

# FIRE!!!

**F**IRES within the village, like those around Chautauqua Lake, have taken the historical landmarks one by one.

The first big fire occurred about the turn of the century in the destruction of the Gravity Railroad, which extended out over the ball grounds at the park. Also, the nearby bath houses were destroyed. At the height of the fire, some miscreant cut one of the lines of hose with an ax. For meritorious services at this fire in saving the auditorium which caught fire several times, and the preserving of other buildings nearby, A.N. Broadhead donated a two-wheel hose cart to the company.

Another big fire that occurred was the burning of the DeCeloron Hotel on November 21, 1914. That fire also damaged the nearby Imperial Hotel.

The auditorium was destroyed by fire on April 12, 1920. Then, on June 14, 1924, the lower park dance hall was consumed by the flames; and, on June 13, 1930, the Pier Ball Room, formerly known to a multitude of park lovers as the Celoron Theatre, fell prey to the ravages of the flames. The ballroom was rebuilt, but burned again in June 1962. The Standard Hotel on Boulevard burned in 1969, and the skating rink went up in flames in 1976 during a children's Halloween Party. In 1982 the Imperial, then



Celoron Pier Ballroom Fire - June 1930



The Pier Ballroom Fire - June 1962