

Elizabeth Stinnett talks with Mildred Finlon and Tom Wisner about the fire that burned down the Belvedere Hotel.

Mrs. Finlon: And remember the fire of the Belvedere Hotel?

Mrs. Stinnett: Oh, yes, very well.

Mrs. Finlon: Tell us about that.

Mrs. Stinnett: Well, I can't remember what year it was now, but it was a terrible fire. And we didn't have no fire engines, no — no, equipment at all. So, they had a bucket brigade, and everybody in Chesapeake Beach, I think, had a bucket and carried water trying to put that fire out. And that was a huge hotel.

Mrs. Finlon: And you lived right up the street from it; didn't you?

Mrs. Stinnett: Yeah, it couldn't be done. Yeah, I wasn't too far from it. It was a terrible fire.

Mrs. Finlon: Did they ever find out what started it?

Mrs. Stinnett: I don't think they ever did. And then, you know, it came all the way over to the rooming house, and that caught fire.

Mrs. Finlon: Which rooming house was that?

Mrs. Stinnett: I think it was Sinclair's.

Mrs. Finlon: Was it Sinclair's rooming house?

Mrs. Stinnett: It was Sinclair's at that time. And that caught on fire because the wind was blowing so hard.

Mrs. Finlon: Was there a road in front of the hotel at that time?

Mrs. Stinnett: Oh, yes, and it (Belvedere Hotel) was occupied in the summertime by a lot of people.

Mrs. Finlon: But nobody in the wintertime?

Mrs. Stinnett: No.

Mrs. Finlon: That was the picture of the Belvedere that you saw in the magazine?

Mrs. Stinnett: And, gosh, I used to know the name of the people that run the hotel; now, I can't think of their names, but they were very nice people.

Mrs. Finlon: Excuse me a minute. This is the hotel we were talking about.

Mr. Wisner: Oh my, wasn't it beautiful.

Mrs. Stinnett: And it was a bucket brigade trying to put the fire out. You can imagine what a nightmare that was.

Mr. Wisner: And where was that located? South of the Rod And Reel?

Mrs. Finlon: Yes.

Mr. Wisner: Up on the hill?

Mrs. Finlon: Up right on the hill.