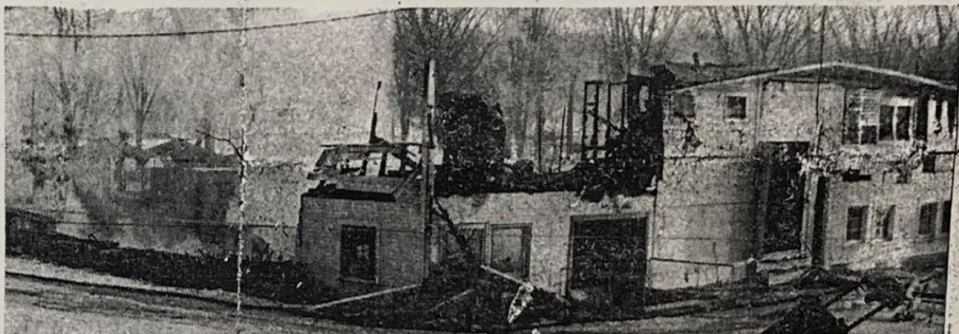
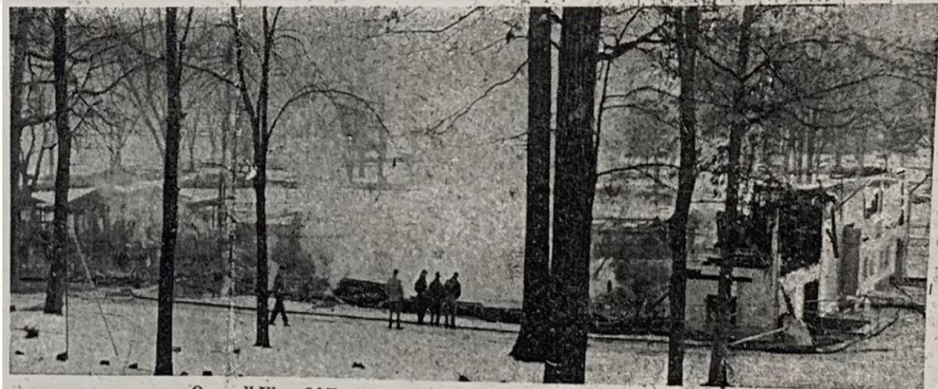


Fire Levels Tuscora Roller Rink



Entrance Way Remains But Rest Of Tuscora Park Building Lies In Smoldering Heap



Over-all View Of Tuscora Park Shows Extent Of Heavy Fire Damage



Walls Of Swimming Pool Dressing Facilities Stand As Memorial To The Past

\$100,000 Loss Is Estimated In Morning Blaze

A spectacular \$100,000 fire early this morning destroyed the Tuscora Park skating rink and dance hall, one of New Philadelphia's oldest landmarks.

A large quantity of park playground equipment stored there also was lost in the blaze which was reportedly seen 2 miles away.

Flames leaped at least 100 feet in the air and sent a heavy pall of smoke over the area, drawing a large crowd. Ice formed on clothing and equipment in the 10-above zero weather.

The fire had a good start before it was discovered. The alarm was sounded at 12:36 a.m. The roof was already falling in when the first firefighters arrived.

A popular gathering place for youngsters, the skating rink was open throughout the year and a picnic area in the basement was used extensively in the Summer.

Partially Insured
The building housed, in addition to the skating rink, men's and women's dressing rooms for the adjacent swimming pool, a penny arcade, paint shop and workroom for park maintenance work and equipment repair.

There was \$50,000 insurance on the building but the stored equipment was not insured, Auditor Bob Stemple said.

The building served as a storage area for park equipment including benches, picnic tables, kiddie auto rides and plane ride and the cages for the ferris wheel, all of which were lost in the blaze. The equipment had just been painted, according to Harold Meese, park superintendent.

Firemen said a number of residents saw the blaze and called the station within a minute. The fire had already blazed through the roof when it was first seen.

Explosion Reported
Mrs. Helen King of 203 Bowers Ave. said, "I heard an explosion

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and looked out of my window and saw flames coming up from the roller rink."

Donald Drumm of 731 Ackey St. NW, also said he heard an explosion before he saw the fire.

The roof caved in as firemen arrived and they concentrated their efforts on saving the concession stand on the south side of the building and an animal pen to the north. The concession stand was scorched and the animal pen received moderate damage when the roof caught fire. Only one peacock was being kept in the pen and it was taken to another building.

Salvaged from the office were 2 popcorn machines, 2 compressors, an amplifier, music box, typewriter, adding machine and change sorting machine. The office is the only part of the building not entirely destroyed.

Fire Chief Glenn Heck said 14 regular firemen and 8 volunteers battled the blaze most of the early morning hours. Two pumpers, a tanker and the emergency car which carries lighting equipment