

Facts about the Cocoanut Grove Nightclub

17 Piedmont Street, Boston

November 28, 1942

Compiled by David Blaney

First and foremost, the number of persons killed in the 1942 Cocoanut Grove fire disaster was 490.

The origin of the much repeated erroneous casualty counts can be traced to the earliest death lists compiled by news organizations in the confusion of the first days following the fire, which contained both omissions and duplicated listings.

The official 1943 Boston Committee on Public Safety list of fire casualties correctly states a count of 490 dead in the heading, but includes only 489 victim names.

The one victim name omitted from the final official master list of casualties was that of Wilbur Meserve, age 25, Washington, DC, formally of Winchester, MA, he appeared on the annotated working draft.

Of the 489 victims listed on the final Boston Committee on Public Safety master list of Cocoanut Grove casualties published in November 1943 no less than 33 surnames of deceased were misspelled.

The surname spellings of 13 hospitalized were also incorrect.

Two victims surnames on the master list of casualties were completely incorrect: Vera Ann Cedrone, age 34, Boston, was shown as Vera A. DeCosta (a former married surname, misspelled), and Howard A. Guy, age 37, New York, NY, shown as Guy A. Howard (his stage name was Guy Howard).

The total number of persons inside the club when the fire began, 488 (52.6%) died, 148 (15.9%) were hospitalized, and 292 (31.5%) escaped and were not admitted to hospitals.

Among those 928 identified persons inside the club when the fire broke, 805 were patrons while 123 were club employees, entertainers, or others working in some capacity.

Among the 805 known patrons present when the fire broke, 431 (53.5%) were men, and 374 (46.45%) were women.

Among the 431 male patrons known present, 237 (55.0%) died, and 194 (45.0%) survived.

Of the 237 male patrons killed, 106 were single, 101 were married, 21 were engaged, 5 were divorced and 4 were widowers.

Among the 374 known female patrons present, 227 (60.7%) died, and 147 (39.3%) survived.

Of the 227 female patrons killed, 117 were single, 93 married, 14 engaged, 3 were divorced and none were widows.

Among all 805 known patrons known present when the fire broke, 464 (57.6%) died, and 341 (42.4%) survived.

The median age of male patron victims was 28 years, while the median age of female patrons was 26 years.

Of the 26 non-patrons who died as a result of the fire, 17 were club employees, six were entertainers, two were passing rescue workers (not counted above among those 928 inside the club), and one (Laura Libby Cohen, age 25, Dorchester, MA) was a non-employee War Bonds salesgirl stationed in the club foyer.

Of the 72 known club employees present when the fire broke, 17 (23.6%) died, and 55 (76.4%) survived.

The two passing rescue workers who perished were Harold Hawkins, age 46, of Boston, an assistant steward at the nearby Hotel Statler, and Seaman Stanley Viator, age 25, U.S. Naval Reserve, Gloucester, MA, who roomed in Boston when on service duty.

In addition to the two rescue workers killed, another 21 rescuers were hospitalized for their efforts.

Among the 21 hospitalized rescue workers, 8 were attached to the U.S. Coast Guard, 7 were Boston firefighters, 5 were attached to the U.S. Navy or Naval Reserves, and one (Patrolman Edward Mitchell, age 28, Dorchester, MA) was a Boston Policeman.

Of the 490 persons killed in the disaster, 79 (16.1%) were officially recorded as having died on November 29 or later.

Of those 79 lingering fire victims, 20 lived to see the start of December, and three survived into 1943 (Francis Gatturna, age 31, Roslindale, MA, William "Bubbles" Shea, age 34, South Boston, MA and Phyllis Atkins, age 22, Dorchester, MA).

While 234 Grove victim death certificates show burns as the primary cause of death, another 234 death certificates record carbon monoxide poisoning as the primary killer.

Other primary causes of death reported on Grove victim death certificates were: suffocation (6 victims), bronchopneumonia (4 victims), and inhalation of smoke, toxemia, and suicide (1 victim).

