NEW TOWN TAVERN GUTTED BY FIRE

A blaze of suspicious origin destroyed the landmark New Town Tavern, 600 Jackson Ave., shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday causing an estimated \$200,000 in damage.

The fire was said to have started in the rear of the building, spreaded through the attic and roof and involved the entire large onestory building.

The New Town Tavern is a well-known West Las Vegas cocktail lounge and casino that has attracted a heavy patronage for more than two decades.

During its height, the blaze collapsed a portion of the roof but safety precautions were taken by firemen who had pulled their hoses out from below only moments before.

Arson investigators were called into the case.

A fire investigator said at SENTINEL press time officials have two arson suspects identified, but he did not know whether they had been arrested.

they had been arrested.
Seven city firefighting units and 31 firefighters fought the blaze at the tavern owned by Elijah Green.

NEDCO Sets Awards Fete At DI

Prestigious awards will be presented June 5 to members of the minority business community at the Desert Inn Hotel and Country Club, a spokeswoman said Friday.

The awards luncheon, scheduled for noon in the Terrace Room of the hotel, will follow a no-host cocktails affair, according to Alice Key, public affairs officer for Nevada Economic Development Company, one of the sponsors of the event.

Key said the awards will be a surprise for the

winners, as there will be no pre-announcements.

The winners are being selected by the NEDCO board of directors, Key said.

The two most prestigious awards will be for tenure and the most promising new minority business, Key said.

Former presidential candidate Ben Fernandez will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon, Key said. He also was a national surrogate speaker for President Ronald Reagan after the presidential primary.

Bob Bailey, NEDCO executive director, said, "Fernandez is sharply aware of the barriers to minority business participation." He said economist Fernandez is an ardent and articulate advocate of the free enterprise system and constantly exhorts audiences to recognize the fact that in America the magic word is "opportunity.'

This will be the eighth year for the awards luncheon. The Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce is a co-sponsor of the event.

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