



#### Noll Buildings

Ten Club Park in Waterford was once the site of one of Waterford's grandest buildings, a general store and grocery owned by Louis Noll. His brother, Charles, owned the furniture store and undertaking parlor across the street. An equally grand building, one floor was living quarters, and it seems they even had dances on another.

As related today, it seems the fire of 1898 which destroyed most of downtown Waterford was started on a weekend by a mistake like Mrs. O'Leary's cow. Someone decided to go to the basement to have a cigar. Somehow, a spark dropped onto flammable material and in a matter of moments a blaze was started. A strong west wind spread the flames quickly, even across the streets; the furniture store caught fire and with it the entire block, including the hotel, and then to buildings across Main

Street. Only a few buildings made of brick escaped total destruction.

Though the Nolls lost everything, new buildings soon went up. The Park Apartments took the place of the furniture store, and Ten Club Park was the site of the general grocery store.

Louis Noll was an unofficial banker, giving real estate and other loans, but he lacked a state charter. After the fire, the state insisted he get a charter. The Louis Noll Company was formed and a new general store was built on 2nd Street, with a bank on the north end of the building.

The mercantile business in 1907 consisted of dry goods, notions, crockery, men's furnishings, hardware, paints, shoes and groceries.

*as told by Charles Noll*