

FIRE DEMOLISHES W. AND S. GARAGE

76 Automobiles Consumed In
Early Morning Blaze; Build-
ing Complete Ruin

COVERED BY INSURANCE

Many Advance Theory Fire
Was Incendiary

The greatest fire in recent years in Wilmette early Saturday morning completely demolished the W. and S. garage at 721 West Railroad avenue, consuming approximately 76 automobiles and motor trucks, resulting in damage estimated conservatively at more than 200,000.

The blaze, of undetermined origin, was first discovered shortly before 5 o'clock by a colored watchman sleeping in the garage. Within a few moments after the alarm had been spread the building was enveloped in flames, the roof had collapsed and numerous gasoline explosions augmented the quick destruction.

Efficient work by the combined Wilmette and Winnetka fire departments prevented spread of the flames to adjoining structures.

Within fifteen minutes after the alarm had been sounded hundreds of residents were on the scene offering aid to the desperately busy fire fighters.

Explosions Add Fuel

Gasoline explosions coming in rapid succession shot the flames hundreds of feet in the air. The structure was reduced to ashes almost as quickly as if it had been a harvest-laden barn on the countryside. Before 7 o'clock nothing but the charred, half demolished walls remained of what had been Wilmette's biggest automobile storage place.

Every car in the garage, many of costly appointment, was laid waste. Not a single machine, nothing was rescued from the flames. It was a total loss for the proprietors. John Weber and Arthur H. Hallstrom, for their stock was not covered by insurance. Most of the machines were protected by insurance, it was announced.

While the estimate of the number of cars stored in the garage was placed as high as 96, Hallstrom was authority for the statement that the approximate number would not exceed 80 cars, including several huge trucks, three of which were the property of the Edinger Coal company. Practically all the cars were owned by Wilmette people, it was stated. The aggregate loss in machines was given as approximately \$100,000.

Building Was Insured

Contrary to reports circulating about the village Saturday, bearing information that the garage had been condemned by the state fire marshal and that the structure was not protected by insurance, Joseph Kutten, owner of the property, declared this week that not only had the building not been condemned but it was completely covered by insurance. Any reports to the contrary, he insisted, were absolutely without foundation. The garage will not be rebuilt as reported, he declared, but the property will be offered for sale.

Reports that the watchman was away from the building when the blaze started, were branded as false by Mr. Kutten. He was on the job and turned in the alarm, Kutten said.

Replying to the suggestion that the fire may have been of incendiary origin, Mr. Kutten asserted that, while he was advancing no theories as to the possible cause of the blaze, he was inclined to discredit that theory. Gasoline flames spread rapidly, he said, and there are a thousand ways in which the fire could have started from entirely natural causes. He scouted the story that the watchman had been loafing.

Theories that the fire was the work plausible by many residents in view of a pyromaniac were considered of the many night fires of comparatively recent date not only on the Kutten premises but in other coal and material yards in the village. At least six such fires occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Kutten properties, three of which were in a dilapidated shed located across the alley from the Kutten barns.

It was reported that an offer of \$1,500 reward had been made for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an alleged fire-bug. Mr. Kutten denied he had made such an offer, but admitted he had heard other property owners had suggested immediate action to run down certain suspects.

THIEF—COP—FORMER BUDDIES

Beaten up by a gang of railway thieves, Detective J. C. Rodlinski of Salamanca, N. Y., was spared from death when one of the thugs spied a Marine service button in his lapel and recognized the detective as a former buddy in France.

WILL AID EMPLOYE IN LEARNING TRADE TRICK

Heilman Has Unique Training
Plan at Commerce School

Future captains of industry in Chicago will be better grounded in the fine art of the great commercial game than our present-day leaders, if plans formulated by Dean Ralph E. Heilman and the faculty of the Northwestern University School of Commerce, are successful. Letters have been going out the last week to hundreds of Chicago business men suggesting that each firm or corporation offer a special scholarship to the most promising of their employes, making it possible for him to attend the evening classes of the Northwestern University School of Commerce in the building at Lake and Dearborn street. Dean Heilman's plan is to encourage the development of real executives from the ranks of today's industrial and commercial employes.

The Northwestern School of Commerce offers for prospective executives special courses which begin February 6, 1922. Such employes as are designated by the head of the firm to attend the commerce school will be reimbursed for tuition on the following basis:

If the grade of the employe-student is fair at the end of the semester, fifty percent of the tuition will be refunded by the employer.

If the grade of the employe-student is good at the end of the semester, seventy-five per cent of the tuition will be refunded.

If, however, the grade is excellent, the entire tuition will be refunded by the employer.

Declare Woman May Enter County Commissioner Race

The possibility that a woman will be entered in the Republican primaries as a candidate for the office of County Commissioner was hinted at this week at a meeting of north shore political leaders.

Mrs. Maurice H. Lieber, of Winnetka, a leader in north shore and state educational work, was mentioned at the session as having received the endorsement of leading north shore women. It is understood that Mrs. Lieber has not as yet consented to become a candidate.

