

FEB 1967

Big Week for Vamps:

Stubborn Fire Ravages Shop; Block Saved

Engulfed by flames that shot skyward and were visible for miles around, a unit of stores on Haven Ave. was completely destroyed Monday night as Port Washington firemen battled the blaze for more than eight hours.

Called out twice, once in the early evening just before 6 p.m., and again at 1 a.m., when the stubborn blaze reignited, all three Port fire companies responded to the alarms. A third siren sounded shortly after the 1 p.m. alarm, seeking additional men.

The entire department, which comprises some 300 men, from three companies, Atlantic Hook and Ladder, Protection Engine Co. and Flower Hill Hose Co., under the direction of fire chief Leonard Seifts, turned out with all fire-fighting equipment. Manhasset Lakeville Fire Department was summoned to assist with its huge aerial ladder truck that firemen mounted over the Port Plaza building to wet down the roof and gain access to another vantage point in fighting the fire.

The fire at 8 Haven Ave. gutted the Renga Bros. building, upholsterers and furniture refinishers, and the Port Floor

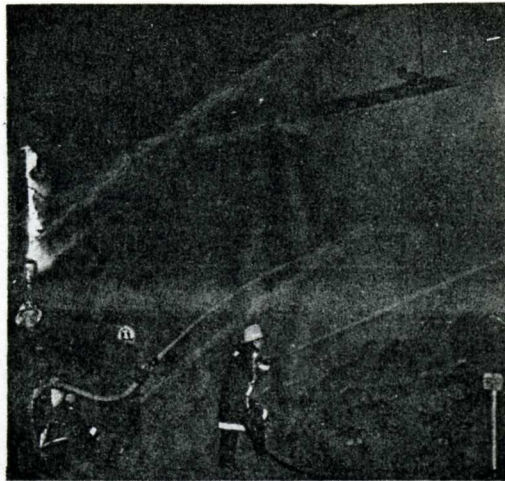
Covering Co. A frame building, with a brick veneer front, the stores were totally burned to the ground. Adjacent stores, the Commuter Cleaners, Newmark and Lewis Paint and Siegel's Colonial House on the south, suffered smoke damage as did the stores on the north, including Factory Outlet. The Plaza Bar and Grille remained open most of the night and "a good business" was reported. The Rail Bar closed earlier.

Across the street, pedestrians by the hundreds, many in night clothes, lined up at the station plaza to watch the fire burn. No incidents were reported and no firemen were injured.

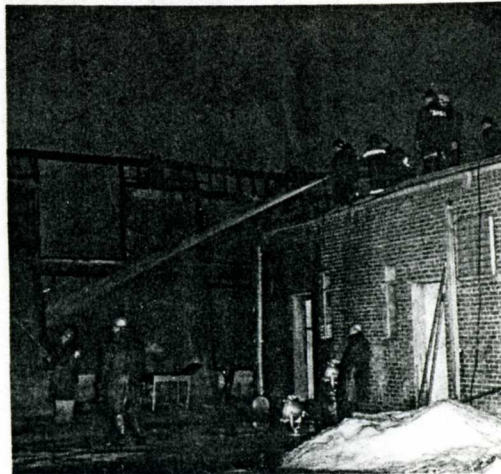
Residents of nearby apartments behind Haven were evacuated and the entire block from Haven back to Evergreen was threatened by the ravishing flames. Leaping skyward over the Port Plaza building, they could be seen down in Manorhaven and

for a while it looked as though the blaze would spread to Main St. stores.

Termed one of the worst fires to strike the business area of Port Washington, an estimate of the total damage has not been learned, but nothing remains of the building except a few charred beams. Cause of the fire is being investigated by the Nassau County Fire Marshal, a routine aftermath.



ON GUARD: Firemen pour steady streams of water on still smoldering debris after building collapsed.



FROM BEHIND: Teams of firemen work from Evergreen Ave. side to extinguish stubborn fire.

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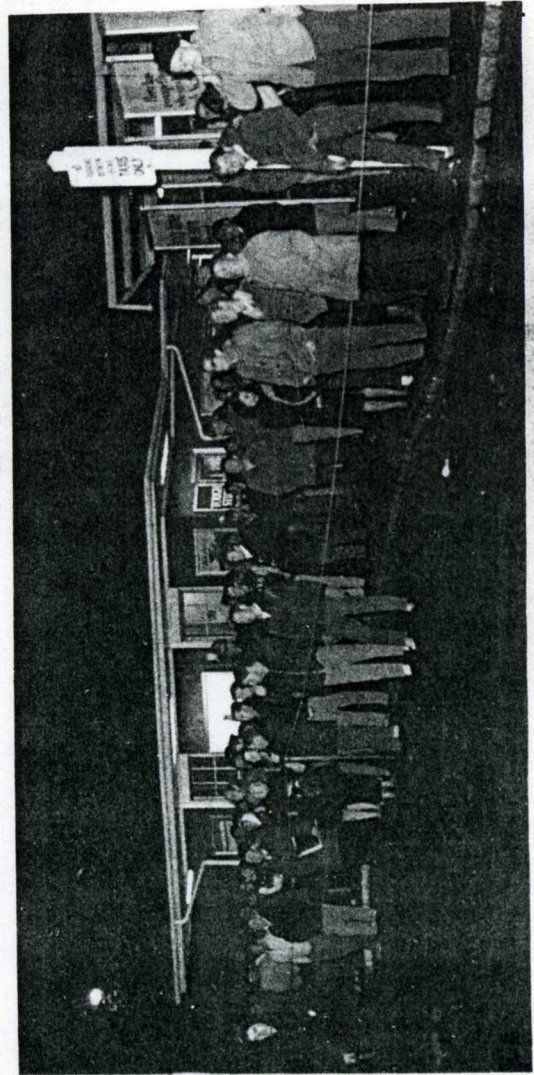


STILL BURNING: Weary firemen, led by Chief Leonard Seifts (center in white coat) continue to pour water on fire that threatened to spread to Main St.



FIRST BREAKOUT OF FIRE: Port firemen rig ladders and hoses in attempt to save Haven Ave. building that burned to the ground Monday night.

NEWS photos by Everitt Hehn



RENGA BROS. STORE: Firemen from three companies fought the recurring blaze for nearly eight hours.

FIREMENSIDE: Hundreds of spectators, some in night clothes, line up at station to watch sky high flames completely gut.