

Storm Cuts New Orleans Weekends; Maus Clicks

NEW ORLEANS—Two important weekends were lost to Pontchartrain Beach here because of what president Harry J. Batt described as "a slight tropical disturbance" that clobbered Gulf Coast weather.

The park's new Wild Maus ride, however, is running at a top pace, and business generally has been good when there was weather to match.

Batt said his Maus, which includes German components imported thru Patty Conklin and combined here with a locally-built framing, has far exceeded expectations. On a number of days it has operated at the capacity rate of 720 persons per hour. Batt said that it stands to top all other rides at the park, with the exception of the high-capacity major Coaster.

The two critical weekends were May 29-31 and June 5-7, which come immediately after the closing of parochial and public schools. The park stages an End-of-School

Free Circus at these times. But this year the business was weathered out, Batt reported.

Lay Rail Track At Denver Spot

DENVER—About 8,000 feet of track has been laid for the Miniature Train ride at Magic Mountain, multi-million-dollar park which has been in the works for more than two years here and reportedly will open this summer.

Faced with regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the new underwriter of the park, the Allen Investment Company, has not made public any plans for action this summer, but construction crews are at work.

An administration building and a Storybook Lane have been completed. One of the new plans calls for a Magic of Industry area to be devoted to industrial exhibits.

Parking Lot Becomes Mass. Fun-O-Rama

SALISBURY BEACH, Mass.—Roger Shaheen has converted his 300-car parking lot here into Fun-O-Rama, featuring seven major rides, about 20 games, an 18-hole miniature golf course and several kiddie rides.

The Rotor is his top attraction. Other rides include the Jumping Jupiter, Moon Rocket, Satellite, Scrambler, Roll-o-Jet and Laff-in-the-Dark.

Elitch Theater Sets Cast, Plays

DENVER—The Elitch Gardens Theater, oldest summer theater in America, opens for its 68th consecutive season Sunday night (14).

Ludi Claire and Thomas Coley head up the company with Barbara Lord, Pat Sully, Harriet MacGibbons, Dean Norton, Len Doyle, Reynolds Evans, Wallace Acton and Thomas Ellis completing the cast.

Arthur Sircom will direct the company. Stage manager for the Elitch theater will be William C. Johnson, with Richard Shoemaker as scenic artist.

The 10-week series will include "Third Best Sport," "Time Remembered," "The Girls in 509," "The Matchmaker," "Hewie," "The Time of Your Life," "The Man in the Dog Suit," "The Marquis," "A Visit to a Small Planet" and "The Honeys."

Cincinnati Zoo Adds 3d Train

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Zoo has added a National miniature railway to carry zoo visitors on a half-mile scenic tour of the zoo. A tape-recorded commentary describes various exhibits passed by the six-car unit.

The zoo also operates a National rubber-tired trackless train over its walkways and a tiny rail model in its Kiddieland.

LeSourdsville Has Auto Show

MIDDLETOWN, O. — Hot rods, custom cars, classics, sport cars and antiques were shown over the weekend (13-14), at the Sixth Annual Tri-State Custom Show at LeSourdsville Lake Park. A 1903 Oldsmobile was among the cars on display along the midway.

The Harmony Kings will play for dancing in Stardust Gardens Wednesday (17). The Glenn Miller orchestra, fronted by Ray McKinley, will play an engagement at the spot Saturday night (20).

Playland Season Gets Under Way

VANCOUVER, B. C. — Playland at Exhibition Park began a six-day-a-week activity late in May. The funspot has been operating weekends only since May 1.

About 20 rides are included in the operation. A new \$100,000 restaurant is included in the Playland area.

Chi Santa Village Gets Big Initial Week

DUNDEE, Ill.—Santa's Village, new theme park in the chain that includes two similar layouts in California, opened on Memorial Day and attracted about 50,000 people in its first week.

The Chicago area funspot grossed three times what its Western counterparts did in their initial weeks, according to H. Glenn Holland, president.

STEAM ENGINE

Narrow-Gauge Cape Cod R.R. Rides Throughs

SOUTH CARVER, Mass.—The attraction of an old-time steam engine is drawing bigger crowds than ever to this Cape Cod cranberry town where one of the nation's few remaining narrow gauge railroads has been operating for the past 13 years as a public attraction.

F. Nelson Blount, of Warren, R. I., the owner, has been making big changes since he bought the spot four years ago from the late Ellis D. Atwood, from whom the line takes its name, the Edaville Railroad. Blount also is a seafood concern operator and boatbuilder. He has expanded the line, added another train, a new station and built up the railroad museum.

