

Famous Art Gallery On Keys Destroyed By Fire Saturday

Key Largo Art Gallery, the studio of artist Harry Sonntay, burned down early last Saturday morning. The building and its entire contents were destroyed. Kept in the building was Sonntay's life's collection of water colors, pastels, and painting of Keys scenes. Sonntay was a New York artist before coming to the Keys, and has been acclaimed by newspapers for his fine work. The Gallery and the art work kept there had long been a favorite attraction on the Keys. Sonntay had had the building since 1950.

Sonntay said he left the place about 7 p. m. Friday. There was no electric wiring in the building. So far, the cause of the fire is undetermined.

Although the Tavernier Fire Department was called to the scene, they were unable to prevent the destruction. At one time, it was estimated that the flames were as high as 40 feet.