

Fire Destroys Fabled Nutting's On-the-Charles

WALTHAM, June 18—Once the scene of bright lights and gay music, where tens of thousands danced, laughed and romanced, Nuttings-on-the-Charles is now but a memory.

It is a memory to be treasured by folks of all ages, but especially those of middle-aged men and women who remember with affection the rambling, wooden structure that for 43 years attracted the young in heart of Greater Boston.

Early this morning, a spectacular general-alarm fire roared through the famed spot, reducing it to rubble.

The two-and-one-half-story wooden structure, lately used as a warehouse by Parke Snow, Inc., was consumed by flames that were visible for 15 miles in the Charles River valley.

NUTTING'S

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A HUGE BONFIRE where Nuttings structure stood beside Charles River.

Nutting's Fire Probe Slated

NUTTING'S

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Fire Chief John F. Steele estimated damage to the building at \$100,000. Store officials could not be reached for an estimate of the loss of merchandise stored there.

The 62-year-old building situated on Prospect st. and extending 100 yards into the Charles River, burned to the water line.

Probe Cause of Fire

Cause of the blaze was under investigation. The fire was about a quarter-mile from a \$100,000 blaze that destroyed a paper-box factory last Thursday.

On the general alarm, fire companies raced in from Newton, Watertown, Belmont, Needham, Weston and Lexington.

The structure was a mass of flames when the first alarm was sounded at 3:25 a.m.

In 1959, Parke Snow, the de-

partment store chain, bought boathouse. On Summer nights the former home of happy feet hundreds of canoes drifted on from Louis Richmond, Boston the river as the gay paddlers theatre owner, and turned it relaxed and listened to the music pulsating across the into a warehouse.

Some of the biggest names in the music world had played at Nutting's-on-the-Charles, including Rudy Vallee, Texas Guman, Guy Lombardo, Xavier Cugat, Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman.

Gaiety And Romance
Its polished birch floor rocked and swayed to such dances as the two-step, the Black Bottom, the Bunny Hug, the Big Apple, the Samba and the Lindy Hop.

There romances were born, and it was the place for relaxation, fun and music.

A focal point over the years of the storied place was the

For years Nutting's was also a gathering place for important Waltham events. In January, 1916, the Knights of Columbus entertained ex-President William Howard Taft.

Closed during World War II years, the building reopened in 1947. Before that it had a varied career. Wrestling and boxing bouts were staged and at one time a New Bedford promoter put on a roller-polo.

The last band to play at the spot was that of Jay White, in 1957.

High Tide Today

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1961
(Daylight Saving Time)

	A.M.	P.M.
BOSTON AREA	4:05	4:00
Maldenhead	4:01	4:00
Gloucester	4:02	4:00
Ipswich	4:15	4:00

The Boston Daily Globe

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1961

13 years ago
1948

JUNE
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