

Dec 27 - 1954



LANDMARK BURNS—Sodus Point and Sodus volunteer firemen direct streams of water on front of blazing Sodus Point Hotel, long a landmark in the lakeshore area.



FROM THE BAY—Firemen pump water from Sodus Bay, directly behind the hotel, onto the flames. The early morning fire caused an estimated \$40,000 in damages.

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Sodus Point Hotel, Landmark, Virtually Destroyed in Fire

SODUS POINT — Fire early today virtually destroyed the Sodus Point Hotel, one of the oldest landmarks in this summer resort community on Lake Ontario.

Sodus Point Fire Chief Ralph Houck estimated damage to the two-story frame structure at \$40,000. About half of the loss is covered by insurance, Chief Houck said.

Edwin Karweck, Fourth street, Sodus Point, owner of the hotel, was away visiting friends with his wife when the fire was discovered at 3:58 a. m. He was notified and was on the scene later this morning as Sodus Point and Sodus volunteer firemen stood by the smouldering shell of the building.

THE HOTEL was unoccupied when the fire broke out. Origin of the blaze is unknown, but it appeared to be hottest in the center of the structure, firemen said.

Several tanks of cooking gas exploded shortly after firemen arrived. The explosions, near the kitchen at the rear of the building, spread the fire.

Chief Houck said a slight wind shifted to the south in time to help firemen keep the flames from spreading to other nearby business places on Grieg street.

The alarm was turned in by Ray Pierce of the Pierce House,

another hotel nearby. Pierce said he was awakened by Carl Zetchie, who discovered the fire. Zetchie lives in his refreshment stand near the hotel.

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HURD DO VILLE of Sodus Point said the hotel was built about 1900 by his father, Charles, and an uncle, Joseph DoVille. It was operated by the brother's as the DoVille Hotel for several years and then leased to others who ran it under the same name.

A popular place for parties, wedding receptions and for area fishermen who often fished from the hotel pier, the hotel later was sold to the late Fred Schible of Rochester. Karweck, who had made several improvements to the hotel, purchased it from Mr. Schible's estate about 10 years ago.

The hotel served as a center of activities at the Point early in the century when the community gained a reputation as a resort.

Other Sodus Point hotels—the Pierce House and the Dolphin—and the Shirtz Grocery provided coffee and doughnuts for the firemen today.

The Sodus Point company used three new pumpers which replaced equipment lost just a year ago in a \$50,000 Christmas Eve fire in the Sodus Point firehouse
