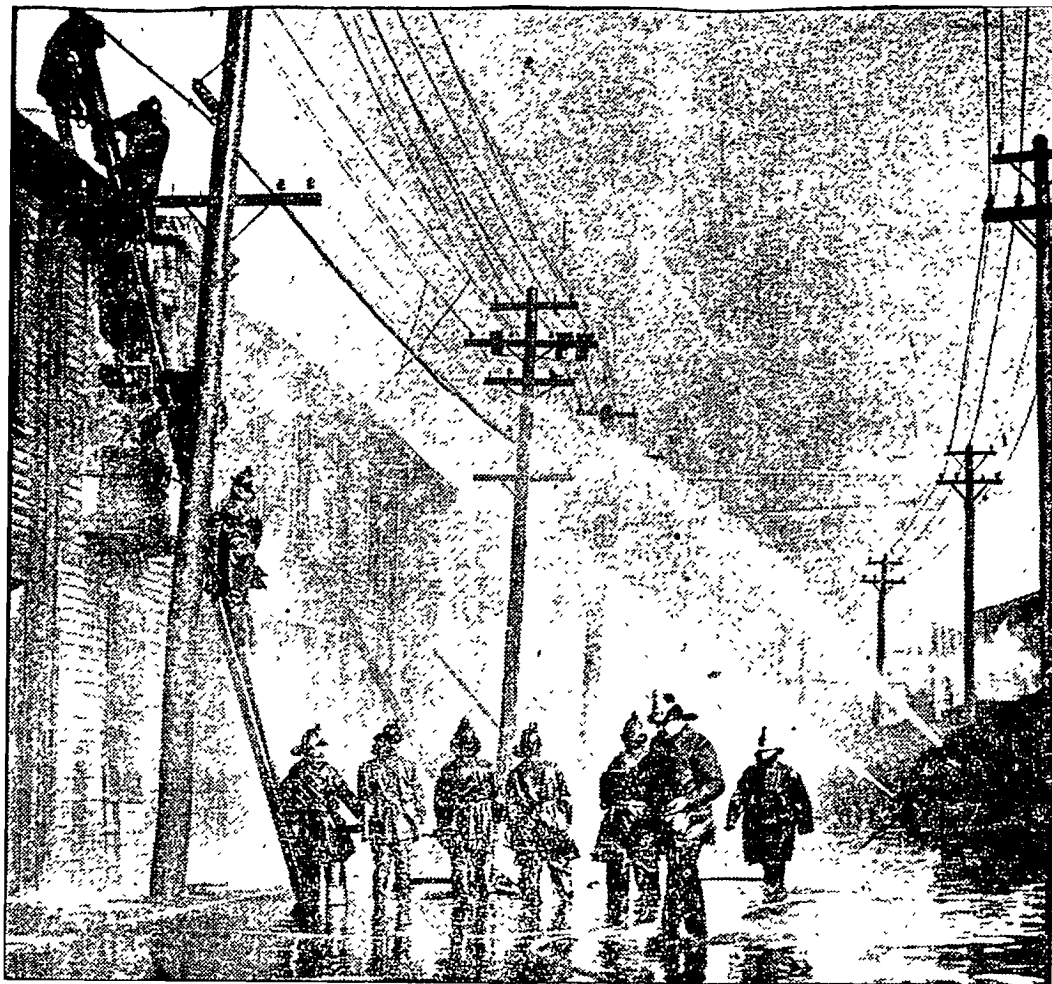


THREE-ALARM FIRE DESTROYS FRONT-ST BUILDING, CHARLESTOWN

Sparks Carried by High Wind Threaten City-Sq Section—One Horse Burned—Loss \$25,000—Sailor Bravely Stops Runaway



FIGHTING THREE-ALARM FIRE ON FRONT ST. CHARLESTOWN

Three alarms in rapid succession were sounded at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a fire in a large wooden structure at 23 and 25 Front st, Charlestown, which was destroyed. The loss was approximately \$25,000. The cause was not learned.

The building, 2½ stories high, 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, with a one-story L, was owned by the Boston Ice Company and was occupied by Frank D. Wilkins, teamster, and the Boston Wagon Company. One horse in the stable was burned to death.

