

## TONY MARRA

Bus-boy. Hired in October 1942, 15 years old. Station was pantry at top of stairs from Kitchen. Was to operate the spotlight for the second show. (Lenny Walsh, busboy, had the spotlight duty for the first show). Spotlight was located on roof of Terrace, reached by ladder. Tony was up there when the fire started. First saw people milling around and thought of what he had heard—"Grove, Welansky, King Solomon, gangsters. "Retaliation, somebody's after somebody". And then he saw the fire. Saw the smoke first, then the fire which was travelling down the Caricature Bar "under the ceiling, heavy. There were flashes of light then heavy smoke. Bright colors, very unusual colors". He came down the ladder very rapidly and, at first headed toward the Piedmont Street exit but the crowd of patrons was surging toward him so he turned and ran to, and down the staircase to the Kitchen. He states he tried to get into one of the freezer lockers but people already in there wouldn't let him in and closed the door in his face. About this time the lights went out. "When the electricity died the smoke, Oh God, the smoke went like a hurricane, hit the wall. You could hear it." Crawled across Kitchen floor and exited through window above service bar into the rear yard, from there through narrow alleyway to Shawmut Street. Estimates from start of fire to arriving outside building to be 30 minutes.

### (Interviewer's Opinion)

Conscientiousness and sincerity cannot be any more evidenced than by a fifteen year old high school boy with his first job ! It doesn't matter that the job was obtained through a friend of his father ; it matters less that the principal duty consists of providing the proper cutlery, glasses of water, pats of butter and napkins for dinner patrons. What really matters is the integrity and independance of being a wage-earner.

Although he had performed the duties of busboy for less than two months Tony Marra was certain his services were appreciated. Indeed, he had been complimented on his courtesy to customers by no less than the establishment owner himself, Mr. Welansky ! And on this Saturday night he had the added excitable duty of operating the spotlight for the second floorshow !