

TWO FIREMEN HURT AT THREE-ALARM BLAZE

Five-Below Cold Handicaps Fight at Mattapan Sq

Two Families Driven Out—Little Girl Returns to Save Pet Cat

In a temperature of five below zero, with a brisk wind blowing, the worst fire Mattapan has had for years started about 6:30 last night in the Postoffice and seriously damaged the Bartlett Block, on the corner of Blue Hill av and River st, causing a loss estimated at \$50,000 and for a time threatening the whole district.

At the height of the fire fireman Fred L. Muir and hoseman John Brock of Engine 19, running a hose on the roof of the drugstore of Clarence H. Wentworth, 1669 Blue Hill av, became blinded in the suffocating smoke and fell into the store when the roof collapsed.

They were dragged out of the blazing building by their comrades. Muir was sent to the City Hospital. Brock was allowed to go home. Neither is thought to have sustained serious injuries.

Several hydrants near the fire were frozen. In some cases lines had to be run to hydrants almost a quarter of a

mile away. The hose repeatedly burst from freezing.

The fire fighters were incased in ice and constantly were forced to seek a nearby drugstore to thaw out. A business man of the locality rendered them great help by supplying hot coffee.

Owing to the long runs of much of the apparatus from South Boston, Hyde Park and West Roxbury, the firemen were suffering greatly from the cold before they reached the fire. Some time had to be spent in warming up on arrival. More time was needed to get the water connections clear and running.

Started From Furnace

The fire started from an overheated furnace in the basement of the post office at 511 River st. Joseph Ryan rang in the alarm at 6:40. Before the fire apparatus reached the scene the flames

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had broken through the roof of the post office. They rapidly worked through to the structures on Blue Hill av, driven before the wind.

The Blue Hill av places burned out were: No 1663, occupied as a restaurant by Constantine Voymas; No 1665, office of Dr P. A. Heneberry and Edward Keay's barber shop; No 1667, fruit store of Louis Lanata; 1669, drug store of Clarence H. Wentworth. On River st a two-tenement house occupied on the second floor by Louis Lanata and the post office at 511 were burned.

Engine 19 was the first to arrive and immediately sent in the second alarm at 6:44. About 10 minutes later the third alarm was rung.

By this time several hundred people were in the square watching the blaze in spite of the wind and the zero weather. The flames mounted high in the air, illuminating the whole district.

Electric cars coming into Mattapan sq were halted a few hundred yards from the square to discharge passengers. There was no interruption of service, though there was some delay.

District Chiefs Walter M. McLean and Alan MacDonald came on the second alarm and directed the firemen. They marshaled their forces on all sides of the block, which sets a little apart from other structures, and turned their energies to preventing the spread of the flames. About 8 o'clock the fire was practically under control.

Deputy Chiefs John O. Taber and Daniel Sennott came on the third alarm and gave their assistance. Effective work in saving the adjoining buildings from the destruction was done by the Protective Department, under Henry Thompson.

Two Families Driven Out

The buildings burned were two-story wooden and brick structures and were all occupied as stores, except the two-tenement house at 509 River st.

On the first floor of this dwelling lived Mr and Mrs Michael McPhee and five small children, Elmer, John, Frances, Anna and Mary. They were driven into the street so hurriedly by the fire that they saved nothing.

Little Mary, once out of the house, missed Bob, her pet cat, and ran back to get him. And Bob is the only possession left to the McPhee family, thanks to Mary.

The second floor is occupied by Joseph Lamata with his wife and four children, Mary, William, Francis and George. This family was also driven out and saved nothing.

Ice formed on the engines very quickly. Engines 46 and 19 were frozen into masses of ice and were so solidly fixed that they will have to be chopped out. These engines were nearest the blaze.

From Milton came Ladder 1 and Hose 2 in command of Chief J. Harry Holmes of the Central Station. This apparatus performed valuable service.

It was considered a most creditable piece of work on the part of the Fire Department that they should stop the fire as quickly as they did under the conditions.

The operation of the car service without interruption was due to Charles Leonard, division superintendent, who arrived shortly after the fire began and took charge of switching the cars back before they reached the square.

FIRE IN MEDFORD FORCES FAMILY OUT

MEDFORD, Jan 31—Fire that started shortly after 8 tonight near the furnace in the cellar of the wooden building at the corner of Henry and Edwards sts caused a loss of \$700 to the building and stock of John H. Cahalan, grocer, on the first floor.

Mr Cahalan lives above the store and his family was forced to leave for a time.