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# CONEY ISLAND

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**C**ONEY ISLAND, the splendid popular seaside resort of the great metropolis of America, has a most peculiar location and equally remarkable history. The long sand-bar, broken by inlets, which extends along the southern coast of Long Island for nearly ninety miles is known in its various sections as Coney Island, Rockaway, Long, Jones' and Great South Beaches. Coney Island is at the extreme western end and is a part of the old town of Gravesend, annexed to Brooklyn in 1894, hence is now included in the Borough of Brooklyn, Greater New York.

The Island is separated from the shore by Gravesend Bay, Coney Island Creek and Sheepshead Bay, and it measures from its western to eastern extremities about eight and one-half miles. It is divided more or less distinctly into four localities, known as Sea Gate, West Brighton, Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach.

The name and fame of Coney Island are known from Maine to Texas. The resort has passed through all the varying experiences of strict or slack administrations, but the purifying influence of a great conflagration combined with the merging of brains, enterprise and capital for the purpose of upbuilding and perpetuating its fame has developed the Coney Island of today into a wonderful fairyland filled with an almost infinite variety of attractions which appeal to every description of pleasure-seeker anxious to find a few hours of rest and recreation.

The new Coney Island resembles one of the great World's Fairs in the magnitude of its artistically designed structures and in the lavish decoration of the towers and palaces now adorning its streets. It is a gorgeous monument of what man can do with wood and iron or stone and staff, charmingly picturesque by day and a brilliant wonderland of electric illumination by night.

Man has been born with an insatiable appetite for eccentric diversions. Coney Island satisfies such longings far beyond all other attempts made by the purveyors of amusement of any generation. It is no use to criticise the Island; it exists and will continue to exist, because it offers to all, gentle and simple, poor and rich, a rare feast of fantastic illusions and wonders, complete enough to quench the mysterious thirst for active excitement as an alternative to monotonous work, which appears to have been made an integral part of the human animal.

Hail then, to this happy Island of Illusion where the sweltering masses of the monster city may forget the dry realities of work-a-day life and steep themselves in harmless frivolities amid the cooling breezes of the Eternal Sea!

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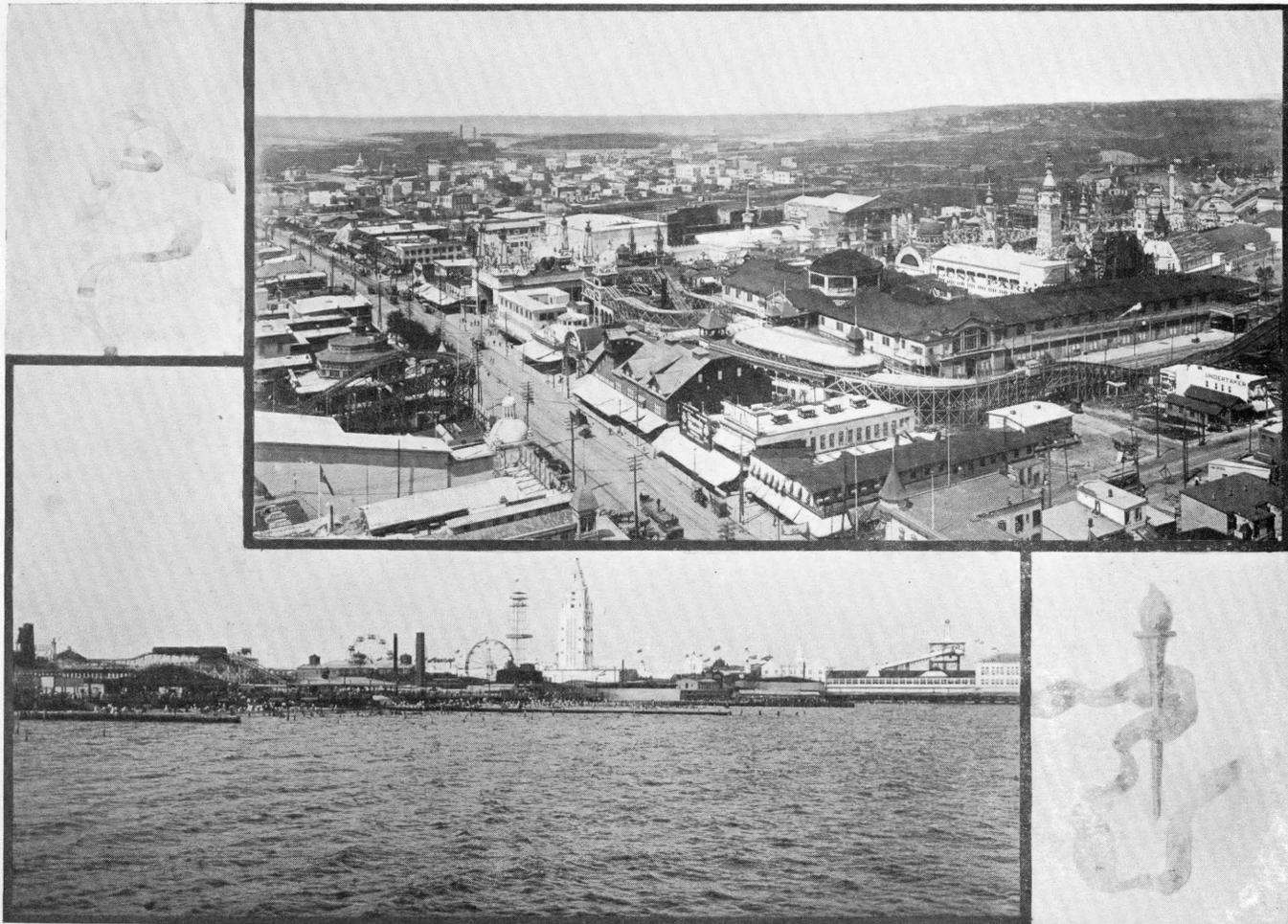
#### SURF AVENUE

Surf Avenue, the principal thoroughfare of Coney Island, is lined on both sides with the splendid entrances to the many amusement resorts, and with hotels and restaurants, all catering to the transient public. Coney Island has undergone a marvelous transformation. It is now possible for every sort and condition of people to find opportunities for rest and healthful recreation and all without the expenditure of too much money.