Full-sized old-time locomotives and cars are on view as well as more than 150 antique toy trains dating back to 1850. Blount also has added antique autos, guns and old fair equipment. Much of the display was formerly at Harvard University.

More than 200,000 persons have ridden the railroad in the summer season which runs from May until October. At Christmas as many as 12,000 come to see the yuletide festival and ride the line. Forty-ton engines are used to draw the trains thru the cranberry bogs, waterways, canals, pine forests and storage reservoirs belonging to the Ocean Spray Cranberry Corporation.

The 14-car trains ply thru the five and one-half miles of track from Cranberry Junction to Edaville Station where large picnic areas are provided for families to spend the day. Fares on the railroad have been increased in the last year from 50 to 60 cents for (Continued on page 51)

Edmonton Buys Train, Jenny

EDMONTON, Alta. — The city park department has taken delivery on a Merry-Go-Round and a steam-styled Miniature Train, both built by Allan Herschell Company, Inc. The train, Herschell's 1865 model, was converted into a circus train by the use of painted cage fronts in place of the standard coach windows.

The 55-acre park relies heavily on sale of gift items, although it does have six rides. One building offers dolls, another offers boy's toys, a third has gifts and souvenirs for adults, while others sell candy, cookies and books. There is a chapel building. Christmas music is played thruout the park.

Near the center is a refrigerated "North Pole" for children to touch. Near it is Santa Claus' house, where there is a guest register. Food concession items and meals are handled from still another of the buildings.

Employees are costumed as elves, even including custom shoes. Small animals and ducks roam the area. Attendants lead reindeer around the park, and visitors may inspect the reindeer stables.

Reindeer teams also pull sled-like units around an "icy" route as one of the rides. Another ride has a number of pack burros in a string and children ride them. There also is a miniature train, a Tractor ride which now has a high Christmas tree center and cars to resemble tree ornaments.

There was a large crowd present for a press opening and preview on May 29, followed by a reported 12,000 on May 30 and 15,000 on May 31, to launch the new park.

ROLLER RUMBLINGS

New Northporte Opens In San Antonio . . .

SAN ANTONIO — Northporte Rollercade held its formal opening here May 29.

The ultra modern building is a clear-span metal structure with sound resistant plastic covered maple floor totaling 13,500 square feet, plus a large area for beginners.

Acoustic "clouds" are placed at different elevations over the skating area and unusual design lighting fixtures have been installed thruout the rink.

Complete hi-fi music system is another attraction. The rink offers a complete skate service and maintenance facilities, including rental stock of 750 pairs of skate shoes. Private and self-service lockers are available to patrons.

Ralph E. Barker, manager and instructor, said that Northporte offers both private and class instruction.

Clark-McDavitt Properties, Inc., is owner of the rink.

Operators, Skaters Get Behind Philly Promotion . . .

PHILADELPHIA — Roller skaters and rink operators in the area will participate in Old Newsboys' Day, to be staged Wednesday (17) by The Philadelphia Inquirer. Skaters will be among scores of TV and radio celebrities, sports stars, government officials, businessmen and representatives of service organizations manning street corners and selling papers for the benefit of the Variety Club's Camp for Handicapped Children.

Jack Coopersmith, owner of Great Leap 1 Rink, Chester, Pa., will bring in a corps of skaters for duty. In addition, Audrey Payton, Miss Delaware Valley Skate Queen, will head a contingent of 75 girls who will skate around city hall courtyard hawking newspapers after participating in a morning parade.

Seeks Permit for Chattanooga Rollery . . .

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Mary Rogers Noog has filed an application for permission to construct a roller rink in the Hixson area at the corner of Access Road and Memphis Drive. Property currently is zoned for business.

Skater Benefit Held by Cailles . . .

WILMINGTON, Del. — Mr. and Mrs. Victor Caille, operators of Printz Roller Way here, set aside Tuesday night (16) for a benefit for an injured youth, Donald Truman, who is hospitalized with a fractured skull as the result of an automobile accident. All gate receipts will be turned over to the youth to help defray hospital expenses.

Hoe-Down Offered at S. Norwalk Bowlerskate . . .

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn.—Bowlerskate ran a Saturday evening hoe-down, featuring square-dance calling, from 10:30 to 1 a.m., recently. Regional square dance caller Al Brundage was principal caller, and demonstration square set teams, specialty dancers and folk singers participated on the rink floor. Round dancing was conducted during intermissions.

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