



Central House from Colonial Cold Storage Wharf - 1957

Day of Fire: Jan. 17th

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1962



Photo by Dick Christopher

Firemen didn't have a chance of saving the building at the end of Monument Wharf yesterday morning as flames broke through the roof shortly after their arrival and were fanned by a fresh northwest wind.

Fire Destroys Wharf Building Truro Wellfleet Send Firemen

Fire of undetermined origin, and the departments of these two towns responded at once. Efforts were concentrated on preventing the spread of the flames on the wharf north of the building and east to the nearby MacMillan Wharf. Firemen were greatly handicapped by the lack of space on the three water sides of the burning building, affording them no opportunity for coping with the blaze.

The first alarm, at about 9:30 a.m., brought the Cape End firemen to a building in which the fire already seemed to have gained considerable headway. Before 10 o'clock huge billows of smoke and flames were breaking through the roof and with a fresh northwest wind it seemed obvious that the building was doomed.

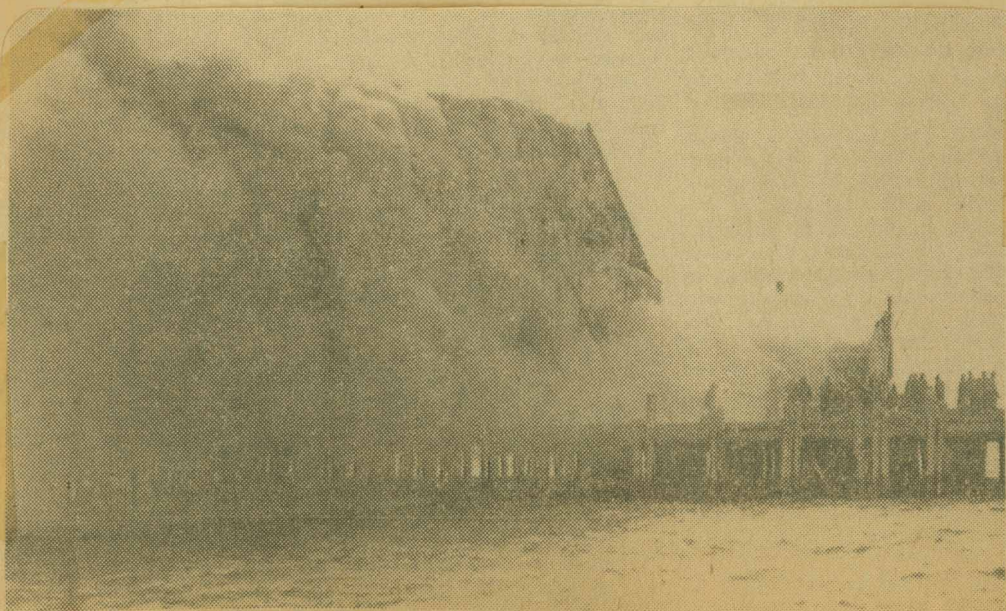
Fire Chief Wilbur Cook called on Truro and Wellfleet for help

With smoke coming from all sides of the building and the roof, a second alarm was turned in about 10:45. Several fishing boats were moved to safety and it is understood that the skippers of two fishing boats, getting the news of the fire on their radios while at sea, turned around and made for the scene to make sure their cars, parked on the wharf, were not in danger.

Anthony E. Silva, president and general manager of Monument Fish Company, Inc., estimated damage at more than \$100,000.

He said fire apparently started in the second floor. He and three men were sitting in the first floor engine room when they smelled smoke, he said. They investigated, saw the flames and put in the alarm, he said.

Mr. Silva said the building and wharf was built in 1917 by Israel



CAPE PIER BURNS—Smoke pours from packing plant of Provincetown's Monument Fish Company at end of Monument Pier. Company estimated loss at \$100,000.

—Associated Press Wirephoto