



(Gazette Photo Service)

Funeral pyre for work of almost-art

## Art Is Long—Life Is Short For Sculptor's Way Out Art

By AL PALMER

Sculptor Armand Vaillancourt's exhibit of his 'way out brand of art not only back-fired yesterday — it literally burst into flames.

The spectacular outburst, which sent assembled dignitaries scurrying for cover, took place on the front terrace of the Chalet on Mount Royal following ceremonies within.

Shortly after Chairman J. Guy Gauvreau, of the MTC, announced the new "Promenade" tour service plan, guests and newsmen strolled out onto the terrace where the bearded artist was displaying his "technique."

His technique involved drilling and sawing a four-foot-high block of substance which, it was explained, would then be put to the torch to form a mold for a work of the hirsute one's art.

No one seemed to know what form the sculpture would take when the sawing, the drilling and the torching were completed.

Not then, anyway.

Then, with a flourish, the

colorful craftsman put the block to the torch and . . . swoosh! The whole thing went up in flames.

Clouds of thick, black smoke billowed into the Chalet causing guests to choke and cough over the hors d'oeuvres or run to the side exits.

Meanwhile, back on the terrace, startled guests scattered in all directions.

The mayor and his party left.

Others stayed, though, and gazed in awe as the column of smoke rose skywards.

Vaillancourt finally took refuge inside the Chalet. Someone closed the doors and quite a crowd gathered to watch the substance burn itself out.

This took time. Finally, a policeman showed up with a fire extinguisher and put an end to the festivities.

Afterwards someone said it was a case of "Oops, wrong substance."

Somehow or other, the flammable type wound up in place of the fireproof type.

But it was quite an exhibition, at that.