Nine death certificates (mostly for those who were pronounced dead across the Charles River in Cambridge, MA), state no specific cause of death, just trapped in a burning building (7 victims), or burned in a consignment (2 victims).

The Grove dead were removed to a total of nine different civilian hospitals, plus three military institutions.

The only female victims of the fire to die in a military hospital was patron Eva Healy, age 41, Allston, MA, who succumbed at the U.S. Marine Hospital, Brighton, MA on December 1.

Three area hospitals hosted exactly one Grove death each: Malden Hospital, Malden, MA, (Katherine McLaughlin, age 23, Charlestown, MA, Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, Boston, (Eleanor Chiampa, age 15, Newton, MA) and St. Margaret's Hospital, Dorchester, MA (Jerome Estes, age 27, U.S. Coast Guard, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The fire claimed victims from 23 different states, plus the District of Columbia and one foreign country.

The lone victims from the District of Columbia was patron Wilbur Meserve, age 25.

The lone foreign resident was patron John Billings, age 19, Sao Paulo, Brazil, (born to American parents).

After Massachusetts (406 dead), the states that were home to the most fire victims were New York (15), New Hampshire (9), Alabama and Pennsylvania (7 each), and Maryland and Rhode Island (5 each).

Among the 406 Massachusetts fire casualties, 147 resided in Boston, more of those from Dorchester (38) than any other Boston neighborhood, followed by Brighton (20) and Roxbury (15).

Other Bay State communities to suffer the most fire losses were Quincy (24 victims), Cambridge and Worcester (19 victims each), Brookline (18), Newton (14), and Somerville and Winchester (8 each).

Five states lost exactly one resident each in the inferno: Florida (Lieut. John Hey age 25, U.S. Army, Foley, FL), Iowa (Lieut. Eugene Goss, age 22, U.S. Army, Blairstown, IA, Minnesota (Lieut. Kenneth Simson, age 31, U.S. Navy, Minneapolis, MN, Missouri (Lawrence Eckerie, age 31, Kansas City, MO) and New Jersey (Stephane Oppenheim, age 26, Newark, NJ

The disaster cost the lives of 64 U.S military personal.

Of those 64 service individuals killed 35 were attached to the U.S. Navy or U.S. Naval Reserve (including two WAVES), 20 were with the U.S. Army, 6 were with the U.S. Coast Guard and 3 were with the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Cocoanut Grove blaze claimed the first two victims of the newly-organized WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) program of the U.S. Naval Reserve patrons Helen Virginia Brooks, age 26, Winthrop, MA (died at the scene) and her companion, Grace Evelyn Brown age 25, Waltham, MA (died on November 30, 1942).

Nine institutions of higher education lost at least one non-military (civilian) undergraduate: Harvard University (5 dead), MIT (5 dead), Wellesley College (4 dead), Emmanuel College (2 dead, one to transfer to Boston University in January), Emerson College (dead), Radcliffe College (2 dead), Brown University (1 dead), Columbia University (1 dead), and University of Pennsylvania (1 dead).

The fire took four expecting mothers (and their unborn): patrons Gladys Charles, age 29, Winchester, MA, Louise Hubert, age 30, Wellesley, MA, Marion Steensen, age 23 Jamaica Plain, MA and Pauline 'Polly' Wyner, age 24, Brighton, MA.

Two expecting mothers survived: patron Helen Cavanagh, age 23, Dorchester, MA (gave birth to a son on February, 22, 1943), and entertainer Melisa Campos, age 24, Washington, DC (gave birth to a son on April 20, 1943).

Counted among the victims of the fire was Francis Gatturna, age 31, Roslindale, MA, lone survivor in a party of six including his wife, Grace, age 28, who jumped to his death from a closed fourth-floor Boston City Hospital window on January 9, 1943.

