort was at once made to extinguish the fire, but owing to the headway already gained, the scarcity of water and the lack of prompt assistance, all was unavailing. M. Davis’ house was some distance from town, and although his neighbors turned out as soon as the alarm was given, and rendered what help was in their power, they only succeeded in preventing the flames from spreading to the barn and surrounding fences. Most of the furniture and household goods were saved, but as the insurance was only $500, the loss is still a heavy one to Mr. Davis.

It is supposed that the fire was in some way communicated from the stove-pipe, which passed into the chimney in the second story. This seems to be one of the most common sources of fire, and every possible precaution should be taken against the same.

One of our village ordinances makes it the duty of the Marshal to examine the condition of stove pipes, chimneys, etc., as often as he may deem it necessary, but we do not know that the necessity for any such examination has in his judgment ever occurred, and we believe that some definite time for making this examination should be fixed by the Common Council.

May 4, 1876. FIRE! The Dwelling of Thomas Hartnett a total loss, and the Elliott House Slightly Damaged.

Friday is called unlucky, and whether the old tradition is well founded or not, certain it is that for two successive weeks, Pentwater has been visited on this day by fire. Last Friday morning, while temporarily unoccupied, the dwelling of Thos. Hartnett caught fire, and although the walls are still standing, the building might as well be considered a total loss. The contents, we believe, were all saved. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defective chimney. Insured for $200.

Our citizens are so accustomed to rely in the fire company and the steamer that only a few exert themselves to save property at fires. The rest look on and crack jokes at the expense of the laborers. We hope to see an improvement in this regard. Everyone should answer to the alarm, prepared to work, bringing a bucket, axe, ladder, or something that is likely to prove of service.

The damage to the Elliott House was slight, and was caused by children playing with fire in the absence of their parents.

We have had such frequent warnings of late, that everyone should use the utmost precaution in guarding against fire.

October 5, 1876. The old building on the corner of Carroll and third streets burned last Saturday night. Origin of fire unknown.

October 19, 1876. The annual review of the Fire Department of this village, will take place this afternoon, at one o’clock. A banquet will be served early in the evening at that popular resort for hungry men and beasts, known as the Elliott House. All the preparations are being made under the eagle eye of the host in person, which guarantees an elegant repast, and we confidently expect to see the broad smile of satisfaction spread over his handsome face as he pockets the proceeds. May the net prove sufficient to meet his desires. The festivities will conclude with a dance in the evening, at Firemen’s Hall .

October 26, 1876. FIRE! FIRE! On the 23rd inst. At half past nine o’clock in the forenoon, the alarm of fire was heard, and rushing into the street we perceived quite a column of smoke issuing from the Elliott House. The firemen were promptly on hand, and soon at work but found it very difficult to reach the flames, the garret being well ablaze and the ladder not being long enough to reach the gable above third story.

About eleven o’clock the conflagration was entirely subdued but the “Traveler’s Home” looked sad, the roof all burnt off, windows and doors gone, and the rooms completely demoralized by the vast amount of water that had been thrown upon the upper story and soaked through, causing the plaster to fall off and completing the work of destruction. The furniture was most all removed still it did seem to us that those who did the labor were crazy for everything was hurled out of windows without regard to consequences, and the result is that most of the beds and bedding are ruined, and if there is a whole bedstead without a break, we would like to gaze upon it. A little less haste and all could have been secured at trifling damage. We are aware this is the usual inclination of most men still cannot help but regret such recklessness.

The property is owned by Mrs. Sarah Imus, and was insured for $5000 in the following companies; Atlas, of Hartford $1000; Shawmut, of Boston, $1000; Armenia, of Pittsburgh, $1000; Manhattan, of New York, $500; St. Paul, of St. Paul, $1000; Humbolt of Newark, $1000.

The furniture of C.W. Brown lessee was insured in the Atlas for $400.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but supposed to be from defective flue of chimney, when first discovered was confined to the rooms on second floor occupied by the family of Mr. Brown. All was done that could be to put out the fire, the firemen were at work soon after the alarm was given and worked nobly. It is to be regretted that both the chief and second assistant engineer were out of town at the time, as their presence at the commencement would have made arrangements more systematic. We are grateful to the department for their services. Are confident that they can manage any fire likely to occur in our midst unless some accident should occur to the engine which is not probable and we cheerfully endorse the statement given at the review a few days ago, Oceana No. One, always prompt and ready for business. Travelers need fear no inconvenience from this catastrophy as ample conveniences will be provided to meet all demands in that direction. The Pacific House promises to accommodate all.

Since writing the above we have wandered through the ruins of the Elliott House, and find the damage to the building to be much greater than at first predicted. Without asking mechanics for a careful estimate we should place the damage on building at $2800, and the furniture from $1500 to $2000. The building is fully insured and the loss on furniture nearly so.

ANOTHER FIRE;

On the evening of the 24th about seven o’clock, fire was discovered breaking through the roof near chimney of a dwelling owned by Mrs. Rozinda J. Kellogg, occupied by Mr. H..A. Chambers carpenter, and located at corner of Second and Rutledge streets. There was a high wind at the time blowing from the west and a few minutes after the alarm the whole building was in flames that curled and hissed in a wild and fearful manner. The engine was promptly in position and soon at work and allayed the flames, saving the barn of Brink & Baker that adjoined on the west. All the furniture was removed. The building is a total loss and insured in the Phoenix of Hartford for $700.

November 23, 1876. Five hundred feet of new hose was tested last Tues’, and it proves to be of excellent quality. The couplings are the best we ever saw, and appear to be absolutely perfect. This hose when under pressure will stretch lengthwise, and can accordingly be laid taut. Pentwater has good reason to be proud of her fire equipment.

February 1, 1877. ATTENTION COMPANY! All members of the Oceana Engine and Hose Company will meet at the Engine House on xxxx evening, March 5th, 1877, at 7 o’clock sharp, to elect officers for the entire year. All members are requested to be present. C.R. Whittington, Foreman.

FIRE MEETING. At a regular meeting of the Oceana Fire and Hose Co., No. 1, held at the Council rooms in the village of Pentwater, March 5,1877, the following officers were duly elected for the ensuing year;-

Chief Engineer, E.B. Flagg, 1st Assistance, E. Moddy, 2nd Assistance, E.W. Hodges, Foreman, C.R. Whittington, 1st Assistance W.H. Tuller, 2nd Assistance Wm. Webb, Jr, Foreman of Hose, Geo Barber, Assistance Charles Perkins, Secretary, H.J. Nelson, Treasurer, J.H. Bouton, Fire Police, H.A. Grant, W.J. Haughey. Moved and supported, that the proceedings be printed. Carried. Moved and carried, that we adjourn. H.J. Nelson, Secretary.

May 10, 1877. Fires in the woods are raging to a considerable extent, and unless rain soon falls, much damage will be done. The school house near Mr. C.M. Jensen’s was burned on Monday last, but as it was insured for $600, the loss will not fall very heavily upon the district. Mr. Hugo Laminet lost nearly all his fences, and his watch, which was hanging in a vest where he was at work.

The fire is now burning near our village and unless the wind shifts may do considerable damage.

May 31, 1877. Some shavings near Underhill’s shingle mill took fire yesterday, and made things pretty lively in that part of our village for a while. Be careful what you do with fire during this dry weather.

June 7, 1887. Another fire last Friday, but no damage done. Engineer Flagg seems to be competent of running any part of the business, as the engine did good work under his superintendence last Friday while Capt. Lamont was necessarily absent.

June 14, 1877. An excerpt from Common Council minutes, Resolution by Whittngton. Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the engineer of Oceana Fire Engine to instruct the Foreman of Oceana Fire Engine Co., in all the particular points in working the engine, when on duty at fire or practice, that he may be capable of working her in absence of the engineer.

June 28, 1877. Common Council minutes, Moved by White, that the committee on fire be instructed to notify the chief engineer of Fire Co., to elect a fireman to run engine in absence of engineer, Carried.

The Pentwater Fire Department are to have a social hop on the evening of the Fourth.

July 12, 1877. The Fourth of July passed off very quietly in Pentwater. The steamer Magnet had a beautiful day for her excursions to Ludington; the races drew quite a company to the park, and the shooting attracted many to the beach. The hop given by the President of the village, under the auspices of the Firemen, was well attended, over one hundred couple being on the floor.

August 2, 1877. FIRE, The dwellings of Mr. F.A. Adler and Mr. J. Ellsworth were found in ashes yesterday morning, having burned at so early an hour, that very few knew of the occurrence until all was over. The clock of Mr. Adler was among the articles saved, and stopped at twenty-five minutes past three, but he thinks the clock was about twenty-five minutes fast, and that the fire broke out about three o’clock. There had been a fire in the coo stove the evening previous, and Mr. Adler thinks the house was in some way set on fire through the chimney. He estimates his loss on tools, furniture, etc., at about$100. The building was insured for $400, but we do not know its estimated value.

The dwelling of Mr. Ellsworth stood quite near that of Mr. Adler. And caught from it. It was unoccupied, and we have not learned whether it was insured or not.

August 9, 1877. PENTWATER FIRE COMPANY. Pentwater, Aug. 4, 1877, A regular meeting of Oceana Co., No. 1, was held in Firemen’s Hall on the evening of the above date. Chas. Whittington foreman, in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved. Report of the secretary who was appointed to ascertain who had rubber coats and other property of the company, received and the committee discharged.

Report of the committee on the Firemen’s Ball, also received, and the committee discharged; receipts of the ball passed to the treasurer for company’s benefit, $16.04.

Moved and supported, company proceed to informal ballet to elect a fireman for the engine. Chas. Peck was elected unanimously.

Moved and supported that a vote of thanks be tendered W.E. Ambler, for his kindness in furnishing music for the ball and giving the hall free gratis, on the 4th of July, for the amusement and benefit of the company and that we record the same on the company’s books. Carried.

Moved and supported that the secretary correspond with the Ludington fire department to join us in an excursion to Manistee, and see what arrangements can be made for the same.

Move and supported that Chas. Shittington’s bill for lamp chimneys, broke the night of the ball be allowed and an order drawn on treasurer for amount.

Moved and supported we adjourn two weeks from to-night. Carried. H.H. Nelson, Secretary.

August 16, 1887. Mr. E.S. Faxon informs us that about midnight of Tuesday, the Schuster House, one of the largest in the city, was discovered to be on fire. It was first seen in the kitchen in the rear of the house, and burning rapidly soon consumed not only the building, but all its contents, consisting of furniture, bedding and wearing apparel. There was only a small insurance, and the fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The wind was from the north, and scattered cinders over three blocks, and but for the rain of Tuesday, the city would have suffered very severely. Not sure if this was in Pentwater or not. T. Cluchey

August 23, 1877. Fire is raging in all directions, and reminds one of the dry time in 1870, when so much damage was done. Mr. S.A. Buck was in town Tuesday, and reported the fire so dense near the brewery, that he was scorched in passing by, altho’ running his horses at their utmost speed. Later-a heavy shower has put out the fires and cheered the farmer’s hearts.

August 30, 1877, Pentwater News. Common Council minutes, Moved by Collister, that the committee on fire be instructed to regulate the number of firemen from 20 to 24, and investigate the number now belonging to company and report at next meeting.

September 6, 1877. FIREMEN’S EXCURSION. The excursion of our Fireman to Manistee last Saturday, Sept. 1st, notwithstanding the inclemencies of the weather, was all our Firemen could desire, the heavy sea was running outside being the only thing to disturb their pleasure and cause an uprising of some of the boys and the ladies also. Such an uprising, as am I, or am I not-am I. The question is, am I to lose the grip on my pie?-over the rail a doleful cry-yes, am I.

To keep our spirits up, A Life on the Ocean wave was sung; Like an Eagle caged I pine. But on our return, we changed the tune, For the Home we left behind; and, if we had only the wings of a dove, We would fly back to Pentwater your bet. On Firemen’s excursions no more for to rove, Where there was danger of getting wet.

We arrived in Manistee at half past 2, PM; was received by the Fire Department and escorted to their hall, where the usual courtesies being passed between the Co’s, we were escorted to the Lake House, where a bountiful repast awaited us. Rambled through the city balance of afternoon, Supper at the Franklin House. After supper marched down the principal streets escorted by Professor Gerlach’s Band, and thence to the German Men’s Working Association Hall, where we tripped the light fantastic toe to as good music as could be had; and Gerlach’s boys can play it. After the ball broke up, we were furnished lodgings and our breakfast for the morning free; Pentwater currency being bogus. The firemen and citizens of Pentwater were well treated, and take pleasure in thanking the Fire Department of Manistee and citizens also, for their kind reception hoping at some future time soon to repay the compliment as becomes firemen.

Now I dell you vat ve vants, Ve vant dot Ditcher gompany, Mit der vimmen folks to Pentwater, To have a Jubilee.

Und ve vill eat, trink, tamce and shleep dem, Longer ash tey vill sthay, Und it vont cost a tam cent, To dot pully Ditcher gompany.

P.S. We also tender our thanks to the officers and men of the little steamer Magnet for their kind attention to our party, and for the able manner in which they handled the boat on that occasion. By order of the Pentwater Department, H J Nelson, Secretary.

Manistee Times & Standard.

September 13, 1877. The Pentwater Firemen came to this city on an excursion Saturday on the steamer Magnet. There were sixty excursionists. The Firemen and Hose Co. were dressed in full uniform, the former in red and the Hose Co. in blue, and presented a very fine appearance. They were accompanied by a band and paraded our streets keeping step to excellent music. There has been no excursion to our city this season that attracted more attention or elicited more general admiration. We trust our Pentwater friends will some again.

September 20, 1877. The alarm last Friday was caused by fire in the refuse slabs from the north pier. If it wasn’t for the long walk through the deep sand, the boys would be glad of a little practice of this kind occasionally. The little steamer always does good work.

September 27, 1877. Common Council minutes read and approved. Committee on fire reported a list of names, members of Oceana Fire Company. On motion of Neilsen, report was accepted. Moved by White, that report be laid on the table. Motion carried.

October 11, 1877. On Saturday evening last, the house of J. Brookshes, on Carroll street, took fire from a defective stove pipe. The household effects were all removed with the usual amount of damage. The fire was soon got under control by the fire department. Insured for $400.

October 18, 1877. Common Council minutes, Oct. 2nd, 1877. The minutes of the meeting read and approved. Chief Engineer reported, that it is necessary to have some repairs made on the Fire Engine. Moved by Nielsen, that President and Chief Engineer be requested to have Engine examined and repaired, at once. Motion carried.

November 29, 1877. Common Council minutes, Nov. 6th, 1877. Communication from Chief Engineer was presented and read as follows: “The Chief Engineer would recommend a review of the Fire Department on Nov. 12th, 1877 by the Common Council.” On motion of Fegan the common council ordered the review of the Fire Department to take place Nov. 12th, 1877, the date recommended by chief engineer.

December 15, 1877. The Pentwater Fire Company had their annual review on Monday afternoon, concluding with an oyster supper at the Elliott House, and a dance at Rice’s Hall in the evening, with music by Campbell’s Band. The company are well prepared for defending our property from the ravages of fire, and we believe can present a better record of past labor, than the department of any other town along the shore. Not one of our neighbors but what has been more severely visited by the conflagrations than ourselves, and there is not a doubt but what our fire equipment has saved many times its cost in the protection of property. Our steam fire Engine “Oceana” is now in good condition, well provided with hose. The company are well supplied with hooks and ladders, and the boys take pride in using our equipment to the best possible advantage. We hop, however, that the occasions for displaying their abilities may be few and far between.

December 20, 1877. To add to the festivities of Christmas, the Fire Company of Pentwater, give a Christmas Ball at Rice’s Opera Hall, on the evening of the 25th.

February 7, 1878. At the firemen’s meeting Monday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chief Engineer, Eugene Moody; 1st Assist. Peter H. Adams; 2nd Assist. Alva H. Palmer; Forman, C R Whittington; 1st Assist. R Golden; 2nd Assist. Chas. J Peck; Foreman Hose, Henry Runne’s; Assist. Chas. S Perkins; 1st Fire Policeman, William N Tuller; 2nd Fire Policeman, Hamilton Shores; Secretary, Horatio J Nelson; Treasurer, Ebenezer C Mayes.

June 27, 1878. The cry of fire the other day called out the fire department promptly, and they soon found it was a country girl who had fallen out of the hind end of a wagon and had on cardinal red stockings.

Pentwater News

June 29, 1878. IN OCCORDANCE with a resolution of the Common Council, adopted June 4, 1878, bids will be received by the Recorder until seven o’clock p m of June 24, 1878, for Engineer to run the steam fire engine for the current year, the duties to be performed as follows:

To keep the engine in good running order, ready for use at all times, and to make all necessary repairs as far as in his power.

To clean the engine inside and out in good shape 48 hours after use. To repair all hose ordered repaired by Chief Engineer. To keep engine house in good order. To keep engine house lighted nights. To keep fire in engine house in cold weather and keep engine ready for use at all hours. To take care of Council Hall, warm and light the same at all meetings of the Council. To instruct the fireman how to run engine. The Council reserve the right to reject any or all bids. E.B. Flagg, Recorder.

July 25, 1878. The new roof which Mr. E.W. Hodges is putting upon the engine house has the appearance of durability. The flat roofs may look a little neater, but they let water through like a sieve.

August 8, 1878. An alarm of fire was caused Thursday afternoon, by the burning of a small shed and pig-pen, belonging to J. Hagstrom. It is supposed to have been set by a spark from the mill, as the wind was blowing exactly in that direction. The boys were promptly on hand with the steamer and hose, but the lake was nearby, and water had been brought and the flames stifled before a stream was thrown. It seemed a long time to wait for water, although we are told it was less than eight minutes before steam was up. The boys think they can do better next time.

August 15, 1878. Another alarm was caused last Friday by fire breaking out in the sidewalk near the barn of the Pentwater Lumber Co., supposed to have been set by some ne carelessly throwing down a cigar stub, or knocking the ashes from a pipe. Too much care cannot be taken in regard to fire.

October 10, 1878. We learn that Mrs. M.H. Putnam had a narrow escape from a terrible death last Friday night. The other members of the family were temporarily absent, and a passer-by noticing a bright light in one of the rooms, rushed in to find the floor and bed in flames, and Mrs. Putnam vainly endeavoring to escape by the closed window. He caught her in his arms and bore her to a place of safety, and the fire was extinguished before much damage had been done. It is supposed that Mrs. Putnam overturned the lamp while in a fit, to which she is occasionally subject.

October 17, 1878. A CORRECTION. Since the fire that occurred at our house the account of which appeared in last week’s paper, we have been censured for leaving (as many suppose) our mother alone. There the account itself is not correct. The evening that we attended the surprise, mother was up town with Mrs. Steele until half-past eight; then Mrs. Brown staid with her until ten o’clock. After that some friends and ourselves went home, and we saw that all was right and went back to Mrs. Steele’s and did not leave until twelve o’clock, when the party broke up. When we arrived home we found the bedroom in flames and our mother wandering around bewildered. This is something that has never occurred before. We tried to put out the fire, but could not. Then, after seeing our little brother to a place of safety, we called Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Stowell. Mrs. Stowell was the first one there and called fire, and we together threw water on the fire and kept it back until Messrs. Vaughan, Burt Steele and Brooks came and relieved us. They were immediately followed by Mess. E. Moody, E. Flagg. A. Palmer and P. Adams, and to all of the above are thanks due for their timely assistance, for which we are very grateful. Our mother was left with our little brother, aged 5 ½ years, and our sister Nettie, aged 12 ½ years. They perfectly understand her case and were instructed to warn us if necessary. We suppose mother retired and set the lamp too near the bed and overturned it in one of the fits she is subject to. We wish to state that we never leave our mother alone when we will permit us to stay with here, or when we think there is any danger. If you will make these corrections you will oblige us very much. Respectfully, Aggie and Jennie Putnam.

October 24, 1878. Last Saturday the steamer “Oceana,” filled the tanks of Messrs. Bush, Merrill & Cary in three hours, pumping over 60,000 gallons of water.

December 5, 1878. The store and contents at Boga’s camp were totally destroyed by fire on last Saturday night. The building was owned by the Pentwater Lumber Company, and was insured for $300. The goods were owned by Wm. Boga, and were uninsured. His loss is about $300. The Pentwater Lumber Company lost about on hundred dollars over and above the amount of their insurance. Mr. C.W. Brown who was in charge of the store, lost $50 in clothes and other property which were stored in the building, and several of the men who were working at the camp lost considerable, in a similar way. The fire broke out at about half-past eleven, but its origin is a mystery. It was with the greatest difficulty that adjoining buildings were saved. Another stock of goods was sent up to the camp on Monday by the Lumber Company. Here is another instance of the value of insurance.

December 19, 1878. Common Council minutes, Moved by White, that this Council pay the expense of a supper to be given to the Fire Department of the village, on the evening of Dec. 25, and that Mr. Whittington be instructed to superintend the getting up of the same, and present a bill for the expense thereof to this Council. Adopted by full vote.

January 2, 1879. The Firemens supper and ball on Christmas evening was a complete success, a large company being in attendance, and all testifying to a most jolly time.

February 13, 1879. The Pentwater Firemen are making preparations to give the Manistee Firemen a hearty welcome when they visit this place, on the 18th of February.

February 20, 1879. The Manistee Firemen came down with a fine band of music last Tuesday; and were received by the Pentwater boys with open arms. They had a jolly hop in Rice’s Hall in the evening, and left for home the next morning, apparently well pleased with their visit.

March 13, 1879. No person is allowed to ring the bell on the Engine House, except in case of fire, unless ordered by the Common Council or the Fire Department. A.J. Underhill, President.

