

with lights, with a 125-foot diameter and holding about 150 people when the cages were full, it became a famous landmark at the Park. A gravity railroad, 3,500 feet of boardwalk, a 2,500-seat theatre and lagoon, 8,400-seat auditorium, bandstand, colored light water fountain, and an open air dance pavilion were established. A 280-foot Lover's Bridge led out to the new search light tower. The baseball field and grandstand were built. Concession stands were added. More and more amusement rides, including the Greyhound roller coaster, were erected along the lake shore. There was a zoological garden from 1895 to 1912. There were flying airplane swings on an island in the lake, a fun house and ghost alley, a skating rink ... everything you could imagine!

Vaudeville shows and stage performances frequented the Park. A resident band, the 13th Separate Band, later known as the Celoron Gold Band, played every day the Park was open. John Philip Sousa conducted

from the band shell, Ethel Barrymore sang in the Theatre. In the big band era, bands such as Tommy Dorsey, Sammy Kaye, Benny Goodman and many others played the Pier Ballroom.

A Democratic National Convention was held in the auditorium which had also hosted William Jennings Bryant and President Theodore Roosevelt. Babe Ruth hit a ball into the lake from the ball field. Thousands of people at a time were able to ride the double-decker electric street cars to the Park where they could spend the day or board the steamboats from the long dock which extended some 700 feet out from shore.

By the 1940s a change to private transportation started the decline of the trolley cars and steamboats. Still, for many years, the Celoron Amusement

Park changed as the times changed trying to attract the crowds. There were fires, the ravaging effects of the notorious western New York winters, a devastating tornado and other storm damage. Buildings and amusements were built and rebuilt.

Although the park closed in 1962, during its 69-year history it was considered to be a premier park. Many people are still around who were lucky enough to have experienced the thrills and wonders of the Celoron Amusement Park; for them it will live on forever in memory. For the rest, the "Coney Island of western New York" will live on in story and legend.