The fire started on the second floor and burned quickly through the roof. It had gained considerable headway before it was discovered. A high wind from the southwest carried the flames along the roof. The entire nearby section appeared in danger. This occasioned the sounding of the second and third alarms.

The Charlestown firemen surrounded the building and poured streams of water from the front, sides and rear. Sparks were carried by the wind hundreds of feet in the direction of the water front. Some of these set fire to the Waverley House at City sq, and the large Rottor & Wightington gristmill at 33 Charles River av. Another spark set a fire in a load of potatoes in bags on an auto truck, which was waiting on the bridge while the draw was being opened to allow Fireboat 31 to pass through. The bags kindled into a blaze. The chauffeur, assisted by volunteer workers, dumped the 117 bags of potatoes on the pavement and tried to stomp the fire out. Then shovels were secured and dirt was thrown on to extinguish the fire.

Wall Falls, Firemen Hurt

Firemen from Engine 36 and Engine 8, mounted on ladders, were fighting the fire on Front st about a half-hour after it started, when part of the wall and the roof fell in. Several firemen were thrown to the street. Some of them were painfully injured.

John Copithorne of Engine 36, Charlestown, who was thought to be seriously

hurt, was carried by members of Engine 8 and Engine 1 along Front st to Warren av, where Sergt Dickinson sent for the police ambulance to take the injured man to the Relief Hospital. Copithorne was placed against the fence in a sitting position, but he soon got on his feet and insisted he was all right. Though in a weak condition he went back to the fire.



WARREN A. VOSS, U. S. N., Who Stopped Runaway Four-Horse Hitch in City Sq, Charlestown.

John H. Barteau of Engine 36 was severely bruised by a fall. He also went back to work.

The fire alarmed the occupants of the Waverley House. When a brick wall in the rear of the stable and paint shop, about 30 feet in length, collapsed, women in the Waverley House hastily gathered as many belongings as they could carry, including clothing, jewelry and money, and left their rooms. They gathered in the lobby of the building ready to make a hasty exit.

A spark set fire a window casing of the Waverley House apartments of Percy Chandler, who lived with his mother on the second floor. Two streams of water were poured on the blaze from hose carried into the hotel. The contents of the apartment were much damaged.

Another fire was caused in the uppermost corner of the grist mill, a six-story brick structure on Charles River av. Men on the aerial ladder with axes

cut away the burning section and extinguished the blaze with a stream of water.

Sailor Stops Runaway Team

While watching the work of the firemen on the aerial ladder the attention of hundreds of men and women on the bridge was attracted by shouts of alarm and warning. Half-way from the draw-bridge to City sq four horses attached to a heavy wagon owned by the Frost Forwarding and Transfer Company were galloping wildly without a driver. Several teams and automobiles appeared in danger from the runaway.

The crowd gave chase and the runaway horses swung into the car tracks, the front wheel hub striking an Elevated post. A Chelsea car stood at the City-sq station and a crash appeared almost certain, when a sailor leaped on the wagon, ran to the seat, caught up the reins and, exerting himself to the utmost, he succeeded in turning the horses away from the tracks so they passed the car safely. He brought the terrified animals to a standstill at the junction of Chelsea st and City sq. He then drove the horses around to Park st and waited for the driver.

The sailor, who was from the receiving ship at the Navy Yard, said he was attached to the supply department. He gave his name as Warren A. Voss. He is the son of Mrs Catherine A. Voss of 52 High st, Charlestown. He has been in the Navy since last April. As a member of the Naval Reserve he made a cruise on the Chicago.

The driver of the team said the canvas had blown off his wagon. While he was trying to get it one of the horse blankets was blown from the seat, striking one of the horses, causing the runaway.

Capt William R. Rush communicated with Capt Goff of the Charlestown Police Station during the fire and offered to send a company of marines to the scene to keep the crowds back and out of danger. Their services were not required as a large force of policemen had been detailed for work.

The new Navy Y. M. C. A. Building, under construction, is in close proximity to the fire but escaped harm.

The Wilkins concern has about 30 horses, but when the fire started, all but one were out on teams. The fire was under control about 3 o'clock. About 4 o'clock the building was in ruins, only the front wall remaining standing.