

Why Nordale Fire?

Why did the fire which destroyed the Nordale Hotel last week spread so fast? Why was the building destroyed in such a short time?

Fire Chief Coben attributes this to the type of materials used in buildings that were built during the 1920's, when man did not have the building materials used today, and to the layers of paint that have been added to the structure during the years.

Uniform building codes and the fire prevention code do exist, he said, and officials have attempted to enforce them, but in some cases, he said, owners of old buildings have found it to be "uneconomical to make their buildings conform."

Legal action has been taken in the past by the City of Fairbanks, he said, against owners whose buildings violate safety codes, and the city will continue to take such action.

At the present time, he said, in answer to a question, there are "at least twenty buildings in this area" that are similar in construction to the Nordale Hotel.