May 22, 1879. FIRE! The Barn of Mr. S.A. Browne Burned. This morning the alarm of fire was sounded, which for so long a time has been a stranger to our ears. The steam fire engine was out promptly, but the location of the fire rendered it useless for lack of water supply. A pony engine owned by Mr. Wm. Kuhn was the first to play on the building, and did good work. By the exertions of those present, the flames were prevented from spreading until the hooks and ladders arrived, when the building was quickly pulled down. The origin of the fire is unknown. No insurance.

Our inability to fight fires at any considerable distance from the lake, is plainly apparent. An artesian well to be sunk on block 36 is suggested as a means of obtaining a water supply, and we consider the plan a good one. Some action in this regard should be taken at once.

May 29, 1879. The slaughter house occupied by Mr. A.J. Underhill was burned on last Thursday night. Origin of fire unknown. Some 27 hams were in a corner of the building, and no trace of them left, except that one was picked up some 20 feet away. Mr. Underhill’s loss is about $75.

June 5, 1879. The Fire Alarm was again sounded last Friday but it was only on account of some burning shavings near the planning mill, which were put out before any damage was done.

On Saturday night this section was visited by copious rains, putting out the forest fires, and being of immense advantage to the growing crops. Still there is room for more.

June 19, 1879. Common Council minutes, on motion of Sands, the Chief Engineer was instructed to sell the pump of the former engine, Oceana. Bids presented for running the steam fire engine for the ensuing year, as follows: Edwin Craine, $200; William Cavanagh, $300; Charles J Peck $199; Charles W Snyder $200. Moved by Randal, that the bid of C.J. Peck to run the fire engine, be accepted. Five ayes, C.J. Peck was declared elected.

June 26, 1879. Common Council minutes, moved by Whittington, that the Marshal be instructed to confer with mill owners and require them to place bonnets on the smoke stacks of their mill immediately. Carried. Moved By Cleveland, that the Chief Engineer be instructed to purchase one pump for engine house. Carried.

October 16, 1879. At a special meeting of the Pentwater Fire Company, held at their Hall, on Saturday, the 11th inst., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That our thanks are due to the Manistee Fire Dep’t and the citizens of Manistee City, for the kind and cordial manner in which they received and entertained the members of Oceana Fire and Hose Company, upon their visit to that city on Saturday, Oct. 4th, and that we fully appreciate the same, and hope to be able at some future day to return the compliment. Also

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records of this Company, and that the Sec’y cause the same to be printed in the Pentwater News and a copy went to the Sec’y of the Manistee Fire Dep’t. C.R. Whittington, C.E. E.C. Mayes, Sec’y.

October 16, 1879. Our Pentwater Fire Company have issued invitations for a social party at Rice’s Hall, next Thursday evening, Oct. 23. A pleasant time is anticipated.

January 1, 1880. The Chief Engineer of our Fire Department received from C.G. Carlton, Chicago, a very acceptable New Year’s present, of a huge cigar, 1 inch in diameter and 8 inches long. The engineer is happy, for he can smoke, and smoke, and smoke.

January 22, 1880. Common Council minutes, committee on fire department report the necessity of clearing the way to the dock for the engine on 4th and 5th street. On motion of Randall the Chief Engineer was instructed to notify Sands & Maxwell to clear away the obstruction to keep those streets open.

The alarm of fire on Thursday night last, was caused by a fire being discovered in the dwelling of P.H. Adams. Prompt work on the part of neighbors rendered the services of the fire department unnecessary.

February 11, 1880. Common Council minutes, on a motion of White, the election of W. A. Rounds as Chief Engineer of the Fire Department was confirmed.

February 18, 1880. At the annual meeting of the Pentwater Fire Department, held on the evening of March 1, 1880. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Chief Engineer, W A Rounds; 1st Ass’t, Henry Runnels; 2nd Ass’t, W H Tuller; Foreman, E R Grant; 1st ass’t, J H Sage; 2nd Ass’t, W S Dumont; Sec’y, E C Mayes; Treas, Henry Rice; Foreman of Hose, F Maynard; Fire Police, A T Lewis, George Cramer. E C Mayes, Sec’y.

April 22, 1880. On motion of Randall, the President appointed Messrs. W.A. Rounds and J.E. White a committee to attend the annual meeting of the State Fire Department, to be held at Grand Rapids, the sum of $20 to be allowed for expenses.

May 13, 1880. The appointment of J.H. Bouton as chairman of the committee on fire will please the boys, and we have no doubt but that he will give the interests of the fire department his carefull attention

July 1, 1880. An incipient fire in the roof of Mrs. Groves dwelling, filled the streets with people in a few minutes time, the timely work of the bucket men soon extinguished the flames. The origin of the fire is another of those unsolvable mysteries, as there had been no fire in that part of the building for some time and it could not have caught from the kitchen chimney, as a strong breeze was blowing the opposite direction.

August 19, 1880. Common Council minutes, report of Chief Engineer read, and on motion of Wright, filed. The Council then proceeded to inform a ballot for Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, which resulted as follows: Whole number of votes cast, five (5), of which W.A. Rounds received 4, and C.R. Whittington 1. On motion of Bouton, a formal ballot was taken. There were five (5) votes cast of which W.A. Rounds received five (5) and was declared elected. On motion of Teal, Council adjourned. J.E. White. Recorder pro tem.

September 2, 1880. We presume we have a well organized fire department but we haven’t witnessed any of those periodical drills required by the ordinance.

September 23, 1880. Common Council minutes, upon recommendation of Chief Engineer Rounds, the following persons were elected members of the Pentwater Fire Department: Henry Runnells, 1st Ass’t Chief; W H Tuller, 2nd Ass’t Chief; Alva H Palmer, Forman; H A Grant, 1st Ass’t Foreman; W S Di,pmt, 2nd Ass’t Foreman; E C Mayes, Secretary’ H C Rice, Treasurer; F Kuhn, Foreman Hose; F Maynard, Ass’t Foreman Hose; A T Lewis, H Shores, C Kuhn, E P Grant, Fire Police.

January 13, 1881. On Saturday last our Fire department exhibited signs of life, and brought out the steamer for a spirit. After getting up steam a couple of flues burst and she was hauled back for repairs. It is very fortunate that we have had no fires lately, for such an accident as that with a fire in progress would render us nearly helpless to stop it ravages.

February 10, 1881. Pentwater News, Common Council minutes, the report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department was read. On motion of Wright, it was accepted and placed on file. The following persons being recommended by the Chief Engineer as qualified to become members of the Fire Department, were adopted by the Council on motion of Wright: C. W. Cramer, Franklin Pierce, J.C. Jensen. F.W. Fincher, P.M. Teal, M. Gannon. On motion of Randall, the following names were stricken from the roll of members of the Fire Department: J.H. Sage, Geo. Cramer, C.J. Peck, H. Shores, W. Derby, Hugh Divine. On motion of Randall, the Council adjourned. H.A. Cross, Recorder.

February 24, 1881. Our Common Council gave a supper at the Elliott House on last Tuesday evening, to the members of our Fire Department and their guests the Manistee Firemen. A pleasant time is reported.

March 17, 1881. Common Council minutes, on motion of Whittington, $15 was owed the Fire Department for supper at the Elliott House.

HARNESSING A TEAM IN ONE AND A HALF SECONDS. This story was not of the Pentwater Fire Department but , of Engine Company 24, in Morton street, is said to be the quickest in the world. Captain William McLaughlin was found yesterday in his room on the second floor. He said, when asked how long it took him to hitch up: “Excuse me, I decline to state. Why? Because you’d think me a liar. Do you know how to use a stop watch?” “I do.”

The Captain walked down stair to the first floor, where his men were standing about in little groups. The floor was as clean as could be. Every little bit of metal worn on the engine and tender was glistening like polished glass. Within fourteen feet from the head of the shaft of the engine were two horses in stalls, directly beside the wheels of the apparatus. Formerly the horses had to run from the rear of the building. Twenty-four’s horses are magnificent animals. They are perfectly matched eight-year old grays, nearly fifteen hands high, with clean, tapering legs, perfectly arched necks, small heads and fiery eyes. Yesterday, when waiting for the stroke of the gong, ready to jump forward under the harness, they were pictures of animation. Their immense strength and rigidity seemed to melt away, and they became as lithe and agile as kittens, pawing the floor, throwing their beautiful heads high in the air.

“They know there’s something in the wind,” muttered the Captain; “might clever beast.”

The Captain handed a watch to the reporter, saying: “That watch belongs to Captain Eustes, the oarsman. It was used by Wm. B. Curtis to time Courtney and Hanlan at Washington. It registers an eighth of a second. When I strike the gong, you push that little knob. When the driver shouts “Ready” you push that one. If you hear a click or see any part of the outfit unclasped, don’t stop the watch until it’s remedied. I am going to hitch up ten times.”

The reporter stepped within a little inclosure on a line with the end of the pole. The harness, already attached to the engine, was suspended by a system of pulleys over the places where the horses were to stand. The collars were hinged at the top, but were open at the bottom, and they hung like a pair of open scissors. When the horse’s neck is beneath this collar it is only necessary to let it drop and close it around his neck, when it clasps automatically. With the same movement the reins are clasped to the bit, which the horse always has in his mouth, and as the whole harness falls upon the animal, at the clasp of the collar he stands completely harnessed.

The Captain approached the gong. The firemen were all on the floor. The horses were on the alert. “Clang!” The watch was started; the horses, whose halters were unhitched by the same current of electricity that rang the bell, leaped forward, and stood like rocks under the harness, with their necks held up ready for the collars, which two firemen sprang forward and seized. There was a quick click, click, the driver vaulted into his seat, seized the reins, and shouted “Ready!”

The watch was stopped. The horses were examined, and found to be perfectly harnessed and ready to start. The Captain asked the reporter: “How much?” “One second and five-eighths.” “If I’d said that I’d been called,” said the Captain. The horses were released. They ran back again to their stalls and were haltered. There was another trial, and the team was hitched and harnessed in one and one-half seconds. This made the Captain smile. The time occupied by each of the other eight trials was similar.

April 28, 1881. Our steam was examined last week and found to be in a bad condition to encounter a fire, more defective flues being discovered. It seems to us to be poor economy to keep an engineer under pay to watch an engine that would be worthless at a fire, and its condition can only be determined by frequent trials.

May 5, 1881. As an item of economy in the matter of coal expense for the use of the fire department, wouldn’t it pay to remodel the engine room so as to make it unnecessary to keep the whole building warmed during the winter season?

May 5, 1881. The persons having in charge the supervision and care of the fire engine are now exerting themselves to place the engine in good working trim. New flues have been received, and Mr. Teal with a corps of assistants has been busy in removing the old ones and putting in the new. We shall expect to see the machine on the street occasionally, demonstrating her working capacity.

May 12, 1881. The fire engine with a new set of flues in her, came out for trial on Saturday and made a perfectly satisfactory exhibition. The fire committee and engineer are to be complimented on the energy they have displayed in repairing the steamer. During the interim of her disability the safety of the village has been looked after by the Council employing a night watchman.

May 26, 1881. Sealed proposals for running the Fire Engine for the ensuing year, will be received by the Recorder until 7:30 o’clock p.m., on Friday, June 30, 1881. Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Pentwater, May 23, 1881. H.A. Cross, Recorder.

June 2, 1881. The Grand Rapids Tiimes, (daily)inn its issue of the 28th, contains several items of news that might be interesting to the people of this vicinity, if true. It stated that Pentwater would “observe Decoration Day.” If Decoration day was observed in Pentwater, it was done so quietly that no one knew anything about it. It also stated that there were “several new cases of diphtheria in Pentwater,” and that “a house and contents were burned in Pentwater last week.” There has been but one case of diphtheria in Pentwater in eight years, and that was not fatal. We have not had a fire in this village within six months of more importance than a shaving pile.

June 9, 1881. A fire broke out on Friday last in the residence of Mr. Joel McLenithan, but the prompt action of the people in responding to the alarm, aided by Mr. Wm. Hudson’s force pump and hose prevented any serious damage. The fire department were on hand promptly with their steamer, ready for business, but fortunately were not needed. The cause of the fire is supposed to be the carless dropping of a lighted match among some shingle shavings with which the house was banked. Mr. and Mrs. Mclenithan were in Hart at the time, and knew nothing of the fire until their return.

June 9, 1881. Common Council minutes, bill of Pentwater fire department, $3.30, for services at the fire at McLenithan’s presented, and the rules suspended, bill allowed and an order drawn, on motion of Wickham.

June 16, 1881. FIRE! On Friday the alarm of fire was sounded, and the fire department with their steamer were quickly on the grounds near Chapman’s mill, where a small barn was discovered to be in flames. Delay in getting up steam was cause by smothering the fire in the steamer by a too generous supply of coal, but when they got started the little Oceana did business and although the barn and some loose shavings and wood were burned no further damage was done. The building took fire from the inside, but whether it was the work of an incendiary, or a careless smoker who had stepped inside to light his pipe, remains unknown. It would be well however, to keep a sharp eye out for incendiaries and for smokers to be a little more careful.

Sunday morning at about two o’clock, while most of the people were dreaming about the terrible conflagration at Ludington, the news of which had reached us the night before, the fire bell sounded the alarm and an excited multitude swarmed into the streets to see the lurid light of a fire in the vicinity of the ferry. It proved to be a large lumber pile belonging to Sands & Maxwell, and the fire was under good headway before the engine arrived, but although the wind was blowing strong and it was surrounded by much combustible material, the boys handling the Oceana did effective work and its further spread was stopped. It probably took fire from a stub of a cigar dropped by some of the passengers from the train. Smokers should either smoke their cigars all up and swallow the fire, or else take pains to put out the fire before dropping their cigars.

Pentwater has expended some four thousand dollars for a steamer and necessary appurtenances to maintain and run it, and on several occasions has it saved the entire village from almost total destruction. It has paid for itself fifty times over. The Common Council are now beginning to inquire into the cost, &c., of putting reservoirs on some of the principal streets back from the lake, which is considered a favorable indication that something will be done to protect our homes as well as places of business.

July 7, 1881. A fire, probably set by fire cracker, started in the rear of Mrs. Roddy’s bakery, on the 4th. But water administered by J. Harrison prevented a conflagration

August 11, 1881. Common Council minutes, on motion of Wickham, authority was given for the purchase of f300 feet of No. 4 antiseptic hose, 2 ½ inch, at 85 cts. per foot, of the Caswell Fire Dep’t Supply Co. Price guaranteed. Hose warranted to stand 300 lbs. pressure. Said guaranteed to hold good for three years. On motion of Wickham, Council adjourned.

October 6, 1881. STORM & FIRE. On Thursday night of last week our village was visited by one of the most terrific wind storms that we ever witnessed. Trees were blown down, fences scattered, signs and loose boards strewn all over the streets. No particular damage was done to the buildings, although the shaking which they got was sufficient to keep sleep from the eyes of most of their occupants. About midnight, whole the wind was blowing the strongest, the alarm of fire was sounded, and if ever people answered the summons with alacrity it was then, for-the livid light of flames from the blacksmith shop of Bane and Davis, in the rear of Perkins’ livery stable, in the midst of combustibles, seemed to foretell certain, quick and sure destruction to a large portion of our village. But, thanks to the pluck and endurance of Ab Perkins, Henry Runnels and others, whom we found working as for dear life, part of them operation a bucket brigade and the balance throwing sand, and to Dr. Dockery for preventing an excited man from making an opening in the building that would have cause a draft which would have rendered the efforts of Ab and his brigade futile, seconded by the ever faithful “Oceana” which flooded the premises with water, a big conflagration was prevented and may homes saved from destruction.

December 22, 1881. Property owners don’t take kindly to the building of fires on Hancock street thereby endangering the whole town, merely for the purpose of advertising fire-proof paint. The paint may be fire proof but the village is not.

January 12, 1882. The fire engine is now in fine condition, supplied with 1,200 feet of good hose.

March 23, 1882. Common Council minutes, On motion of Wickham, the Recorder was instructed to collect the sum of thirty-five dollars of the party or parties now using the dock at the foot of Third street, upon payment of which sum the Village Attorney is authorized to draw a lease for said dock, leaving eight feet front for use of fire engine; said lease to be drawn for one year from December 1, 1881.

May 25, 1882. The village came near suffering total destruction by fire last Saturday. It caught along the track from the trains, and gathering as it progressed, swept with great fury towards the town, and not withstanding the entire population were trying to stay its progress, all efforts seemed futile until it was within a few rods of More’s mill, when providentially the rain began to fall and its ravages stayed. The damage done, as near as can be estimated, is as follows: D. Rankin, 3,00 cords of wood, value $3000; G.A. Wagar, $500 worth of wood and ties, and several smaller lots of wood, etc.

June 8, 1882. Notice. Sealed proposals for running the fire engine of the Village of Pentwater, Oceana County, Michigan, for the ensuing year, from the 3d day of June, 1882, will be received by the Recorder up to 7:30 p.m. of Friday, June 6th, 1882. The Common Council reserve the right to reject any and all bids. Dated, Pentwater, June 2nd, 1882. H.A. Cross, Recorder.

June 9, 1882. At a meeting of the Pentwater Fire Dept., Monday evening, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted. Viz; Whereas, the S. & M. L. Co. have presented to this department a fine hose cart, therefore

Resolved that the thanks of this department are due and are hereby tendered to the Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co. for such gift, which is highly appreciated, and

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be published in the Pentwater News.

June 15, 1882. The old fire organization has disbanded and a new one been organized, with the following list of officers: C.R. Whittngton, Chief Engineer; C.W. Cramer, Ass’t; J.C. Jensen, Foreman Fire Dep’t; W.H. Tuller, Ass’t; F. Maynard, Foreman Hose Co.; F. Pierce, Asst’t; H.A. Gross, Sec’y; F.W. Fincher, Treas.’ E.F. Faulkner, S.W. Bunyea, Fire Police; F.W. Fincher, Fireman Engine.

Common Council minutes of June 7, 1882 a motion of Canfield, the office of Chief Engineer of the Fire Deparment was declared vacant. On motion of Maxwell, the names of all persons considered as members of the Fire Department were stricken from the roll and the offices of all officers in such Fire Department were declared vacant. On motion of Canfield, an informal ballot was taken for Chief Engineer of the Fire Department for the unexpired term of such office. Whole number of ballots cast, 5, of which C.R. Whittington received 4; bland, 1. On motion of Canfield, the ballot was declared formal, and C.R. Whittngton declared Chief Engineer of the Fire Department. On motion of Whittngton, the following persons were accepted as members of the Pentwater Fire Department: C R Whittington, FW Fincher, John J Bush, Jr., WH Tuller, JH Bouton, EG Faulkner, Henry Draper, HC Rice, Frank Maynard, SW Bunyea, Ab Perkins, HA Cross, JC Jensen, CL Moody, Frank Pierce, CH Whittington, Charles Lewis, CW Cramer, Oscar Tayer, FM Teal, George Heath, Fred Kuhn. On motion of Whittington, Fred Neilsen and E.W. Hodges were appointed Fire Wardens of the Village of Pentwater. On motion of Canfield, adjourned. H. A. Cross, Recorder.

June 22, 1882. Common Council minutes, on motion of Wickham, Chief Engineer Whittington of the Fire Department, and President Nickerson of the Common Council, were authorized to purchase 500 feet of hose of the Caswell Supply Department Co. On motion of Wickham, the Council adjourned. H. A. Cross, Recorder.

June 30, 1882. Excerpt from paper, Geo. Flood, Chief of the Pentwater Fire Dept.

August 3, 1882. PENTWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT. Until within the past year Pentwater has had the credit of having one of the best fire departments to found on the shore. The past year the interest in the department had fallen away to such an extent that the council deemed it necessary to disband the old companies and organize an entirely new department. For this purpose a meeting of the council was held at which time the old department was disbanded. The council unanimously chose Mr. Charles R. Whittington as Chief Engineer. Mr. Whittington is one of our thorough businessmen, of a genial and happy disposition which gives him a good government over the boys of the department. He has been associated with the department since its first organization and well understands the management of the department in all its branches. The names of 22 men were presented to the council for their approval as members of the department. These were all accepted and enrolled as firemen. After the adjournment of the council the new members of the fire department met to choose their officers. Nearly all the members were present and manifested an enthusiastic interest in the new organization. The officers chosen were Cramer ass’t. Chief Engineer; Jensen, Foreman Fire Company; Tuller ass’t. ass’t, Maynard, Foreman Hose Company; Pierce, ass’t. Cross, Secretary; Fincher, Treasurer; Faulkner and Bunyea, Fire Police. We can safely say that we again have one of the best fire organizations in Northern Michigan.

The steamer “Oceana” is in good condition and is promptly tried once a month, at which time the “boys” are thoroughly drilled. At each trial she has been ready for the “nozzle” as soon as hose has been had. Our department is now under pay, being allowed a liberal compensation for time while at a fire. Our village has been extremely fortunate in regard to fires, but should occasion require we can feel confident in the exertions of the new fire department. The Common Council have elected Mesars. Fred Nielsen and E.W. Hodges as Fire Warders, and the duties of these gentlemen are being fully executed. Let us all do our best to sustain the new organization.

September 21, 1882. The Fire Department are bestirring themselves to get a uniform that will show sufficient adhesiveness to remain with the Department.

September 28, 1882. The Firemen will give a ball on the 12th of October, at which a grand time is expected. Give the boys a benefit; they want to buy some clothes.

October 5, 1882. The first annual inspection of the Pentwater Fire Department occurs on Thursday next (Oct. 12th). They have issued a program of what they intend to interest the citizens in. We earnestly urge every one to witness the inspection. The alarm will be struck at 12:30 p.m., for the commencement of proceedings. Parade at one o’clock; inspection by the Common Council at 1:30; at 2:30 an alarm of fire will be rung, and the department will run for a large fire which will be started on the old tannery grounds. A thorough trial of the engine and hose will be given at 3:30; firemen’s supper will be served at 7 o’clock. In the evening a firemen’s reception will be given at Faulkner’s Opera Hall, where one and all can enjoy the “mazes of the dance” to the strains of Babcock & Hyde’s band. Give the boys a good “send off.”

