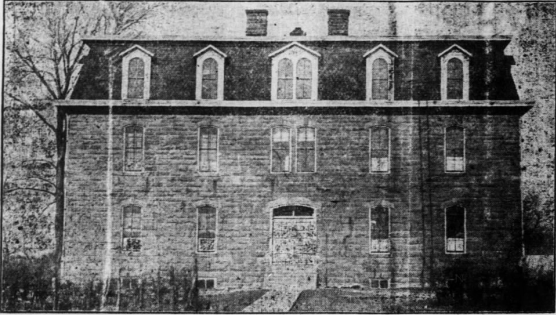


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ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL BUILDING BURNS.

The old college building was partly destroyed by fire Saturday about noon. The only parts of value that remains are the walls, and they appear to be in good condition. All the furniture was saved.

The fire was first discovered about 11 o'clock when smoke began issuing from under the edges of the tin roof. The church bell rang and the fire whistle blew and our fire fighters responded quickly. They did their best but lack of equipment made their efforts to save the building futile.

This building was erected in 1872 by the Jesuites for their school. It was used by them until 1891 when the school was moved from here. It was then used as a local school for a time after the burning of the academy in 1895, then vacated for a time, then again used for St. Francis local school. A new steam heating plant had just been installed in it in readiness for the opening of school next month.

The location of the fire made it most difficult to combat. The metal roof and the metal ceiling kept out the air and held the fire in check for a long time; in fact it was an hour from the time the discovery until a blaze was visible on the outside. But the things that held the fire back also prevented effective fighting. The roof was so hot no one could work from above. The metal ceiling and the heat in the third story prevented work from below. The height above the ground was also an obstacle. The fire fighters did their best. The floors were flooded with what water was available, and this with the metal ceilings in each story held the fire to slow progress and gave ample time for the recovery of all the school furniture, even the steam radiators, which were detached and carried to safety.

The walls are of gray sandstone and built strong and substantial. When first erected this was one of the best college buildings in the state and pupils came here from great distances, even from Old Mexico, to attend this school. Thousands of men from all over this section of the U. S. A. received all or part of their education in this building.

Father Schoenmakers had the building erected while he was president of the Institution. It was first used in 1873, and was filled to capacity with students every year until the college closed in 1891. The Journal man was a member of the graduating class the year it closed. The fire renewed many tender memories associated with this building.

Will Rebuild.

Rev. Father David says he can't say definitely what will be done until he consults the bishop and provincial, but he believes it will be rebuilt soon, as a two story building and again be used for the school. The walls appear to be in first class condition. The slowness of the fire made the heat less intense and the damage small.

The College Hall building will be used for school purposes until this one is rebuilt. Partitions will be put in the first and second floors of College Hall so as to make three rooms on each floor. The high school class will use the basement of the church. The classes will be taught just the same as if no fire had occurred, and school will open on the regular scheduled time.

Lightning the Cause.

The origin of the fire will never be positively known but it is reasonably certain that lightning was either the direct or indirect cause. The early morning rain was accompanied by much thunder and lightning. It might have started a fire which smoldered for four or five hours between the metal roof and metal ceiling before gaining enough headway to make its presence known.

One of the high tension electric wires was found to be broken a short distance from the building and the live wire had come in contact with one of the low tension wires leading to the building. This was evidently caused by the storm and may have caused the fire by sending a high current of electricity into the building over wires and fixtures intended for low current only.

There was only \$2,000 insurance on the building, which is less than half of the loss.

Graves writes insurance of all kinds.

Miss Jennie Crandon, of Parsons, has been visiting Mrs. Fortune.

Miss Beatrice Bell has been visiting her sister in Winfield.

J. T. Lancaster began Monday to overhaul the Bahney building which he recently purchased. He is tearing away some of the additions and will completely overhaul the main building and arrange it for the new store which he intends to start in the near future.

We have a supply of concrete tile for road work, in 8, 12 and 15 inch sizes.—Leonard Lumber Co.

Some wheat ground for rent. See Joe Nunnink.

Jesse Burnett arrived from Clovis New Mexico, Tuesday to visit home folks and attend the reunion.

BUILDINGS BURNED.

Lightning struck the L. Hileman farm, near Thursday evening, and as well as a granary near, was completely destroyed. Horton, who farms the recently threshed, and 800 bushels of old corn were a part of the grain was destroyed. The family sowing harness and machinery. The buildings were destroyed, but the grain was not.

Graves makes a special grain insurance—that pays losses promptly.

Every day is special aluminum.

Mrs. E. A. Hulise, of and Mrs. Edna Kiser, of spent the week end with thirty and Miss Jennie M.

Mrs. Julian Smith and Joseph Sterk returned this a visit in Joplin. Miss of Joplin, came home with a few weeks visit.

I am prepared to write insurance that pays the amount in case of loss. If are insured for \$150 each one of the lot is killed or burned, you get \$150

J. F. KANUTE,
FRANK METCAL