

I.O.O.F.
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
PETOSKEY, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

I.O.O.F. TEMPLE FIRE
{Independent Order of Odd Fellows}
316 ½ East Mitchell Street
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

Extracted Petoskey Evening News
August 24, 1953

Damage estimated at \$25,000 was suffered in a fire which broke out in the **I.O.O.F. Temple** building on **Mitchell Street** Sunday afternoon.

Fire Chief John Conklin expressed belief that the source of the fire was in an electrical junction box in the second floor wall. Fire damage was confined in the **Odd Fellow** rooms on the third floor and to second floor walls and ceiling. Water damage was suffered in the offices on the second floor and by the **Cook Electric Co.**, owner of the building, on the first floor.

The **Petoskey Fire Department** battled the stubborn fire with the assistance of the **Resort-Bear-Creek** department under leadership of **Henry Schnettler**.

"It was a tough thing to get at," said **Conklin**. "We only put one small line in to wet down the floor but we had a lot of digging to do to get at the fire."

Occupants of the building praised the fire department for their handling of the blaze and their care in holding down water damage.

On the second floor are offices of the **Metropolitan Insurance Co.**, **Kays and Co.**, **Department of Internal Revenue**, **Universal C.I.T.**, and the **Farm Home Administration**.

At 11:30 a.m. today the fire department returned to the scene when smoldering was detected between the third floor false ceiling and the roof. It was quickly smothered.

Firemen believed that this morning's outbreak was not a recurrence of the Sunday fire but a new one which started when power was sent through the damaged light circuits.

Member of the fire department said availability of the **Resort-Bear-Creek** high pressure equipment played an important role in the quick control of the Sunday fire. "With the 600 pounds of pressure available on this equipment, it was possible to cool off the fire quickly," the firemen said.

