





Riviera Restaurant, Island Landmark, Destroyed by Fire

By Jacklyn Farrell

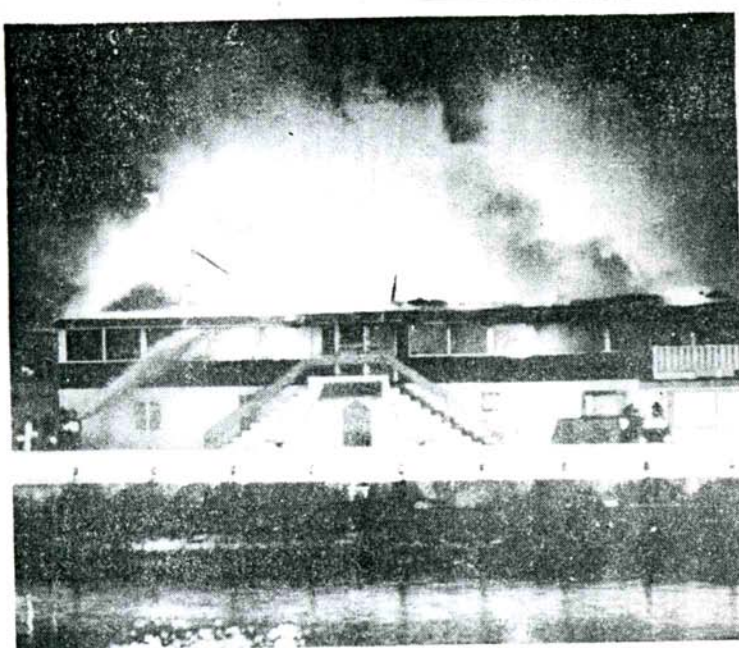
The Riviera Restaurant, 26-year-old landmark on Orchard Beach Blvd., Manorhaven, was completely gutted by a fire of undetermined origin that started at 12:25 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9.

Port's volunteer firemen fought the blaze through a snow that started at 2 a.m., in icy and treacherous conditions, getting the fire under control at 4:30 a.m. Several Vamps were overcome by smoke inhalation and firemen were still checking smoldering ashes at 10 Wednesday morning.

Estimated damage is unknown, but the masonry and frame building and its entire contents is considered a total loss, according to Fire Marshal Robert Cocks, who said "It was the worst fire in Port Washington in years."

The entire Fire Department, under the direction of Deputy Fire Chief Burt Monfort, responded to the general alarm. Two Chiefs and 24 firemen from the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department stood by at the local Flower Hill Hose Company to cover any other emergency in Port Washington.

Owned by Jack O'Donnell of the Riviera Marina, the well-known restaurant was first leased to the Mann Brothers—Bernie, Jacques, Mickey and Raymond—and had gained a reputation during the late Forties and Fifties when Bernie Mann and his "All American Band" brought the "Big Band" sound to the place. In the early Sixties the Mann Brothers dissolved their partnership; the restaurant had since been leased to several other caterers.



FIRE DESTROYS RIVIERA CLUB: Flames visible for miles rise from the Riviera Restaurant and Beach Club at 45 Orchard Beach Boulevard, Manorhaven. Fire broke out at about midnight completely razed the famed North Shore landmark, once the locale



Fire Douses A Landmark

Port Washington firemen aid one of two men overcome by smoke (above) as a fire early today destroyed the Riviera Restaurant in Manorhaven, once a local haven for big-band music by such artists as



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