

Three-Hour Blaze Ravages Sodus Pt. Apartment Building

By HERMAN ARCHUNDE

SODUS POINT - When it was a movie house, the ancient gray building on Greig Street staged dramas of fantasy.

But this time the drama was real.

The three-story wood frame building, now an apartment house, was heavily damaged by a fire yesterday.

Five persons, including three children, were forced from the structure that fronts on Greig Street between Jack's Driftwood Lounge and Krenzer Marine.

There were no injuries, although one fireman became nauseated after inhaling too much smoke.

About 50 firemen from three companies battled the stubborn blaze in near zero temperature. Further hampering the fire fighting was a 20- to 25-mile per hour north wind.

Owner of the building, which extends on pilings over Sodus Bay about 100 feet, is Jack Walrath, who also owns Jack's Driftwood Lounge less than four feet away.

Walrath's wife, Karen, said he was trapping the Quebec.

The blaze was brought under control about 6 p.m., after a three-hour battle by firemen, who remained on the scene until after 9 p.m.

One fire official said Sodus Point fire fighters were recalled about 10:30 to put down a minor flareup on the third floor.

One of the tenants, Julie W. Johnson, said the fire started in her living room on the second floor about 3 p.m. when a color television set evidently became overheated and ignited the wall against which it was placed.

Mrs. Johnson, 23, said she was sleeping in another room when her son, Brand, 7, awakened her with a cry of "Mommy, there's smoke and fire."

Gathering up Brand and another child, Tim, 3, who also was asleep, Mrs. Johnson warned a neighboring tenant, Mrs. George (Martie) Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, whose apartment is halfway between the second and third floor, fled with her 6 week-old daughter, Andrea. Her husband was at

Some household appliances, clothing, and other belongings were removed from Mrs. Taylor's apartment and that of a tenant on the third floor, but little, if anything, was saved from the other two apartments.

Tenant of the third floor was the Richard Vinicky family, reported now in Florida.

Second floor tenants also in-

cluded Thomas Haygood, 21, and Larry Henderson, 23, roommates, who were at their jobs at Xerox in Webster

Henderson said he and Haygood lost all their clothes, plus several hundred dollars worth of stereo and tape-recording equipment.

"I also lost some textbooks," said Henderson, who attends classes at Rochester

Institute of Technology.

There is also an attic in the building.

Fanned by the strong wind, the fire burst through the roof with a dark orange flame despite efforts of Sodus Point, Sodus, Wallington and Alton firefighters who had hoses on both sides and on top of the building.