October 5, 1882. FIRE! The alarm of fire was sounded at 2 o’clock Tuesday morning, for the first time in many months, and those who heard it soon discovered that the flames proceeded from Mr. Charles Seversen’s shingle mill about a mile from the village, east on the little lake. The Fire Department were on their taps and notwithstanding the distance to travel, had the steamer on the ground in 20 minutes time. The hose cart was pulled nearly the entire distance by the boys before a team overtook them. The mill was a total loss, being entirely consumed before reached by the fire Department. The spread of the flames upon the dock was speedily stopped as soon as the little steamer, which never fails to do her duty, arrived. It is a creditable showing for the new fire organization, that while fully one-half of our citizens did not know of the fire until the next morning, 19 out of the 22 members of the organization were on duty. We learn that Messr. Sands & Maxwell owned one-third interest in the mill, and that they also lost some wood. There was no insurance.

October 12, 1882. Common Council minutes, the Pentwater Fire Dept. was paid for their labor at Seversen’s Mill fire, $21.60. An invitation from the Fire Department to join them at their inspection and supper was extended to the Council. On motion Maxwell, the names of G.O. Switzer and John Haight were accepted as members of the Fire Department. On motion Maxwell, Council adjourned. H.A. Cross, Recorder.

October 19, 1882. Thursday last was the day for the Firemen’s review, and in accordance with the programme,at 1 o’clock with the little “Oceana” brightened for the occasion, and her accompanying “hose” in full view, manned by as fine looking a lot of men as you generally get together, smiling in their new uniforms, marched to the order of their Chief through Hancock ST., and stopped in front of the News office for inspection and to have their pictures photographed by Morrell Bros. After the parade the steamer and hose cart were returned to quarters and the firemen scattered themselves about the village. At 2 ½ o’clock p.m. a large fire was started near the old tannery ground, about half a mile out, and the alarm sounded. At just twelve minutes from the sounding the alarm, the steamer was on the ground throwing water. Better time would have been made but for an unfortunate accident in crossing a sidewalk, which broke off the suction hose from steamer. In the evening Faulkner’s Opera Hall was the scene of merriment and dancing where some seventy couples enjoyed themselves. Supper was served at the Pacific House and many were the praises Mrs. Eager received for her skill in preparing the viands. We are happy to state that the department is in fine condition, well officered and ready for business at the stroke of the bell.

November 16, 1882. A grand Masquerade, under the auspices of the Pentwater Fire Department, will be given at Faulkner’s Opera Hall, on New Year’s night, Jan. 1, 1883. Babcock & Hyde’s Orchestra will furnish the music. The management having charge assure everyone of a good, a No. 1 time, so begin to make ready for a picnic.

November 23, 1882. The alarm of fire which sounded Tuesday afternoon, followed by the dense clouds of smoke seen arising in the rear of the business buildings on the west side of Hancock street set the blood dancing through the veins of business men at a fever rate. The fire proved to be in a small dwelling house occupied by Geo. Crouch and wife (recently married), and was well under way before the engine got to throwing water, but it did not take long to subdue the flames after she got to work, which was just fourteen and one half minutes from the time the bell sounded. The entire fire department was on duty with two exceptions, which speaks well for the organization.

December 7, 1882. The Fire Department is on its feet; that is, all the members and their friends were on their feet at Faulkner’s Opera Hall last Thursday night, shaking them to the music of Babcock & Hyde’s band. We peeked through the key-hole and counted two hundred and forty feet in motion at one time, owned by sixty couple and scores of feet scattered about the sides of the Hall, anxious to get in motion. As a result of this grand feet shaking, the Department have %50 in the treasury and are so encouraged that they will try it over again, New Years.

December 9, 1882. The Fire Department were out yesterday to see if everything about their steamer was in working order. It was.

January 4, 1883. NEW YEARS CARNIVAL. The Fire Department made extensive arrangements for a grand time New Years night. Some very fine invitation were issued and the carnival well advertised. The weather was fine, the sleighing good, and hearts were light when the music struck up in Faulkner’s Hall. G ay and festive masked youths and maidens, with a few older ones sandwiched in, began to fill the hall. Brigands, courtiers and angels were there; all clans and nations represented, and many of the animal kingdom. There was “mashing” in disguise all about the room, and when some of the maskers lifted their masks it was comical to note the look of surprise which overspread their countenances. We noticed one young man who was particularly attentive to an angel; when they lifted their masks the angel had flown and instead stood Miss Milligan. Our P.M. narrowly escaped a like fate by his partner refusing to unmask, & c. 105 numbers were sold; 59 spectator tickets sold; ladies were admitted free, and it is estimated that over two hundred spectators were present. Mr. D.C. Wickham, floor manager, assisted later in the evening by W.S. Reed, deserve credit for the able manner in which they performed their arduous duties. The Co. Netted about $45.

February 1, 1883. On Sunday night, about ten o'clock, Mr. Oscar Tayer and family were awakened by the suffocating smell of smoke, and soon discovered that their kitchen back of the stove was in flames. Mr. Tayer hastened to the engine house, one block distant, struck the alarm and returned to fight the flames. By vigorous work aided by Mr. Kuhn’s window washer, the fire was extinguished without the aid of the engine. The boys, however were on hand in time and had the steamer puffing smoke, hose laid and all ready for business, when the order came to suspend. The loss on house and contents was covered by insurance, and is probably in the neighborhood of $50. There were grand possibilities for a big fire, but fortunately the village had another escape.

February 22, 1883. Common Council minutes, Chief Engineer Whittngton offered the report of Pentwater Fire Department.

April 19, 1883. The alarm of fire was sounded about 7 ½ o’clock p.m. Tuesday, and brought out the fire dep’t and a crowd in short order. The fire proved to have been in the shaving vault at the furniture factory, but owing to the fire proof construction of the vault could hardly have caused damage. It was easily extinguished by the application of a few pails of water and by closing the vault doors.

Another alarm of fire last night which brought out the boys in a hurry, but which proved to be a false alarm. Such good time was made by the hose men that they acted disappointed when they discovered that there was nothing to squirt at.

April 26, 1883. Thursday morning at about half-past eight we had a false alarm of fire and fight, or more correctly speaking, neither amounted to anything and were extinguished before much damage was done. The fire was on the east end of the roof of White’s shingle mill. The alarm brought the fire department promptly, but the ever alert and the first there, Kuhn’s hand machine, had the whole fire squelched before the steamer was ready. When we reached the side walk we observed the Kuhn fire department running down on the opposite side of the street, the pail of water in one hand and his extinguisher under his arm. We looked toward the engine house and pausing to get the bearings as to locality, and then started down Fourth street to the lake and looking over to the mill beheld Chief Engineer Kuhn standing on the lean-to of the mill and directing the working of his engine by a couple of men on the roof and before we got over half-way to the mill was met by a message to the foreman that the fire was all out. This is the fifth or sixth time in our recollection that Mr. Wm. Kuhn has promptly did the business before the fire had acquired headway and illustrates the value of promptness and being ready. A pail of water and a hand extinguisher being of more value than a steamer later. We are all indebted to Mr. Kuhn in this behalf. He is entitled to the gold medal.

July 5, 1883. The premature firing of the refuse pile disarranged the firemen’s plans somewhat, yesterday, yet they obtained water through the hose in just eleven minutes from the time the alarm was struck.

At three o’clock this morning fire was discovered in Nickerson & Collister’s building occupied by R. N. Faulkner and the Morrell Bros. photograph gallery. The fire department were promptly on hand and by four o’clock had the fire subdued. The damage to the building was about $300; Morrell Bros. photograph gallery $200. No insurance.

July 12, 1883. A vote of thanks is extended to the Fire department by the ladies of the Congregational Society, for the care taken of their property, left in Mr. Faulkner’s store on the 4th.

Pentwater has a very good fire protection for the principal business buildings and those bordering upon the lake, but in case of fire in that part of the village where most of the residences are located, little if any protection exists, for although we have the time-tried little Oceana and an efficient fire department, we lack water in that part of the village. Of course it is just as essential that our homes which contain the relics and treasures of years’ gathering should be protected as well as the business places, but the question is, how to do it. Four large reservoirs could be placed so as to supply the needed water for use by the department, which would cost about $4,000, and would require additional expense to keep them in repair. We notice by our exchanges that many villages some even smaller than Pentwater, have made arrangements with a company for putting in water works by granting the company the exclusive privilege of operating for a certain number of years, which works furnish not only the fire protection needed, but also the water for household use right in the house, for fountains on lawns, and any purpose desired, the tax dependent on the amount used, the village paying for the amount used by the village in case of fires, etc. By inquiry from villages now using this system, it would appear that no cheaper or more satisfactory plan could be adopted. We expect to secure information which we will publish in another issue, which will give a better idea of the cost and benefits of this system.

August 9, 1883. On Thursday last a dense cloud of smoke was seen issuing from the residence of Mr. T.C. Turner, just north of the old cemetery in Hart. The alarm was given and a number of citizens with buckets at once repaired to the place and went vigorously to work, and soon succeeded in subduing the flames. The fire extinguisher of W. Wigton did good service. The building was insured for enough to cover damage. Mr. and Mrs. Turner were away from home when the fire broke out.

Common Council minutes, Mr. Whittington, chairman of the committee on fire, reported favorably on the quality of coal now in use for running the engine. The committee were authorized to purchase a sufficient amount of coal to run the engine; also presented the engineer’s contract as changed. Moved by Tuller, that the engineer’s contract be accepted as read; carried.

September 6, 1883. The alarm of fire Saturday was caused by a pile of ties near White’s mill taking fire from a spark. Kuhn’s squirt gun did the business, as usual. The fire department were out on time and got water in just five minutes from the time the alarm sounded.

September 20, 1883. Firemen’s annual inspection day Oct. 11. Dance at Opera Hall in evening; Babcock’s orchestra band; Supper. You want to get there.

October 25, 1883. The Firemen’s Annual Review, supper, speeches, dance, etc., which took place on the 11 inst., was a grand success in every respect. The firemen were scattered about town when the alarm was sounded without previous warning. The “boys” responded with alacrity and succeeded in putting the steamer at the foot of 4th street and laying the hose in two minutes from the first stroke of the bell, and getting water through the nozzle in 3 ¾ minutes, after which water flew promiscuously, as Wm. Haughey is willing to swear, and then Co. returned to quarters. The Supper was served by Fisher Bros., and the laborious action of the firemen upon the floor of the Hall, and the speeches of the aldermen, who were “too full for utterance,” testified as to the delicacies with which they were entertained. The days’ doings closed pleasantly with the light fantastic firemen’s toe trip at the Opera Hall, also enjoyed by many others.

November 22, 1883. On Sunday last, the wind and waves being favorable, the tug Fred Nielsen undertook and successfully accomplished the taking off the beach the schooner Charles Luling, in the presence of a large concourse of people who assembled at the piers to see the result. As she passed over the wrecked Norman, a cheer went up from the crew of the Luling, which was answered by those on shore. The services of the steamer Oceana were required to pump the water from the schooner, which she did in her usual creditable manner.

November 29, 1883. At the Council meeting the fire department reported $70, collected of the schooner Charles Luling, for pumping her out. After some discussion, it was voted that the money be paid into the village treasury with the understanding that those members of the department who worked the steamer put in bills for their services. This is rather tough on the members of the Common Council who are also members of the department, and did work, as the village charter prohibits their receiving anything for their labor.

December 6, 1883. Saturday night, about one o’clock when the wind was blowing its best, the alarm of fire was sounded. It proved to be the chimney in Fisher’s saloon burning out.

A DEER ON A RAMPAGE, this is not a fire story, but I thought it might be worth printing. Chris Jensen has a deer. It is a tame deer and quite a pet with Chris’ family. He keeps the deer in a yard surrounded by a high fence, near his dwelling. Sometimes Chris will let the deer have the privilege of the town limits for exercise, and on these occasions his deership enjoys a high old time, and the antics he performs furnish amusement for men, boys, and the unpoisoned dogs. On Saturday morning, either by accident or otherwise, this deer was taking a little exercise down Hancock street and as he neared the Reed boarding house, he discovered Mr.\_\_\_Green, the night-burner at the brick yard. Never having seen a genuine brick man before, he stopped in astonishment, snuffed, pawed and tried to pick a fuss with him, and finding Mr. Green inclined to mind his own business, he made a dive for him. Green threw out his hands to save himself from the deer’s fury, and one of his antlers ripped the flesh from between the thumb and fore finger. Mr.\_\_\_seeing Green’s danger, ran to his assistance, when the deer turned and made for him. He waited until the deer was within easy range, and then gave him the benefit of a shot club which rather checked his progress and left him minus one of his antlers. But there’s no fury like a deer’s )or dear’s) fury when once aroused, and up Hancock street he went in search of new victims. Scarcely had he reached the bakery, when he discovered our old friend, Jo. Sullivan, and Jo. Discovered the deer about the same time. “Holy Moses,” cried Jo, “the devil is coming, sure!” and he mounted a woodpile and grabbing a stick of four-foot wood, shouted: “Now come on wid your whole British navy. Of yees come up here I’ll make ye think a hull magazine of dynamite has exploded about your head.” But further bloodshed was prevented by the appearance of its owner, who enticed it back to its quarters. Green threatens to sue Jensen for damages.

December 20, 1883. FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!, January 1, 1884, at Faulkner’s Opera Hall, Grand Carnival, BAL MASQUE!, for the benefit of the Pentwater Fire Dep’t. When the bell strikes the boys are always on hand; and when the music strikes up, their friends remember it. The Department propose to make this dance the social event of the season. They guarantee good order and a big time. Music by Babcock’s Orchestra.

Common Council minutes, the resignation of Charles R. Whittngton as chief engineer, presented. Moved by Wickham, that the resignation of C.R. Whittington be laid on the table until next meeting: carried.

February 6, 1884. Mr. Charles R. Whittington, for many years the faithful Chief of the Fire Department, retires, and W.H. Tuller is elected to fill the position. Mr. Whittington has been one of the most active, careful and energetic members of the department, and much of the “Oceana’s” wonderful success at fires in times past has been due to his watchful care of the condition of the engine and hose during periods of danger by fire. Mr. Tuller, his successor, has for many years been one of the foremost workers in the department, never shirking a duty at fires, no matter how dangerous xxxirksome the position, and we are satisfied that in choosing him no detxxxx to the management will be experienced.

March 6, 1884. $25,000 BLAZE AT PENTWATER, NICKERSON & COLLISTER’S FLOURING MILL ENTIRELY CONSUMED WITH A LARGE QUANTITY OF GRAIN. On Friday night last, about 7 o’clock, Louis Jensen, who lives in the vicinity of the grist mill, discovered fire issuing from the shed adjoining the mill on the south, and promptly gave the alarm. In a few minutes hundreds of villagers, and the Fire Department with its steamer were there ready to battle the elements. The time necessary to get up steam, which on this occasion was brief, was sufficient for the fire to get under headway, and all subsequent efforts which were manfully made, by citizens and firemen were unavailing to safe the building, and in a few hours a smouldering mass of ruins marked the place where the fine $20,000 flouring mill stood before. At the fire and since, the usual amount of fault-finding was indulged in, but which of course was uncalled for as everybody did their best, and the fact that although surrounded by combustible material the fire was confined to the mill building, is proof that their labors were not entirely lost. For some reason the engine did not work as well as she ought, but it was probably due more to natural weakness which results from age and active service, rather than the fault of any one person. She did work, but not a vigorously as before.

When first discovered the fire appeared to be in the shed which adjoins the mill, although the lower part of the mill proper was filled with thick smoke, and by the time the engine commenced working the entire lower floor of the mill was in flames. From the construction of the mill it was absolutely impossible to reach the fire center with water from the engine, and in the minds of most people present the mill was doomed from the beginning.

There was an insurance upon the mill of $8,000 in the following companies in H.A. Cross’ agency: American, $2,500; Fire Association, $1,000 Home, $1,500. In the Millers’ Association, $3,000.

There are various conjectures as to cause, some thinking it the work of an incendiary, but this seems improbable, as an incendiary would hardly have dared to attempt his work at that time of day, especially as the place was so public. Others think it was caused by spontaneous combustion, heating of boxes, form a pile of waste, or from middlings that had become wet and heated. That it originated on the lower floor of the mill near the corner, and gradually worked through into the shed.

The loss will not affect the financial standing of Messrs. Nickerson & Collister, although a great loss to them, the village and country. Efforts were at once made by our citizens to secure the rebuilding of a new roller process mill, and it now looks as though they would be successful.

March 6, 1884. Common Council minutes, Chief Engineer Whittington, chairman of the Fire Committee reported that the steamer was in need of extensive repairs, that he had been to Whitehall and conferred with Messrs. Wilson & Hendrie in regard to the matter, that they had agreed to telegraph to him as soon as they were ready to commence the work. Moved by Gardner that the report be accepted and the Committee on Fire be instructed to have the engine repaired immediately; carried.

The following communication from the Fire Department read: To the Hon’, the Common Council of the Village of Pentwater, Michigan: Gentlemen: At the annual meeting of the Pentwater Fire Department, held Monday evening, March 3d, 1884, Mr. W.H. Tuller was elected Chief Engineer of the Department for the ensuing year. We ask your confirmation of him as such..The following named persons were elected as members of the Department: H A Grant, Josiah McFadden and George Flood to fill vacancies cause by the resignations of G O Switzer, J C Jensen, I W Moe and C R Whittngton. We ask your approval of the newly elected members.

The Department request the consent of the Council to increase the number of members to 24 instead of 22 as allowed by action of the Common Council. Pentwater Fire Dep’t. H A Cross, Sec’y.

Moved by Canfield that the communication from the Fire Department be received and placed on file; carried. Moved by Whittington that the resignation of C R Whittington, Chief Engineer, be taken from the table; carried. Moved by Canfield that the resignation of C R Whittngton, Chief Engineer, be accepted; carried. President Nielsen, on behalf of the Common Council and the citizens of the village, thanked Mr. Whittngton for the efficient discharge of his duties while Chief Engineer. Moved by Gardner that a vote of thanks be extended Mr. Whittington; carried. Moved by Whittngton that the election of Wm. H Tuller be confirmed; carried. Moved by Canfield that the Council approve of H A Grant, Josiah McFaddin and George Flood as members of the Fire Department; carried. Moved by Canfield that the Fire Department be allowed to increase their membership to 24 members; carried.

The Finance Committee reported favorably upon the bill of the Pentwater Fire Department for services at the Nickerson & Collister mill fire of $66.15.

At the annual election of the Pentwater Fire Department, held Monday evening, March 3, 1884, the following officers were elected: W H Tuller Chief; C W Cramer asst. Chief; A M Perkins Foreman; Oscar Tayer asst. Foreman; Fred Kuhn, Foreman Hose Co.; Theodore Mero, asst. Hose Co; H A Cross Secretary; C F Lewis, Treasurer; Wm. Webb, Jr. and John Haight, Fire Police.

March 13, 1884. Mr. C.R. Whittington takes the fire engine to Montague today for repairing. If it will necessarily be absent for a few days, during which time it will behoove all to constitute themselves special watches to prevent fire, and in case of fire breaking out, to bring the buckets out. The old time bucket brigade will be our only protection during the absence of the steamer.

March 27, 1884. The steamer Oceana has returned home rejuvenated. A trial sat Monday proved her to be in fine working order.

Monday evening, pursuant to call, the Pentwater Fire Department assembled at Council Rooms and Mr. H.A. Cross was delegated with authority to invite the presence of the Chairman of the Fire Committee of the Common Council and retiring Chief of the Fire Department, Mr. Charles R. Whittington. Soon Mr. Cross returned with the ex-Chief, and after a few preliminaries, Mr. W.H. Tuller, the new Chief, on behalf of the Department made a neat and appropriate speech referring to the past services of Mr. Whittington in connection with the Department, and finally closed by presenting him with a beautiful gold badge, upon which was engraved the following: “presented to C.R. Whittington, Retiring Chief, by the Pentwater Fire Department, March 3rd, 1884.” Mr. Whittington was so completely taken by surprise by this mark of esteem from the “boys” that he with difficulty replied. He expressed himself feelingly in accepting the token and promised them his active co-operation in the future whenever they should need his counsel or advice. After remarks by others the meeting finally adjourned, everybody well pleased with it.

April 10, 1884. ANOTHER DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN PENTWATER. At six thirty p.m., yesterday, the Middlesex Brick and Tile Company’s buildings were discovered to be on fire, and in one hour’s time they were a smouldering mass of ruins. The probable loss is about fifteen thousand dollars, insured for five thousand dollars. The fire started in the roof of the dryer building. The Fire Department responded with alacrity, and by good judgment in placing the engine were enabled to save the new tug on the grounds, just completed, and prevent damage to the engine and boiler. The brick machine is probably damaged some. The cars are supposed to be uninjured, although at this writing it is difficult to estimate the full damage. It will be rebuilt at once.

Just a side note, it was noted that the phones were working in Pentwater by Michigan Bell Telephone, dated; April 5, 1884.

