



FIRE STRIKES R.H.S.

Saturday, January 26, 1963, proved to be a day of near tragedy for the Russell Community. Had it not been for a few of the neighborhood children and Mr. and Mrs. Clay, who saw the smoke rolling out of the building, the school would have been a complete loss. Both the Russell and the Chariton firemen fought the burning blaze until evening, in below zero weather. Several men volunteered to spend the night in the school to keep the fire from breaking out a second time.

The approximate damage was around \$150,000. Almost everything was fully covered by insurance. Besides the building damage, many books were destroyed, along with various types of equipment.

As a result of the fire, classes were dismissed for a week and two days.

After our forced vacation, we came back to new desks, books, and other equipment.

A temporary stairway was built from the balcony of the old gym. Classes were held in the old gym and in the south half of the second floor.

When the north half of the second floor was rebuilt, high school classes were resumed as usual, and the workmen started repairing the main floor.

