

Top Bowler Among 10 in Card Raid

By Tom Renner

West Babylon—A top professional bowler and nine other men were arrested yesterday on gambling charges in a raid on a social club described by police as a key meeting place for Cosa Nostra hoodlums.

The early morning raid on the Bergen Hunting and Fishing Social Club at 1060 Little East Neck Rd. ended weeks of surveillance and investigation by Suffolk gambling squad and intelligence squad detectives. Caught in the raid was Michael Limongello, 23, of 12 Jayne Dr., North Babylon. Limongello, who police said was in a card game controlled by a Cosa Nostra figure, is one of the 10 top bowlers of the Professional Bowlers Association. Last year he won \$10,000 as the top bowler



Limongello

in the Kansas City Open, and bowling experts described him as one of the consistent money winners on tour. An association spokesman said his arrest was "an obvious violation" of association ethics rules and could result in fines, suspension or expulsion from bowling ranks if found guilty in an association investigation.

Capt. David Prince, commander of the gambling squad, said that police have received frequent complaints from housewives "whose husbands were losing their paychecks" in high stakes card games. He said the club has also been found to be a hangout of major Cosa Nostra figures. Among the mob figures known to frequent the club, police said, were: Paul Sciacca, boss of a rebel faction now warring for leadership of the Joseph (Joe Bananas) Bonanno crime family; Michael Casale, a loan shark and soldier in the Sciacca crime group who was arrested recently in Tucson, Ariz., following bombings of Joseph Bonanno's home and those of his aides; Nicholas (Nick the Battler) DeStefano, a lieutenant in the Sciacca group; Michael Adamo, adviser to Sciacca, and Felice Vizzari, a Joseph Colombo crime family loan shark.

The club, founded in 1967, lists among its board of directors Frank (Frank Spano) Sgro, a Colombo soldier sought by Nassau District Attorney Cahn in connection with a mob sponsored attempted murder, and Edward Duci, a former associate of convict Julius (Julie) Klein and an associate of Casale. Duci, 35, of 1527 Herzel Blvd., West Babylon, was arrested on charges of promoting gambling and freed in \$225 bail for arraignment Sept. 17. He has a prior record of 19 arrests.

Assistant District Attorney Lawrence Bracken, chief of

the rackets bureau, said that the 10 arrested men would be subpoenaed to appear Monday before a grand jury to determine who operates and runs the club. Prince said that more than \$2,400 was seized by police in the card game which was run by Duci.

Arrested with Limongello on charges of loitering for the purposes of gambling were: David T. Siminelli, 35, of Peekskill, N.Y.; Charles J. Limonaco, 22, of 226 Audley Rd., Copiague; Sidney Leightner, 22, of 823 N. Clinton Ave., Lindenhurst; Santo Guerci, 36, of 7 Deur St., Babylon; Robert Montagna, 35, of Marcy St., North Babylon; Leonard Morelli, 25, of 791 S. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst; Richard A. Glazer, 26, of 353 E. Hudson St., Long Beach; and Frank DeFelice, 37, of 5567 Peach St., West Babylon. All were released in \$25 bail for arraignment Sept. 17.

2 Charged as Loan Sharks

Medford—Police arrested two Suffolk men yesterday who, they said, were involved in loan shark rings that squeezed thousands of dollars from victims from Mastic to Port Jefferson. Still sought is a third ring member described as a mob figure.

The two rings, operating in the communities of Port Jefferson, Medford, Patchogue, Mastic and Shirley, charged up to 500 per cent interest from loan victims who either paid on time or faced enforcer threats of beatings to themselves or their families. Police said that in some instances they found that victims lost their cars, their jewelry and their business interests to members of the rings. One of the rings first was exposed in July when three of its members were arrested by police on charges of extorting excessive interest from a Mastic businessman.

Arrested yesterday on bench warrants issued after a grand jury returned secret indictments against the three were: Michael LaBarbara Sr., 54, of 207 Pearl Ave., Holtsville, and Gaetano Tedesco, 34, of 186 Broadway Ave., Shirley. Still sought is a third person described as a mob figure whose name was not revealed.

Police said that LaBarbara ran one loan shark ring while the missing mob figure ran the other. Tedesco, police said, acted as a solicitor and runner for both rings, arranging loans to victims.

