

LOCAL HISTORY



Firefighters begin to search the rubble of the Collins Block in an attempt to locate survivors after the building collapsed. Nine firefighters lost their lives when a floor gave way.
Onondaga Historical Association photo

78 Years Ago: On Feb. 3, 1939, a fire broke out in the Collins Block on East Genesee Street between the State Tower and Courier buildings. The flames had been brought under control when part of the building suddenly collapsed, trapping beneath the rubble some firemen who were on the third floor of the building. A total of nine firemen died as a result, making it the deadliest fire in Syracuse's history. Every year on the anniversary of the Collins Block Fire, a ceremony is held in Fayette Firefighters Memorial Park to honor all of the firemen killed in the line of duty while serving the citizens of Syracuse.

— *Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association*