

# SMOKE DRIVES FIFTY FROM THEIR BEDS

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## Blaze in Basement Tailor Shop Quickly Empties Hoffman Hotel Near Midnight.

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Fifty persons rooming in the Hoffman hotel, in the Norris building, 1 West Superior street, were forced out onto the street shortly after 11 o'clock last night by smoke coming from a fire in the tailor shop of Moses Goldfarb, in the basement of the building.

The fire is thought to have started from a crossed electric light wire. Patrolman Robert Smollett saw smoke coming from the stairway leading to the rooming house and to the offices of the Progressive Medical association and turned in the alarm. He then went to the hotel and requested all persons to leave the building.

By the time the fire department arrived smoke was coming from every window in the three-story structure. Considerable difficulty was experienced in fighting the fire as woolen goods in the tailor shop caused black, suffocating smoke and it was almost impossible for a fireman to remain in the basement.

At first the blaze was thought to be in the rear of the building, as it was from there the smoke seemed to be coming.

Entrance to the tailor shop was made to fight the fire and the source of the smoke was discovered.

Although the blaze was extinguished in a few minutes, smoke was coming from the building for several hours and all roomers in the Hoffman hotel had to secure rooms for the night elsewhere.

The United Cigar store and Vail's saloon on the first floor, the Progressive Medical association on the second floor and the hotel on the second and

third floors suffered losses from smoke and water damage.

The building is owned by the Norris estate.

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