May1, 1884. THE FIRE. Sunday morning, simultaneously with the ringing of the none o’clock church bell, the alarm of fire was sounded and in a few seconds the streets were alive with excited people The fire proved to be in the roof of the Pentwater Lumber Co.’s two-story frame building, just south of O.H. Dean’s store. In consequence of the recent dry weather and the fact that a living gale was blowing at the time from the south, everybody was alive to the danger which menace our village. The Fire Department responded promptly, a hook and ladder company was hastily improvised and came to the scene with long ladders, Sands & Maxwell’s clerks loaded with hand grenades, a bucket brigade, and last but not least Capt. Wm. Kuhn with his celebrated squirt gun, came puffing into position. The miscellaneous fire company with their bucket, grenades and squirt gun, succeeded in quenching the fire by the time the steamer got water through the hose, although it was but a few minutes from the time the alarm was sounded. The damage was slight and the scare great. But the village officers in view of the possibilities caused main street to be watched throughout the day, and still keep watches during the nights. Also bucket filled with water were set at regular intervals along main street so as to be handy in case of an emergency. The Fire Department came out in the afternoon and gave the buildings and street a good wetting down, and a general feeling of relief was experienced at night fall .

May 1, 1884. Now that the fire scare is over with would it not be well to exchange ideas with reference to securing better fire protection. We of course have a good steamer, well manned, and all of that, but still it will not do to depend entirely upon that, as it is liable to fail us just when we want its services. The entire apparatus should be thoroughly examined every day to insure its working condition when called for. During periods of dry weather and high winds the burning of refuse in yards should be strictly prohibited. Every owner of a building should make suitable provision by ladders or otherwise for reaching the roof of his building from the ground. Tugs without fire screens should not be allowed to come on this side the lake. If hand grenades are as serviceable incase of fires as claimed it would be well to provide for a general distribution of them, so they may be easily reached in case of fire. One of our citizens suggests the organization of a hook and ladder company to work in connection with the Fire Department, to be provided with hooks, ladders, axes, buckets, grenades, l etc., and to have the company under pay same as firemen.

May 5, 1884. Oscar H. Tayer was one of the representatives of Pentwater Fire Department at Battle Creek last week for the fire convention. The boys came back loaded with ideas.

May 15, 1884. SHALL WE HAVE WATER-WORKS? The question of water-works for the village is a pertinent question and one upon which we believe property owners will vote aye. Among the advantages to be derived from water-works is a better fire protection, and one that is always on hand and ready for use at a moment’s notice. The cost of course is the scare-crow, but when we take into consideration the proximity of our business buildings to the water and the fact that power to run it could be rented of one of the several mills operated near, it will be seen that the cost cannot be much in excess of the money now invested in our Fire Department and the annual outlay for maintaining it. We have taken the opinion of men who have carefully figured upon it and are satisfied that $5,000 will give us water-works that will protect the same territory now covered by the steam engine. The columns of the News are open for the discussion of this question and we hope our citizens will avail themselves of the opportunity to discuss it.

May 22, 1884. Common Council minutes, by special call of the President, the Common Council met at Council rooms Tuesday evening, May 13, 1884. Meeting called to order by President Nielsen. Present, Bunyea, Collister, Seversen, Tuller, Wickham and Whittington. Minutes of previous meetings, May 2nd and 5th, was read, and on motion of Wickham, approved. President Nielsen addressed the Council as follows, viz: Gentlemen of the Council:-At this our first meeting, I desire to call your attention to a few observations of mine for your future consideration. The finances of our village are at present in good shape. We are out of debt and have some money in our treasury. Our Fire Department is in good working order, yet to make it more effective you should procure wheels or some conveyance to carry hooks, ladders, and also pails; if properly managed such outfit would reach a fire ahead of your engine and possibly be of great service. Gentlemen, when the present fire engine was bought property holders on our back streets were promised that as the village was in proper shape to admit of the expense, reservoirs should be built so that they might have equal protection from our steamer. I gave this matter some thought during the past season, but of course our finances were not equal to such expense. Now, gentlemen, to do justice to all, something must in the near future be done in that direction, but in place of building reservoirs, by adding a little more some system of water works might be adopted. It would not be very expensive if you should decide to use water from Pentwater Lake. You could then sell our present engine and would receive for same nearly one-half the cost of waterworks. You know that the expense of our fire department during the past year was over $1,000, and yet we are having the services of its members for a very small consideration. Gentlemen, I also desire to submit for your consideration to hire a night watchman by the year; possibly you might combine in such person the office of engineer and assistant marshal, and require the party to be on duty at stated hours during the whole season. I would also advise that in the place of buying shavings for our streets, that we make a trial with gravel for at least one or two blocks and keep close account of the expense for future guidance in determining what is best and cheapest, gravel, clay or shavings. More minutes were in the paper, but not related to the fire department.

June 19, 1884. James B. Steele has been engaged as engineer for the Fire department for the coming year. Mr. Steele is a competent engineer, and one of that class of men who attends to his business and is always on time.

June 26, 1884. Common Council minutes, moved by Whittington, that the bill of Pentwater Fire Department be allowed as recommended by Finance Committee and in order drawn for the same; carried. The committee on fire appointed at a former meeting to hire engineer would report that they had hired James B Steele as engineer for one year at a salary of $250. Also that they had corresponded with Wilson & Hendrie, of Montague in regard to heating apparatus for engine house, and that such heater could be bo’t for $135, if Council should so desire. Also that they were corresponding with parties in regard to trucks for carrying hooks, ladders and pails. Moved by Wickham, that the report be accepted and spread upon the minutes; carried.

July 3, 1884. The alarm of fire was sounded Friday evening about 10 o’clock, but it proved to be a vacant shanty across the little lake. No loss. The census for Oceana County at that time was 14,604.

July 0, 1884. The members of the Fire Dep’t wear new badges, beauties. The ol ones will be laid away, the relics of by gones.

September 18, 1884. The alarm of fire was sounded Friday Morning of last week about six o’clock, and citizens groped their way through the dense cloud of smoke from the burning forests which had settled over the village during the night, in almost vain endeavors to find the fire. Finally it was discovered to be the large barn belonging to the Pentwater Lumber Co. in the rear of their brick building on Hancock street. The Fire Department were on hand and succeeded in preventing the spread of the conflagration beyond the two barns. Insured on buildings and contents in the Ohio and Sun for $`1,500. Loss $2,500.

October 9, 1884. FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! The Pentwater Lumber Co.’s Mill Licked up by the Elements.

Yesterday, at 12:15 p.m., While most of the villagers were eating their dinner, smoke was seen issuing from an opening in the main building to the Pentwater Lumber Company’s mill, and the alarm of fire given. In thirty seconds more the building was enveloped in flames and smoke. The wind, fortunately, was blowing from the north and the soaking rain of Tuesday night aided the firemen in preventing the fire from working back into the limber piles. The dark clouds of smoke rolling heavenwards and the lurid flames shooting out from the crevices of the mill made a picture of grandeur and beauty never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

The firemen, scarcely rested from their labors of the night before, were promptly on hand with steamer and hose cart, and in just nine minutes from the striking of the bell they were throwing water on the building. Of course it was impossible to save the mill and all efforts were directed towards saving the lumber and preventing the fires spreading. The tug Nielsen at the first alarm steamed down to the dock and commenced wetting down the lumber on the west side of the mill. Her timely work undoubtedly saved the lumber on that side of the mill. At the present writing a smouldering mass of ruins mark the place where for many years has stood the big mill of Pentwater.

This mill was built in 1867 by Edgar D. Richmond and John Bean, Jr, and is the third mill to burn down on that site. Messrs.’ Richmond & Bean afterwards sold out to Phillips & Browne, who owned and operated it from 1869 until 1874 when the Pentwater Lumber Co. was organized, in which Mr. Samuel A. Browne and Mr. Wm. Phillips were principal stockholders, and which Co. has since owned and operated the mill. The mill had a daily cutting capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber, 100,000 shingles, and 25,000 pieces of lath. We understand it was insured in a Grand Rapids agency for $18,00.

October 9, 1884. The Fire Department announce to the public that having put out the fires, they are now ready to give the Spy of Shiloh their attention, and will produce it to-night. Turn out and give the boys a boom by a full house tonight. Performance begins at seven o’clock, sharp. During the fire at the Pentwater Lumber Co.’s mill yesterday, Oscar Tayer was struck in the eye by a stream of water a few inches from the nozzle, with such force as to force the blood through the pores of the skin on the face.

The Fire Dep’t will meet at the engine house at one o’clock, or as soon thereafter as possible, on the 9th day of October and present themselves with apparatus at any point the Council may designate for inspection. I also take pleasure in extending to the Council a very cordial invitation to take supper with the Department at the Imus House at 7 o’clock pm.

November 12, 1884. The Pentwater Fire Dep’t, according to time honored custom, are out with bills and invitations for a ball at Faulkner’s Opera Hall, on Thanksgiving night. The bare announcement that it is under the auspices of the Fire Department will be sufficient guaranty of a good time as the boys never do anything by halves and those who love to trip the “light fantastic toe” know it.

December 4, 1884. This was just a short note; The first brick made in this county was made by Elihu B. Burrington in Pentwater on the grounds now owned by the Middlesex Brick and Tile Co., in the summer of 1862, some of which brick are in the basement wall of Sands & Maxwell’s frame store building.

January 22, 1885. The ball given by the Ludington Fire Dept. on the night of the 15 inst. was largely attended. The Pentwater Fire Dept. was there in masse and was given the post of honor. The boys returned home well pleased with the party, and the manner in which they were received and entertained.

February 5, 1885. “The funeral of F.W. Ratzel last Friday afternoon, was largely attended. Members of the three societies of which he had been a member, the German, Masonic, and the Fire Department, were present. The Two Eastlake fire companies were in uniform. Friends gathered at the house at two o’clock, where a short service was conducted by Rev W. T. Beale. A delegation from the German Society acted as pall bearers and the coffin was borne to the hearse between open ranks of the firemen. The procession was met near the old depot by the German Society, which preceded the hearse on foot to the cemetery. They bore the American flag in front, the society’s banner in the center, and the German Color in the rear of the column. As they approached the place of interment they were joined by the firemen, and the remains were once more borne between open ranks to the grave. At the grave the minister said;

“My friends, before I speak the last words I wish, as is my custom at such a time as this, to remind those who are gathered here that we have not come to lay in this grave the friend who has been taken from us. The body, the garment of the soul, and which it could no longer use we bury in the ground. The spirit has returned to God who gave it. If you would find your friend you must not look down, but up. And now, forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God in his wise providence to remove from earth the spirit of the departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, believing in the resurrection of the dead and life in the world to come. And may the God who has befriended him through all his life protect and provide for those whom he has left. May the lord grant that when the time shall come for each of us to go and leave the world behind, it may be to give up our account with joy and not with grief.” After the benediction, the companies formed once more, and the people dispersed to their homes.”

February 12, 1885. The fire alarm last Friday was struck just as those who go by standard time were sitting down to their dinner. The fire proved to be in Dr. Weare’s building just north of the P.L. Co’s brick office, occupied by Frank Browning’s family. The Fire Laddies, not withstanding the extreme cold, were promptly on hand with their steamer, and in short order were deluging the fire, and as a result speedily put it out. The building was an old one and not insured. The damage is about $100.

March 5, 1885. The Pentwater Fire Dep’t for 1885. ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the Pentwater Fire Department occurred at the engine house, Monday evening last, and the following officers were elected: Chief Engineer, W H Tuller; Asst. Engineer, AM Perkins; Foreman Co., OH Tayer; Asst. Foreman, T Mero; Foreman Hose, F Pierce; Asst. Foreman Hose, A Hawkins; Secretary, CH Whittington; Treasurer, CF Lewis; 1st Fire Police, Theo Weidensee; 2nd Fire Police, HA Grant; Engineer, JA Steele; Fireman, J McFadden; Asst. Fireman, JH Bouton.

February 12, 1885. Common Council minutes, The Common Council met at Council Rooms, Friday evening, Mar. 6, 1884 ?. A communication from the Pentwater Fire Department was presented and read: To the Common Council of the Village of Pentwater, Gentlemen:-At our annual election Monday, March 2, 1885, W H Tuller was elected Chief Engineer of the Pentwater Fire and Hose Co. The following named men were also elected to fill vacancies in said Company: F Pierce, Burt Steele, W Smith, C Mathews, Henry Runnels. Hoping this act will meet with your approval, we remain, Yours truly, Pentwater Fire & Hose Co.

April 16, 1885. This is not fire news but of the rebuilding of Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co’s new mill. On Monday last we took a run through Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co’s new mill. From the outside one is favorably impressed with the location of building, its general plan and appearance. The main building is 32 x 96 ft. with 22ft. posts. The engine and boiler house is 27 x 35 ft. the whole so located that it has water upon three sides. The logs will go in at one end from the booming grounds and the lumber will come out at the other right upon the dock ready for shipment. Upon entering the building a perfect net work of machinery greets the eye. Pulley, carriers, shafting, edgers, shingle machines, cars and everything so constructed as to save labor, utilize waste, and lessen danger by accident. In the matter of fire protection the Co. have a force pump kept constantly at work, 200 feet of linen hose, buckets of water scattered through building. A tier of casks filled with water on top. A large tank outside near engine house, and another in yard both of which will be kept constantly filled with water. A high board fence will be built about the premises to keep out stragglers and others who are liable to drop a cigar stub or a match on the premises. If the weather is favorable the mill will be running in thirty days.

July 23, 1885. The alarm, of fire struck while the Common Council was in session last Friday evening, cause a hasty adjournment. The Marshal gathered the frightened aldermen together again when it was discovered that only a brush pile was on fire. Business proceeded as usual thereafter.

September 15, 1885. The Firemen’s Inspection Day. Oct. 8th was the day set apart for the parade and annual inspection of the Pentwater Fire Department by the Common Council of the village. A delegation from Ludington arrived by steamer Browne, consisting of the Ludington Band and members of the Ludington Fire Department, who were met by the Pentwater Department, and escorted to Firemen’s Hall, where the band discoursed pleasant and edifying music. At 2 p.m. the procession was formed in front of the Town Hall, and, headed by the band, marched through the principal streets back to the hall, where they were inspected by the Common Council. Afterwards remarks were made by members of the council. D.C. Wickham, as President pro tem, said; “Members of the Pentwater Fire Department: Gentlemen:--Another year has passed, and we have again assembled for our annual parade and review. Nearly all the faces are familiar as longtime members of the Pentwater Fire Department. The interval since our last review has not been attended with any serious loss to our village by fire; this I attribute to your diligence, and the activity of the department on every occasion of fire alarm. There is one thing we feel justly proud of; this is, at the first tap of the fire bell every member of the Fire Department responds instantly, there are no tardy members; to this I attribute your success in coping with the fire fiend. And my earnest wish is, that your efforts in the future may be as successful as in the past, and when you assemble for the last and final inspection on earth, you can enjoy the happy reflection of a well earned reputation as firemen, and hear the happy announcement, of “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.” Now, in behalf of the citizens of the village of Pentwater, let me tender our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your past services, hoping that your future may be prosperous.”

After the exercises in their Hall, the band discourse fine music in front of the Imus House, followed by supper, served by mine host Fisher, and partaken of with evident relish by all hands. Wit and merriment abounded.

The ball in the evening at the Opera Hall was fully up to the standard of the Fire Department’s balls, and enjoyed by all. Forty-three numbers were sold, the music was good, the order perfect and enjoyment complete.

September 17, 1885. The Firemen of Pentwater, hold their annual Inspection Oct. 8th next, after which, they will give a good ball. Everybody knows what the Pentwater Fire Dept.’s balls are, and of course if they have the least inclination to trip toes to Slocum’s Quadrille Band music, will be there.

January 7, 1886. The masquerade dance New Years night, under the management of the Pentwater   
Fire Department, was fully up to the standard of social parties long since established by the Department. A good time was enjoyed all around.

March 4, 1886. PENTWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT: The annual election of the Pentwater Fire Department occurred at the Engine House Monday evening last and resulted as follows: Chief W.H. Tuller; Asst. Chief, A.M. Perkins; Foreman F.Co., Geo. Flood; Asst. Foreman F. Co., Theodore Mero; Foreman Hose, W.A. Smith; Secy., H.A. Grant; Treas., C.F. Lewis; Asst. Fireman, J.H. Bouton; 1st. Police, H. Armstead; 2nd Police, H.J. Runnels.

February 11, 1886. Pentwater Fire Dept: The Pentwater Fire Department have now reorganized for the summer campaign and desiring to get the lower limbs in good working order have decided to give a social dance at Faulkner’s Opera Hall on the evening of the 17th. Inst. The reputation of the department on this occasion will be fully sustained.

February 25, 1886. Water Works. For several years the question of putting in water works in Pentwater has been occasionally mooted, but nothing towards securing been done. We have been at considerable pains to obtain information concerning the cost of putting in water works here and running the same, and have also made comparisons with the expense of maintaining our Fire Department and both in point of fire protection and economy we believe that the village would be the gainer. The steamer Oceana, hose cart, hose, & c., have cost the village over $4,000. It takes on an average each year to keep in repair the engine, hose, &c., and maintain the Department, about &800. In case of fire the steamer has to be placed near the little lake and only that portion of the village is protected that comes within reach of its hose, hence most of the residences are unprotected. From our investigations we estimate that to cover the same territory by the system of water works employed at Fremont, it would cost the village in the first instance, $3500, and about $350 a year thereafter to maintain. Add to the above amount $2000 more, and the majority of the residences in Pentwater and Middlesex can be protected. Should a water tax be assessed when used for private purposes, nearly enough could be realized to pay running expenses. The advantages of the water works over the engine are many. In case of fire no waiting to get up steam. In dry seasons the streets and buildings can be wet down frequently without cost. Lawn gardening could be indulged in by those disposed, &c. The condition of the village financially, owing to the judicious management of the Common Council for several years, is such as to put them in without burdening the people with heavy taxation. There will be in the treasury at the close of the present year nearly $1,500. The hose cart and hose now owned by the village could be utilized. The steamer could be sold and applied on cost of water works, which would leave but a small balance, which the present management and low taxes would provide for easily.

April 15, 1886. The Village of Shelby has a fire engine, but it won’t work without water, and that’s what’s troubling them.

April 22, 1886. Shelby hand fire engine was tested again to-day, Tuesday. The boys say it takes a great deal of win to throw a little water, but Shelby boys have the wind, you know.

May 6, 1886. PENTWATER”S HAPPY CONDITION. The financial statement of the village of Pentwater shows the following facts: Cash on hand, $1,436,51 indebtedness, 0; rate of taxation for the past year, one fourth of one per cent: amount of taxes returned unpaid, $16,90, which was wholly on the property of non residents. The village has a Clapp & Jones steam fire engine with 1,500 feet of hose and supports a paid fire department; the streets are all graded and in excellent condition with good sidewalks and crosswalks, there is a city hall which is valued at $3,000. Diseases which are almost constantly present in neighboring towns are unknown here. By means of the vessels of the Lumber Co., and Brick Tile Co., we have direct communication with Chicago. The steamers Browne and Dewar connect with the Millwaukee boats at Ludington. The C. & W. M. railroad gives communication south, while the new railroad which is being pushed will open direct communication with Detroit and the east. G.T. Democrat.  
May 13, 1886. Fire. The alarm of fire woke up the community last Thursday and made a stur upon the streets for a few minutes. It proved to be E. Nickerson’s barn in the rear of the house lately occupied by Miss Nash, and caught near the sidewalk, probably from a cigar stub dropped by some one. A couple of pails of water, however, put it out before it got under headway, and a conflagration was prevented. Several members of the Fire Department were in Big Rapids and it would have been an unfortunate time for a blaze.

June 3, 1886. It was noted that: We are remarkably free from fires, for such a dry time.

July 1, 1886. W. H. Tuller for some time chief of the Pentwater Fire Department in consequence of his intended Western trip, tendered his resignation which was reluctantly accepted by the boys. O. A. Tayer was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Tuller’s resignation.

July 8, 1886. An Agreeable Surprise: For ten years and more W.H. Tuller has been an active and efficient member of the Pentwater Fire Department. Two years and upwards he has been chief, his last re election occurring at the last annual meeting of the department. In consequence of his intended removal he resigned his office a couple of weeks wince which was occupied by the department with many expressions of regret. On Friday night last the fire bell summoned the boys to their hall and Tuller was invited to come up and see them. After calling the meeting to order “Asst. Chief Perkins arose and with a few appropriate remarks on behalf of the department presented him with a fine gold Odd Fellows watch charm with neatly engraved upon the back ”Presented to W.H. Tuller by the Pentwater Fire Department,” and date. Mr. Tuller was completely taken back but managed to survive the ordeal and the next morning expressed himself as the proud man in Pentwater.

July 8, 1886. THE GRAND AND GLORIOUS FOURTH. DULY CELEBRATED AT PENTWATER. LARGEST CROWD EVER IN THE VILLAGE. Owing to the selection and extensive advertising throughout Oceana County of the celebration at Muskegon on the 5th., Pentwater selected the 3rd. The celebration was advertised by large posters some of which (we are informed) were suppressed by persons with sinister motives, and in the News. The Pentwater News could not be suppressed; and as a result the largest concourse of people ever in Pentwater at one time gathered upon its streets Saturday, so many that the special train provided to take them back after the fireworks was unable to carry them all and many remained over Sunday.

Owing to the extreme dry weather prevailing, President Nielsen ordered out the Fire Department on Friday for six hours work wetting down the streets, buildings, etc. He also appointed several policemen and watchmen, with orders to remain on duty until discharged. Barrels filled with water were placed all along Main street and other prudential and necessary precautions taken to prevent fires. From the first gun fired the people began to arrive, and by the time for the arrival of the train the streets were will filled. When the train arrived some 80 from Shelby and vicinity accompanied by the celebrated Ames Martial band, and over two hundred from Hart, accompanied by brass band and double Male Quartette Club swelled the numbers. The special arriving at 12:25 P.M., made still further additions and the boat from Ludington did likewise.

