

*As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we received a lot of information about Gusher Park on the Old State Road from Teresa Edel-Remmy of Allegany, which was owned by her father, Henry Edel. I'm sure some of our older members will remember it. It was built in 1914 and burned to the ground on February 22, 1939. The following article is from the Allegany Citizen.*

## **OLD GUSHER PARK FAMOUS RESORT IS BURNED TO GROUND.**

### **Firemen stand by helpless as frame building is entirely destroyed.**

"The old Gusher Park, located two miles west of this village on the Salamanca highway, burned to the ground yesterday morning at 5 o'clock in the midst of a snow storm with the mercury standing just above zero. The forty mile gale out of the west leveled the structure in less than an hour, witnessed by very few spectators. It is no wonder that most of the townspeople did not venture out – in fact, we debated several minutes ourselves before we decided to brave the elements.

The fire was discovered by a neighbor, Arthur N. Williams, who notified the Allegany fire department. Our gallant firemen, with Chief Dentler at the wheel of the pumper, rushed to the scene but were powerless to stop the blaze. They did, however, break into a garage located a few feet from the building, and pushed out to safety a Buick sedan owned by Frank H. Deagan of Olean. Mr. Deagan yesterday was loud in his praise for the act and wishes to publicly thank the Allegany firemen for their foresight and quick work in rescuing the machine, which was not insured.

Gusher Park was built about 25 years ago and was run as a road house for some years by Fred Heil. The management and ownership was taken over by Henry C. Edel about 13 years ago who put on an addition on the west side and conducted a dance hall and resort. Three years ago, Mr. Edel sold the building and land to Michael Eskra who purchased the property for oil rights, and several paying wells were drilled since that time.

About two years ago, the building was leased by Frank H. Deagan of Olean and Hile's Pottery was opened by the late James Hile, who passed away six weeks ago. Within the past few weeks, Mr. Deagan, a nephew of Mr. Hile, has been renovating the interior of the building, repairing the plumbing and other fixtures, preparatory to opening a tourist home, and continuing the pottery business.

The loss is estimated at about \$1,500 to building and \$500 contents. Mr. Deagan stated yesterday that the contents were not insured, but it could not be learned whether or not the building was insured. "

The Olean Times Herald said that according to Chief Dentler the fire is being blamed on two gas stoves that were left burning in the vacant living quarters. The gas on the property is piped from nearby oil wells and it is thought that the pressure increased during the night and set the place afire. Lacking water, little could be done by the firefighters to save the two buildings.

After Henry Edel sold Gusher Park, he moved to the Five Mile Road with his wife Violet, daughters Teresa, Shirley, Janice and Marilyn, and son Ted. He started his own business as a building contractor. He served 4 years as Justice of the Peace for Allegany until he passed away at the early age of 51.

We thank Teresa Edel-Remmy for the stories and pictures.

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