

A Look Back

With Past Exalted Ruler Bill Slack



The Barber Shop in 1922

The End of an Era

When the Elks building was being built in the early 1900's, it was decided to include rental spaces on the Main Street floor. The Elks Barber Shop opened soon after and continued to be in business for 46 years.

The fire on July 17, 1968 was the end of the Elks Barber Shop, as the building was declared unusable. Bert Kimsey was the last owner of the shop. He was there for 25 years. Some of the other barbers who worked in the shop were Slade Songer, Vern and Gene Hastings, Nate Bates, Floyd Grimes, Bob DeGroot and Jack McNerney.

Bert Kimsey's shop was jokingly referred to as "The Kimsey Barber College of Ashland," since several of the barbers who worked there later opened their own shops.

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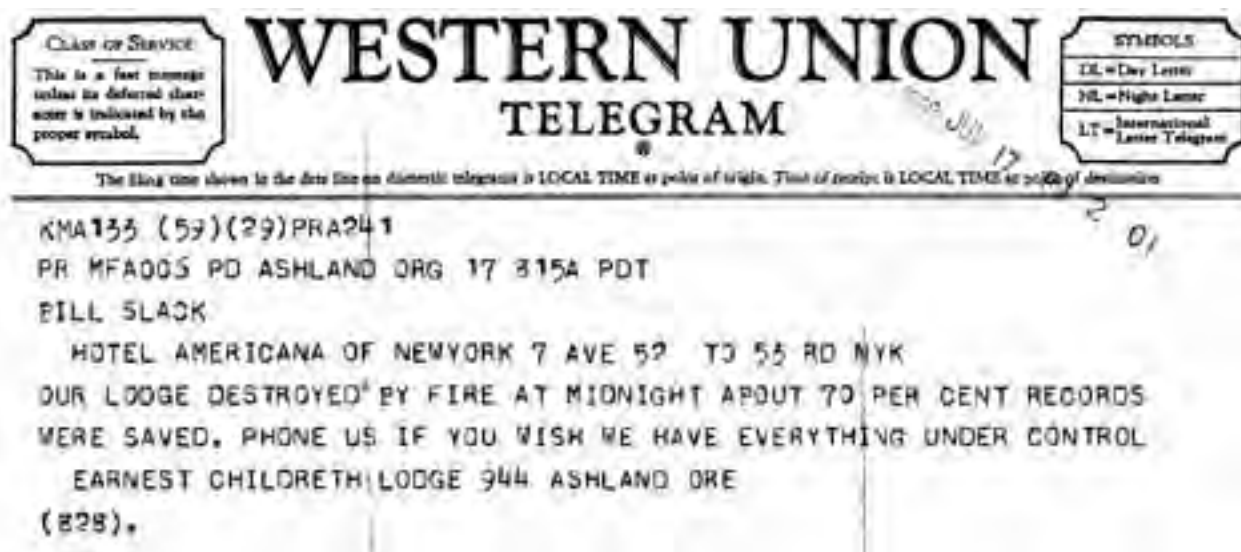
— Bill Slack, PER



July 17, 1968 fire. Note fire fighters on central balconies.



After the fire



Bill Slack received this telegram informing him of the fire

This photo and the following caption appeared in the July 18, 1968 *Ashland Daily Tidings*: "BUSINESS AS USUAL — When barber Bert Kimsey found his shop damaged by the Elks building fire Wednesday morning, he moved a chair outside and took on customer Eric Erickson. Lily Knower, manager of the badly damaged Penny's store next door, boards up his facility."