Four Grove fire victims met death on their own birthdays: patrons Margaret McDonagh, Dorchester, MA (who turned age 21), Josephine Powell, Cambridge, MA (who turned age 29), Doris Rosenbaum, Revere, MA (who turned age 18), and Lieut. Kenneth Simpson, U.S.N.R., Minneapolis, MN (who turned age 31).

Three unrelated fire victims names McLaughlin were each buried in three different cemeteries named Calvary: Arthur McLaughlin, age 35, Newton, MA (buried at Calvary Cemetery, Waltham, MA), Virginia McLaughlin, age 19, Stoneham, MA (buried at Calvary Cemetery, Woburn, MA) and Kathleen McLaughlin, age 23, Charlestown, MA (buried at New Calvary Cemetery, West Roxbury, MA).

Grove bookkeeper, Rose Gnecco, age 47, Somerville, MA, died (as Rose Ebner) on October 31, 1993, at age 98. She was married to Charles Ponzi, who was the individual who created the original Ponzi Scheme. Her assistant, Edna Carli, age

28, also of Somerville, died on December 26, 2011, at a mere 97 years of age (neither was present at the fire).

The total number of teens killed in the fire was 46 (36 other teens survived).

Of the 46 teens killed, all were patrons but one, a part-time club busboy, Joseph Tranfaglia, Jr., age 16, of Dorchester, MA. He got his friend, Stanley Tomaszewski a job at the nightclub a couple of months prior to the fire.

Nine known fire survivors later died in non-Grove-relative accidents: Raymond Lyons, age 43, of Boston (fire escape fall in 1946; Norman 'Tom' Walsh age 37, Quincy, MA (bedroom fall in 1946), Ensign Eugene Jessup, age 27, U.S. Navy, Eastman, GA (hunting accident in 1956), Seaman Clifford Johnson, age 21, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Sumner, MO (truck rollover and fire in 1956), cashier Jennie 'Jeanette' Lanzoni, age 20, Somerville, MA (slip under moving train in 1958), Francis Coffin, age 37, Somerville, MA (fall on railroad tracks in 1962), Corporal Paul Alweis, age 26, U.S. Army, Lewistown, MT (automobile accident in 1965), Lieut. Lawrence Russell, age 36 U.S. Naval Reserve, Newton, MA (automobile accident in 1973), and singer Gorizia 'Goode Goodelle' Maclone, age 25, Dorchester, MA (automobile accident in Florida, 1998).

Two known fire survivors later met non-accident violent deaths: Donald Graham, age 33 Canton, MA (killed in war action in 1945), and John Rembold, age 31, Owensboro, KY (fatally shot in 1952).

Three known rescue workers later died due to unnatural causes: William Walsh, Jr., age 24 San Francisco, CA (vessel explosion at Normandy in 1944), District Fire Chief Daniel Crowley, age 58, West Roxbury, MA (smoke inhalation in 1949), John 'Jack' Harper, age 25 Chelsea, MA (automobile accident in 1961).

Ironically, included among Grove fire survivors was attorney John Walsh, age 50, Jamaica Plain, director of the Committee on Public Safety, City of Boston, responsible for compiling the official list of Grove dead and injured.

Five Coconut Grove house band members were hospitalized: violinist Bernardo "Bernie" Fazioli, age 45, Everett, MA (died on November 29), saxophonist Romeo Ferrara, age 26, Somerville, MA, bassist Jack Lesberg, age 22, Roxbury, MA, drummer Alphonse Maglitta, age 32, Somerville, and saxophonist Alfred "Willet" Ouellette, age 31, Lynn, MA.

Five other house band members escaped hospitalization: trumpeter Paul Maged, age 26, Everett, MA trumpeter Henry Minasian, age 32, Malden, MA, trombonist Octavius "Tubba Martin" Martinoli, age 25, East Boston, MA, saxophonist Summer Simons, age 23, Brighton, MA and pianist Morris "Moe" Solomon, age 28, Dorchester, MA

Two casualties of the fire made police statements concerning the blaze before passing, above musician Bernardo “Bernie” Fazioli, and patron Priscilla White, age 27, Brookline, MA, both from Boston City Hospital.