The committee had the promise of either of two large steam barges for their use in giving the free excursions advertised, but Uncle Sam refused, in each case to grant excursion licenses and consequently they were handicapped in their efforts to carry out that part of the program. They however secured the large scow belonging to Mr. Mears, trimmed it neatly with evergreens and flags representing the different nationalities, and employed the tug Cockell tow it. With this substitute the people were met at the depot and taken aboard and brought across the lake. Then from Sands and Maxwell’s dock those who desired were taken to the brick yard to witness this Pentwater enterprise in operation.

July 15, 1886. The alarm of fire which was sounded yesterday was caused by some burning brush and grass near Mr. A. Warner’s place.

July 29, 1886. Common Council minutes stated that the Secy. Of the Pentwater Fire Dept. reported the election of C.H. Tayer as Chief of the Fire Dept. Moved by Wickham that the election of O.H. Tayer be approved; carried.

August 12, 1886. Fires. Fires destroyed about 150 cords of wood for Middlesex Brick & Tile Co., Monday. Bridge across Cedar creek is reported burned.

December 23, 1886. The Pentwater Fire Dep’t expect to just surpass themselves in the Masquerade Friday night, Dec 32st.

January 6, 1887. The Masquerade New Years Eve under management of the Pentwater Fire Dep’t was a grand affair judging from what they all say. Ludington sent down a large delegation. Hart and Shelby contributed as usual and everybody said next day “biggest time ever had,” “splendid,” “everything in good taste and everybody happy” etc. etc.

January 13, 1887. The Pentwater Fire Department are taking steps looking to the erection of a Fireman’s Hall in the spring. The boys have quite a sum of money on hand and expect assistance sufficient to enable them to build a suitable hall. One of the Fireman was looking over the town to find a 24 ft. lot the other day.

March 3, 1887. FIRE IN PENTWATER. J.HI. BECKWITH’S HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND. INSURED. Tuesday night J.H. Beckwith attended a meeting of Lakeside Encampment I.O.O.F., returning home about 10:30 p.m. and retired for the night. He was the only occupant of the house his wife being at Crystal Valley visiting friends. About midnight he was awakened by the crackling of fire and discovered the roof of his house in flames near the chimney. About the same time the fire was discovered by the neighbors, and the alarm was given and a crowd soon gathered, but could not save the building which was totally destroyed. Many of the house hold goods, however, were saved in the usual condition, and some of the doors and window sash. The house is the one on the corner of Wythe and Seventh streets and was purchased by Mr. Beckwith a couple of years ago from I.JH. Gray. It was insured in the Sun Insurance Company for $500 and there was $400 insurance upon the contents. The insurance will nearly cover the loss.

April 28, 1887. Delegates to the State Firemen’s meeting at Grand Rapids, May 4th, elected by Pentwater Fire Department Thursday night last, as follows: Delegate at Large, O.A. Tayer, Chief. Delegates, H.A. Grant, G.W. Flood, J.H. Bouton.

May 5, 1887. FIRE. A NARROW ESCAPE FOR NICKERSON & COLLISTER’S LUMBER MILL. Saturday afternoon at about 5”30 o’clock, Nickerson & Collister’s mill gave the fire alarm, which was taken up by the bell in the engine house, followed by Gardner’s mill, and in a few seconds time the population of the village was moving towards Nickerson & Collister’s lumber mill, a half mile distant, where a huge column of black smoke was seen. No withstanding the nimble efforts of those who had nothing to do but go there, the Fire Department with their steamer, hose, etc., were the first from the village to arrive at the fire, which proved to be the old boarding house buildings, former used in connection with the mill. In the twinkling of an eye the Fire Laddies had water playing on the building and adjacent slab piles, which had already taken fire and were burning briskly. The wind was blowing strongly from the southeast, otherwise the mill and yard would have stood in great danger. As it was, only the successful working of the Fire Department saved it. The old buildings and about two hundred cords of slabs were destroyed. The total loss is about $300. Fire once under good headway in large piles of slabs is difficult to extinguish, and notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen it took them until daylight Sunday morning before they could leave. The fire is said by some to have caught from the smokestack of the mill; by others to have originated in the house, which was occupied by a family of Swedes.

May 12, 1887. FIREMEN’S DAY. Grand Rapids, May 4th and 5th. AN INTERESTING MEETING. The 13th annual convention of the Michigan State Firemen’s Association met at Grand Rapids, May 4th and 5th, and was attended by delegates from all parts of the State. Oceana was represented by delegates from Shelby and Pentwater.

The usual business was transacted, which included the discussion of topics, reading of papers, &c., pertaining to the effective work of the departments. There were also many business houses represented with samples of supplies, which made a fine exhibition. On the afternoon of May 5th the whole of Grand Rapids Fire Department, escorted by the Patriarchal Circle brass band turned out for their annual parade and made a fine appearance.

June 9, 1887. A CLOSE CALL. Labonta & Mero’s Planing Mill Takes Fire. Prompt Action Saves a Big Conflagration. At fifteen minutes past two Tuesday afternoon the alarm of fire was given and the people were startled to see a huge column of smoke rising above Labonta & Mero’s Planing Mill and a Chair Factory while the red tongues of fire could be seen creeping up the roof. The fact that this is one of our growing industries which was just beginning to assume proportions and that it was unprotected by insurance brought a host to rescue promptly. Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co’s mill, Chapman’s mill and Gardners immediately shut down and the hands all hastened to the fire where with buckets of water, vigorous and judicious work the fire was quenched by the time the Fire Dept. got water through the hose although it was but eleven minutes in getting the engine place and the water through the hose from the time it left the engine house. The prompt action on the part of those who first reached the building alone prevented what would have been a great loss not only to the proprietors but to the village.

June 16, 1887. Common Council minutes, the Secretary of the Fire Department made the following report; Pentwater, May 23rds, 1987. Inventory of stock on hand at engine house. Good Hose, Cotton 600ft; Good Hose Rubber, 300ft; Condemned Hose 700ft; Spanner Wrenches 10; Other Wrenches 2; Rubber Washers for Hose 5; Lanterns 2; Pails 16; Hand Pumps 12; Axes 2; Hooks 2; Ladders 4; Ropes 2; Oil Skin Coats 14; Coal 3 tons; Nozzles 2; H.A. Grant Secy.

August 11, 1887. FIRE. The old Benedict house and brn owned by Nielsen & Co. situated in the suburbs, in the north east part of the village and occupied by Wm. Buchanan’s family burned to the ground Saturday. Most of the personal property was saved. The fire was set by children playing near the barn while the parents were away picking berries. The loss is about $400 – no insurance.

October 13, 1887. Seventeen of Hart’s terpsychoean devotees, including eight or nine members of the Hart Fire Department in full uniform, attended the fireman’s ball t Pentwater last Thursday night. The party was conducted to the hotel savage, by far the best hotel in Pentwater, and nothing was left undone in any way conducive to their comfort. The teams were taken in charge by special order, fed, watered and hitched up in the morning, the company enjoyed a royal supper with free ‘bus to and from the hall, complimentary tickets were issued, and not a man from Hart could get a chance to pay a cent. The Hart firemen are more than gratified at the generous reception tendered them, and they will not be slow to reciprocate when opportunity offers. Our boys say they have only one chance to outdo Pentwater and that is to send a Pullman car after them when they play the return game. Argus.

November 10, 1887. IMPROVEMENTS. Mr. E.J. Birkett proprietor of the Pentwater Novelty Iron Works, aside from possessing mechanical skill, is “chuck full” of ingenuity. The Pentwater Fire Department and Common Council have for years tried to devise some method of keeping the water in the boiler of the steamer hot without building a fire, so that steam could be obtained in the shortest possible time after the fire alarm is sounded. Capt. Lamont years ago made a coil of iron pipe which he place in the large coal stove from which connection was made by small hose with the boiler. By this water in the boiler was kept warm at all times. This has with a few changes been used for 14 years. But with this arrangement as soon as the connection with the stove was broken the heat upon the coils soon destroyed them. Mr. Birkett a few days ago looked the matter over with reference to making a new coil, and finally obtaining permission, he invented a system of pipes and connections by which not only the water in the steamer is kept hot but steam enough to blow the whistle, and so arranged that the connection between the stove and steamer can be instantly broken without drawing the water from the coils in the stove. This is done by means of a water tank nearby, connected with the same coils, so that when the connection with the boiler is broken the current is made through the tank. He also repacked the stove so that double the heat is obtained from the same fuel. Now the Fire Department can have steam by the time they can place the engine and connect the hose. The Department has also increased its facilities for fighting fire by the purchase of a new brass shut-off and spray nozzle. With this a solid stream can be thrown, changed to spray or shut off entirely at the will of the pipeman.

December 2, 1887. There is no reason why toe trippers should not enjoy themselves this year. The Club Dance Party on the 26th inst., and the Fire Department’ on the 2nd of January, both in Collister’s block, which will furnish room for all.

December 8, 1887. The following communication from the Pentwater Fire Department is official and explains itself. Mr. EDITOR: The Firemen of Pentwater, wish through your columns to extend a vote of thanks to the members of the Hart Department for the many favors shown them on the occasion of their recent visit to that place. We have never received a more cordial welcome, or been given an opportunity to more thoroughly enjoy ourselves. Thanks boys.

January 5, 1888. The Pentwater Fire Department’s Masquerade in the Collister block, Monday evening was a very successful party in every respect. A good time was enjoyed and the boys netted something over and above expenses, altho’ they paid $57 for their music.

February 22, 1888. Common Council minutes, report of Secretary of Fire Department read: Moved by Fisher, that the report of the Sec’y of the Pentwater Fire Dep’t naming officers elected be adopted and spread on the minutes. Carried. Presented March 8, 1888, to the President and Common Council. At a meeting of the Pentwater Fire Dep’t held March 5th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: W H Tuller, Chief; OH Tayer, Asst. Chief; Geo Flood, Forman Engine Co.; Geo Hutchinson, Asst. Foreman; HA Grant, Sec’y; CF Lewis, Treas.: A Lammon, 1st Fire Police: J Hagestrom, 2nd Fire Police; HJ Runnells, Foreman Hose Co.’ J Tupper, Asst. Foreman. H A Grant, Sec’y.

February 29, 1888. During the fire last week Mr. E.A. Wright noticed that the heat in the rear end of his store was very oppressive and discovered the fact not a moment too soon, for there was a large quantity of fireworks standing there just on the point of igniting. Had they went off it would undoubtedly have occasioned a conflagration in that building. Wright’s hair stood on end for a second, then without waiting for orders he seized the box of fireworks and transported it to safe quarters.

Narrow Escape. Last Saturday evening W.E. Hodges going home from Lodge went up stairs and discovered the room filled with smoke and a bed-quilt hung near the stove all afire. He and his wife attempted to put out the fire, but failing he called in the assistance of Mr. M.F. Hyde, a neighbor. Between them they managed to get the burning quilt out of the window, and also other quilts that caught fire in the effort made to smother the flames. Mrs. Hodges was badly frightened , her hair burned, several holes were burned in the carpet, several bed-quilts burned, and the house scorched on the outside by the burning quilts, but owing to the vigorous efforts of Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hyde, the house was saved.

Dr. Switzer, believing cleanliness is next to Godliness, has been cleaning his office. The Dr. is a diplomat. Taking advantage of the fire scare last week Wednesday he had plenty of volunteer help in moving his office furniture out, and then the Fire Department turned the hose that way and washed out his office. Good job, and didn’t cost much, either.

February 29, 1888. PENTWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT. The Pentwater Fire Dep’t is in receipt of many flattering and encouraged expressions not only from business men in the village, but from outside. The following letter was received from Montague: “Montague, Mich., Mar. 24, ’88. Sec’y Pentwater Fire Dep’t, Dear Sir: I see that your Opera House burnt lately. The papers say the whole business part of the village was in danger, but the effective work done by your Dep’t saved it. You have a Dep’t there to be proud of. I do not know of another town where a Co. has done better or as good as yours. We are yet busted up here, having no Co. and have been elected President and shall have a Co. soon. Will you let me know how ling your Co. has been organized, that is, without a bust up. It seems from the good work done there that you must be old, efficient members. Yours truly, Geo. M. Duram, Chief.

June 7, 1888. During the heavy wind storm Tuesday, the fire alarm was struck and the department called out. Fire thrown from the foundry smoke-stack caught in the shavings on the road and spread rapidly. It was soon extinguished however.

July 12, 1888. The Pentwater Common Council ordered 300 feet of Paragon hose for the Fire Department at last meeting.

October 18, 1888. Firemen’s Inspection Day for the Pentwater Fire Department occurred last Thursday. The Dept. hired the best-looking, bet-playing, best-natured band in Michigan to furnish music. Modesty forbids our mentioning the fact that it came from Hart and is composed largely of young ladies. The Band headed the Dept. while it was reviewed by Chairman Rice, after which the procession came to the Pentwater News office and captured the President in his shirt sleeves and bedaubed with printer’s ink. Compliments were exchanged and after marching to quarters they disbanded until evening, when the fire bell brought Band, Council and Department to Fireman’s Hall, where line of march was taken up to the Forest House where a fine banquet was spread by Mrs. Dumont and partaken of with a zest that showed due appreciation of it. Before rising a short speech from the President was responded to by Chief Tuller and then all adjourned to the Hall where the “light fantastic’ was tripped. The midnight supper at Dumont’s received the highest praise, and the dance was pronounced one of the most enjoyable ever given by the Dept., although not as largely attended as some.

January 17, 1889. Several years ago the Pentwater News commenced to advocate a system of waterworks for Pentwater, and from time to time has urged the importance of putting them in. It has received many friendly words of encouragement from members of the Council and citizens, but it seemed almost impossible to get the enterprise started. The New renewed its efforts during the past year and being warmly supported by members of the Council and citizens was gratified by a resolution of the Council appointing a Committee to visit other places and inquire as to cost, feasibility, etc. The Committee, acting upon this authority, after investigation reported in favor of putting in a system, specifying the streets, sizes of mains, etc., and recommending the Walker double cylinder pumps with compression chamber. The estimated price of system outside of cost of power was placed at $6000. This report was accepted and the Council decided to submit the matter to a vote of the people on a proposition to bond the village to pay for the same. The election was held and the people were practically unanimous in their decision in favor of the proposition. Then a Committee was appointed, bids advertised for and received, and finally the contract for furnishing the power was let to Mfr. E.J. Birkett, and for putting in pumping machinery, mains, etc., to M. Walker of Fenton. The specifications finally adopted, however, were for a more extensive system than the Committee recommended. It called for pumping machinery worth $600 more than those recommended, and for 140 rods more main, for more cross gates, and 2 more hydrants and was let for $7600. Mr. Walker contracted to have the works completed by Feb.1, 1889. By the terms of the contract the mains were to be cast iron, and eight-inch main from pump house to Hancock street and from 3rd street to 7th on Hancock, a four-inch main from pump house to Pentwater Bedstead Co.’s Works, and four-inch mains from 3rd to 2nd street along Hancock, from 7th to 9th streets along Hancock, from Hancock to Rutledge along 3rd street, from 5th to 1st along Rutledge. From Hancock to Rush along 7th, and from 2nd to 8th street along Wythe, making about two miles of mains. The mains to be laid under 4 feet of cover and the hydrants set 5 feet. There were to be 15 hydrants of the Ludlow patent. These mains were to withstand a pressure of 150 lbs. to the square inch, and were to be kept in repair by contractor for 60 days after test. The pumps were to be his double cylinder, high-finished pumps, with nickel-plate water gauge, steam-gauge, vacuum-gauge and Moses lubricator, a 12 foot compression chamber 36inches in diameter. The capacity of the pumps to be one million gallons in 24 hours, and were to be capable of throwing 5 streams through 100 feet of hose and one-inch nozzle 100 feet high at the same time. This article goes on and on!!

February 124, 1889. The annual election of the Pentwater Fire Department occurred on the 4th inst., and the report was unintentionally omitted last week. The following are the new officers elected: Chief, W.H. Tuller; Asst. Chief, A.M. Perkins; Foreman, Wm. Webb, Jr.’ Asst. Geo. Hutchinson; Sec’y, Fred Smith; Treas, C.F. Lewis; 1st Fire Police, A. Cutler; 2nd Fire Police, A. Lammon. The amount in the Treasury is $109.25.

February 28, 1889. An alarming success. That is what the new fire alarm, invented especially for Pentwater by Messrs. E.J. Birkett, Village Engineer, and M.A. Rice, of the Water Works Committee, is. By pressing a button in the Fire Department’s building on 4th street, a whistle is blown in the pump rooms 50 rods distant, and an alarm bell rung in Mr. Birkett’s residence on Lowell street 30 rods north of the pump works. It is intended to place fire alarm boxes in different portions of the village, which will make a cheap yet perfect fire alarm system.

April 25, 1889. The Round House belonging to the C. & W.M. R’y Co., caught fire from a spark thrown by the locomotive on the noon train, Tuesday, and burned to the ground. It was on the south side of the little lake consequently beyond the reach of our fire protection. The wind was blowing strong from the south and Barney Ever’s house, the depot and the Pentwater Bedstead Co.’s works stood in some danger, but the firemen patrolled all the places threatened and no further damage was done. The loss to the Co. is about $500.

May 2, 1889. W.H.Tuller, Oscar Tayer, A.M. Perkins and George Flood were elected delegates, by the Pentwater Fire Department, to attend the State Firemen’s Association held at Lansing, this week. They took the train Tuesday noon.

May 9, 1889. FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!. FIRE EVERYWHERE. A WEEK OF ALARM. Monday a strong south wind came up and prevailed with great violence during that day and the next. In Pentwater the buildings and streets were kept wet down by a generous use of the water works and fear was thereby somewhat allayed, although fires in the vicinity of the Driving Park and the country south, were threatening in appearance and filled the town with smoke. Tuesday forenoon fire was discovered in the slab piles near the water works building, the alarm was given and the Fire Dept. was promptly on hand, adjusted the hose and soon subdued what bid fair to be a big fire.

In the afternoon fire got into the wood piles of the Brick Co. and the alarm brought out the Dept. again. This time the steamer was taken and although some 70 cords were destroyed, the fire was prevented from extending further.

At 6:45, Tuesday evening, the fire alarm again sounded and the engine room of the Pentwater Bedstead Co’s Works was discovered to be on fire. Fortunately for this institution Pentwater had a system of water works, and by the prompt use of the connections at the factory, the fire was extinguished by the time the Fire Dept. reached the building, although the boys made quick time. Mr. Birkett was right on his taps, Monday and Tuesday, and had everything in readiness for a fire if it had got started. Twice during Tuesday the water works waved a large conflagration.

May 16, 1889. Common Council minutes, a recommend the sale of the steam fire engine and hose cart and the purchase of two new hose carts of lighter build. While I will admit that in certain contingencies the steamer might be of great value , we must bear in mind that in most localities outside of the water system there is no supply of water. I would also recommend the purchase of additional hose such as the Fire Department would suggest and your judgment approve.

July 25, 1889. FIRE. Friday morning at four o’clock J.C. Jensen who stays at the foundry discovered fire in Nielsen & Co’s. barn across the street from Sands & Maxwell’s stables. The alarm was given at once and in five minutes the Fire Dept. had hose attached and water trough it. The fire was soon put out with but slight damage. Alderman Warner chanced to be on the street and took the time of sounding alarm and getting water through the hose. Fourteen of the members of the Fire Dept. answered to the alarm. It takes a good “Dept. to turn out more lively than Pentwater’s.

August 8, 1889. FIRE IN PENTWATER. Saturday night at 11:25 p.m. the alarm of fire was sounded and the flames illuminating the eastern horizon soon located the cause at the brick yards. The fire was in the sheds covering the kilns and was under good headway when the Fire Department arrived with the steamer and was working rapidly towards the building containing the machinery. The steamer soon commenced work, however, and further progress of the flames was checked. The total loss will not exceed $500, altho’ the entire works was greatly endangered. Although the fire was half a mile away and the pumps required priming, the Fire Dept. had the steamer on the ground and water through the hose in just twenty-five minutes from the first alarm.

August 15, 1889. FIRE ALARM. When steam fire engine is required in case of fire outside of water system, the fire bell will ring as follows: Four strokes of the bell, pause, and repeat. A.J. Underhill; President.

October 3, 1889. PENTWATER’S GREAT FIRE. On the morning of the 26th inst., at 2:45 o’clock, a small fire was discovered in the rear of Geo. Warner’s tobacco and variety store, formerly the Wm. Moody store, that in a few minutes time spread into a great conflagration which for a time bade fair to sweep that portion of the village lying north of 4th street and east of Hancock street, the wind at the time blowing hard from the south and west. The water works, which at no time failed to respond, but being called upon to supply water through four large hose on Hancock street and from ten to twenty small hose in different portions of the town where private residences were threatened, cause some difficulty to Mr. Birkett, the Engineer, to maintain a high pressure, but he did succeed in keeping the pumps at work and thousands of gallons of water were distributed in a short space of time, and finally at about 4:30 o’clock a.m. the Department succeeded in getting the fire under control and stopping it on the east side of Hancock street at the little building occupied by Mrs. J. Yakes, milliner.

Of those who were among the first to discover the fire were Peter Drevis, who says that when seen by him it appeared to have started in the back shanty in the rear of Geo. Warner’s tobacco store where there were old fruit crates, banana boxes, straw and refuse of all descriptions. Before the alarm was given by the Night Watchman it had reached the roof and set the buildings on each side on fire. Mrs.Co. Miller, who rooms over Smith & Plummer’s meat market, saw the flames and went upon the street crying “fire” at the top of her voice, and to here it seemed an incredible length of time before the Night Watchman appeared to give the alarm, but was probably only a few minutes. He was on the south end of his beat near the printing office, nearly three blocks distant, when he discovered it and hastened to the engine house to give the alarm. The flames seemed to move with great rapidity and notwithstanding the two streams put upon M.A. Rice’s and Fincher’s buildings, the first was licked up in a few minutes, and Fincher’s finally succumbed, although the fire was stayed ling enough to enable the removal of most of the stock. Mrs. Bane and family roomed over Warner store, and Artist Rietz was sleeping in one of the rooms. He was awakened by the smoke in his room and speedily aroused the rest all of whom barely escaped with their lives, losing all their clothing, furniture, etc. The wind blowing from the southwest drove the flames along the length of the block, setting first one building and then another on fire and making the firemen frantic in the vain effort to stop it. Chief Tuller shouted his orders, and time and again begged of bystanders for help in carrying hose and whole many responded, others stolidly refused to do anything. Many women, however, worked like heroines and shamed the weakness of some of the men. The steamer Oceana that before had always done valiant service, was run out and got into position, but her suction valves would not work, her flues gave out and she was useless to aid. If it had been in condition to work the fire would have been stopped at Bunyea’s store.