ANOTHER VIEW OF SURF AVENUE

The clean asphalted and paved streets, improved sanitary conditions, efficient police service, new iron piers and steamer landings and the general atmosphere of freshness and tidiness impresses every visitor to the Coney Island of today. The old Coney Island, with its more or less objectionable features, has disappeared forever. It is now a well-kept and well-ordered popular resort, equal to any on the Atlantic Coast.



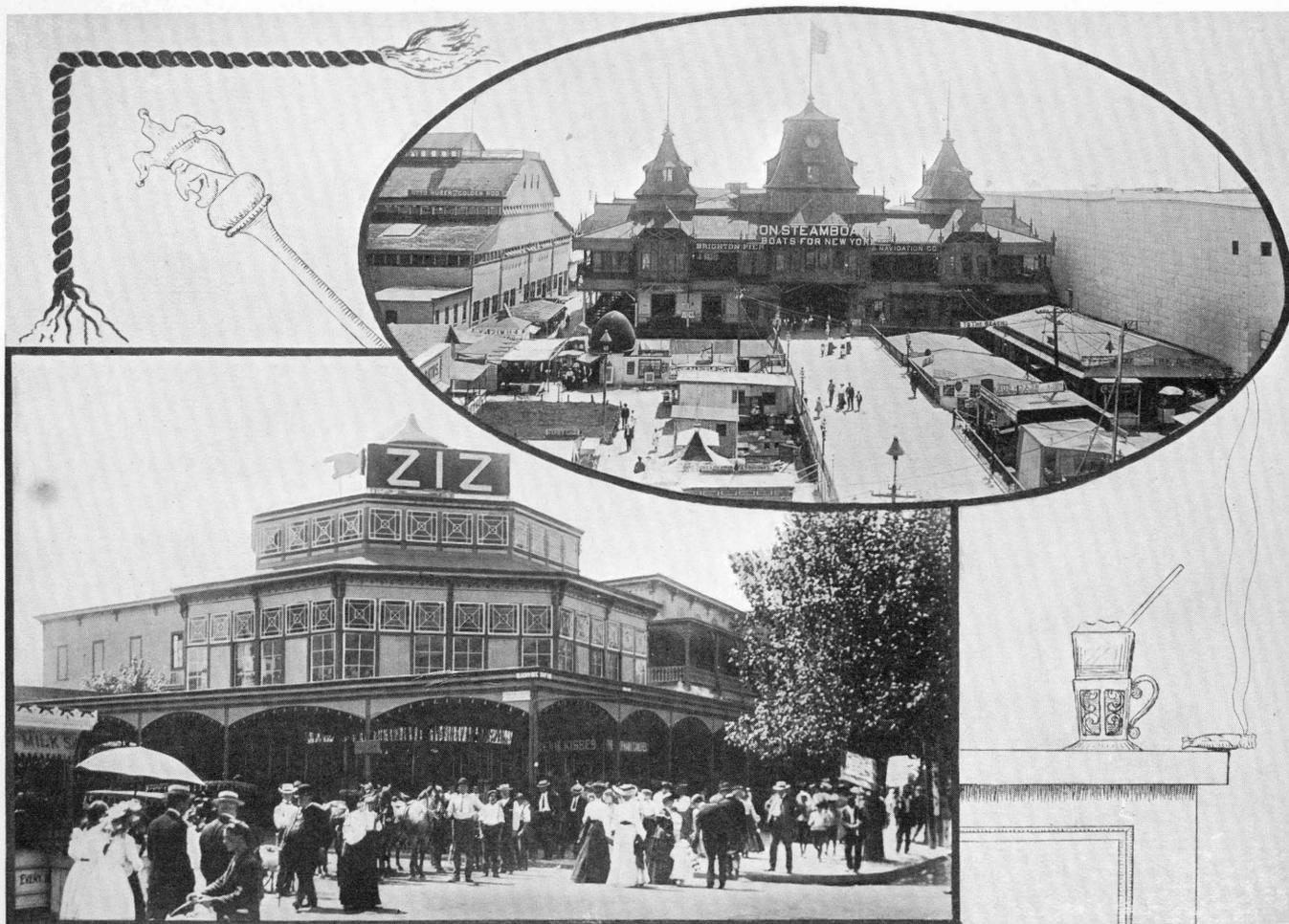
#### SKY LINE AND BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CONEY ISLAND

The sky line of Coney Island has been transformed during the last few years and would hardly be recognized now by one familiar with its appearance ten years ago. A bird's-eye view presents a bewildering mass of the towers, pinnacles, cupolas, etc., of the various attractions. The demand for something new makes the view change more or less from year to year, since very little of the architecture is of a permanent character.



#### THE PUBLIC BEACH

The great throngs which visit Coney Island daily during the season, however much they may be attracted to the numberless spectacular amusements, never fail to include a visit to the beach before their return. The sands are fairly black with people every day. Thousands of bathers enjoy a dip in the cooling waters. Every precaution is taken to prevent loss of life at this beach, and it has been remarkably free from pleasure-marring incidents.



TWO FAMILIAR VIEWS AT CONEY ISLAND

The Feltman's "Ziz" Hotel is a typical Coney Island edifice. The pier of the Iron Steamboat Company is one of the most permanent and best known structures at the resort.



**BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF SEASIDE PARK**

Showing Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach, Parkway Hotel and the Parkway Bathing Beach.

**FERRIS WHEEL**

The Ferris Wheel is located in Steeplechase Park. The swinging cars afford all the sensations of a balloon voyage and a bird's-eye view of Coney Island. The wheel is over four hundred feet in diameter.



#### AN EXCURSION PARTY

There are probably more excursions run to Coney Island than to any other resort in the world. The place is accessible by several steamer and railroad lines, capable of transporting two hundred and fifty thousand people to and from the beach daily. There is nothing snobbish about Coney Island. It is a thoroughly democratic resort and everybody is welcome at any time, provided that they find it possible to submit to the laws of ordinary good behavior.



A GROUP OF BATHERS

It is estimated that between seven and eight millions of people visit Coney Island between the opening and closing of the season. Coney Island crowds are noted for unfailing good humor. They all seem to have come to the Island for an outing, either in the amusement parks or upon the ever-popular beach, and are determined to have a day of perfect enjoyment before returning to their ordinary tasks.



