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2 Mt. Vernon Area Fires




—Gazette photos by Tom Merriman

Fire leveled the Ski Pal lodge building about 3 miles south of Mt. Vernon near the Cedar River early Friday. Mt. Vernon firemen received the call about 2:30 a.m. The flames, visible in Mt. Vernon, also destroyed a nearby shed. Remains of the large fireplace and the huge wheels for the ski tow may be seen. Skiing equipment stored in the building also was lost. The building is owned by Dr. Gordon Rahn of Mt. Vernon. Fire Chief Darwin Cook said a state fire marshal will inspect the ruins Wednesday.

"This was definitely set," Mt. Vernon Fire Chief Darwin Cook said Tuesday as firemen worked to extinguish a blaze in a derailed North Western boxcar filled with paper products. Firemen were summoned to the blaze about 4:20 a.m. while fighting a fire at Ski Pal (see photo at left). Firemen cut holes in the boxcar to get at the blaze. The car was one of two which derailed near the Cornell campus Monday. The seal on the car had not been broken in the accident, but was broken when firemen arrived. A fire marshal is to investigate.