

I. N. SELIGMAN'S FAMILY ESCAPE DEATH BY FIRE

Flee with Guests in Nightclothes from Burning Camp.

MRS. SELIGMAN ILL CLOSE BY

Adirondack Guides and Visitors Keep Flames from Cottage in Which She Is Lying.

Special to The New York Times.

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., Aug. 19.—Four buildings in Fish Rock Camp, on the Upper Saranac Lake, owned by Isaac N. Seligman, the New York banker, were destroyed by fire this morning that originated in the living room of the main lodge, where there had been a fire in the fireplace throughout the preceding day.

Mr. Seligman was on a visit to New York. Mrs. Seligman, who is seriously ill, occupied apartments in the Seligman cottage overlooking the camp. Joseph Seligman and Miss Margaret Seligman, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seligman, and George Seligman, brother of Mr. Seligman; Mrs. Lowengard, and Richard Lowengard, members of the house party, had apartments in the main lodge.

While the flames that seemed to envelop the entire lodge had attracted the attention of some early fishermen who were hastening shoreward to give the alarm, the butler of the Seligman camp was the first of the household to realize the danger. He rang the huge fire bell of the camp and then aroused the sleepers in the main lodge.

There was not any time to dress or to gather up valuables. The guests of Mr. and Mrs. Seligman in the building and the twenty guides and servants in cottage buildings turned out in their night garments to find the morning one of the coldest ever experienced in the mountains at this time of the year, the mercury standing at 40 degrees.

The main lodge, in which the fire originated, was connected with the dining room, the kitchen, the houses of the guides, and the storerooms. It was of heavy timber, mainly of logs, the interior richly furnished, and containing an extensive library. The flames worked rapidly, and with the exception of the silver in the dining room, not an article of consequence was saved.

Several times the flames caught in the rustic work of the veranda of the cottage where Mrs. Seligman lay. Blankets were spread over the roof and men armed with buckets kept them wet. Mrs. Seligman's critical condition was made known to the fire fighters, whose ranks had been swelled by people from the camps and hotels in the locality, and they worked with as little noise and confusion as possible in the dense fog and smoke. The flames from the main building communicated to pine and spruce trees surrounding the camp and it became necessary to chop many of the trees away, but it was not until the greatest danger was over that Mrs. Seligman learned of the destruction of the principal buildings of the camp within a hundred feet of where she had been sleeping.

As the news of the fire became known there were many volunteers among the campers and their guides to assist in stopping the flames. John G. Agar sent a corps, S. A. Swenson used his electric yacht to carry fire fighters. Adolph Lewisohn dispatched two companies. Mrs. Stanley Mortimer assisted by sending men, food, and clothing, and there was a corps from Levi P. Morton's camp.

When the fog lifted it was found that the flames had spread to the forest and the men turned their attention to checking it. At 10 o'clock the fire was under control. It had burned itself out of the main building of the camp and had been fought with stubborn resistance in the woods.

Meanwhile tents had been erected for the Seligman family and their guests.

The damage to the property is estimated at upward of \$100,000. The insurance is about \$20,000.

Mr. Seligman arrived to-night on a special train.

"BLACK HAND" JOKER IN JAIL.

Brooklyn Girl Receives a Letter Demanding \$100,000.

The police of the Fifth Avenue Station, Brooklyn, announced last night that the Smith Street branch of the "Black Hand" had been broken up. It came about in this way:

Just before noon Miss Nellie Sabedant, who gave her address as 547 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, walked demurely up to the Sergeant's desk and told him that she had been singled out as a victim of the dread organization. With that she placed a letter in the Sergeant's hand.

There were the crossbones and skull at the top of the letter, and the insignia of the "Black Hand" in lieu of a signature.

"Oh, my," said the Sergeant. "This is terrible, indeed. Who could have sent you anything so awful?"

"I know," said the young girl with a smile. "Arthur Reynolds did it. He writes that he wants \$100,000 to enable him to live on Fifth Avenue."

"If that is all he wants I think we can accommodate him," said the Sergeant grimly.

He did not call out the reserves, but sent a plain clothes man to 480 Smith Street to get Reynolds. The young man will make his explanation to Magistrate Tighe in the Butler Street Court this morning.