Of the 20 cases chosen by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as representative Grove manslaughter victims in the spring trials of 1943, only 19 were successfully tried and proven.

The one manslaughter case that was dismissed was that of patron Madeline Wennerstrand, age 26, Roslindale, MA because no evidence was produced about her death due to the suicide of survivor and intended witness Francis Gatturna (Boston Globe, April 9, 1943: “The government was unable to prove she was actually in the nightclub at the time of the fire, although her mother testified that her daughter telephoned to her that night and was never heard from again”).

The final score of the historic Saturday afternoon collegiate football upset at Fenway Park was Holy Cross 55, Boston College 12.

Three alumnae of Boston College lost their lives in the disaster: Francis Gatturme, Donald MacMillan, age 30, Quincy, MA, and John McCann, age 43, Newton, MA

The fire claimed two alumnae of the College of the Holy Cross: Joseph Boratyn age 22, Whitinsville, MA and Timothy Feeny, age 34, Medford, MA.

Boston College equipment manager and assistant trainer Lawrence “Larry” Kenney, age 38, Dorchester, MA, who died with his wife, Marie, age 33, was the only fire death directly connected on-field to the afternoon BC/HC football game at Fenway Park.

Despite the big afternoon football match at Fenway Park between nationally ranked Boston College and mediocre Holy Cross, no undergraduates from either school were killed or injured at the Grove fire.

Shortest life span of a profound statement: “This city is now famous for two historical events, the Boston Massacre and the Boston College Massacre”, (The Boston Herald, November 29, 1943, penned in the fleeting hours between the afternoon Holy Cross football rout of Boston College and start of the Coconut Grove blaze).

Through popularly known to the public as a nightclub, Coconut Grove (and other similar places) was not licensed as such, but rather as a restaurant (because nightclubs were banned in Boston).

It was good fortune for those with their names in lights: all seven entertainers emblazoned on the Piedmont Street marquee at the time of the blaze escaped unscathed.

No less than 14 unwed (and not yet engaged) Grove survivors later married their companions.

Fire survivor, Louis Price, age 35, Somerville, MA who with his wife were two of five survivors in a party of 14, died by suicide on October 15, 1966, by inhalation of carbon monoxide.

Fire witness James Connolly, Jr., age 46, Dorchester, MA parking lot operator adjacent to club, died on January 14, 1949, of carbon monoxide asphyxia, illumination gas, in his lodging room, (death was ruled accidental).

At least two Grove fire victims were adopted as children: Helen Virginia Brooks, age 26, Winthrop, MA (born as Helen Virginia Adams), and Evelyn Richardson, age 24, Boston (born Evelyn Edes).

Patrons Max Gorvine, age 44, and Pauline Hyman, age 18, both of Revere, MA victims in separate parties lived in adjacent houses according to the 1940 federal census.

A national radio broadcast of Mickey Alpert's orchestra (heard locally over station WNAC Boston) was to be aired from the club at 11:15 pm Saturday evening.

But this night, instead of broadcasting the show from the nightclub, the station was playing recorded music, (journalist William Buchanan, The Boston Globe, November 27, 1987).

Hub radio station WBZ was contracted on Sunday by U.S. naval intelligence and officially warned its listing of Grove dead, "to stop using ship names" (Report to District Intelligence Officer, First U.S. Naval District, November 29, 1942).

Station WNAC was among the radio stations that announced the list of victims and addresses. But the station management ought to be fined for putting on an announcer who couldn't pronounce correctly most of our cities and towns, (The Italian News, Boston, MA December 4, 1942).

We hasten to apologize to the management of Station WNAC for criticizing one of its announcers in last week's issue. Evidence showed that it was the announcer of another station, (The Italian News, Boston, MA, December 11, 1942).

Live national orchestra radio programs originating from the Grove were a regular feature throughout the entire 15-year career of the club.

