



STORE DESTROYED: The Manhattan Food Store on Main St. was destroyed by fire Sunday afternoon. Police said fire was reported at 2:43 p.m. and was put out by 8 p.m. Firemen Joseph Izzo, Jack Pindleton and Douglas Strockbine were injured. Gordan Schlaefel furniture shop suffered water damage, and Cowley Liquors and Chadow Brothers clothing store suffered smoke damage. Cause of fire is being investigated. (Everitt Hehn Photos)



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Three Injured

Manhattan Market Destroyed By Fire

A fire of undetermined origin Sunday afternoon completely gutted the Manhattan Food Market at 15 Main Street and resulted in injuries to three firemen and as yet unestimated smoke damage at Gordon Schlaeffer, furniture dealer, 11 Main Street, and Cowley's Wines and Liquors, 19 Main Street, the adjacent building.

At press time Tuesday, cause of the fire was still under investigation and damage to the building, which police said was a total loss, were being evaluated.

A local resident who happened to be near the scene at 2:43 p.m., when the alarm was turned in by Patrolman Robert J. Reese, said it looked as though smoke was coming from the basement through vents at ground level. Immediately after, he said the plate glass windows blew out, followed by clouds of smoke which darkened Main Street for the next hour.

Fire Chief James Murray reported the fire out at 8:07 p.m. Zoltan Hanicovsky of Manhas-

set, manager of the meat section of the food market, told The MAIL Sunday he left the store about 2:45 p.m. and when he arrived home a few minutes later, he was notified the building was in flames. A grocery clerk and other employees left at 2 p.m., the usual Sunday closing time, or shortly after. Hanicovsky could give no reasons for the fire and said he had seen no sign of one while in the building.

Owner of the Manhattan Food Market is Russell De Foe of Levittown who was not at the store Sunday.

All fire companies, including Manhasset-Lakeville on standby with pumper and aerial truck, responded to the general alarm. The crowds collected along Main Street, police and firemen roped off the area near the fire.

Insurance companies were still estimating the damage Tuesday at Cowley's and Gordon Schlaeffer's. A.H. Cowley said the bottles and

walls and ceilings were covered with a "thick film" and that he had "the smokiest scotch in town." The immediate plan was a wash-down, bottles first.

Injured firemen were Joseph Izzo Jr., 19, of 9 Beechwood Avenue, lacerated right knee sustained when he was climbing on a fire truck; Jack Findelton, 31 Firwood Road, sprained knee; and Douglas Strockbine, 19 Cottonwood Road, smoke inhalation. All three were taken to North Shore Hospital.

Fire is no stranger to Manhattan Food. About 20 years ago, the building was burned out and rebuilt. A year or two after the first Manhattan Food fire, the adjacent building, which was then the A&P, was gutted by fire. The A&P moved to its current location on Port Washington Boulevard and Marsh Appliance, also now on the Boulevard, rebuilt and moved in. After Marsh's recent relocation, Chadow Brothers, 23 Main Street and Cowley's moved up a store into their present quarters. Chadow's said Monday, there was some smoke damage but it was too soon to know to what extent.

Firemen during the late week battled three other fires. A brush fire at 1:17 p.m. Sunday on Central Drive was put out shortly before 2 p.m. On April 3, a fire was reported at 3:48 p.m., in a clothes dryer at the Bedel residence, Sands Point and Middle Neck Roads, and an electrical short was blamed for a fire at the home of Virginia Chaney, 19 Central Drive. Police said damage was confined to a bed, frame and mattress in a bedroom on the first floor.