

YACHT CLUB RAZED IN A \$100,000 FIRE

Three-Story Building at Sea Gate and Small House Near By Are Destroyed.

VALUABLE TROPHIES LOST

One Was Presented by Lipton—Mast of Shamrock II in Yard Is Saved.

Fire swept the three-story frame clubhouse of the Atlantic Yacht Club on Poplar Avenue between Highland and Sea Gate Avenues in the Sea Gate section of Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon.

The top floor and roof of the building were entirely destroyed and the two other floors were badly damaged by flames and water. Many valuable trophies, including a cup given by Sir Thomas Lipton for the international star class races in Gravesend Bay, were lost. The damage was estimated at more than \$100,000.

How the fire started had not been ascertained last night. The building had been closed for the season. Eugene Scherer, the caretaker, and his wife, live there all the year round, but they had gone shopping yesterday afternoon.

Residents of near-by homes discovered the blaze. When the first engines arrived, flames already were shooting through the roof.

A second and third alarm were sounded in quick succession, bringing additional engines from Sheepshead Bay, Bath Beach, Bay Ridge and Flatbush. But the fire, fanned by a stiff wind, spread rapidly. The aged timbers of the building burned like tinder, giving off great clouds of smoke that were visible as far away as Staten Island.

Water Flow is Poor.

Hampered by the poor flow of water in Sea Gate, the firemen made a valiant effort to save the building, but most of it was in ruins by the time the flames had been extinguished. The rear of the structure faced Gravesend Bay and as the wind was blowing in that direction, neighboring residences were not endangered.

However, a small frame building adjacent to the tennis courts, which had been used by tennis players as a dressing room, burned to the ground.

Four of the six huge columns lining the front of the clubhouse toppled over during the fire, but no one was injured. The mast of the America's Cup Challenger Shamrock 2d, given to the club by Sir Thomas Lipton after he dismantled the vessel and erected on the lawn as a flagpole, was saved.

Scores of motorists, attracted by the smoke, drove to the scene of the fire, but most of the curious were turned back at the entrance by private police. Sea Gate is a restricted development.

Club Had Noted Members.

The membership of the club, numbering slightly more than 100, is comprised principally of bankers, brokers and real estate men, a member said last night. At one time, he said, it was one of the most fashionable clubs of its kind along the Atlantic seaboard. The elder J. P. Morgan, he said, was commodore of its fleet, and Harry Payne Whitney also was a member.

Sir Thomas Lipton frequently visited the club on his trips to this country. The cup which he donated for the star class races and which was lost in the fire, was presented by him in 1923 and was won last Summer by boats of the club.

Before the World War, Kaiser

Wilhelm II and his brother, Prince Henry of Prussia, were honorary members. They were dropped from membership when the United States entered the war.

The clubhouse, built in 1886, was of Colonial type, about 150 feet long and 70 feet deep. On the upper floors were 144 rooms provided for the use of members in the Summer months. In 1928 the building was sold to a realty corporation comprised of members of the club for \$28,000 cash and \$80,000 stock in the corporation.