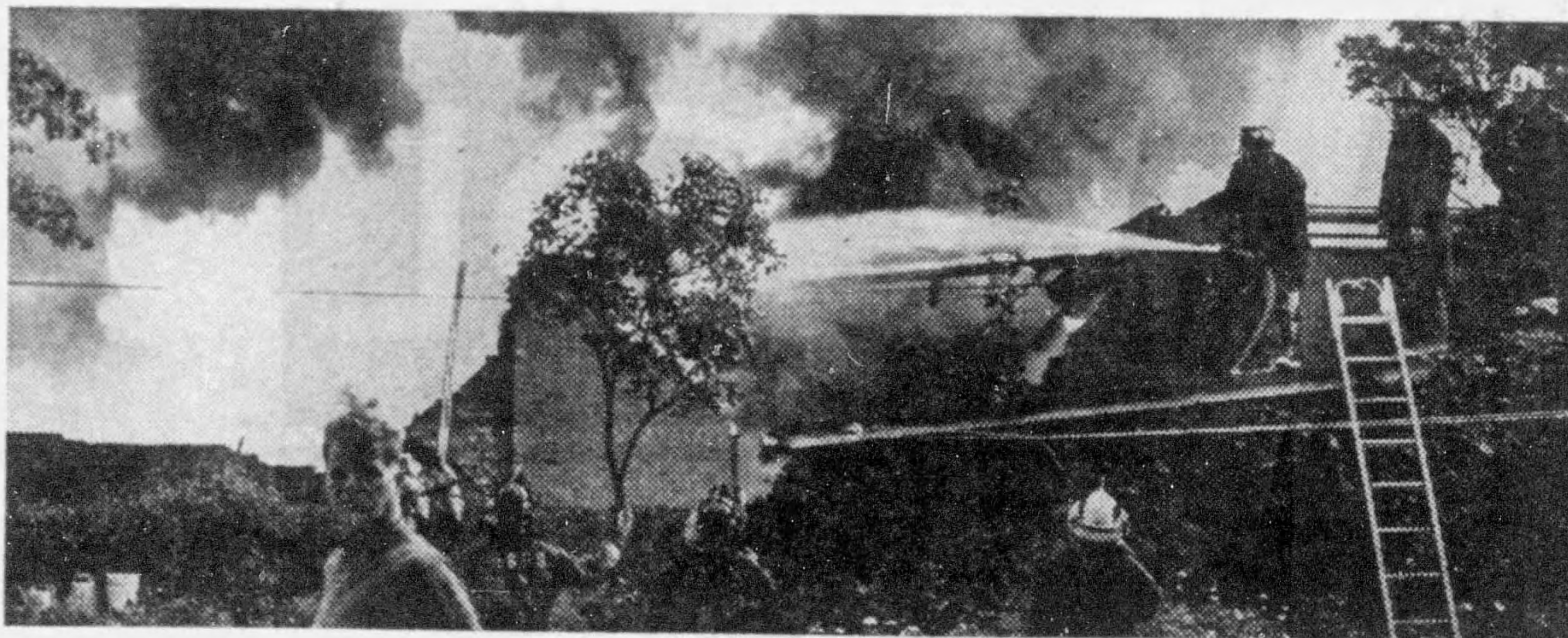
Police said that both rings had an identical victim

whose case resulted in yesterday's arrests. Police withheld his identity to protect him from threats by ring figures. Police said that the victim, a small businessman, began by borrowing \$500 from LaBarbara who ordered him to pay \$30 a week interest. The victim paid out \$150 in interest in five weeks before he repaid the loan in full. The victim then borrowed \$500 more from the second ring headed by the fugitive mob figure. He was required to pay \$30 a week interest for six weeks, or \$180, before he paid off the loan. Police said that although the victim was not threatened they found instances where other victims had received visits from enforcers and had been threatened with beatings when they fell behind in payments.