Despite an abundance of news film footage, scores of press photographs, and even a newsreel account, no radio recording of Grove disaster coverage is known to exist.

Mr. Kapel Welansky, father of Barney Welansky, died on October 23, 1927 exactly four days before Renard Coconut Grove, (as it was originally known), first opened its doors.

The first Grove fire victim (of 490) to be buried was Private Lester Gould (Goldenberg), age 21, U.S. Army, Roxbury, MA who was interred on November 30, at Mount Lebanon (American Friendship Lodge) Cemetery, West Roxbury, MA

The first post-fire calendar date without at least one death resulting from the disaster was December 5.

The first post-fire calendar date month without at least one death resulting the disaster was March, 1943.

The first known survivor to die of causes unrelated to the disaster was patron Helen Watson, age 28, Cohasset, MA on November 17, 1943, actually succumbed to natural causes, breast cancer with cerebral metastases (death certificate).

James "Jimmy" Welansky, age 46, Brookline, MA (born on April 20, 1896), was not the younger brother of club owner Barnett Welansky, age 45, Brighton, MA (born November 22, 1897), as widely reported, but was actually more than a year older.

The charred remains of fire victim, Francis Gale, Sr., age 29, Dorchester, MA, were identified by a scar from an appendectomy co-performed one month prior by a victim in a separate party. Dr. Gordon Bennett, age 27, Swampscott, MA

Fire victim Ensign John Paikos, age 21, U.S. Naval Reserve, Haverhill, MA was a former pupil of a survivor in another party, Haverhill High School Latin teacher Anna Kerrigan, age 53, also of Haverhill, MA.

Two persons present in the club when the fire broke out were named John Doyle (John Doyle, age 25, of Cambridge, MA, a five victims and John F. Doyle, age 39, Lewiston, ME, a fire survivor).

Two persons present were named Mary Duggan (Mary Hildegard Duggan, age 39, Quincy, MA, a fire victim and Mary J. Duggan, age 24, Waltham, MA, also a fire victim).

Two persons present were named John 'Jack' Edwards (Ensign John W 'Jack' Edwards, U.S. Naval Reserve, age 23, Richmond, MI, a fire victim, and Lieutenant John Kip 'Jack' Edwards, Jr., U.S. Navy, age 33, of Boston, MA, a fire survivor).

Two persons present were named Henry Fitzgerald (Henry E. Fitzgerald, age 29, Dorchester, MA, a fire survivor, and Private Henry T. Fitzgerald, age 30, U.S. Army, Wilmington, MA, a fire victim).

Two persons present were named Michael Fitzgerald (Michael A. Fitzgerald, age 60, Allston, MA, a fire survivor, and Michael J. Fitzgerald, age 51, Quincy, MA a fire victim).

Two persons present were named John Griffin (John R. Griffin, age 35, Haverhill, MA a fire survivor, and John W. Griffin, age 34, Milton, MA, a fire victim).

Two persons present were named Bernard Levin (Bernard 'Ben' Levin, age 40, Newton Centre, MA, a fire survivor, and Lieutenant Bernard N. 'Bucky' Levin, age 30, U.S. Army, Brookline, MA, also a fire survivor).

Two persons present were named Catherine Murphy (Catherine L. 'Kay' Murphy, age 23, Dorchester, MA, a fire victim, and Catherine M. Murphy, age 23, Quincy, MA, also a fire victim).

Two persons present were named John Murphy, (John E. Murphy, age 25, Framingham, MA, a fire victim, and John J. Murphy, age 69, Natick, MA, a fire survivor).

Two persons present were named Helen Welch (Helen M. Welch, age 21, Winchester, MA, a fire victim, and Norine Helen Welch- popularly known by her middle name, age 17, Port Washington, NY, also a fire victim).

Also present were Lieutenant Eugene L. Goss, age 22, U.S. Signal Corps, Blairstown, IA and near-namesake Eugene J. Goss, age 41, Brookline, MA, both fire victims.

