

Fire Leaves 11 Homeless, Does \$68,000 Damage

By TOM HEDLEY

A two-alarm fire destroyed a two-storey East Kildonan building containing three suites and a grocery store Monday night, left 11 persons homeless and caused an estimated \$68,000 in damage.

No one was injured in the blaze, which at one point threatened to spread to nearby business establishments.

Flames spread so quickly residents were forced to flee the block at 477 Henderson Highway

Proposed Speed Hike In E.K. Hit

Members of a provincial government advisory committee were labelled "jackasses" at an East Kildonan council meeting Monday.

They were not only that, but "absolute nuts", according to Ald. E. Rudolph, who gave his frank opinions of the committee's recommendation to increase the speed limit by five miles an hour on the Disraeli freeway and on parts of streets in East Kildonan.

One alderman, proud of the municipality's 357 consecutive days free of fatalities, said the recommendation "would only

wearing pyjamas and night gowns. The temperature was 15 below zero and icy winds gusting up to 20 miles per hour swept the fire out of control.

Thirty-one firefighters, 25 from East Kildonan and six from Winnipeg, battled the flames for three hours before they were controlled.

East Kildonan Mayor C. N. Suttie and Police Chief C. Enfield were called in to co-ordinate the operation.

An explosion was heard when the fire started; but authorities do not believe gas was the cause.

No Footwear

Mrs. Agnes James, 45, of Suite A, said she was sitting alone while her teenage daughters Roberta and Nola were sleeping when she "heard a crash and it felt like a gust of wind was lifting the house up."

Louis Sansregret of Suite C escaped the flaming building with his wife, Janet, and his children, Celeste, 4, and Louis Napoleon, 2.

"The bang sounded like a neon sign cracking and the smell of burning electrical wire was all over the place," he said.

Finance Chairman

Ald. Walter Crawford, finance committee chairman of Winnipeg city council, will speak to the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Wednesday at noon in the Royal Alexandra Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schroeder, 17-year-old Marie Bilodeau and five-month-old Janet Schroeder had to flee the block with no footwear and clothed in pyjamas.

All families lost everything except the clothing they wore. Two families had partial insurance on belongings but the Sansregret family had none.

The homeless residents set up emergency quarters in the nearby home of Mrs. Joseph Mazan of 481 Henderson Highway. Later they were taken to friends' and relatives' homes to spend the night.

To Fix Aid

Mayor Suttie said welfare arrangements will be set up for families in need.

Boris Barishman of 750 Jefferson Avenue, manager of the destroyed East Kildonan Food Market, estimated damage to stock at \$17,000. "I took over the store when it was almost bankrupt 15 months ago and worked very hard to make a go of it. Look at it now."

His business was only partially covered by insurance.

The owner of the building, Mike Biluk of 416 McGregor Street, estimated the brick structure to be worth \$46,000 and said it was only partially covered by insurance.

A nearby barbershop sustained some smoke damage.

A crowd of nearly 1,000 watched firemen battle the stubborn fire. At one point water lines froze and failed to operate.