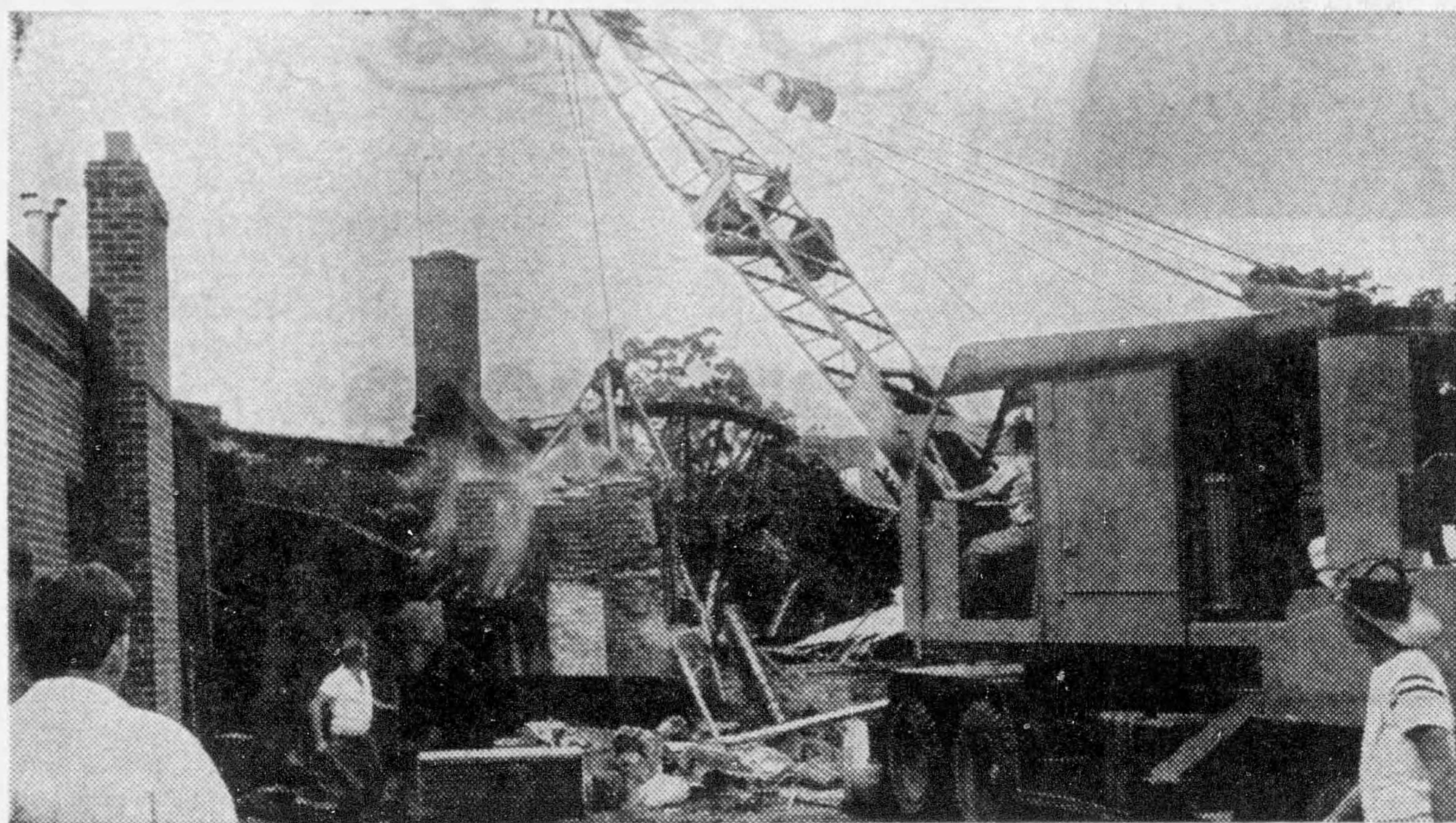
Police sources described Tedesco as a convicted bookmaker who once worked for a bookmaking ring headed by an underling of John (Sonny) Franzese, a lieutenant in the Joseph Colombo crime family. He was arrested last July with Sebastiano Biondo of Shirley and Andrew Preli of Mastic Beach in a loan shark ring case.

Police sources said that LaBarbara is a Colombo family associate with a record of 31 arrests and federal and local convictions for operating illegal stills, violation of tax laws and petty larceny. They described LaBarbara, who said that he is employed at the Marlin Dress Co., Route 112, Medford, as a key mob operator in shylocking in the Port Jefferson to Medford area. Both Tedesco and LaBarbara were held without bail for arraignment in county court today on charges of conspiracy and criminal usury.

—Renner



Firemen Pour Water Into Flaming Ruins of Bowling Alley Yesterday



Newsday Photo by Walter del Toro

DEMOLITION JOB. A Nassau County Public Works Department crane, as a safety measure, tears down the remains of a wall, above, that partially collapsed early yesterday morning during a fire that gutted the Woodmere Bowling Lanes on Broadway in Woodmere. Firemen, at top, battle the blaze that took two hours to bring under control. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, police said.

Air Boat Entry By Grumman Goes to Navy

Bethpage—Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. will deliver the 73-foot, hydrofoil gunboat Flagstaff to the Navy tomorrow as its entry in the competition for what could be a \$75,000,000 defense contract for mass production of the craft.

Developed as a prototype at a cost of \$3,600,000, the 40-knot, 68-ton, wave-skimming craft now goes into competition with a challenger from the Boeing Co., the 60-ton, 71-foot, equally speedy Tumcumcari. The Navy contracted with both companies to design and build the prototypes, paying them for each but promising nothing more than that it will try them out.

The Flagstaff, built at Grumman's Stuart, Fla., plant, and the Tumcumcari, put together in Seattle, have already undergone trials of more than 300 hours each. They will be sent to San Diego for side-by-side tests, after which the Navy will decide whether it likes either one. If the Navy decides to float a hydrofoil fleet, the winning company could expect an initial order for 30 craft at an approximate cost of \$2,500,000 each.

The vessels are designed to fill the Navy's need for a high speed but stable gun platform with great maneuverability and the capability of going through turbulent seas while avoiding the arrival at the scene of battle with a crew exhausted from seasickness. Proposed successors to World War II's PT boats, they carry a single 44-mm. cannon, twin-mounted 50-cal. machine guns and one 81-mm. mortar.

They are designed for searching out and destroying small enemy craft as well as close in shore support of land forces. Their immediate application would be along the coast and in the rivers of Vietnam.

Powered by 3,000 horsepower Rolls Royce turbines, as well as smaller General Motors diesels, the Tumcumcari and the Flagstaff are propelled by huge pumps which spew 100 tons of water per minute out of jets in the stern. The water-jet propulsion system has the twin advantage of fewer moving parts and no need for lubrication.

Differing from British-developed hover-craft, which ride on a pillow of air, the hydrofoils "fly" on two submerged wings, retractable when they are at dockside or want to cruise at slower speeds. The foils, operating on the same principal as an airplane wing, are controlled by computers.