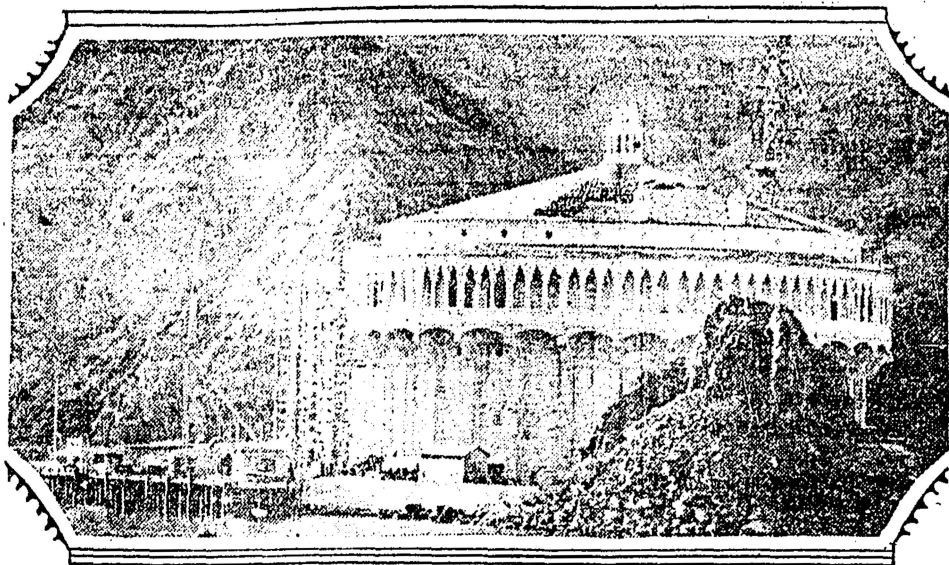


DANCE HALL NEARS COMPLETION

Grand Opening of Amusement Center Set for June 1



Catalina Island's New Pleasure Building

A VALON (Catalina Island) Feb. 23.—The \$1,000,000 theater and dance palace under construction by William Wrigley, Jr., scheduled to open June 1, has so increased in cost that it now has passed the \$2,000,000 mark.

Steam shovels this week are making the immense building visible from the sea by leveling a cliff which now hides it. The granite composing the cliff is being hauled out to a submerged reef several hundred yards distant.

The Catalina theater building is of circular type of enormous size. A total of 10,000 sacks of cement was required for the concrete work; 1500 tons of structural steel for 28,222 separate pieces for braces; 422 tons of reinforcing steel and 25,000 yards of sand and rock for the foundations. The roof requires 105,000 Catalina red curved tile.

The theater auditorium, on the main floor, is 115 feet in diameter. The full dome ceiling is forty-five feet high and the theater will seat 2500 persons.

The ballroom on the floor above is said to be the largest in America. It is 18,000 square feet in area and large enough to accommodate 5000 persons. The floor is laid on floating cork and felt. There are no supporting pillars on either the dance floor or theater auditorium, for the building is braced horizontally and vertically, involving new engineering principles. An indirect lighting system will be used.

Gabriel Beckman, mural artist, is in charge of decorating nine panels depicting a sequence of submarine scenes.

Webber & Spaulding, Los Angeles architects, designed the building. Tom White, lessee, will operate the theater. He has charge of the opening, June 1.