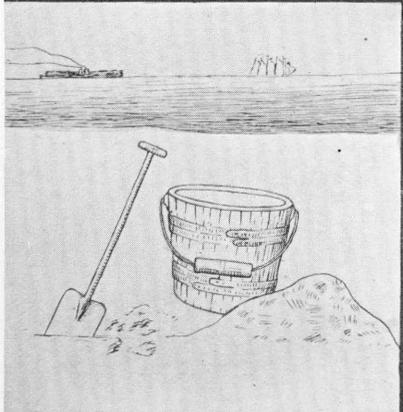
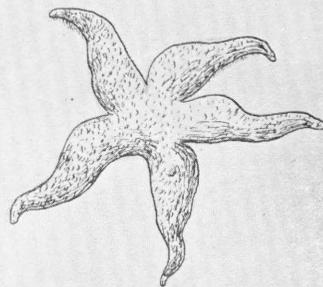
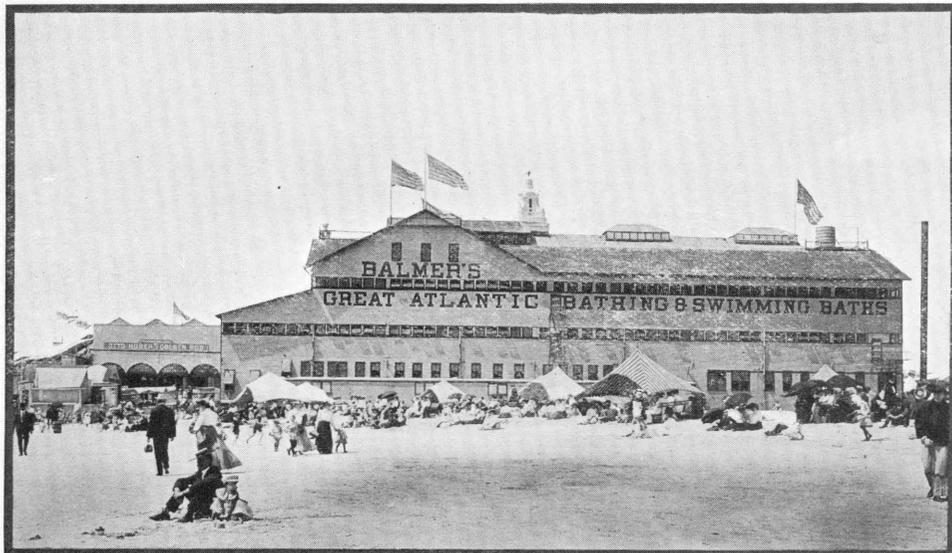
#### THE PUBLIC BEACH

The opportunity to bathe in the Old Ocean is not the only attraction of the beach. Great crowds find rest and recreation in sitting on the sands and enjoying the cool breezes, as they gaze across the sea at passing vessels. To the children, the fine white sand itself offers limitless opportunities for pleasure and the happy young architects are never tired of erecting ambitious castles and cities. Old and young alike leave this delightful beach with regret.



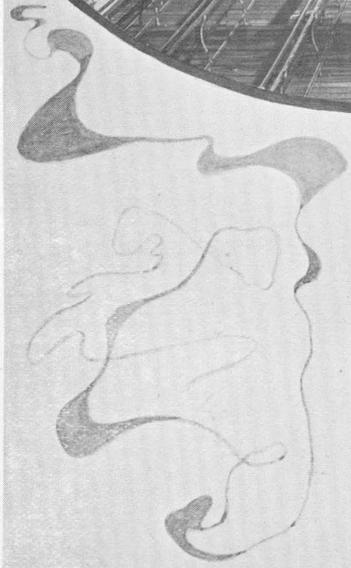
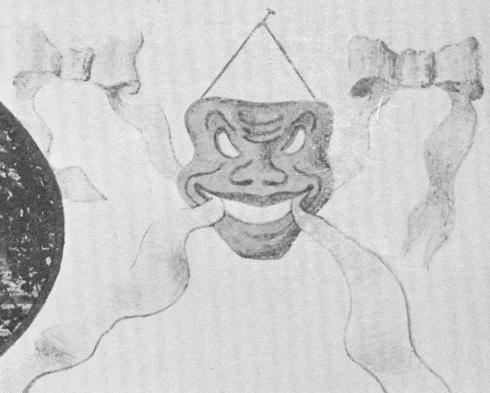
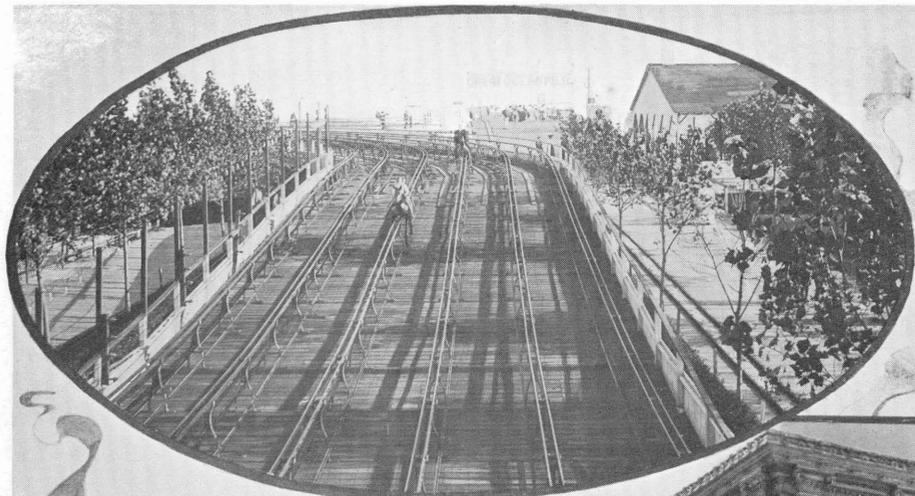
#### SURF AT CONEY ISLAND

During the summer months the waves do not break upon Coney Island beach with excessive violence, nor is the undertow strong. The long line of the shore presents a pleasing picture as the ranks of waves roll in to successively break in white foam as far as one can see. In the winter, however, the surf is very destructive, and many of the structures on and near the beaches have been seriously damaged at times by its action.



#### WELL-KNOWN CONEY ISLAND ATTRACTIONS

The great swimming-baths of Coney Island are unequalled on the Atlantic Coast. The Old Mill on Surf Avenue is an attraction which offers as its especial feature an interesting boat excursion, following the winding course of a tiny river through a perfect reproduction of natural scenery, including grottoes, caves and charming landscapes in great variety. A distance of over a thousand feet, presenting a panorama of several miles, is covered in the space of three minutes.