The News last week, during the progress of the fire prepared and printed a small extra for the benefit of its subscribers. Several of the estimates having been made during the excitement of the conflagration, were inaccurate. We have this week prepared a table showing losses and insurance which we believe to be correct. There is a long list that followed this article, to save time I will print the total damages and what was covered by insurance. Total damages, $18,175; Insurance coverage, $5350. Terry Cluchey.

From the above it will be seen that while the fire covered considerable territory and made many persons sufferers, it came far from wiping out the village, as some of the papers put it. The following business houses are left representing the great bulk of business capital: C. Mears, double brick store; Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co., double brick and frame stores’ doing a business close to a half million a year; A.J. Underhill, double store; F.O. Gardner, large dry goods and grocery store; Charles F. Lewis, large hardware, besides the printing office, hotels, bank, E.A. Wright, druggist, C.C. Amber, notions, Mrs. M.A. Jeffery, cigars and fruit, the P.O., Mrs. Yakes and Mrs., Smith, millinery, the livery stables, Klingbeil, clothing, C.R. Whittington, furniture, and O.W. Stone, photographer, besides all the mills, factories, etc. The assessed valuation of the village is $290,000, hence it can be seen that the fire has not made so big a hole as the blackened ruins would seem to indicate. The buildings burned, with the exception of H.H. Bunyea’s which was a brick-veneered building, were all old wooden buildings, and with four exceptions one-story affairs.

Immediately after the fire the Common Council met and as a preliminary measure passed a resolution fixing fire limits from First to Sixth streets, which action will be immediately followed by the passage of an ordinance. Already plans are being made to rebuild with brick, and one project which seems to be meeting with great favor is to organize a stock company and build a large three-story brick block, the first floor and basement to be used for stores by Fincher, Rice, Bunyea, Drevis, and the rest of the block for a hotel. If this is done the fire will prove a blessing rather than an affliction to Pentwater, although there will still remain some whose sacrifice is out of proportion to the benefit.

As to the origin of the fire the suspicion of incendiaries is strong. The place where the fire started was removed from stove or pipe. The time was just when the Night Watchman was farthest away, and there are several ugly rumors afloat indicating a motive, but no proof of anything of the kind has been discovered to our knowledge.

March 27, 1890. PENTWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT. The election of the Pentwater Fire Dept. has taken place, and it has been reorganized on a new basis, which will improve its efficiency in fighting fires. It now consists of two companies with one chief and assistant. Co. No. 1 is hose, and has charge of hose for water works whenever it is only necessary to use one stream No. 2 is Engine Fire Co., and also has charge of second stream for water works. The officers for the coming year are as follows: Chief, Geo. Flood; Assistant, Oscar Tayer; Foreman, No. 1, Geo. Hutchinson; Foreman No. 2, Henry Runnels; Secretary, Fred Smith; Treasurer, C.F. Lewis. There are ten men in each company. A system of work is being formulated that will enable each man to know his place and prevent confusion during a fire.

April 10, 1890. Common Council minutes, moved by Flagg that the election of George Flood as Chief of the Pentwater Fire Department be accepted; carried.

May 8, 1890. We publish elsewhere the annual statement of the Common Council for the fiscal year just closed. While we think the Common Council during the past year has done many good things for which it deserves praise there is one thing which we desire in a friendly spirit to criticize. The keeping repairing and maintaining the steamer Oceana is a useless expense. It is said that the steamer has twice saved the brick yard which without it would be practically without protection. The steamer ought to sell for about $1500 in its present condition. It would take about$400 to extend the water mains so as to furnish not only protection to the brick yard but better protection to the mills and the people on the Catholic hill which would make a clear saving to the village. We recommended this action a year ago and believe that if it had been followed there would have been several hundred dollars in the treasury today.

June 5, 1890. FIRE. Halstead’s Wagon Works Have A Narrow Escape. Ten o’clock Tuesday evening the fire alarm sounded and Halstead’s engine room was discovered to be in flames, the fire bursting through the roof. The Fire Dept. were on hand and the hose laid, the water on and the fire put out, before half the people had discovered where it was. The water works saved Mr. Halstead from a second visitation of the fire fiend as the entire plant would have been consumed had there been no other protection than the steamer. Quick as was the work of the Dept., it was none too quick to save the village from a great conflagration, as it was the damage was about $200.

June 26, 1890. Dwelling House Burned; The residence of L.M. Thorp who lives on the south side of the little lake took fire Tuesday about ten o’clock a.m. and burned to the ground. Mr. Thorp who is a man about 74 years of age was living in the house all alone. He built a fire in the morning to steep some tea and then let it die out. He was in the garden picking berries when he discovered the flames. He saved a few books, papers, chairs and bedding but the most of his house hold goods, and all the clothing, except what he had on at the time were burned. The house was insured in the Phoenix of Hartford for $500. There was no insurance of the furniture.

FIRE. Thursday of last week fire started in Sands & Maxwell L. Co.’s large pile of posts on the dock near Chapman’s mill and although the Fire Dept. were promptly on hand and deluged the same with water for about a half day, about twenty seven thousand were destroyed. The loss is estimated at $5000, and fully covered by insurance.

July 17, 1890. Fire started last evening in Wm. Ticknor’s blacksmith shop. The alarm was given but the fire was soon put out and did no damage.

October 2, 1890. Fire; Sunday morning abut one o’clock, the dwelling house of M. Jensen, a shoemaker in Pentwater, was burned to the ground with most of the contents. The family was absent at the time. The house was located near the fish shanties on the west side of the little lake and beyond the help of waterworks or fire department. The loss is about $500 on building and $250 on contents.

October 9, 1890. Yesterday was Firemen’s Inspection Day in Pentwater and the program was carried out in fine shape. Chief George Flood has an idea of making Inspection Day of practical benefit to the village, and made the program accordingly. The boys have a new set of badges that came all the way from Philadelphia. The day was beautiful and everything passed off in good order and the dance in the evening was greatly enjoyed.

November 20, 1890. The Pentwater Fire Dept. will celebrate thanksgiving with one of the exhilarating and delightful dances for which it is noted.

December 11, 1890. FIRE. Monday forenoon just before the arrival of the passenger train from the south Mr. James Higgins’ house on the south side of Pentwater lake and occupied by Byron Young as a residence was discovered to be in flames. It was impossible for the Fire Department to render assistance in that quarter of the village and in fact the people there barely had time to remove the house hold goods before the sides fell. The property belonged to Mr. Higgins’, who traded it a year ago to Byron Young for some land near the Point, but recently they re-exchanged their property and it was Mr. Higgins’ loss. The loss is about $150.

May 7, 1891. Sunday afternoon fire was discovered near the grist mill in a pile of edgings and speedily extinguished. It had some of the marks of having been set but was probably cause by tugs.

May 14, 1891. DESTROYED BY FIRE! The Village of Walkerville Wiped Out. Its People Barely Escape With the Clothes On Their Backs. Bass Lake Park in Ruins. Rankin Loses 1200 Cords of Wood. Several Barns Burned. H. Cogill’s Residence Burned. AT PENTWATER, Sunday morning the wind, that had the day previous been blowing from the south, changed and blew briskly from the north, driving back towards Pentwater the flames that the day before had destroyed the Bass Lake property, and all day the village was threatened. A patrol of men watched until afternoon when the flames had crept so near the cemetery as to require active and vigorous labor to save it. After several hours of back firing, continuous fight, danger to the cemetery and village was past and the people breathed easy again.

June 4, 1891. When the fire alarm is sounded every hydrant in the village should be at once close, excepting only those used by the Fire Department. The increased pressure required by the Department would be likely to ruin many small hose, and at the same time the drainage caused by the small hose playing would seriously impair the efficiency of the Department’s work.

June 15, 1891. Common Council minutes, Gentlemen: Your committee of Fire would report as follows; The Pentwater Fire Department have had their annual inspection day and find the fire engine and water works in first class condition. We had 1400 feet of hose on hand and in testing them burst 500 feet leaving 900 feet of good hose on hand. We would recommend the purchase of 500 feet of hose to replace the amount of bursted.

July 16, 1891. Wm. B. O. Sands’ fine residence caught fire a few days ago from the spirit lamp used to heat the water in the bath room. When discovered Mrs. Sands and Eliza Milligan were the only persons there, but they succeeded in putting it out with pails of water, the damage being confined to the bath room.

July 30, 1891. Saturday noon A.J. Underhill’s residence was discovered by Prof. C W. Mills to be in flames, the fire bursting through the kitchen roof. The fire alarm was sounded but the prompt efforts of those present, subdued the flames before much damage was done.

September 15, 1891. The Fire Department of Pentwater will hold its eleventh annual inspection and dance Friday evening of this week. If there is any organization that should receive substantial encouragement at the hands of the public, it is the fire laddies and now is the time for our citizens to come to the front and give them a lift. The parade will take place at 2 p.m. and the dance in the evening. Bergman’s orchestra will furnish first-class music.

October 15, 1891. THE GLORY OF PENTWATER! The $100,000 Hotel Assured! First Stone Laid Friday, Work Will Be Rapidly Pushed, Brief Description of the Building.

The first stone upon the foundation of Pentwater’s magnificent new resort hotel was laid last Friday. Next June the completed structure will throw its doors open to the public.

April 28, 1892. FIRE; For the first time in several months the alarm of fire startled the residents of Pentwater, Saturday morning at 4:30 o’clock. The fire proved to be the old Gardner mill building, owned by G.A. Wager, and lately unused. There was the old boiler and engine and some other machinery in the building, but no considered valuable. The fire had gained great headway before the department could reach the grounds. It was soon communicated to the large hay-barn of Sands & Maxwell, near by; and in a few minutes both buildings were in ruins. The department put forth its efforts to prevent a spread of the fire and succeeded in confining it to the two buildings. Chapman’s mill which was next in line, and which employs from thirty to forty hands was saved. If this had caught, Sands & Maxwell’s large mill and lumber yard would have stood in great peril as well as the whole village. F.O. Gardner had some posts piled near the mill which burned. The loss to Wager, is about $500, and to Sands & Maxwell the same, with no insurance in either case.

April 28, 1892. The Pentwater Fire Department has felt the necessity of another hose cart ever since the water works were put in. The old cart is rather heavy and will not carry all the hose usually needed at a fire. The fire last week spread from the mill to the hay barn because the Dept. did not have hose enough on hand and yet it had all that could be brought at one trip. Mr. Sands of the Sands & Maxwell Lumber Do. Hearing of it instructed the foreman to order a new $150 cart modern design and send bill to him and the Co. would pay for it. It is needless to say the Department feel elated over its present.

September 6, 1892. The steamer Oceana will be kept at the village pump works instead of the engine house. This will save keeping fire during the winter to keep it from freezing, which means a saving of about four tons of coal.

September 6, 1892. The Pentwater Fire Dept. decided Monday evening to celebrate inspection day on the 21st inst.., with appropriate ceremonies, parade and a dance in the evening.

September 15, 1892. The Pentwater Fire Department will hold its annual inspection this year on Columbus Day. Arrangements are being made for a great time. The dance given by the Department have always been popular, and the one on the 21st will be no exception.

October 27, 1892. INSPECTION DAY. Oct. 21st, the day set apart by President and Governor as a holiday to be observed, was selected by the Pentwater Fire Department as its annual inspection day, and arrangements for its observance were accordingly made. The parade and inspection took place on the streets, and a fine show the Company made with the elegant uniforms, steamer polished as bright as a new dollar, and the two hose carts ornamented and shining after the extra touches given them, preceded by the cornet band. The steamer always lends dignity to the parades, but the water works system was not forgotten and a thorough trial of its capacity and capabilities was made. Everything passed off satisfactorily and appeared to be in fine working order. Sides were chosen by the two Hose Co. Captains, and the following members contested in going from grounds to hydrants, laying hose, coupling and getting water: Capt. Geo. Hutchinson, W.H. Tuller, C.F. Lewis, F.H. Smith, J.W. Hurley, Al. Lammon, Ira Munson, J.H. Bouton, M.D. Girard, with new hose cart well loaded, and course from Engine House to Hancock St., thence upgrade to hydrant near Mears’ store. The second Co., Capt. W.T. Evans, G.W. Flood, Al. Cutler, Wm. Castle, A.M. Perkins, C.F. Lammon, N. McGoey, and Harry Hart, with the old cart, and course from Engine House to Hancock St., thence down grade to the hydrant near C.B. Slaght’s store. At the word both captains started. As they crossed over to Hancock street it was neck and neck, but when they turned No. 22, under Capt. Evans, gained, and reached its hydrant first, but No. 1 appeared to have had every move well planned, and as soon as it reached the hydrant the hose appeared to drop into place at once, and the moment the coupling was made water appeared, several seconds ahead on No. 2. It was quite exciting and created considerable merriment.

December 12, 1892. THE STORM. Friday afternoon, about four o’clock without warning the wind suddenly shifted from southwest to northwest, and for a few moments it appeared as if Pentwater was in the track of a cyclone. The wind appeared to have a twisting motion. Trees swayed to and fro, and those having weak places crashed to the ground. Great columns of sand were started from the sand hills and carried clear across the little lake. The water from the lake was caught by the wind converted into spray and carried along in sheets twenty feet high, resembling in its course moving snow drifts. Signs were blown down, chimneys toppled and fell, fences with weak posts went over and foundations to buildings were severely tested. Many were greatly alarmed and everybody more or less nervous. The storm continued to rage with great fury all night, but luckily all the vessels in this vicinity were safely moored before the storm came up. So great was the wind that when the night passenger train from the south arrived it was impossible to cross the channel with the ferry and the passengers were obliged to pass the night on board the cars. By daylight Saturday morning the wind had sufficiently abated to enable them to cross the channel in time for breakfast. The damage done was not serious. Sands & Maxwell’s horse barn had the top twisted out of shape. Joseph Henry lost a part of the roof of one of his houses. The roof of Halstead’s dry kiln blew off. The chimney on the old Bouton store building was blown down. A large tree was blown over the telephone wire east of the village. Apple and maple trees were blown down in all parts of the village.

During the evening, to add to the threating aspect, fire started in the boiler room of the furniture factory and threatened the entire destruction of the plant and the business portion of the village. Fortunately, however, the energetic work of the men subdued it before it gained headway, and a great conflagration was prevented. Old settlers say it was the worst wind storm ever experienced in Pentwater.

December 15, 1892. Thursday evening last at about 7 o’clock the house of P.O. Davis, situated in Payne’s addition to the village, was discovered to be in flames in the upper story. The alarm was given but the family had barely time to make their escape before it was in ruins. A few articles of furniture, some books and plants were saved but everything else was burned. The fire caught from a defective flue or from the stove pipe where it entered the chamber. There was $350 insurance on the building and $150 on furniture. A subscription was started and generously signed to relieve the family in their immediate wants.

December 24, 1992. Saturday morning the alarm of fire was sounded again. It proved to be the house of Mr. Jensen, near the fish houses of Warner and Venn that were burned recently. The fire caught in the floor where the stove pipe went through, and although it got a good start, was put out by the people who first reached the house before any great damage was done.

February 9, 1893. FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! Pentwater Fire Department will give a musical and Literary entertainment at Opera House Friday Eve. March 17th. Principal Features, Recitation by Mrs. Hills, Misses Goodale, Jones and Fisher. Music by Pentwater Quartette. Piano Solos by the Misses Nielsen and others. Orchestra in attendance. Come out one and all and encourage the Fire “Laddies.” Complete program next week.

February 16, 1893. Among the attractions at the firemen’s entertainment tomorrow evening will be Chief Floods’s collection of wood carvings, which will of itself be worth almost the priced of admission. The collection consists of all sorts of novelties whittled entirely out of wood, full set of carpenter tools such as braces, bits, augurs, planse, chains monkey wrenches, etc. One particularly attractive piece of works is a team of horses attached to a sled load of logs, with chain and binder, cant-hook, ax, pail etc. almost as natural as life, although carved of course on a miniature scale. Following is the program of the Firemen’s entertainment to be given to-morrow night. OMITED

February 23, 1893. The Firemen’s entertainment Friday evening was well attended, and the program well rendered. Our space will not permit us to mention the merits of each particular performance, but it is perhaps not out of place to compliment Willie Marsh on his cornet solo, which was well rendered considering that he has had but a few week’s practice.

April 27, 1893. The pumping house of the C. & W. M., across the little lake at this place, took fire and burned to the ground Monday afternoon, completely ruining the pumping engine. Prompt assistance by the fire department and lifesaving crew with their hand pump saved the small coal house close at hand, with its contents, and also the water tank. The origin of the fire is a mystery, as engineer Pierce had finished pumping early in the forenoon and closed the pumping house, and the fire did not break out until three o’clock in the afternoon.

May 18, 1893. F.O. Gardner’s saw mill about a mile out of town burned to the ground Monday noght, together with about 500 posts and a team of horses. The fire was discovered at about midnight and the alarm given, the fire company responding promptly with the hose cart and Engine No. 1, but too late to save the mill of course as it was completely enveloped in flames before the alarm was given The engine and firemen did good work, however, in preventing the spreading of the flames to the lumber and stock surrounding the mill.

Just how the fire started is a sort of a mystery, as there was a night-watch employed, but it seems he did not discover the flames in time to save the property. The loss is probably in the neighborhood of $2000 and uninsured. Mr. Gardner had just put in about $300 worth of new belting etc., and had the mill in pretty fair repair, and was employing over twenty men. This is the third mill Mr. Gardner has lost by fire and he has lost three cargoes on the lake, and he naturally thinks his luck ought to change before a great while.

June 8, 1893. At the meeting of the Firemen Monday evening, Geo. Flood resigned the position

of Chief and A.M. Perkins was elected in his stead. H.J. Runnells was chosen Ass’t. Chief.

June 15, 1893. Another fire started in the sawdust dump on South Rutledge street Friday. Sands & Maxwell’s mill and victory crews turned out promptly and soon had it smothered. The fire company attached the hose and showered the locality to make things sure.

July 6, 1893. Next came an exhibition by the fire department, the boys bringing out both hose carts, one team making the run to and coupling at the hydrant on the Mears block corner, and the other coupling at the hydrant in front of C.B. Slaghts. An amusing incident occurred at the latter place. W.T. Evans was at the, and the coupling was made and the hydrant opened before W.T. got the nozzle adjusted, with the result that he received a deluge amidships which proved too much for his equilibrium, and customary dignified bearing. John Bouton and one or two others also preformed some astonishing xxxxx feats that were highly interesting to the spectators, decidedly more so than to the principals.

July 6, 1893. Fire was discovered on the dock near Wagar’s old mill at noon the 4th, but the prompt work of the fire department prevented danger.

July 13, 1893. Common Council minutes, A communication from Reader Bros. of Scottville, asking for price wanted for the steam fire engine, presented. Moved by Fincher that the Recorder be instructed to reply that the village have decided to to sell the engine. Carried.

Moved by Rice that the fire committee investigate the expense and if they deem it advisable to have piping attached to fire engine ready for use at all times. Carried.

December 7, 1893. The Thanksgiving dance given by the Firemen was a very pleasant social affair, marred only by the absence of nearly all of the firemen themselves, who were prevented from taking part by the burning of the Baptist church.

The Baptist church and congregation are truly thankful to the people of Pentwater for their prompt and earnest efforts in trying to put out the fire and save property and for the many expressions of sorrow and sympathy because of our loss, and to our sister churches for their kink offers. Allen A. Jones, Pastor.

At about seven o’clock Thanksgiving evening the janitor of the Baptist church at this place went to ring the bell for evening services, when he discovered that the basement was on fire. The alarm was given and the fire department responded promptly with hose cart No. 1. In a very few minutes after the alarm a stream was playing on the flames in the basement, the fire apparently extinguished. No one thought it necessary to bring the other cart, at the time, but in a few moments an ominous glare from the attic window made it evident that the devouring element had followed the inside of a partition from the basement to the roof. Had the other cart been on the ground at the moment, and a good ladder to reach the attic window, the building could possible still have been saved but unfortunately they were not, and by the time they arrived it was too late. The boys with cart No. 1 fought faithfully but the odds were too many against them and they were obliged to abandon all efforts and turn their attention to preventing damage to other buildings. In this respect they were fortunate, as the wind could not have been from a more favorable direction. The building was insured for $1250 and the furniture for $250, in the Commercial Union Insurance Eng., of London, Eng. C.R. Johnson, agent.

December 21, 1893. A chimney burning out at O.W. Marsh’s restaurant Monday evening caused quite a considerable excitement and the firemen were called out to guard against possible serious results on account of the high wind which prevailed.

