

Sub-Zero Temperatures Made Firefighting Difficult



Just before going out of business in 1910. Note the lion which was recently found on a Market Street traffic island (courtesy Potsdam Museum).

Aerial Tower Back In Service

Potsdam's aerial tower fire truck is back in service after representatives of the company that designed the truck installed a new water piping system last Friday.

The truck, which was knocked out of commission after several hours service at last Thursday's downtown Potsdam fire, was serviced by two men from Ladder Towers Inc. of Lancaster, Pa. The two were called to Potsdam Thursday afternoon by Village Administrator Sanford Dewey and Fire Chief Robert Williams; they arrived at noon Friday to begin work on the truck.

Dewey said they installed a complete water piping system at no charge to the village.

The men took the old pipe, which had an 18-inch split in it, back to Pennsylvania to determine what caused it to split.

The truck was tested Saturday morning; the two men left on Saturday afternoon.

The ladder truck was delivered last June and cost almost \$200,000.

Photos By Hal Stokes
And Betsy Baker

Shoppers

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their colors proving that life had at one time resided there.

Beyond all this towered the boom of a crane, which had partially razed the building to fully extinguish the fire.

Some of the more pessimistic shoppers were not surprised by the fire. They felt that people were desperate and this tragedy only supported their view. They did, however, admit to a certain amount of sadness from the affair.

Support

One elderly couple had quite a different view. They felt that the owners and tenants of the affected buildings should be supported by the community, possibly with loans. The Mrs. emphasized that young and old people own the buildings. Then she and her husband crossed the yellow police barrier to get a closer look at the ruins.

A professor from Potsdam State reiterated the general feeling of the townfolk, saying it was a "tragedy" and "we didn't need it."

One man who lives across the street from the scene of the fire told of being awakened at 2:30 in the morning and eventually losing the whole night's sleep. He added this parting comment, "I thought this was a safe town."

We will be inconvenienced by the loss of these stores. The town as a whole will probably be hurt because of the fire. Those comments were the consensus of people shopping on Saturday.

But Potsdam's people have a lot of spirit. Several made positive comments about the fire. A Market Street businessman praised the actions of the Potsdam Fire Department. Another businessman agreed with him. "It's a good thing we have as good a fire department as we have. Most people don't realize how lucky we are."

Others seemed pleased by the prospect of a new building being erected on the site of the fire. Several businessmen and their employees felt that the new building would be beneficial to the downtown area in the long run.

Assistance

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said. On the day of the fire, Chaffee said that he had about \$4,000 insurance and he estimated his loss at about \$20,000. "The Phoenix will rise again," Chaffee predicted Monday.

Family Shoe Store

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Manfred of the Family Shoe Store left shortly after the fire on a previously-scheduled trip to Florida and could not be contacted directly for comment. However, those who talked with them reported that they had said they were interested in resuming their business.

