

# NARROW ESCAPES; SEVERAL INJURED

## Artists Flee From Flames— Hutchings-Votey Organ Factory Burned.

Eight persons narrowly escaped with their lives shortly before midnight in the fierce fire that completely gutted the large two-story brick building, 23 Irvington st., occupied as studios by several prominent artists and a number of manufacturing concerns.

The fire came upon them with such suddenness and gained such headway that several had to get out in scanty clothing.

Three firemen were injured, one of them, hoseman McClay of engine 28, possibly seriously.

A man named Daniel Fallon was knocked down by an engine that was on the way to the fire, and somewhat injured.

The greater portion of the building was occupied by the Hutchings-Votey organ company, while parts of it were used by the Blanchard manufacturing company, makers of pneumatic tubes; George H. Walker, manufacturer of lithograph presses, and the Penn metal company. In the building were about 25 studios, some of them not occupied.

J. F. Johnson, superintendent of the building, said he was notified of the fire by the night watchman, who had discovered the blaze while making his rounds at 11:30.

Members of ladder company 3 were among the first to arrive, and ladder-men Healy and Gaffney lost no time in getting into the building. They rescued from almost certain death Miss Anna Danforth, who was asleep in her studio when the fire started. She was taken in charge by patrolman O'Brien of division 5, who led her across the railroad bridge and left her in the care of the family at 34 Holyoke st., where she remained for a time and then departed.

### Others Who Got Out.

Miss Mae Macomber, another artist who had a room on the Harcourt-st side of the building, was also gotten out safely by the police. Others who occupied studios and escaped the flames were John Morrison, Fred Williams, W. P. Burpee, W. W. Churchill, William Paxton and Joseph Decamp.

Chief Cheswell immediately ordered a second alarm and the third and fourth followed in quick succession, the last alarm being sounded only 15 minutes after the first had been given. So rapid was the spread of the flames that the firemen could do nothing to save the building; all they could do was to fight its progress toward the adjacent structures.

The building, which was about 150 feet long by 115 feet wide, faces on Irvington st and Harcourt st. The northerly side is bounded by an alleyway extending from Irvington to Harcourt sts. On the other side the building abutted the roadbed of the N Y, N H & H railroad.

Directly across from the building on the east is the big South armory, and for a time it looked as though the flames would cross the street. To prevent this ladders were raised on the

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armory building and lines of hose were sent up.

The houses on St Botolph st between Irvington and Hancock fared badly, all of them being filled with smoke.

The occupants of these buildings, many of them artists, were asleep when the fire broke out and they were rudely disturbed by the clang of the fire en-

One of the first to see the fire was Mrs Sibley, who conducts the lodging house at the corner of St Botolph and Irvington sts. She was aroused by the noise of the fire alarm signal, and looking out the window saw the building in the rear in flames. Without waiting to dress she ran out into the hallway and screamed as loudly as she could for every one to get out. She then donned her clothes and got ready to leave. Her experience was similar to that of the others in the block, all of whom were more or less frightened.

The building was owned by the Coolidge estate, and is practically a total loss, although the walls may be saved. The roof and both floors are burned away.

