Advertiser (Hurstbridge, Vic. : 1922 - 1939), Friday 11 March 1932, page 1

GREENSBOROUGH Fire in Township

Gradually, by fire, decay, alterations or re-building, the old Greensborough landmarks are disappearing. On Sunday morning last, at about 5 o'clock, the old delicensed premises formerly known as the Hotel Greens borough, and since occupied and used as a store, refreshment rooms, etc., by two maiden ladies, Misses Milne, was destroyed by fire. On Sunday morning the local fire brigade was quickly on the scene and promptly had a stream of water from a full pressure playing on the burning building, which, however, being chiefly composed of dry seasoned timber, was doomed from the start. The timely arrival of contingents from Ivanhoe and Heidelberg enabled attention to be given to saving properties in the vicinity.

The prompt and efficient work done prior to the arrival of the other brigades was the subject of outspoken approval of the visiting officials. As an object lesson concerning the advantage of having such adequate help at call and on the spot, should surely receive recognition by our local tradesmen and: all concerned by rendering timely financial assistance to our local fire-fighters.

The building just burned down was erected about 36 years ago on the site of an old hostelry built 60 odd years ago, which was also destroyed by fire. The original building, in the late sixties and into the nineties, was the centre of a great deal of trade and industrial activity: The proprietor, Mr. F. Ellis, a name at that time and place synonymous with business enterprise, was also in the forefront and identified with local sport and social affairs. The establishment was typical of the early days and comprised a public house (a general store in the widest sense), a butcher's shop (a sheep or bullock killed while you wait), a baker's shop (the old bakehouse is still there) and a hay and corn store, and as the time was prior to any early closing regulations, commodities, including beer, could be purchased 20 hours out of the 24 on any day in the week.

Included in his varied enterprises, Mr. Ellis contracted for firewood, hay and garden produce to several Government institutions, including Pentridge. The daily scene has been described by old identities as spectacular and illustrative of the palmy days of Greensborough. A coach and four coming through the toll gates, and then racing down "Jolley's" Hill at a gallop, and then pulled up amid a confusion of loads of wood, farmers' spring carts, saddle horses and an odd bullock team. The free interchange of news during refreshments and the never-ceasing bustle of loading and unloading, is still a green spot in the memory of those of the old brigade who are still able to answer the roll call.

**Original Greensborough Hotel**