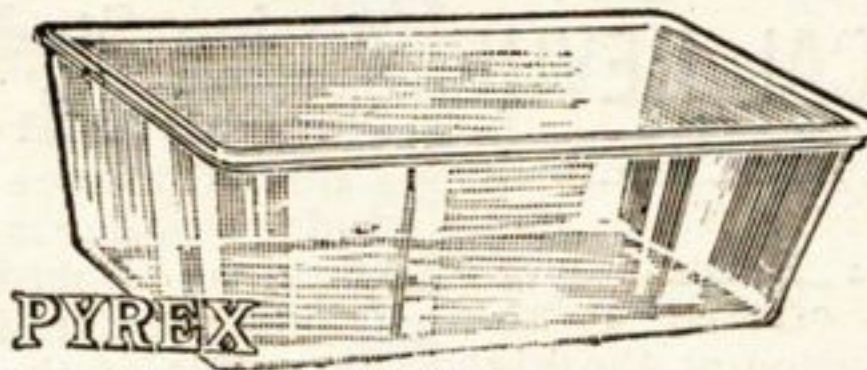
TROPHIES COME HIGH

How much war trophies are actually worth depends on whose neck was risked to get them. John G. James' room in an Omaha, Neb., boarding house was rifled of all his A. E. F.

souvenirs from a medal-laden belt captured from a German major, iron crosses picked up from the battlefields, the gas mask he had used in many battles, Red Cross bags con-

taining shrapnel extracted from his wounds, a silver cigaret case taken from a German prisoner, to his American Legion button. He told the court they were worth \$10,000.

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During the coming week you will find a very attractive display of the famous Pyrex glassware at Taylor's. You've seen this glassware advertised everywhere. No doubt you are already using some of it in your home.

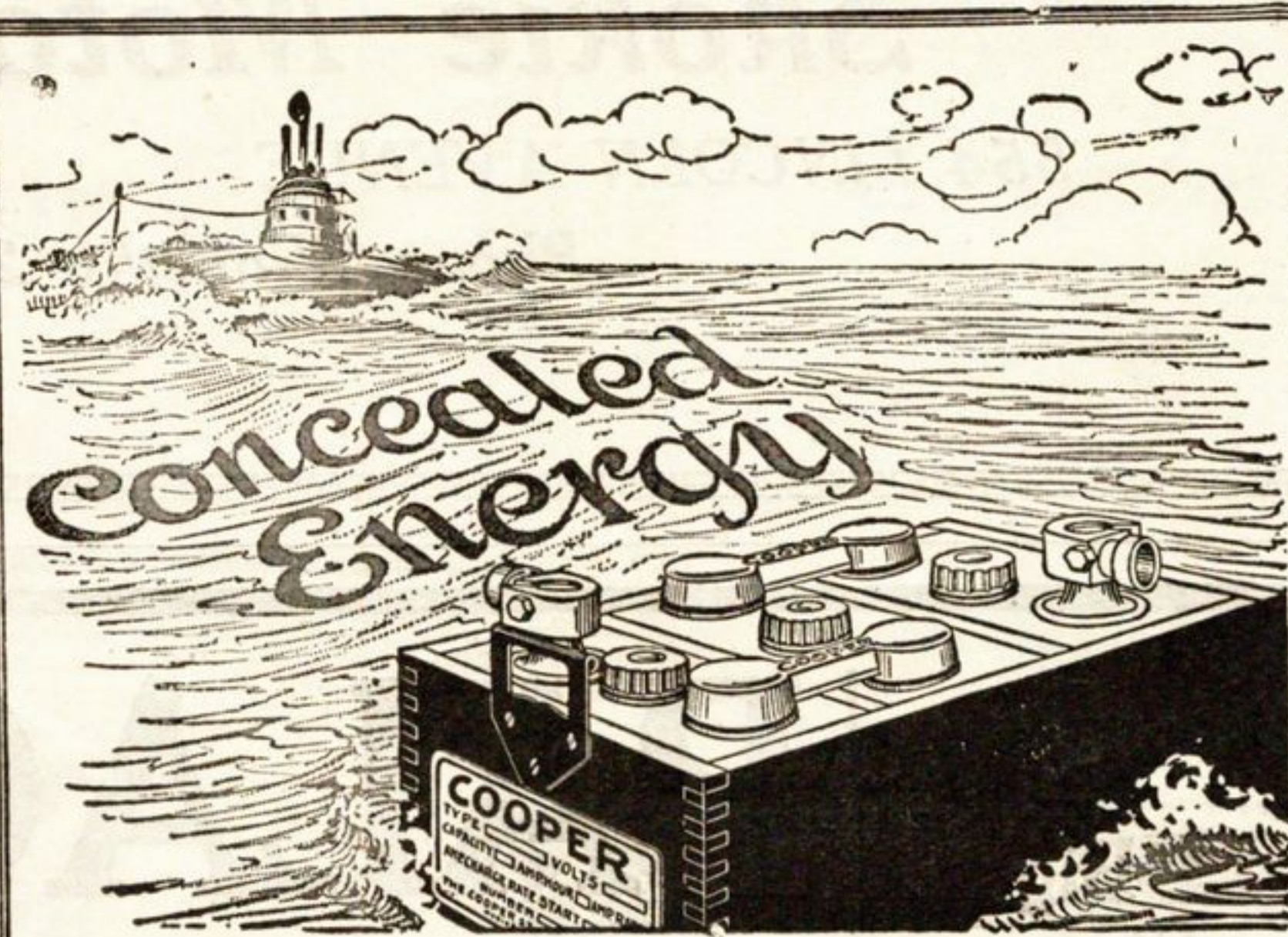
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For the sake of safety, if for no other reason, you should have your battery inspected every 15 days. Stalled on a railroad crossing, or without lights on a dark road, etc. are misfortunes that may befall you at the most critical moment. Take advantage of the service we offer.

Buy a COOPER Battery and buy guaranteed results.

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Cooper
Storage Battery

SERVICE WITH A SMILE.

THERE was a southern farmer who had a leaky roof (in more ways than one), that never seemed to get fixed. He explained that it was "too dern wet to be up there a shinglin' in the rainy weather and that when it was dry it didn't leak."

PROFIT by this old yarn, have your car looked at at the first knock, the first rattle—and bring it here, where there is Service with a Smile.

HUBBARD WOODS GARAGE

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HUBBARD WOODS
Phone Winnetka 617