Remarkably, not one of the above name pairing was in any way connected with the other beyond common or similar names.

The oldest Grove fire fatality (of 490) was service cashier Katherine Swett, Malden, MA (born on March 16, 1875), age 67 years, 8 months.

The above Miss Swett was also the oldest club employee fatality, and lone employee continuously at the Grove since its 1927 opening.

The very last person to enter the club before disaster struck was would-be patron Charles Beldotti, age 35, Somerville, MA, who was trapped in the entrance side of the Piedmont Street revolving door when it jammed, then broke free when it was smashed down.

The last Grove fire victim to be identified was Ensign John Bauer, age 27, U.S. Naval Reserve, Pittsburgh, PA, whose identity was confirmed on December 4 at Southern Mortuary through dental charts, after the Navy had tagged but failed to remove his unknown remains from a Boston funeral home.

The last female Grove victim to be identified was Teresa Gina Caradonna, age 42, Quincy, MA, identified at Southern Mortuary on December 3, by means of a four-tooth dental bridge.

The last Grove fire victims to be removed from Hub mortuaries was rescuer Harold Hawkins, age 46, of Boston, but a native of Newfoundland, Canada, claimed at Southern Mortuary after December 15 once a local relative was located.

The last victim identified in the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Co. fire in New York City, which took 146 lives, was a worker named Dashevsky; the last Grove victims to be positively identified at Northern Mortuary, on December 2, was a union waiter named Alexander Dashevsky, no relation.

The last Grove victim overall (of 490) was patron Phyllis Atkins, age 22, Dorchester, MA, who succumbed to burns and 'multiple decubitus' (death certificate), at Boston City Hospital, on May 5, 1943.

The last living Grove bartender (of 10) on duty when the fire struck was John Capuana, age 35, East Boston, MA, who died on July 8, 1982, at age 75.

The last known living firefighter to battle the Grove fire was Boston hoseman John Rose, age 27, Jamaica Plain, MA, who died on April 1, 2005, at age 89.

The last known living Grove rhumba band musician present was trumpeter Abraham 'Ariel' Duchesne, age 20, lodging in Boston, who died on March 7, 2008, at age 85.

The last living member of Mickey Alpert's band present (of ten) was trumpeter Paul Maged, age 25, Everett, MA who died on August 1, 2010, at age 93.

The last known living spouse of a Grove fire victim was Mrs. Esther McLean, wife of fire victim William McLean, age 34, Plymouth, MA, who died on July 6, 2012, at age 99,(69 years and 7 months post fire).

Mrs. Katherine Smallwood, wife of victim Howard Smallwood, age 29, of Plymouth, MA (the latter a companion at the Grove of the above Mr. McLean), died on April 24, 2011, at age 96.

The two wives above outlived their late husbands by a combined 138 years, neither was present at the fire and neither remarried.

The last living rescue worker (of 21), on the official list of Grove hospitalized was Samuel Sukenik, age 18, U.S. Navy, Chicago, IL, who died on November 30, 2014, at age 90.

The last known living survivor to escape the New Broadway Lounge was Ensign Nick Pagonis, age 21, U.S. Naval Reserve, Oakland, CA, who died on April 3, 2016, at age 95.

The last living Grove employee (non-entertainer) to safety escape the fire was waiter, John Rizzo, age 22, Revere, MA, who died on September 20, 2016, at age 96.

The last living participant (of 39 cases), in the landmark Mass General Grove burns study was Case #6, Anna Marie Clark, age 18, Keene, NH, who died (as Ann Gallagher), on May 24, 2017, at age 90.

The last living chorus girl (of eight), present at the fire was Eleanor Giglio (Gale), age 19, Quincy, MA, who died (as Eleanor Keirstead) on November 5, 2017, at age 94.

The last known living person ever employed at the Coconut Grove was busboy John Zuccaro age 18, East Boston, MA (left to take a better job two months before the fire), who was still living at the end of 2017, at age 93.

