

# Port Washington

Established 1903

Official Newspaper of the incorporated villages of BAXTER ESTATES, FLOWER HILL, MANHASSSET

Vol. 92 No. 28 Port Washington, N.Y.

Thursday, October 5, 1989

## Fire Destroys Two Boats at Manhasset Marina

By Alice M. Peckelis

A fire which has been labeled by the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office as suspicious destroyed two boats, and caused damage to several others as well as to a floating pier early on September 10th at Manhasset Bay Marina.

Flames engulfed the 60' cabin cruiser, "Ellis Island", owned by Richard Ellis of New York City and spread to the boat in the adjacent slip, the 42' cabin cruiser, "Solitude" owned by Frank Sassa of Great Neck.

The fire was discovered at approximately 1 a.m. by a Port Washington Police patrolman who saw the flames from Shore Road and called the fire department. According to Fire Chief Peter Zwerlein of the Port Washington Fire Department, it took about forty-five minutes to combat the blaze. One firefighter was slightly injured with an abrasion above the eye.

Zwerlein credits fireman David Erichsen

with mitigating the damage to others boats. Erichsen removed the boat in the slip adjacent to the two burning boats thus preventing the fire from spreading from boat to boat.

Both boats were totally destroyed by the fire. According to Guy LaMotta, owner of Manhasset Bay Marina, several other boats near the fire received damage to their canvas covers from flying sparks and there was fire damage to the floating pier. LaMotta was quick to praise the Port Washington Fire Department for a job well done in containing the fire.

According to a spokesman for the Nassau County Fire Marshal's office, the cause of the fire is unknown and is under investigation. The fire is not the first for the Ellis Island. A fire had broken out on the boat about two weeks prior to this one but was quickly extinguished.