

Camelot fire termed arson

The New Year's Day fire that gutted the Camelot Supper Club at 1201 Douglas Ave. was deliberately set, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Finley today officially classified the blaze as arson, explaining laboratory tests confirmed suspicions that a thermal couple device found in the rubble had been tampered with.

"We know now how the fire began," he said. "Now, we have to find out 'who.' "

Finley, who Tuesday met with investigators from a Rolling Meadows, Ill. investigating firm, said a spring mechanism in the thermal couple unit on a gas furnace had been removed. The spring plugs a valve that allows gas to flow. Without the spring, gas would continue to flow even though a pilot light was shut off, Finley explained.

The Camelot building was owned by Leo C. Perfetto and his son, Larry, 7820 Gittings Road. It was insured for \$250,000 and its contents for \$100,000, according to Fire Department reports.