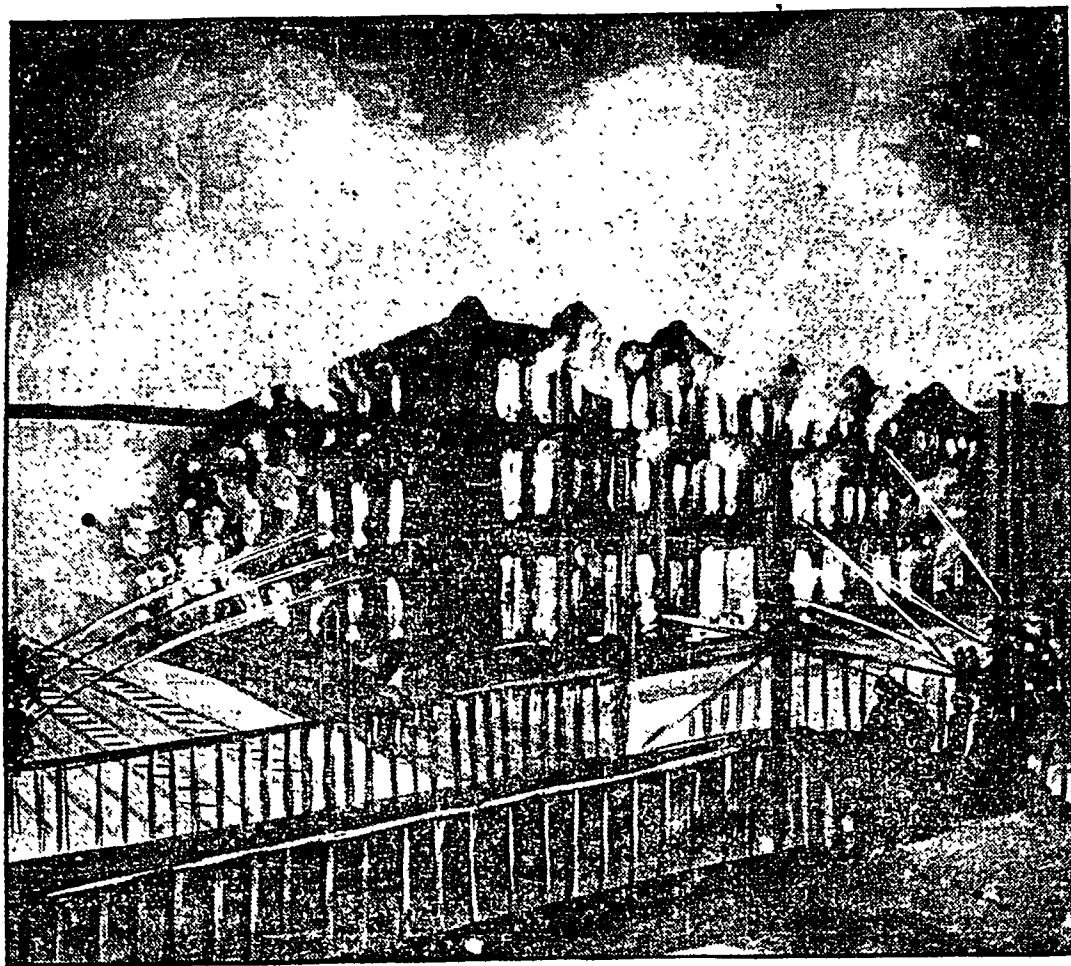
The Hutchings-Votey company's loss will be the heaviest, as they had a large stock on hand and were at work on

and it is feared he has internal injuries. He was taken into the South armory and attended by the department physician.

At the same time Lieut Sheerin and hoseman Garrity of the same company sustained sprains, but continued to work.

Miss Anna Danforth, who was removed from the burning building at 14 Yarmouth st, and later to Temple st, West End, when seen by a Globe reporter was in a highly nervous state and required quite an effort to compose herself to talk.

"The first intimation I had was a choking sensation from the effects of the smoke. I became unconscious, and not until the firemen were descending the ladder with me on their shoulders did I revive. I have not the slightest conception of how the fire originated."



THE FIRE AS SEEN FROM THE FOOT OF THE BRIDGE ON IRVINGTON ST.

gines. Every one along the line hastily dressed and effects were gathered together in readiness to flee. This was not necessary, however, as the firemen quickly carried lines down the alleyway in the rear and made certain of the stay of the fire in that direction.

From the bridge that spans the railroad tracks the firemen fought the fire during its first stages and then they carried the lines down across the tracks and fought it at close range.

## Fled from Their Homes.

The houses on Holyoke st, south of the fire, were filled with smoke and many of the occupants chose to get out into the street rather than stay in their homes. The smoke swept across the tracks in blinding volumes, and it was with difficulty that the firemen stationed on that side could work.

Just what started the fire no one seems to know.

several valuable instruments, among the number being one valued at \$50,000 for a New York church. In addition to this they carried a large stock of seasoned lumber in the basement, and this will undoubtedly be a total loss, as the fire made its way into the cellar.

## Loss May be \$150,000.

The Blanchard manufacturing company, George H. Walker and the Penn metal company will lose everything.

In addition to these losses come those of the artists. A man well known in art circles said last night that the paintings in the studios destroyed were probably valued at \$10,000. The total loss will probably reach \$150,000.

While holding a siamese line on the Irvington-st front, the hose got away from the crew and snapping, threw several to the ground. Hoseman McClay of engine 26 was the most seriously hurt

George Comstock, employed by the organ company, and whose duty it is to remain in the building as caretaker, said: "I was eating my lunch in the engine room when I heard a crackling sound and smelled smoke. The fire had just started as I discovered, and I ran to the corner and rang in the alarm. Before I returned the fire, which caught on the street floor in the center of the building, in the vicinity of the engine room, had spread so rapidly that the whole place was a mass of flames."

While on the way to the fire one of the Dorchester engines knocked down Daniel Fallon, residence unknown, causing him slight injuries. He was assisted to the City hospital, and after being treated departed.

Sparks from the fire caused a blaze on the roof of the 3½-story wooden dwelling, 20 Savoy st. Box 68 was rung in at 12.07. The fire was put out before it had done much damage. The building is owned by Daniel McSweeney, and occupied by several families.