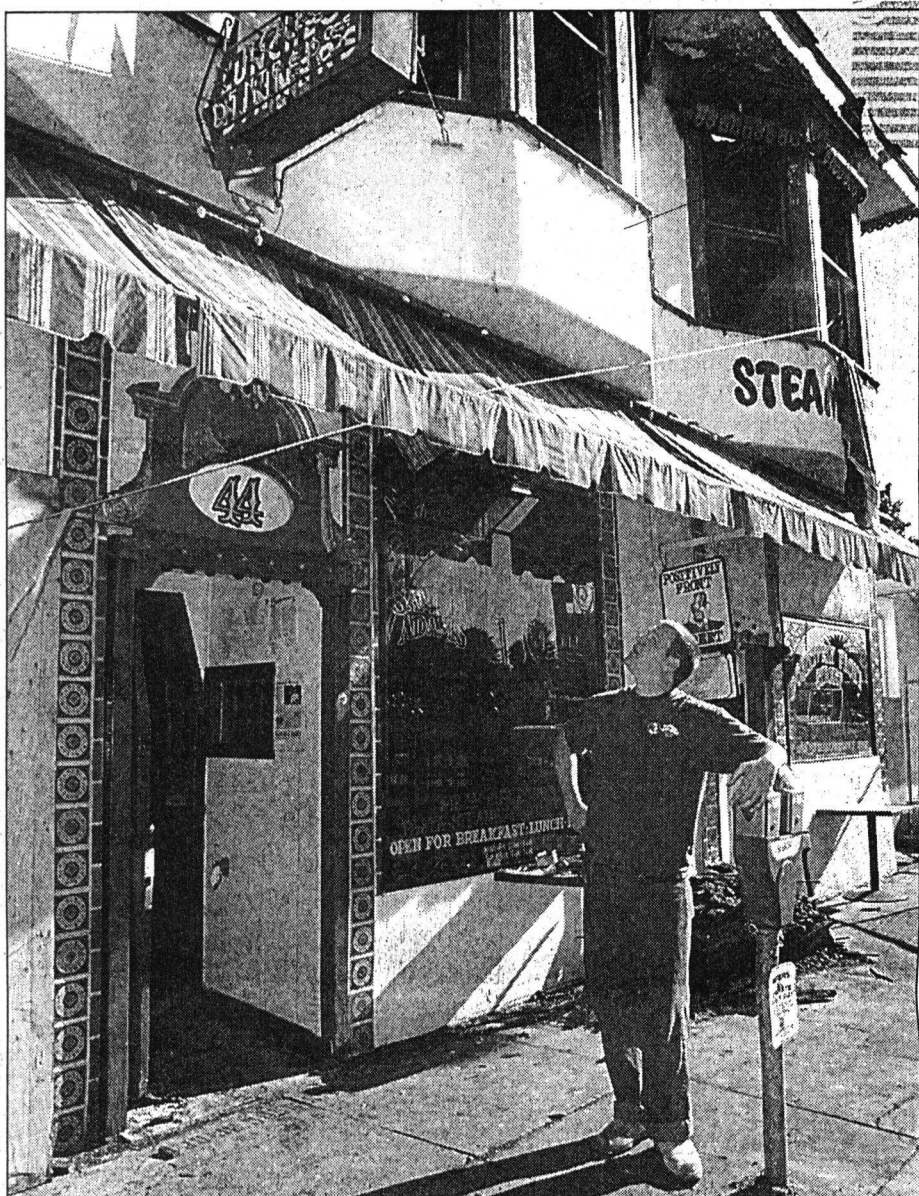


## POSITIVELY PACKING



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Positively Front Street owner Louis Meadows surveys what is left of his establishment.

# Positively Front Street may reopen elsewhere

By **MARINA MALIKOFF**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The owner of the pub that was devastated by fire Saturday is making plans to reopen in a new location.

Louis Meadows, who bought Positively Front Street three years ago, said he's looking into the space currently occupied by the Front Street Pub and Brewery in downtown Santa Cruz. Front Street Pub owner Jerry Turgeon was not available for comment Tuesday.

While the barstools, shot glasses and cocktail napkins did not survive the fire, Meadows said he's taking his 17 employees and the Positively Front Street name with him.

"I want to save the crew," Meadows said. "The most valuable thing I have are my employees."

The 93-year-old building was home to Positively Front Street for nearly four decades. It was consumed by a sweeping fire Saturday morning; damage was estimated at nearly \$1 million. Officials say it is unclear if the ornate, two-story structure is salvageable until a structural analysis is conducted.

Meadows leased space for the wharf neighborhood pub on the first floor. He and an insurance adjuster inspected the dam-

age Tuesday.

"It looks like a total loss," Meadows said. "It's pretty serious."

Fire investigators view the blaze as suspicious and are working with Santa Cruz police to determine the cause.

"It is a criminal investigation at this point," said Santa Cruz police Sgt. Kevin Vogel. "We are interviewing anyone we think could have any potential involvement in this."

Vogel said detectives will initially focus their investigation on Meadows, former employees, and building owner Harry Angus. Angus is in Florida and was questioned Tuesday by telephone, Vogel said.

Evidence collected at the scene over the weekend will be sent to the state Department of Justice crime lab in Watsonville.

Meadows and Angus have been locked in a legal dispute over Meadows' effort to exercise his option to purchase the building. They have been unable to reach an agreement over the value of the property, according to court records.

Contact Marina Malikoff at [mmalikoff@santa-cruz.com](mailto:mmalikoff@santa-cruz.com).