

Fatigue, Cold Show In Faces Of Firemen Fighting Blaze



The fire was finally drowned from hoses connected to aerial ladder trucks in the front and back of the building. One man directed the spray

from atop the ladder while another stood guard at the foot of the extension.



Nearly 1,500,000 gallons of water were pumped by equipment from eight communities, that had been summoned by Plymouth Fire Chief George

Schoenneman. The blaze was drowned by the huge volume of water.



Two lone fighters stood watch on a nearby roof and directed water into the burning building. The temperature was below freezing most of the time and there was a fierce wind that kept the men extra cold and wet.



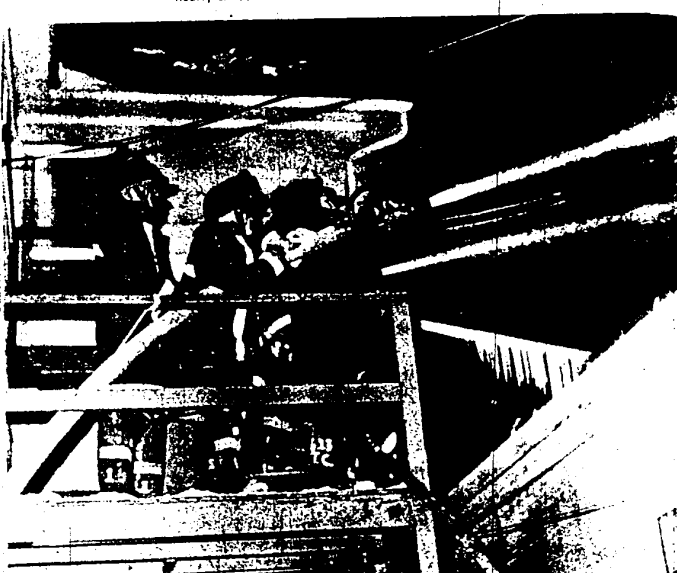
On Monday morning, following the all-night ordeal, the task of standing guard in case of a possible flare-up was cold, tiring and lonely. Spectators had long since departed and the job was left to a handful of nearly exhausted men.



The Salvation Army was quick to assist the beleaguered firefighters by supplying them with hot coffee and words of encouragement. The fire was too stubborn to allow any of the men to take more than a few minutes rest.



After most of the danger of the fire spreading to nearby structures had passed, it still snoldered deep inside the basement. Plymouth firemen remained on the job for more than 24 hours to make sure nothing else burned.



During the most critical portion of the inferno, the men worked feverishly and hectically trying to conquer it. Every vantage point was sought

in efforts to end the holocaust as quickly as possible.



Smoke proved to be the worst enemy of the firefighters in the early stages. For hours the entire central business district of Plymouth was blanketed with the thick, impenetrable black clouds.