STEEPLECHASE PARK

This noted park includes many high grade features of amusement, but owes its peculiar name and especial popularity to the famous Steeplechase, an automatic race-course with gravitation as a motive power, built with hurdles, dips and water jumps, over which one may ride an imitation horse and enjoy all the sensations of an actual speed contest. The general features of a race-track, the judges' stand, quarter posts, finish wire, etc., add to the realistic impression.



#### THE MONT PELEE SPECTACLE

The representation of the destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique, by Mont Pelee, May 8, 1902, is a sensational exhibition of the tragic scenes of this great event during which forty thousand lives were lost in one night. It is staged with a lavish outlay of money. The great auditorium will seat over twelve hundred people. The building is provided with eleven exits, and may be emptied in two minutes.



#### THE GREAT DEEP RIFT COAL MINE

Here is shown an exact reproduction of one of the famous mines of the great coal fields of Pennsylvania. Although not a real mine, the illusion is so perfect that the trip affords an instructive as well as pleasurable treat to many seekers after something novel and interesting in the form of amusement. It is worthy of note that in outward appearance also the structure follows mining architecture with complete fidelity.



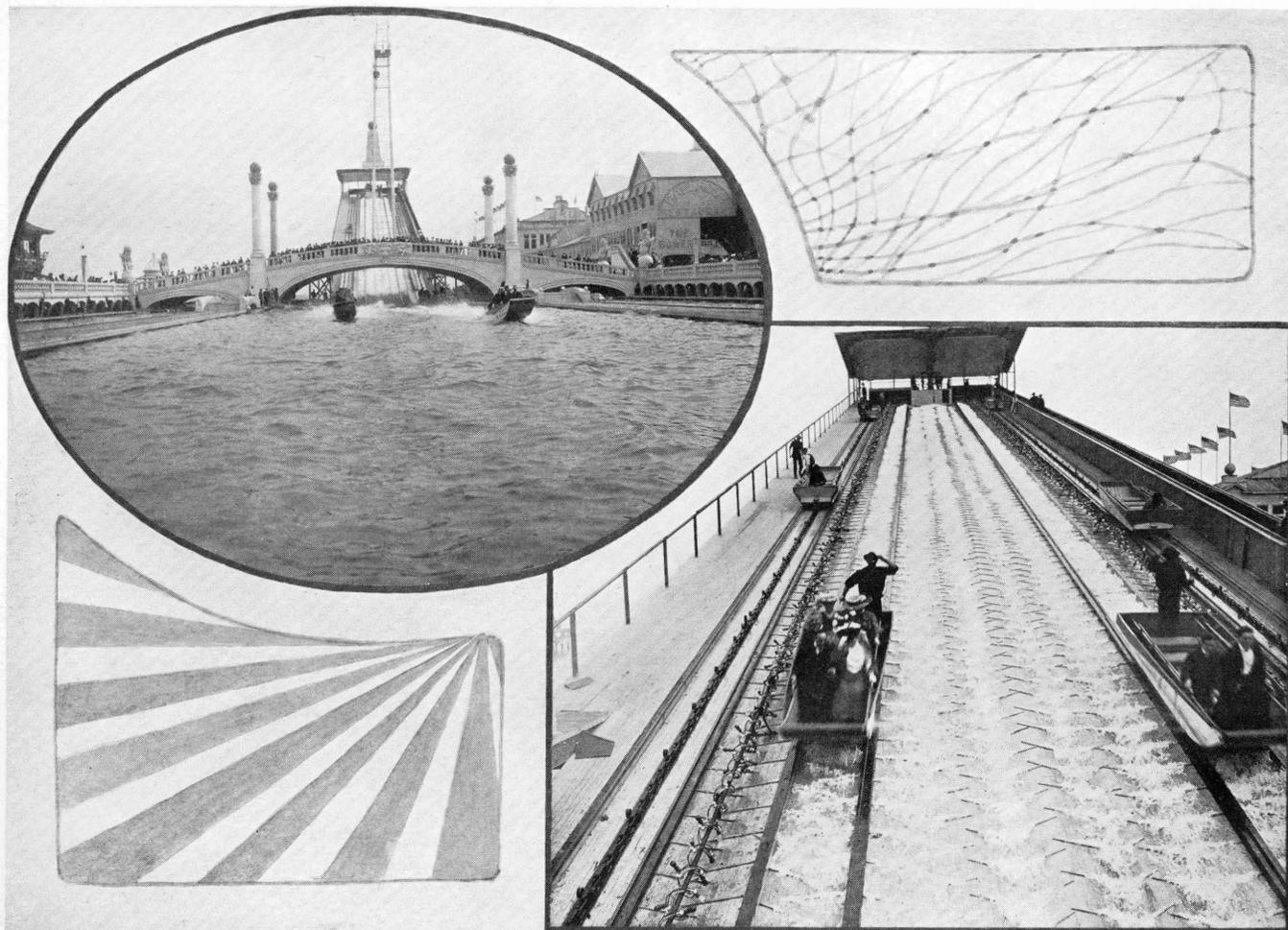
A BIT OF THE PLAZA, DREAMLAND

Dreamland fronts on the ocean side of Coney Island. Here immense sums have been expended to complete one of the most costly amusement resorts in America. A tall Beacon Tower, three hundred and seventy-five feet high, dominates the architectural scheme. It is illuminated nightly by one hundred thousand electric lights and can be seen for thirty miles. No promenade in Dreamland is less than fifty feet wide and the enclosure will accommodate two hundred and fifty thousand people.



GROUP OF LILLIPUTIAN BUILDINGS, DREAMLAND

This group is a reproduction of a fifteenth-century German town, and with its half-timbered gables, quaint doors, and towers, arched doorways and curious little streets and houses gives an atmosphere of that interesting period. These houses are reduced in size to conform to the hundreds of little people who occupy them. There is a theatre, a circus, and numerous little shops and booths where the dwarfs make entertainment especially interesting to the children.