Boston Sunday Globe, November 29: 'The first identified fatality was a Coast Guardsman, Jerome Estes, address unknown, whose body was brought to St. Margaret's Hospital in Dorchester, MA, (Jerome Estes, age 27, U.S. Coast Guard, Green Bay, WI).

The oldest employee survivor confirmed present at the blaze (and second oldest employee known present after the above Katherine Swett) was waiter Theodore Brown, of Boston (born on November 12, 1878), age 64 years old.

If present, Grove cook Angelo Bartolani, Somerville, MA (born on July 8, 1873), age 69 years and 4 months, would be the oldest club employee present at the fire and oldest employee survivor, but his presence was not confirmed.

The oldest person overall present at the club and oldest patron survivor was John J. Murphy, Natick, MA, age 69, (born in 1873, his exact birth date in Ireland was unknown to him).

The oldest couple known present when the blaze broke was Mr. and Mrs. Herman (age 58, survived) and Pauline (age 56, dead) Rifkin, of Newton, MA.

The oldest female patron known and the oldest female patron fatality was the above Mrs. Rifkin (born on June 6, 1886), age 56 years.

The oldest couples present in which both parties were died were Mr. and Mrs. Isaac (age 61) and Minnie (age 41), Gordon, of Dorchester, MA and Mr. and Mrs. Charles (age 56) and Anna (age 46) Stern, of Brighton, MA.

The oldest Grove patron fire fatality overall was the above Mr. Gordon (born on June 15, 1881), age 61 years.

The youngest person present at the club when the fire broke was Grove busboy and stage light operator, Anthony 'Tony' Marra, Everett, MA (born on June 6, 1927), age 15.

The above Anthony "Tony" Marra was also the youngest employee present and youngest club-proper fire survivor.

The youngest Grove fire fatality overall (of 490) was patron Eleanor Chiampa, Newton, MA (born on March 10, 1927), age 15 years.

The youngest male patron present and the youngest male victim was Charles Sheehan, Milton, MA (born on January, 1927), age 15.

The youngest patron to survive the fire was Anne Marie Clark, Keene, NH (born on July 23, 1926), age 16.

The youngest Grove employee fire fatality was busboy Joseph Tranfaglia, Dorchester, MA (born on July 11, 1926, age 16 years.

The youngest known patron to escape non-hospitalized was Jennie 'Jean' Termine, of Boston (born on February 19, 1926), age 16, but reported in the papers at age 19.

The youngest Grove entertainer present at the blaze and youngest to escape was tap dancer Marshall Cole, South Boston, MA (born on September 15, 1925), age 17.

The youngest patron couple present and also the youngest in which both parties perished was Robert Noyes, age 17, West Bridgewater, MA and his girlfriend Lorraine Carlson, age 16, Brockton, MA.

The youngest patron couple overall was infant George 'Dickie' Tracey, age 1 year, 8 months, who lived with his parents, maintenance man James 'Lester' Tracey, Sr. age 27, and wife Margaret 'Irene', age 28 and an older brother in a loft apartment over the club proper.

Because the Grove was licensed as a restaurant and not as a nightclub or bar, there was no law against minors (then under age 21) attending.

More Grove victims (30) were buried at Calvary Cemetery, Boston, than in any other single location, followed by St. Joseph's Cemetery (24), and Mount Lebanon Cemetery (23), both in the Hub neighborhood of West Roxbury.

The location outside of Boston that received the most Grove victims (18) was Fuller Street Cemetery, Everett, MA

Outside of Massachusetts, the final resting grounds for the most Grove casualties was Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA (5 victims).

The only Grove casualty to be buried outside the U.S. soil was patron Gray Miller, Jr. age 26, a resident of Southbridge, MA, but a Canadian Citizen, interred at Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, P.Q., Canada.

The ashes of cowboy actor, Charles 'Buck' Jones, age 50, Van Nuys, CA were spread over the Pacific Ocean.

