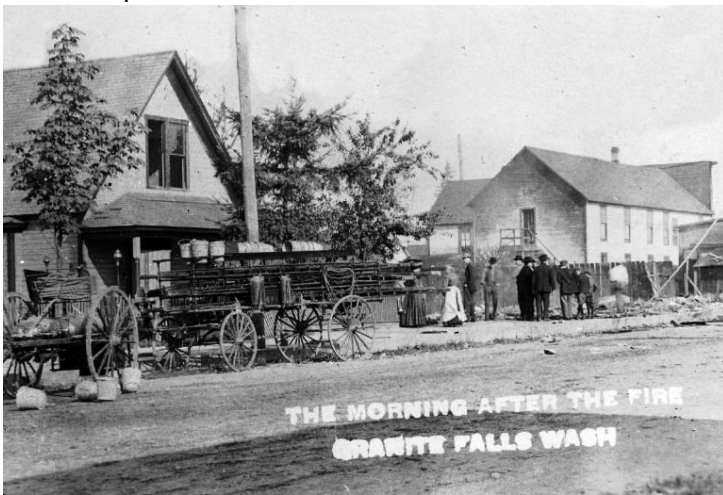


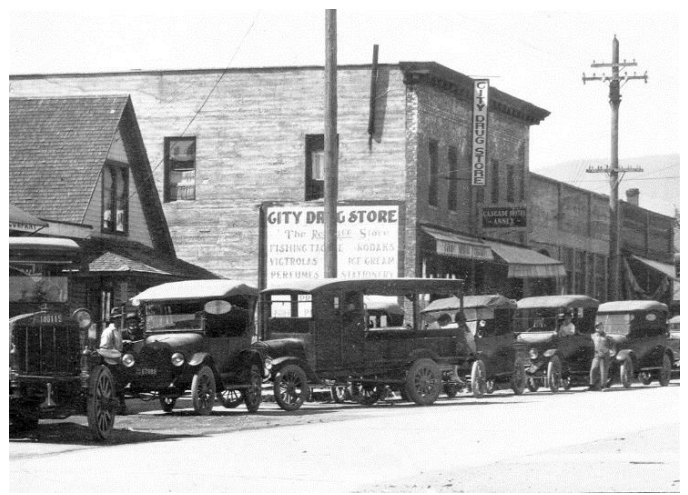
Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight!

“BURN BAN” seems to be the 2015 Summer Slogan, and for good reason! It might be interesting to look back at some of the major fires in Granite Falls over the years. Some buildings were lost completely, then rebuilt in brick. Some were merely damaged, and still remain today. And of course, some were burned and never replaced.

One of the largest early fires took place in 1911 on the west side of S. Granite Ave, burning out much of an entire block. The picture taken the following morning shows a house at left located where the laundromat sits today (the house was later moved a couple blocks west on the south side of Galena St). In the center of the picture you can see the back side of the large Commercial Hotel. The burned buildings were replaced with brick structures, housing a bakery, boot and shoe shop, movie theatre, grocery, and drug store. Today the Granite Falls Hardware store occupies most of that space, along with a driving school and thrift shop.



Note the fireman-pulled chemical and ladder wagons. The Commercial Hotel is in the background, facing onto Stanley St.



Replacements were brick. There was a hotel “annex” on the second floor (don’t ask for details). WWI gas shortage underway, cars lined up to buy gas as Ashe Garage (now our firehouse).

The Commercial Hotel met its own demise in 1917. Once having a large balcony from which crowds could watch the July 4th parade (picture taken for the 1910 parade), the building was never replaced. Part of the space is now occupied by the Spar Tree Tavern. At the far left of the picture is a building that started as the Lumberman Tavern, later doubling in width and becoming the Klaus Market.

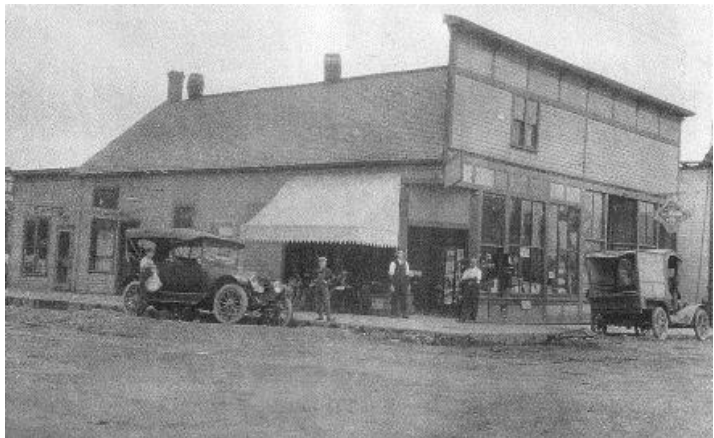


Watching July 4th parade in 1910



Burned in 1917, never to be replaced. Space partly occupied by the Spar Tree Tavern today.

The Klaus Market didn't survive much longer in its wooden form, burning down in 1920. It was rebuilt in brick, and served for many more years as a market, drug store, and finally as today's Omega Pizza and Pasta.



Taken in 1917, the burned Commercial Hotel is barely visible at right.



Three years later, the Klaus Market was gone, but soon replaced by the Brick building that is Omega Pizza and Pasta today.

Some buildings were lucky enough to survive and recover through repair. The Cascade Hotel on the northeast corner of Stanley St and Granite Ave lost its top story to fire in 1933. Although it was initially announced that it would be rebuilt, a week later the decision was made to simply clean it up, and re-roof it as a single-story building. It has served a number of smaller businesses since then, including a hairdresser, knitting shop, and counseling service today.



Losing the top story in 1933 . . .



Note the corner door, bay window, etc., still in place today.

Other popular places in the area were destroyed by fire, perhaps the most famous being Big Four Inn and Canyon Creek Lodge, both of which were significant tourist destinations in their day. Any number of private homes have also been lost to fire over the years. So, "be careful out there", as is often said.



Once an impressive hotel . . .



Only the fireplace remains today.