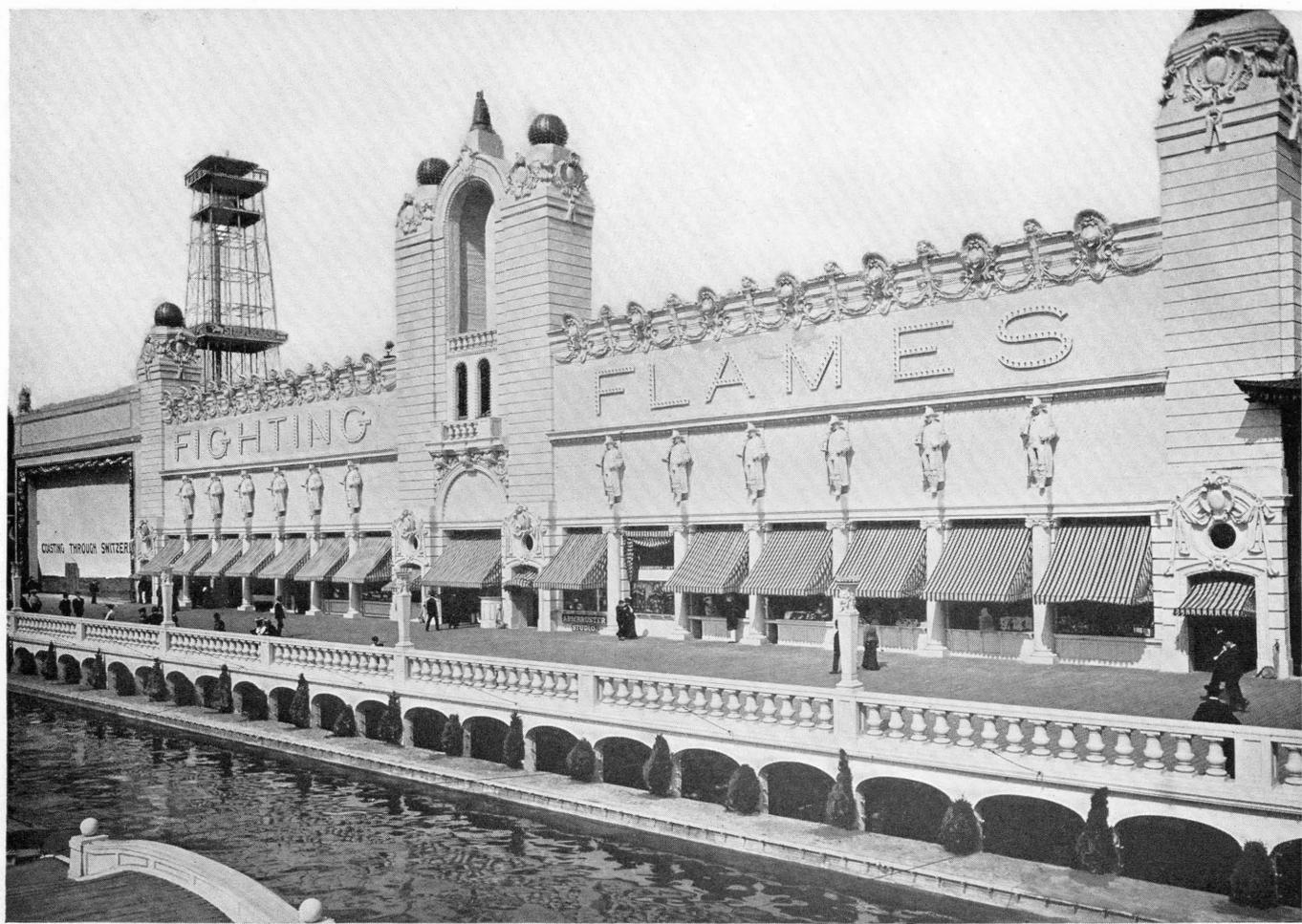
#### SHOOTING THE CHUTES, DREAMLAND

An exciting pastime which never appears to lose its novelty to the thousands of patrons of Dreamland. Boats freighted with laughing humanity are constantly dashing down the incline, while hundreds of other spectators grouped on the bridge or about the sides of the Lagoon in the center of the Plaza, enjoy the sight of the boats ploughing their way through the foam. This thrilling amusement has always been immune from accident.



**THE LAGOON AND PLAZA, DREAMLAND**

From the bridge which spans the Lagoon, a comprehensive view of the great enclosure of Dreamland may be obtained. The hippodrome course encircles the waters inside of the broad promenade, while in the center rises the Beacon Tower. Marshalled about its beautiful proportions are the splendid structures whose fairy-like architecture makes the resort so well deserve the appropriate name of Dreamland.



"FIGHTING THE FLAMES" BUILDING, DREAMLAND

The building and enclosure cover one hundred and thirty thousand square feet of ground. The cornice of this structure is decorated with firemen's trumpets, hats, and fire hose, and the entrance is through an archway appropriately adorned. "Fighting the Flames" is one of the most thrilling spectacles presented in Dreamland. It is an accurate picture of the New York Fire Department actually engaged in subduing flames and rescuing people from a burning hotel.



INTERIOR OF "FIGHTING THE FLAMES," DREAMLAND

The "Fighting the Flames" exhibition shows a city square. Here a fire is discovered on the lower floor of a large hotel building, soon enveloped in roaring flames from ground to roof. The scene at once becomes exciting. Engines, hose wagons, extension ladders and fire chiefs rush in from side streets, and all the realistic features of a hotel fire, such as the rescue of inmates by scaling ladders, life nets, etc., are presented in a thrilling manner.



#### CHARIOT RACES ON THE HIPPODROME, DREAMLAND

The track around the Lagoon is the largest hippodrome track in the world. Here chariots drawn by two or four horses and driven by either men or women tear about the track in a whirlwind of excitement. Oftentimes the drivers have two horses abreast and stand with one foot on the back of each animal. Other forms of more modern racing, with thoroughbred horses ridden by experienced jockeys, are also presented. This hippodrome track is a free feature.