Of the ten men indicted by state Grand Jury on criminal charges as a result of the Grove disaster, only two, club owner Barnett Welansky, age 45, Brighton, MA and contractor Samuel Rudnick, age 51, Worcester, MA, were ever incarcerated.

The first deceased of the ten men above indicted on criminal charges was club owner Barnett Welansky, who died of heart failure on January 27, 1947, age 49.

The last living of the ten men indicated was construction foreman David Gilbert (Goldberg), age 49, Allston, MA, who died on December 20, 1989, at age 96.

At least seven known fire survivors kept the same address as at the time of the fire into the 1990s. Patron Kathleen Andrews, age 29, of Lawrence, MA waiter Leo Givonetti, age 32, Medford, MA, patron John R. Griffin, age 35, Haverhill, MA, patron Merlin 'Bud' Jensen, age 30, Minneapolis, MN, dancer Jessie 'Jacqueline' Maver, age 25, Cambridge, MA, patron Virginia Rich, Medford, MA and patron Marie Rucky, age 24, Quincy, MA

All seven of the above either moved or died by the start of year 2000.

The family of only one of the 490 Grove victims was known to have kept the same 1942 address through the end of 2017, that of William Bluestein, age 24, who lived at 8 Sylvia Street, Lexington, MA (a residence still occupied by the Bluestein family).

Reputed gangster and former Grove owner, Charles 'King' Solomon lived at 193 Fuller Street, Brookline, MA; Grove related prosecuting state Attorney General Robert Bushnell also resided at 193 Fuller Street, but in West, Newton, MA.

Fire survivor Joseph Dreyfus, age 22, Brookline, MA, who lost his wife Adele, age 22, in the blaze, later married a woman named Dorothy R. Myles, in 1944, no relation to singer and survivor Dorothy 'Dotty' Myles (although he ironically kept in written contact with the Dotty Myles).

At least two known Grove fire survivors joined Facebook, entertainer Enriqueta 'Quita' Brazil (as Quita Brazil Foster) age 20, Roxbury, MA and patron Joyce Spector (as Joyce Mekelburg), age 16, Boston, MA.

The largest group of patrons present when the fire broke out was the Charles 'Buck' Jones film industry party on the main dining room terrace, hosted by Monogram

Pictures district manager Herman Rifkin and his wife Pauline, ages 58 and 56, respectfully of Newton, MA.

Sixteen of the 29 members of the Buck Jones main dining room party died in the blaze.

Of the 12 couples attending the Buck Jones party only three emerged without loss of life: Morris 'Moe' and Beatrice Grassgreen, ages 44 and 43 respectfully, Fredrick and Naomi Lieberman, ages 31 and 45, all of Brookline, MA and Abraham 'Abe' and Goldie Yarchin, ages 36 and 31 of Brighton, MA.

Both members in four couples of the Buck Jones party perished: Edward and Beatrice Ansin, ages 39 and 37, respectfully, Paul and Rhea Baron, both ages 35, all of Brookline, MA; Oliver and Josephine St. Pierre, both ages 39, Belmont, MA and Charles and Anna Stern, ages 56 and 46, Brighton, MA.

The lone member of the Buck Jones party of 29 who emerged neither killed nor hospitalized was theatre chain owner Fredrick Lieberman, age 41, Brookline, MA

Buck Jones last radio interview was made with local publicist and fire survivor, Martin Sheridan, age 28, Allston, MA on WCOP Boston, Saturday, at 4:35 p.m.

Martin Sheridan was the last living member of the Buck Jones dining room party of 29 when he died on December 31, 2003, at age 89.

Boston marked the final stop of the national two week, eight city film and War Bonds promotion tour by Buck Jones with his producer Scott Dunlap, age 50, Van Nuys, CA, who was injured.

The wife and adult daughter of Buck Jones flew east from California as far as Cheyenne, WY before turning back upon the news of his death on Monday, November 30.