December 28, 1893. Dancing is alleged by many to be a very naught pastime, but if you will dance anyhow attend the Firemen’s mask ball Monday night and be assured of a good time, courteous treatment and a civil crowd.

startled by the fire alarm, and Nickerson and Collister’s flouring mills were discovered to be on fire, and in spite of the efforts of the fire company burned to the ground, together with Sands & Maxwell’’s barns back of the Mears’ block. A terrific gale was blowing directly toward the heart of the city, and from time the location of the fire was discovered grave fears were entertained that the village might be wiped out of existence, and when the small barn next to Sands & Maxwell’s caught, followed a few moments later by the latter, surrounded as they were by wooden buildings, the situation became grave indeed. Fortunately, however, the flaming embers from the barns were checked by the big brick hotel building, and it is generally conceded that but for this “white elephant” Pentwater would this morning be January 11, 1894. FIRE! Fire Morning Mail Edition. At about 6:30 last evening, our citizens were again a smouldering mass of ruins. The man is scarce this morning who is not loud in his praises of the Valeria Hotel, and glad he had helped to pay for it.

The flouring mills were valued at about $21000, partly insured.

Sands and Maxwell’s barn was valued at $1000, partly insured. The other small barns were perhaps worth $400 or $500.

W.T. Evans was quite seriously injured by a fall wall, and J.W. Hurley sustained a broken leg.

January 18, 1894. THE FIRE! When the fire alarm sounded about 6:30 last Thursday evening, probably three-fourths of the citizens of Pentwater remarked, “My, what an awful night for a fire!” Visions of the holocaust which swept the business portion of Pentwater some years since seemed to strike terror to the heart of every citizen, and when the location of the fire was learned, it did not tend to reassure those whose apprehensions for the safety of the village had been aroused at the first sound of the fire alarm. Nickerson & Collister’s big flouring mills on fire, with a terrific gale blowing directly toward the heart of the village was a condition of affairs well calculated to arouse the fears of the most sanguine. “Nothing can save Pentwater tonight” was a common remark among those who hurried to the scene of the fire.

The fire company responded promptly to the call, and both hose carts and the fire engine were soon on the spot. A little delay occasioned by the hose being frozen and bursting allowed the fire to get under good headway before a stream could be thrown, but it is very doubtful if the mill could have been saved even had everything been in working order. New hose was brought from the factory, however, and by the time the fire had eaten its way to the outside of the mill walls tour streams were playing on the buildings most exposed. But it seemed like fighting against big odds. When the flames burst through the walls of the mill the heat became so intense that it was almost unbearable two blocks distant, and that the mill sheds, the Jensen foundry and machine shops, and the black of wooden dwellings just across the street, all in direct line of the fire could be saved seemed among the impossibilities, and household efforts were hurriedly carried to places of safety. The plucky firemen, however, aided by scores of willing hands, stood their ground, and although the blazing brands fell in continuous shower and the heat was so intense that the mill sheds smoked like a furnace, two streams were kept playing on the sheds and foundry, and contrary to the expectations of everybody they were kept from burning. Twenty times the dwellings across the street caught, and as many times the flames were quenched by well directed streams from the hose, until it began to look as though the fire would be confined to the mill alone. But alas, a small opening at the back end of f Judge Clark’s small barn in the Mears block had not been noticed. A blazing ember was carried through this info the hay, and in a moment the whole inside of the barn was a mass of flame, and few moments later Sands & Maxwell’s large barn standing alongside the small barn caught and again hope sank and the village seemed doomed. The danger from the burning mill was at its height, and blazing embers were carried by the gale from the mill directly over main street and the most populous portion of the village, clear to the Catholic hill and beyond, burning brands falling over the entire district thicker than snowflakes in the hardest storm. How the village escaped is almost a mystery, but every lawn hose available was attached and the business houses on Main street and the dwellings in the line of the flying embers were kept thoroughly drenched. As nearly as we can learn fire started in about twenty different places over the village, but luckily in each instance and sentinel was on hand with a lawn hose and promptly extinguished it. Had the flames obtained a foothold in any one of these cases, the village must have been doomed.

When the fire broke out in the barns part of the firemen turned their attention to them, and while there was no hope of saving the barns, two streams were kept playing, and flames kept smothered so that not another building burned. When it is taken into consideration that other wooden buildings stood within a few feet of the barns it seems almost beyond conception that the fire was controlled as it was, and it was a matter wonder to those who viewed the ruins next day and noted the close proximity of other buildings. To say that Pentwater citizens were a happy lot of people when the fire was gotten under control would be drawing it mildly. An in this connection, the firemen cannot be given too much praise for the work they did. While they may not understand the work so well as city fire departments that are called out every day, the boys certainly did splendid and effective work, as anyone must admit who looks over the ruins and notes the odds they had to contend with. And the waterworks, but for them and the system of mains through the village the town would certainly have been wiped out in spite of all efforts. And then again, the big hotel Valeria, that too comes in for its share of commendation. When the barns caught, the “white elephant” stood like a Chinese wall, protecting the row of wooden business buildings from the force of the devouring element. All in all it was a lucky fire-almost phenonunally so.

NOTES: W.T. Evans had a very narrow escape from being killed. He had been on the platform at the northwest corner of the mill with one of the nozzles. On starting back to the street he was caught by the falling brick gable end of the engine room. Upon being struck on the head by the first falling brick Evans sided up against the end of the building, and to this probably owes his life, for at that moment the whole mass fell grazing his head and shoulders, and knocking him senseless. He was picked up and carried to Dr. Switzer’s office, where it was found that beyond some bad bruises he was not seriously injured, and is again around all right.

J.W. Hurly also sustained a broken leg by falling over a hose, and will of course be laid up for sometime.

The flouring mill cost some $21000 and was a fine piece of mill property. It was covered by an insurance of $11000 on mill and office.

Sands & Maxwell’s barn was valued at $1000, and was insured for $500, it will be rebuilt better than ever at once.

The small barn belonging to Judge E.B. Clark was valued at $200 or $300, and is a total loss, there being no insurance.

The drifts of charcoal and partly burned embers noticeable on the sidewalks after the fire the entire length of the village only added to the mystery as to how the town escaped entire destruction.

One thing is certain; the water works paid for themselves Thursday night and the inestimable value of a yard hydrant and lawn hose was made very apparent.

April 6, 1894. The fire accompanies were called out last Thursday evening by an alarm turned in on account of the burning out of a chimney at Lewis Thorpe’s.

Friday night at about midnight the cozy cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Webb Sr., near the factory was discovered to be on fire, and the alarm was sounded. The fire companies responded promptly and managed to save the walls of the cottage after the roof had been entirely burned off, but in such a charred and damaged condition that they will be hardly worth repairing. How the fire originated is a mystery, as the aged couple had been in bed some hours before the fire was discovered. The cottage was insured for $350, and contents for $150. Part of the furniture was saved.

July 27, 1894. Fire. Just before the noon hour last Friday a large cloud of smoke was seen rising from the brick yards, fire having broken out in the frame structure covering the kilns. F.O. Gardner, who has the yards rented, has been engaged in making some 325,000 brick for Sands & Maxwell’s new factory addition and the Baptist church and had let the fire die down in the kilns the night before, the brick being almost sufficiently burned. Men were kept on the watch as it was feared a blaze would get control, fire having previously broken out two or three times. The heat was so intense that when the blaze burst forth it was but a little while until the whole building was enveloped, and when the engine reached the spot, a distance of nearly a mile, nothing could be done but prevent the fire from spreading to the adjoining hacks. The brick were hardly done, it being the intention to fire up again for a day or so, but about 250,000 will be use however. The loss to Mr. Gardner is about $400.

July 27, 1894. THE AMERICAN HOUSE IN RUINS. Occupants Escape in Their Night Clothes.

At about four o’clock yesterday morning the clanging of the fire bell and screeching of the water works’ whistle aroused the slumbering inhabitants of the city from their beds, for it meant that the flames were getting in their terrible work somewhere. The crowds of people were soon led to the site of the American House, the wing of which was already nearly destroyed and the flames were spreading fastly through the long upright. Owing to negligence on somebody’s part an insufficient amount of hose was on either of the cars to reach from a hydrant to the burning building and a great deal of time was lost before the firemen got a stream of water playing. The fire had then gained such headway, it having been going sometime before an alarm was turned in, that the loss of the building and contents were but a matter of a shot time. The boys played on the water with a will and did good work, but all that remains standing is the charred ruins of the north side of and west end. Mr. Lawrence Nelson, the landlord, was among the first to be aroused by the yelling “fire” and upon looking out the window, discovered the whole building on fire. The occupants, twelve in number, were at once aroused and most of them made their escape in their night clothes.

Had there been any wind whatever the flames would surely have gotten advantage of the firemen and spread to some of the surrounding buildings. As it was, there was a perfect calm, and the flames were easily kept confined. The spot will undoubtedly never be the site of another hotel, and thus goes out of existence another of Pentwater’s historical places.

April 5, 1895. At about five o’clock Friday morning the blacksmith shop of Dan Field was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was turned in and the fire company responded promptly but in spite of their efforts the building burned to the ground. How the fire started is a mystery. Mr. Field, who lived overhead, had started a fire in the stove in the rooms above, but says he had not been below at all that morning, and he cannot account for the origin of the fire. Scarcely anything was saved either from the shop or the living rooms, and there was no insurance.

July 5, 1895. An incipient conflagration on the roof of J.L. Condon’s wood shed yesterday noon as the result of fireworks called out the fire department, but a few pails of water was sufficient to quench the fire.

July 2, 1895. An exchange, in speaking of fire, says: “The building was saved and the flames extinguished only with difficulty.” Here then is a solution to a perplexing problem. All these years fires have been fought in the old fashioned way, with varying success. Now when the water supply runs short, or the engines won’t work or hand grenades and Babcock chemical fire extinguisher prove inadequate, all we have got to do is turn on a lot of difficulty and the job is done.

September 18, 1895. Fire in the Amily house, east of the school house, called out the fire department Wednesday morning, but the flames were extinguished before they reach the scene.

February 13, 1896. At the annual election of officers of the Pentwater Fire Department last Thursday evening, the following officers were chosen: A.M. Perkins, Chief; O.H. Tayer, Asst. Chief; George Hutchinson, Foreman Hose Co. No. 1; Gard Sands, Foreman Hose Co. No. 2; Fred H. Smith, Sec’y; C.F. Lewis, Treas; Ira Munson and JA.G. Cutler, Fire Police.

July 31, 1896. FIRE! At about 1:30 o’clock last Friday morning, while the good people of Pentwater, with the exception of that portion of the younger element who were or had been in attendance at the dance in Opera hall, were peacefully slumbering the calm repose of the righteous, Jesse Mero, who chance to be in the neighborhood, discovered the A.K. Fisher residence to be on fire. Just how of why Jesse happened to be perambulating the streets at this unseemly hour is neither here nor there. Possibly he may have been suffering from a somnambulistic attack. Or, again, his mind burdened with the great political issues of the day, and unable to sleep, possibly he had risen and gone forth into the cool night air to sooth his aching brow, and if possible, figure out a solution of the 16 to 1 puzzle. And then again, perhaps he had been among the merry-maker sat the dance, and had so far overcome his prejudices against the gentler sex as to allow himself to escort one of Pentwater’s fairest damsels to her parental home. All this, we repeat, is neither here nor there, and is entirely incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial. He was there, and discovered the fire, and when he did discover it he did not hide his voice under a bushel either. With a promptness and presence of mind that would do credit to any older person, Jesse rushed to the house, burst open the screen door, and finally succeeded in arousing the occupants. Mrs. A.K. Fisher and her daughter, Ethel, were alone in the house at the time sleeping up stairs, and but for Jesse’s timely discovery of the fire and promptness in arousing them, there is little doubt that they would have smothered and perished in the flames. As it was, they had barely time to escape in their night clothes, without saving a thing, and even then Mrs. Fisher was considerably overcome by the smoke, which was stifling.

After arousing Mrs. Fisher and Ethel, Jesse started for the engine house, letting out a warhoop at every jump that would have done credit to a Comanche Indian. The fire department was soon on the scene, but the flames had apparently been eating their way slowly through the interior of the hose for some time before being discovered, and had made such headway that the entire west portion of the residence was completely gutted before the fire was extinguished. None of the personal property to speak of was saved, and everything in the house, including the elegant piano, was either consumed or ruined by smoke and the deluge of water.

The fire undoubtedly originated from either the explosion or the falling and breaking of a hanging lamp in the sitting room, which had been light the previous evening and which Ethel had turn down, and as she supposed, out, before retiring. The Dwelling was insured $1000, and the contents for $1000 more, which, if paid in full, would probably not anywhere near cover the value, as all the furniture and personal property was of the very best.

August 7, 1896. A fire alarm was turned in yesterday afternoon, but it proved to be nothing but a kettle of tar near Whittington’s store, which had caught fire.

August 7, 1896. FIRE!. Fire was discovered in the millinery store of Miss McClure in the Godgson building at about 12:30 o’clock this morning. An alarm was sent in immediately and the fire department was soon on the ground, extinguishing the flames in a few minutes. The damage by fire was slight, only the partition and a few hats on a shelf being burned, but the whole stock is probably rendered useless by the deluge of water. The cause of the fire is unknown. Insured for $300.

December 18, 1896. The Pentwater Fire Dept. will give a mask ball in the opera hall Christmas night. Their balls are never a failure.

January 8, 1897. The Fireman’s dance at Opera hall Friday night was a decided success notwithstanding the bad weather, as are all their dances. There were but seventy five couple present, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. The Hart orchestra of seven pieces furnished fine music for the occasion.

March 12, 1897. The Imus House Scorched. Last Friday, just before the dinner hour, the Imus House was discovered to be on fire. An alarm promptly brought out the fire department, and also a considerable portion of the population of the village. For a time it looked as though the entire building was doomed, as well as some of the surrounding buildings, but three streams of water intelligently directed soon placed the flames under control, and much to the surprise of most of the bystanders, the damage was confined entirely to the south wing of the hotel. The fire very evidently started at the east end of the south wing where ashes had been dumped to close to the building, and had as usual with frame buildings followed up between two studdings and spread pretty well through the garret before discovered. The entire contents of the south wing were badly damaged by water.

Notes Of The Fire. The most interest manifested, next to the safety of the soap agent, was in regard to saving Hod Perkin’s personal effects, and a sigh of relief went up when Hod was seen with his entire possessions neatly packed in a cigar box, in lieu of Saratoga trunks, out of danger’s reach.

Perhaps one of the saddest features of the fire was the fact that one of our professional men was making a very interesting experiment with medicated toilet soap and had not completed the experiment when the fire bell rang, and the result of his researches was lost to the public.

A serious fire is something that tries men’s bravery, but Pentwater men are equal to any occasion. Just now we do not think of a business man on our streets who did not gallantly offer to face death and the flames if necessary in order to save the lives or property of the dining room girls.

There was an ominous red glare at one of the chamber windows and everybody thought the building was doomed. A moment later, however druggist Alton, who was one of the first to rush to the rescue, poked his head out of the same window and yelled for a hose. He had no hat on.

April 30, 1897. Common Council minutes, The Fire Committee’s report was presented and read, as follows: Pentwater, Mich., Apr. 20, 1897. To the President and a Common Council of the Village of Pentwater: Gentlemen, We, your Committee on Fire Department, after careful examination, submit the following report for your consideration: First, We find the general condition of the Department, and especially the hose house very bad, the principal cause being neglect. In our inventory of the property belonging to the Department, herewith attached, we have classified the condition of each article as good, fair, and bad; although every article mentioned needs immediate attention.

We recommend that the steamer Oceana be examined by a competent engineer, (with necessary help), and her condition reported at the next regular meeting of this Council, with the probable cost of necessary repairs; further, that the hose, rated as “fair” be placed in good condition, and that portion beyond repair be disposed of in such a manner as to give us its room instead of its company; further, we believe that an inclined trough would be preferable to the present mode of drying the hose and less liable to damage to same; further, that as the invoice shows that there are twelve force pumps belonging to the Department and not one in its proper place, suitable action should be taken at once to find them. We also find the following persons to be members of the Department; A.M. Perkins, Chief; O.H. Tayer, Asst. Chief; Geo. Hutchinson, Foreman Hose Cart No. 1; William Castle, Foreman Hose Cart No. 2; Fred H. Smith, Secretary; C.T. Lewis, Treasurer; ILra Munson, 1st Fire Chief; Al. Cutler, f2nd Fire Chief; Henry Runnels, Burt Wickham, lewis Wickham, O.W. marsh, Harry Hart, Will Pringle, G.T. Sands H.F. Sands, Chas. Hurley, Floyd Moody, Al. Hawkins, James Ash, Al. Lammon, Will Webb, Hugh Devine, Will Bouga. There was a long list that followed this article, T. Cluchey

April 28, 1897. Fire engine Oceana has been under inspection this week by order of the village President, and is found in better condition than had been expected.

July 30, 1897. At about five o’clock Sunday afternoon, the barn owned by H.D. Beveridge, and used by O.F. Wickham, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was turned in, and it is said by those on the scene that in less than four minutes from the time the alarm was given the firemen were on the ground. The entire inside of the barn seemed to be ablaze when the fire was discovered. Everything was dry as tinder and the loft filled with hay and straw, still the firemen succeeded in squelching the flames where they were. The barn and contents were utterly ruined however. The barn itself was insured, but the contents were uninsured and are a total loss. Mr. Wickham loses a considerable quantity of hay and straw, grain, cutter, road cart, harnesses, stoves, and other property stored in the barn. Fortunately, his mare was outside in the yard, and was taken out of danger’s way. Mr. and Mrs. Wickham were out at the time, and the origin of the fire is a mystery.

October 29, 1897. GOING TO A FIRE. There is an etiquette to be observed in going to a fire just the same as there is in a ballroom, or a parlor, or at a wedding. There is a right way and a wrong way. In order to get all the possible enjoyment out of fire, it should be attended according to Hoyle, and Queensbury rules. You should always go early and avoid the rush. You should aim to get there in time to take up all the room you possibly can so as to endear yourself to the hearts of the firemen.

As soon as the fire alarm sounds it is advisable that you lose all the senses you ever had and start down the street yelling like a Comanche Indian. This will make folks, who do not know any better, think you are a vast property owner, and they will be impressed with your importance in proportion to the disturbance you create. If you go about your business decently or go to the scene of the fire in a too cool and imperturbed manner, the neighbors may think you are not interested, and even that possibly you know more about the origin of the fire than you care to tell.

Every step you take you should “holler” fire so people may not be led to believe that you are going to a Sunday school picnic. It is not etiquette to go to a fire quietly and civilly like a Christian, therefore you should act like one distracted and as if you were about to be subjected to the rack and screw to torture a confession out of you.

After arriving at the fire, do not stand by and quietly allow the firemen to fight the destroying element or they might get it out too soon, or people might be led to imagine that maybe you had never seen many fires and that you are a greenhorn. Better allow all the town to be burnt down than to be thought green. Maybe you could stand it, but I can’t. That is, I don’t want folks to know about it. I do not really care much how green people think me, just so they don’t tell me or their neighbor.

December 3, 1897. The house occupied by Chris Peterson, and owned by A. Tompkins, was discovered to be on fire at seven o’clock Saturday evening. The firemen soon squelched the flames, and the loss to building and contents was slight, except the damage by water. The insurance on the building had expired.

December 24, 1897. The firemen will give their annual New Years’ ball next Friday evening, December 31. Music by the Muskegon orchestra. A grand time is assured. Aubrey’s orchestra, of Muskegon, will furnish the music for the firemen’s ball next Friday evening. Bill, including a fine supper at the Clendee, $1.00 per couple.

December 31, 1897. The firemen are expecting a fine time at their ball this evening. The orchestra secured is a fine one, and that the supper at the Clendee will be first class goes without saying.

January 7, 1898. The Firemen’s dance at opera hall Friday night was well attended, and was a very enjoyable affair. There were quite a number present from Hart and Ludington. Aubrey’s orchestra furnished a high grade of music. At the Clendee, where supper was served, the dining room was very tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion.

February 18, 1898. Common Council minutes, Committee on Fire Department was instructed to obtain prices and samples of fire hose, and report at next regular meeting.

March 4, 1898. Committee on Fire Department, instructed at last meeting to obtain prices and samples of fire hose, reported as instructed. Moved by Alton, that the committee on Fire Department be instructed to purchase 200 feet of S. No. 1 fire hose at 80 c. per foot, and 200 feet of Ajax fire hose at 60c. per foot; carried.

April 22, 1898. Last Saturday noon S.K. Fisher, who was passing, discovered the roof of Mrs. Jones’ millinery store to be on fire. The alarm was given and the flames were soon subdued with but slight damage.

May 20, 1898. The fire yesterday was a test for the new water works wells. No trouble was experienced in keeping up pressure. Heretofore it was always necessary to pump from the lake during a fire.

May 20, 1898. FIRE! Wagar Mill Destroyed By Fire Yesterday Morning. About 7:15 o’clock yesterday morning Len Adams noticed smoke issuing from the old Wagar mill at the foot of Hancock street. It was also seen by some of the workmen at Sands & Maxwell’s mill at about the same time and alarms were immediately sounded. In a few minutes the entire building was ablaze and burned to the ground in less than an hour.

The fire department was on the ground in a short time and did excellent work. A pile of lath owned by Sands & Maxwell which was near the mill, caught fire and was damaged to the extent of $500. There was no insurance on the lath.

The mill has not been in operation for several years and was rendezvous for tramps. The cause of the fire is supposed to have been tramps or lightning.

June 10, 1898. Monday forenoon fire broke out in the kitchen attic of Erie Huftile’s residence, and the effective work of the fire department was all that saved it from total destruction. The damage is fortunately covered by insurance.

The mill is owned by Geo. A. Wagar, of Chicago, and it was not insured in any of the companies represented in this town. But for the drenching rain Wednesday and yesterday morning a large portion of the town would undoubtedly have been burned.

July 15, 1898. UP IN SMOKE. Probably Seven Million Feet of Fine Lumber Owned by Sands & Maxwell Lumber Company.

