

Firehouse May Be Razed

3/14/63

ALLENDALE -- Whether the leaning tower of Allendale, the Firehouse, can be repaired or must be replaced, is the question faced by the Fire Department and the council after last Thursday's fire. The structure, which was erected in 1910 and underwent repairs to strengthen it a few years ago, was so damaged by the fire that it now leans four inches to the north.

Four boys between 12 and 15 were arrested on charges of juvenile delinquency after a police investigation revealed that they had been smoking on the second floor, and sparks from a cigarette had started the fire in a closet in which plastic topped tables were stored. The boys told Lt. Frank A. Parenti that they had discovered the fire and tried to put it out with an extinguisher that ran dry. While hunting for another extinguisher they heard someone coming, so they ran away.

Joseph Fleming of 55 Park Ave., the first adult to discover the fire and turned in an alarm at 5:30 p.m. Albert Ivany of 183 West Allendale Ave. and William Foreit of 357 Brookside Ave., the first firemen on the scene, drove the fire apparatus out of the building, and other firemen removed a juke box, games and other paraphernalia owned by the volunteer department.

While working to rescue their possessions and help put out the blaze, Councilman Robert Os-

borne, former chief of the department, and former Councilman Russell Stewart suffered from smoke poisoning. They were treated at Valley Hospital and released.

The Waldwick Fire Department assisted, and Ramsey firemen went on standby watch, while Ramsey and Upper Saddle River police assisted the Allendale police on traffic control.

By the time the fire was out at 7 p.m. a number of main beams were badly charred, the entire second floor was in poor condition, and there was considerable water damage on the first floor and in the cellar. The building is insured for \$40,000.