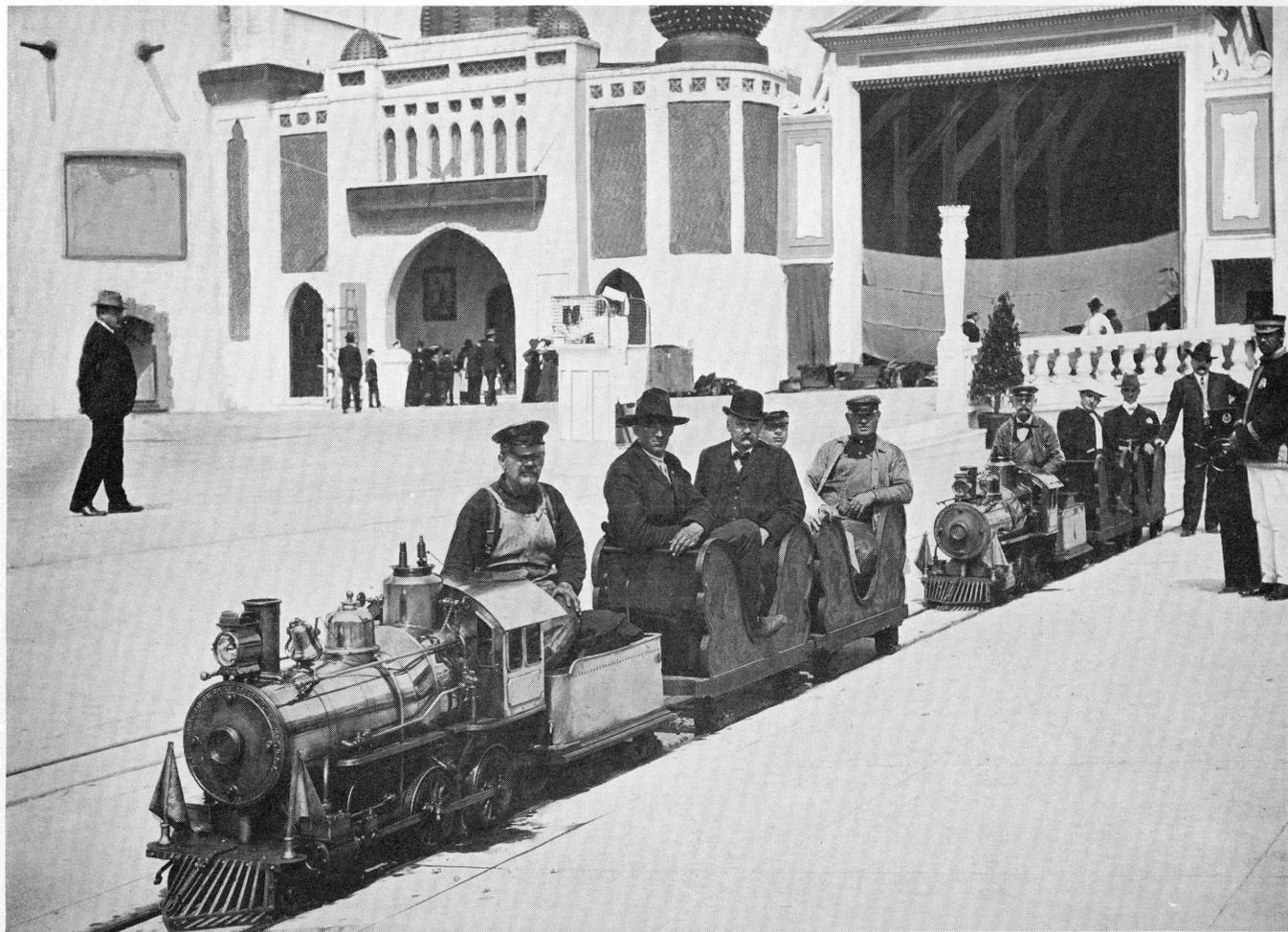
#### DREAMLAND AIRSHIP

When the huge arms extending from the central column of this structure begin to revolve, the suspended airships move off in widening circles, traveling over six hundred feet at each revolution. As the momentum increases, they are carried almost imperceptibly higher into the air, as a boy swings a stone tied to a cord about his head. The extent of the circle does away with all sensation of dizziness. The effect is the same as a straightaway air flight.



ENTRANCE TO "CREATION," DREAMLAND

The striking entrance to the spectacle of "Creation" is one of the most impressive bits of architecture in Dreamland. "Creation" is housed under the largest dome in the world, and its immense stage is completely fitted out to tell the story of the birth of the universe. Here one is carried through scenes of grandeur depicting the work of the Creator for six days of Evolution. The waters part, the earth arises, inanimate and human life appear. It is a most beautiful allegorical tableau.



#### MINIATURE RAILWAY, DREAMLAND

An ever-popular method of rapid transit in Dreamland. The engines are powerful little machines, perfect copies of the great moguls used by the New York Central Railroad. The track is laid along the edge of the Lagoon and passes before the door of every attraction on the Eastern and Western walks. Trains are running all the time and the cars are always full of passengers. It is an especial delight to the younger element.



LUNA PARK ENTRANCE



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Luna Park, the "Heart of Coney Island," encloses thirty-nine acres of land, and is the playground of New York. The entrance is through a massive archway fronting on Surf Avenue. On the inside where were once stagnant pools of tide-water are now great pleasure palaces and broad promenades of cement permanently erected on thousands of spiles. During the last season over six millions of admissions were paid at the gate.