Pentwater was visited last Saturday by the most destructive fire in its history. At about 2:30 in the morning the fire alarm sounded, and from the location it was generally supposed that the big saw mill was on fire. The fire department responded promptly, and it was found that instead of the saw-mill the lumber piles were on fire, and in six hours after the alarm was turned in the greater part of the immense stock of lumber on the Sands & Maxwell docks was but a field of smouldering coals and ashes.

The fire originated in the center of some dry lumber piles just to the south and east of the mill, and when discovered had already gained considerable headway, and those who have had experience with such fires were aware that the outlook was serious. Hose was laid from the Huftile hydrant, the fire engine Oceana No. 1 was soon on the ground and working, the dummy engine in the yards was put to work and a stream was available from the mill, but the combined streams seemed to have little more effect in checking the flames than if it had been directed into the lake. The crew of the Gaylord tug which is working on the piers, offered the services of their big pump, and were towed to the dock and soon had a stream playing, and the Maxwell another, still the flames ate their way through pile after pile and it became evident that outside aid must be summoned.

Our boys were somewhat handicapped from lack of sufficient hose, and an effort was made to call up Hart, but no communication could be had. Ludington was found connected with the fire department over the Bell line, however, and immediately responded with their fire tug and an abundance of hose and appliances, reaching Pentwater at 6:45. In the meantime the flames were sweeping the south and east docks, and every effort of the local department was directed toward saving the mill, which was accomplished by the heroic work of the boys contrary to all expectations. A hundred times the mill caught, not withstanding the continued drenching it was receiving, and as many times extra streams well directed quenched the incipient flames. The only hope now was to save the mill and the west dock. While waiting for the Ludington fire tug minutes seemed hours. Every available stream had to be kept on the mill to prevent its being destroyed and the fire crept toward the west dock, and it caught at about 6 o’clock and began the work of destruction. When about half way down this dock the Ludington tug arrived, and with this additional force the fury of the flames began to check. Valiantly the boys worked until about 3:30 in the afternoon, when the fiery element was considered under control, and the remainder of the west dock, something like two million feet, was saved-all that remained of the immense stock that covered the ground the night before. The loss, judges estimate to be nearly seven million feet, valued at from $70,000 to $80,000. The loss was partially covered by insurance, just what proportion cannot be determined until final adjustment.

NOTES OF THE FIRE.

No city fire department ever did more heroic work than did the local department in saving the mill from burning. The boys who held the nozzle are entitled to a pension.

The ladies of the town furnished refreshments for the boys in large quantities, while the latter were engaged in fire fighting.

Captain Kattlesen, of the Mueller, was quietly badly injured by a heavy stick of timber from one of the piles striking him upon the forehead.

July 15, 1898. Pentwater, Mich. July 12, 1898. Common Council minutes. Chief and Members of Fire Department of Village of Pentwater: Gentlemen; To say that we appreciate your heroic work at the time and place of fire in our lumber yard, 9th inst., is a very feeble expression of our gratitude for your services. We thank you, one and all, for the willing and hearty manner in which you put forth your efforts. That the citizens of this and other places so warmly assisted under such warm and trying circumstances is very gratifying to us and will be remembered, but to your organization we cannot forget that high credit is due and is acknowledged. The property that survives is a testimony of your efforts.

Again we thank you, and beg that you will accept the enclosed check as tangible evidence evidence of our appreciation. Yours truly, Sands & Maxwell Lumber Co.

On motion of Alton, the communication was received and place on file, check accepted and the sincere thanks of the Department extended for the same, signed by D.D. Alton, Burt Wickham, C.F. Lewis, committee.

September 30, 1898. At about 1:30 Monday afternoon fire broke out in the building corner of 2nd and Hancock streets owned by F.O. Gardner and occupied by – Hall. Origin of fire unknown. Damage slight.

November 25, 1898. Common Council minutes, The Committee of Fire made the following report:

Pentwater, Nov. 15, 1898. To the President and Common Council of the Village of Pentwater: Gentlemen: According to instructions given your Committee on Fire Department at the last regular meeting of this Council, to purchase 400 ft. 2 ½ inch fire hose, after careful examination of several samples and prices submitted by the H.D. Edwards Co., Chicago, Ill.; New York Belting and Packing Co., Chicago, Ill., and Studley & Barclay, Grand Rapids, Mich., have decided upon and ordered said hose known as the “Keystone” brand of the New York Belting and Packing Co., said hose being in our judgment the best and most economical hose to purchase. Signed, D>D. Alton, I.C. Harwood, G.T. Sands, committee. The report was received and placed on file.

December 2, 1898. ANOTHER HORROR! Georgia Imus Burned to Death While Kindling a Fire.

Pentwater has added one more to the list of horrible events that have occurred in the past few years. At about 10:30 o’clock Saturday forenoon, Miss Georgia Imus, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George W. Imus, while building a fire, had her clothing catch fire, and in spite of all efforts, before the flames could be extinguished, she had received burns which proved fatal.

It seems that at the time, Georgia was building a fire in the air-tight stove in her room at the Imus House. The stove was of a pattern that has a small door in front that turned down when opened, and it was necessary to leave this open to give the stove a draught. Whether Georgia had placed kindling in this front door or not, is not known, but she had opened the top lid and stood leaning slightly over the stove, either putting in fuel or stirring the fire from the top, when in some manner, the loose, light wrapper which she wore, caught fire unnoticed by her, from the front draught. Her father, G.W. Imus, stood in the doorway talking with her at the time, and noticing the fire in her dress, called, “Georgia, your dress is all afire!” and immediately ran to her, and attempted to extinguish the fire with his hands, but she was almost instantly enveloped in flames, and Mr. Imus started for a quilt. Georgia, meantime, ran out into the hallway, where the draught from below only fanned the flames into fiercer action. M.S. Perkins, who happened to be in the office below, ran hurriedly up the stairs, and grabbing a blanket, which he and Mr. Imus wrapped around the unfortunate girl, they finally succeeded in smothering the flames, but not until three-fourths of her body had been burned. It was all the work of but a moment- the light cotton material of her wrapper flaming up like tinder. Mr. Imus had his hands very badly burned while trying to save his daughter, and undoubtedly but for his presence, the younger daughter, Alberta, would have also perished. Alberta, who was seated at the piano in an adjoining room, immediately rushed to Georgia’s aid and had to be kept back by her father, and it was afterward found that quite a hole was burned in dress, but it being of woolen material it had gone out. Over this she wore a light cotton apron, which would certainly have caught had she not been restrained, and the two would have perished together.

Drs. Nichols & Switzer were immediately summoned, and with the aid of trained nurses, everything known to human skill, science and love was done to save a bright life, but to no avail.

April 28, 1899. Common Council minutes, The following report of the Fire Committee was presented and read: Pentwater, Mich., March 11, 1899. To the President and Common Council of the Village of Pentwater: We, the undersigned, Committee on Fire, find the following village property on hand in the engine house at this date:

1 steamer, 2 hose carts, 700 feet cotton hose, 400 feet rubber hose, 4 trumpets, 1 hose crotch, 30 firemen’s hats, 1 hose coupling expended, 1 hose T, 4 nozzles, 2 hose holders (wood), 5 hose holders (wood), 5 hose holders (rope), 2 axes, 1 shovel, 1 large pump oil can, 1 small 1-gal. can, 50 gals. Oil, 1 broom, 1 lantern, 1 lamp, 1600 feet of rope, 2 snow shovels, 1 hose Y, 24 hose expenders, 2 rubber gaskets, 1 squirt can, 1 padlock, 1 old wood stove, 16 lengths old pipe, 2 suction wrenches, 1 coal cart, 1 20 foot hook, 1 20 foot ladder, 1 18 foot ladder, 1 16 foot ladder, 600 lbs. coal, 11 pair extra couplings.

We also find n the hands of the village Plummer 3 service boxes, 3 lead connections, 3 corporation cocks. We also find the fire department composed of the following members:

Geo. Hutchinson, Chief; Hugh Divine, Asst. Chief; W.J. Castle, Fore. Hose No. 1; D.D. Alton, Fore. Hose No. 2; A.G. Cutler, 1st. Fire Police; Ira Munson, 2nd Fire Police; C.F. Lewis, Treasurer; Fred Smith, Secretary; A.M. Perkins; O.H. Tayer; G.T. Sands; Will Pringle; Will Bouga; James Ash; Al Lammon; Burt Wickham; Allen Hawkins; Harry Hart; O.W. Marsh; H.F. Sands; Wm. Webb.

We would recommend that the top of the tower of the engine house be taken off down to the top of the main building, and two inclines be built on the east side of the inside of the building for drying hose, and that there be purchased two hydrant wrenches. C.F. Lewis, D.D. Alton, W.J. Castle, Committee. Moved by Imus, that the report be received and placed on file and spread on the minutes; carried.

July 7, 1899. BOAT HOUSE BURNED. At about eleven o’clock Wednesday night, the Oceana Beach boat houses, on the west bank of Pentwater lake, were discovered to be on fire, and were completely consumed, including all the contents, consisting of ten or a dozen row boats belonging to the resorters, and the naptha launch “Toot” owned by F.W. Fincher. The fire alarm was sounded, but of course the fire apparatus was of no avail on that side of the lake, and was not taken out. All who could secure boats, crossed and helped the bucket brigade, which by hard work managed to save Venn’s fish house and other property in the vicinity. The only insurance was $200 on the naptha launch. The loss is rather an unfortunate one at this time just as the resort season is opening, but we have no doubt a new and probably better boat house will replace the one consumed. The origin of the fire is unknown.

July 28, 1899. The following report was read, from delegates to State Firemen’s Convention.

Pentwater, Mich., July 11, 1899. To The Honorable Common Council of the Village of Pentwater, Michigan.

Your Committee that attended the State Firemen’s Association beg leave to submit to you the following report:

The meeting was reasonably well attended and most of the leading cities of the state were ably represented by their delegates. Captain Hogan represented the City of Detroit in a very able manner; his subject, No. 2, “Do The Interests of the Association Demand an Increase of the Annual Dues:. This subject has for several years received the attention of the Association, but owing to the condition of the times no definite action was taken.

Several topics upon the program were omitted owing to the fact that the persons to whom they were assigned were not present.

Mr. Shafer discussed the question of fire proof buildings, and while rapid progress has been made along this line, yet an absolute fire proof building has not as yet been built. Several large buildings supposed to be fire proof, have been destroyed in our large cities within the past year.

The subject of fire escapes was then taken up by Mr. Huckleberry, of Cadillac. Many were the kinds that were recommended, but the most of this discussion appertained to high buildings, and as we have none in our city, a further report of this subject would be disinteresting.

The Spray Nozzle was discussed jointly, but without much interest. C.R. Pond discussed the value of iron shutters to buildings, and said that every brick or sheet iron building should have them on.

Healey, of Kalamazoo, then discussed the subject of the size of Hose, the subject being, “Should the size of same be increased.” He said that where the same pressure could be furnished to a 5 inch hose as a 3 or 4 that he would advocate the use of 5 inch for the reason that in case of fire they wanted water, and the more the better. But every city must use their own water works, and could best judge of their own needs.

Secretary G.L. Gray close the meeting by a discussion of the subject of small cities employing permanent fire companies, and while a large range of opinions were expressed the whole Association was of the opinion that in cities of 5 to 6 thousand population could well afford to employ a permanent fire company, that better results could be obtained than volunteer companies.

The City of Grand Rapids in her usual clever and hospitable manner put forth her every effort to make the delegates present feel at home, and contributed largely to the success of the meeting. Yours very reapectfully, W.J. Castle, A.M. Perkins, Committee. Moved by Imus that the report be accepted and spread on the minutes. Carried.

November 10, 1899. Capt. H.F. Sands’ residence had a narrow escape from destruction by fire Sunday evening. About six o’clock the furnace basement was discovered to be on fire, and had gained such headway that it could not be put out without the aid of the fire department. The boys responded promptly to the alarm and succeeded in saving the residence, but not until considerable damage had been done in the basement, and everything in the house was smoked badly. The fire undoubtedly originated from the furnace in some manner.

November 24, 1899. The Pentwater Fire company will give a Thanksgiving dance in Maccabee Temple, Thursday evening, Nov. 30. Bill 75 cts. Per couple.

December 15, 1899. CARRIED MAIL 47 YEARS AGO. Weekly Trips Along the East Shore of Lake Michigan. A story that will be interesting to some of our oldest pioneers originated at Muskegon and is going the rounds of the state press. We present it herewith in part:

William Hill, of Morley, is one of the pioneers of Michigan. Just 47 years ago he was engaged in carrying the weekly mail from Grand Haven to Manistee. He traveled the beach of Lake Michigan, for in 1852 there were no wagon roads.

“That was just 47 years ago,” said Mr. Hill reflectively. I was working for John Pennover, who ran the old Washington Hotel in Grand Haven. He had the government contract for carrying the mail between Grand Haven and Manistee and received $1200 a year for it.

I used to get the mail at Grand Haven at 4 o’clock every Saturday morning, but it was sometimes 5:30 before I had called up the old ferryman and gotten across the river. I had one horse, but in the fall, when the mails became heavier, I had two-one saddle horse and a pack horse. In the summer a good deal of mail went across the lake from Chicago to Milwaukee on schooners, but in the fall, when the navigation closed, it came around this way.

There were many rivers and creeks to cross. At Grand Haven I was ferried over. At the mouth of Black Lake, (they used to call it Black Lake in those days) there was a stream to swim.

The lighthouse at Muskegon was kept by an old one-armed Mexican soldier in those days, and there I ate breakfast. At about 9 o’clock I was ferried across the river here on a ferry scow that was worked by a rope. I followed the beach up, and my next stop was at John Barr’s in Claybanks. He ran a farm and hotel there. This was three of four miles this side of Stony Creek and I used to stay at Barr’s over night.

The next morning I went on to Stony Creek. At Claybanks there was no beach and the clay bluffs ran right up to the lake. I left the water here and followed the trail down to Stony Creek, forded that and reached Cobb’s place at 8 or 9 in the morning. At Cobb’s I had breakfast and Mrs. Cobb always’s put me up a lunch, for from Stony Creek I traveled 30 miles to Caswell’s, the next point.

George Caswell’s was just this side of Pentwater, and there I stayed overnight and changed horses. In the morning I swam the Pentwater river. There was a government canoe there with a lock on it. I placed the saddle and the mail in this canoe and paddled across, the horse following after. On the other side I locked the canoe up again and started on, reaching Manistee, the end of my route, that night, the night of the third day out of Grand Haven. At Freesoil creek, 16 miles this of Manistee, was a place kept by a man named Freeman, and there I left the lake and followed the trail to Manistee.

Manistee in those days was all on one side of the river, and was several miles from the lake. Smith & Son ran a saw-mill there and that is about all there was. I used to ferry over to the town. At Manistee I connected with an Indian who carried the mail from Traverse City on foot through the woods, following a trail. The next morning I started back to Grand Haven on Thursday night. Friday was my Sunday and Saturday night I started out again.

Mr. Hill resigned in the fall of 1852 and was succeeded by a Frenchman, the nephew of a Grand Haven man. On his third trip he was drowned crossing the Manistee river together with the ferryman and one of the horses. The mail horse swam to shore, but the saddle horse went down with the men.

February 23, 1900; FIRE, While the factory fire was ragging, in all its fury, the residence of C.L. Moody, nearly half a mile distant, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was given, and a hose cart was sent, but the fire had gained such headway that the building burned to the ground. Most of the furniture, etc., from the lower floor was gotten out, but a considerable portion of it was badly damaged in the hurry of trying to save it. Mr. Moody states that the fire was first discovered in the roof, near the chimney, and he feels confident it started from a firebrand from the factory. The residence was insured for $1,000. Mr. Moody and family are at present quartered at the residence of C.F. Lewis.

February 23, 1900; WIPED OUT BY FIRE! Pentwater’s Great Industry Gone Up In Smoke; In the neighborhood of 250 people thrown out of employment. The entire plant of the Pentwater Bedstead Company was destroyed by fire last Thursday night, together with all the contents of the buildings and dry kilns and a considerable quantity of lumber piled near by.

When the xxxx o’clock whistle blew Thursday evening, closing the days work, little did the employees think that in a few short hours this busy hive of industry would be a mass of smoking ruins, and the greater portion of the working population out of employment.

At five minutes past eight Geo. Shaw, who had about completed his work wiping the engine and machinery in the power rooms, stepped to the rear door of the engine room to throw out a pail of water, when the bright light reflected from the dry kiln situated west of the factory told him all too plainly that the factory was on fire. He hastened back and informed W.W. Ostrander, who had charge of the dynamo engine and dynamo, which was kept running until 8:30 to light the company’s sores. Upon hasty investigation they found fire burning fiercely on the second floor of the machinery building, at the west side, in the immediate vicinity of one of the big blowers which forced the shavings, sawdust etc., form this building into the boiler furnaces. The flames were found to have already gained such headway, and the smoke was so dense that it was impossible to reach the fire hose and apparatus on this floor, with which the factory was well supplied, and the whistle was immediately blown for the village firemen. By the time the hose cats arrived, however, it was all too apparent that nothing could save this building. Everything about the building was as dry; as years of steam heat could make it, and the streams directed into the flame had little more effect than if they had been turned into the lake. The heavy machines could be heard crashing through the floors to the ground, and to add to the difficulties, the four inch pipe which supplied the water to the factory from the mains soon broke off, and it was some little time before the gate leading to this pip could be closed down, which seriously interfered with the pressure on the mains for a short time. Meanwhile the tramway between the two buildings was hurriedly torn down in the hopes of saving the big brick finishing room building just across the street, but all to no purpose. The heat was so intense that the windows crashed, and flames seemed to leap from almost every window on the side of the finishing building next to the street. In the space of a few seconds, the inflammable nature of the stock and materials had carried the flames into every nook and corner of this mammoth building—had it been stored with gun powder it could have gone but little quicker. Some idea of the rapidity with which the flame spread may be gained from the fact that in fory-five minutes after the fire was first discovered the machinery building was practically wiped out and the entire finishing room building in flames in every portion and the walls already falling. Parallel with this building, and close to it on the east side was piled a large amount of lumber on the dock, and this was the next to go, together with the boat house and naptha launch. Here the fire was stopped in its progress. Further to the eastward just across the small bayou toward Jenson’s foundry was another large amount of lumber, and to this the firemen directed their especial attention, and by keeping these thoroughly drenched they were not allowed to catch. Had this lumber burned, forming a connecting link between the burning factory and the village, and with a stiff breeze blowing directly over the village, it is hard to tell where the work of destruction would have ceased.

To the westward from the machinery building the fire gradually worked its way to the dry kilns and to the lumber surrounding it, and did not check until all was wiped out from the dry kilns and lumber to the west of the machinery building to the dock east of the finishing room, including the boat house and naptha launch, oil room, shops, etc.

The actual loss can not be accurately stated at the present time, as the members of the firm have only fairly commenced to tabulate the item which will require some time to complete, and they themselves do no know the extent of loss until that is completed. Outsiders, however, estimate it at from $150,000 to $300,000. The machinery building, exclusive of boiler and engine room was a four-story structure 8l0x100 feet. Only a year ago this building was put in splendid condition, the foundations being repaired, the floors leveled and shafting lined up, and was well filled with good machinery, several new and expensive machines having been put in within a year or two, and everything about the building had been put in first class condition. This building and its contents is a total loss.

The finishing building was a three and four story brick structure 300x100 feet, and this mammoth building was completely filled with finished and partly finished furniture awaiting shipment. The list of this stock on hand is not yet made up, but it is estimated by those who worked in the finishing rooms at what would equal from 4,000 to 6,000 completed room suites. Of this building and its contents, all that remains is a mass of bricks and mortar, with two or three pieces of broken wall still standing like sentinels over the ruins.

The engine room, which in any ordinary fire would have been fire proof, and which was the pride of the firm, being perhaps the best power house of the kind in the state, fare somewhat better, and aside from the dynamo, which was of course burned out, it is thought that the boilers and engines qre not seriously damaged.

Aside from the property loss, the loss in business will be a heavy one. This institution was in better condition than ever before to turn out work of a high grade in the shortest possible time. For years it has been gradually reaching out and establishing itself in a permanent business and never before were the prospects so bright for doing a big volume of business on a reasonable margin of profit, as were the prospects for the coming season. The finest catalogue ever put out by the firm had just gone out, and was already bringing orders for goods to an extent very gratifying to the company.

What the loss is to the town can only be conjectured, but there is no dodging the fact that it will be felt. About 175 laboring men are thrown directly out of employment, and another 50 or 75, if not more, will be indirectly affected for the time, to say nothing of the business interests. As to whether or not the institution will be rebuilt, the members of the firm themselves have no idea at the present time-it is too large a problem to settle in a few minutes, and until they have some idea what they will do, it is merely waste of time for others to conjecture. In the meantime, Pentwater is still on the map, and will so continue. She has natural advantages that few towns possess, which will sooner or later make this a thriving city. And now is a good time for us to show the stuff we are made of, meet the situation face to face, and prepare to “rise from the ashes.” We can do it.

The total amount of insurance on the property, as given by the daily papers, was in the neighborhood of $82,000, which is probably not far out of the way.

As soon as the serious nature of the fire was discovered, Hart was immediately telephoned and responded promptly by sending firemen and hose on the passenger, arriving at 9:20. They did very acceptable service in changing off with the Pentwater boys in holding the nozzle while the latter thawed out, and held themselves in readiness for any emergency likely to occur at any moment, with fire brands flying all over the village.

The snow which covered the buildings probably had much to do in helping to save the balance of the town from destruction.

The firemen did good work in saving H.C. Flagg’s residence just across the street north of the factory.

This seems to be the “cap sheaf” in a series of disasters to this firm in the past two years.

The origin of the fire will of course never be definitely know, but the general opinion seems to be that it probably originated from a hot box in some of the machinery or blowers, which ignited the dust and shavings.