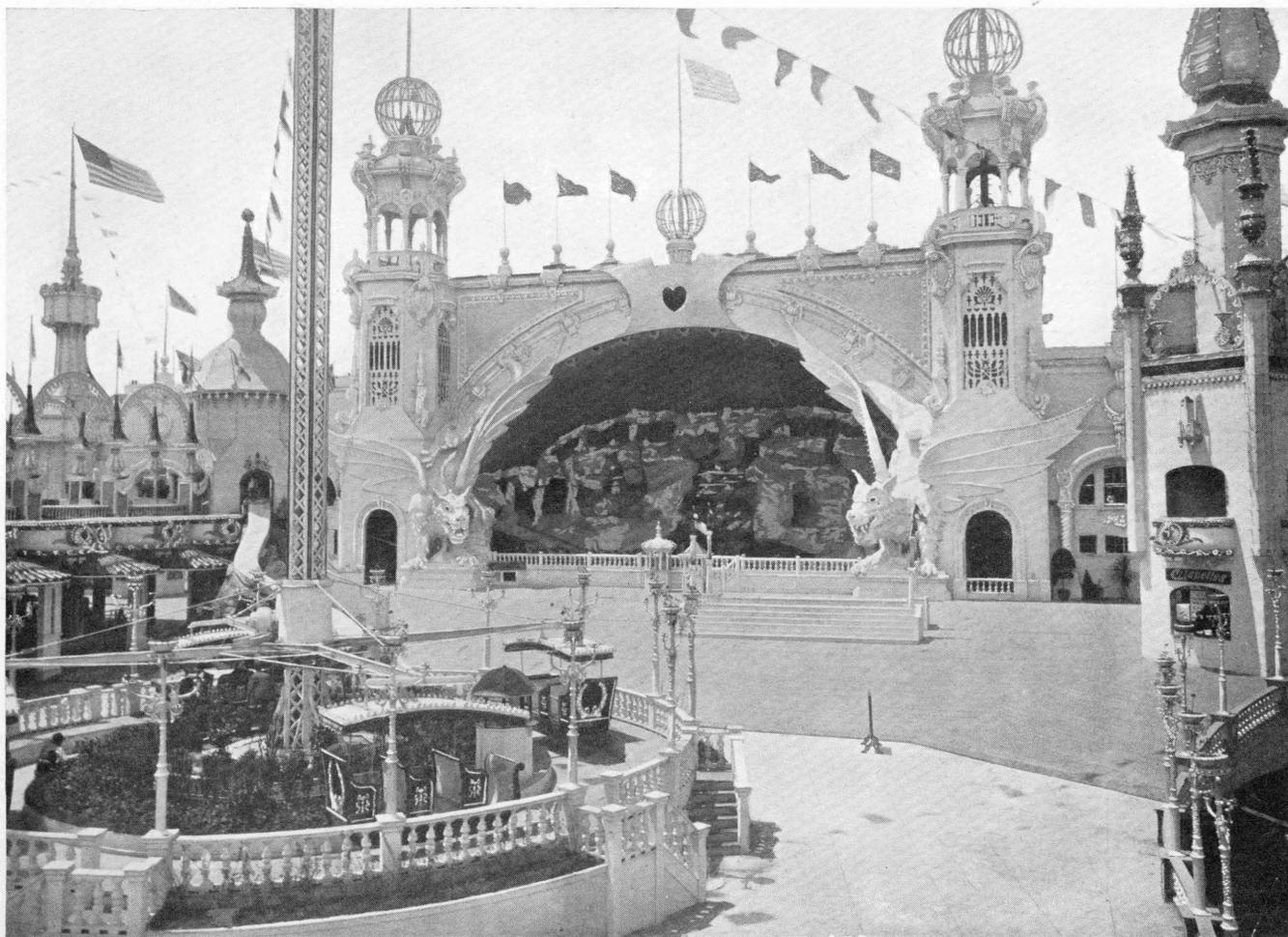
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**CIRCLE SWING AND UPPER FLOOR, LUNA PARK**

The Circle Swing in Luna Park is a near approach to the flight of an air ship. The swing flies through the air at the rate of forty-five miles an hour.

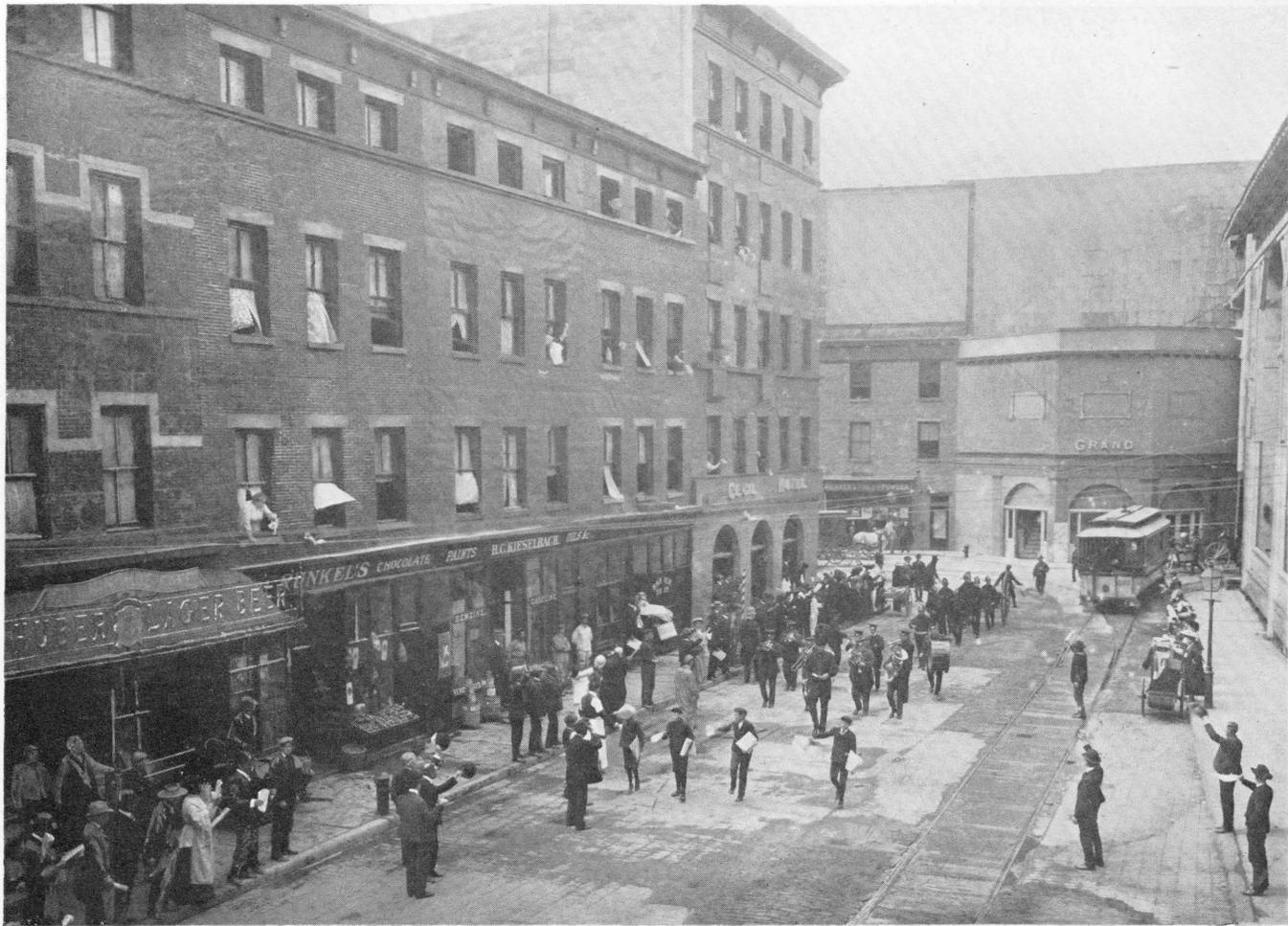
**HELTER SKELTER SLIDE, LUNA PARK**

This amusing slide is unequalled as a funmaker. It was an original idea with Luna Park. Everybody who visits the resort takes the slide and it affords unending amusement for young and old alike.



#### THE DRAGON'S GORGE, LUNA PARK

The Dragon's Gorge is the latest and most bewildering scenic railway device, including forty-eight hundred feet of track laid with steeper and sharper curves and grades than any in the world. A passenger starts from the North Pole and visits in rapid succession Havana Harbor, Port Arthur in winter, the Rocky Mountains, the bottom of the sea and the caverns of the lower regions, besides experiencing adash under a great cataract and numerous other sensational adventures.



THE PARADE IN "FIRE AND FLAMES," LUNA PARK

This view gives a good idea of the realism of the scene in the great fire show of Luna Park, depicting as it does the parade before the actual work of extinguishing the roaring fire which breaks out later in the hotel on the corner. Even a real electric car pushes its way along the section of the street shown to the audience. About a thousand people take part in the presentation of this remarkable exhibition, and the action is highly exciting from start to finish.



IGORROTES FROM THE PHILIPPINES, LUNA PARK

An Igorrote village occupies twelve acres at the northeast end of the Luna Park enclosure. Here fifty-one head-hunting and dog-eating savages from the Bontac Province, Island of Luzon, have incorporated all the wild features of their distant mountain homes. Among them are two war chiefs and a witch doctor. Their chief occupation, to which they give the larger part of their time, is building their native style of houses.



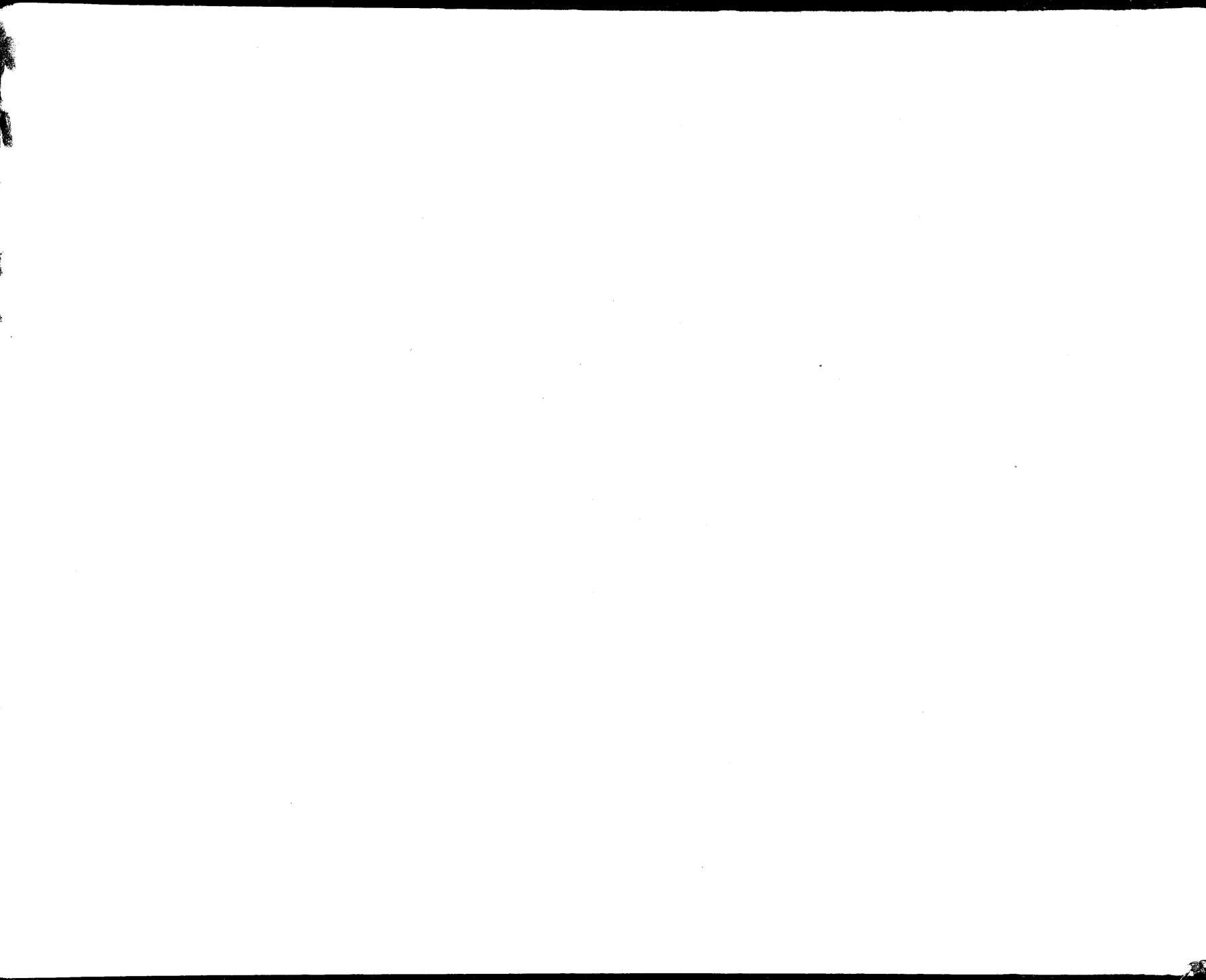
THE LAGOON AT NIGHT, LUNA PARK

At night this magic city by the sea is brilliantly lighted by more than five hundred thousand electric lamps. The grounds are as light as noonday and the spectacular illumination of the unique architecture affords a scene of grandeur and beauty. It is hard to say whether Luna Park is more beautiful by day or when sparkling with the myriad electric lights.



#### ILLUMINATED TOWERS, LUNA PARK

Upon the towers which rise in Luna Park the possibilities of electric lighting have received their fullest development. Whether slender shaft, minaret or pagoda, they gleam and twinkle with the bright lamps worked into every imaginable design in a profusion both lavish and artistic. Even the night sky takes on a hue of turquoise blue from their brilliancy.



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