

A Carousel of Memories

Segment Two Run Time: 20:15

Overview

From the Zephyr to the Seaborg Nickelodeon, Dorney Park had noteworthy attractions that drew people from near and far. Most popular was the Castle Garden. It gained publicity by inviting popular musical artists such as The Supremes and Frankie Avalon. The budding Willow Park also prospered with its grand swimming pool. Meanwhile, Carsonia suffered under the decline of trolley services, and Willow Grove found the automobile boom to be the downfall of the once popular community park.



Spotlight: John Philip Sousa

In 1854, Nov 6, John Philip Sousa was born the third of ten children to John Antonio Sousa and Maria Elisabeth Trinkhaus of Washington, D.C. Since his father played Trombone in the U.S. Marine band, he became accustomed to military band music. By the age of six, he gained interest in musical studies. In fact, at age thirteen, he attempted to run away and join a circus band, but his father sent him to the Marines instead. In 1872, at eighteen, Sousa published his first composition titled "Moonlight on the Potomac Waltzes" and was discharged from the Marines three years later to begin performing, touring and, eventually conducting theater orchestras.

(Continued)

Discussion/Questions

1. Do you agree with the comparison between Dorney Park's Castle Garden and Carnegie Hall? Explain why or why not. How did Castle Garden mirror the popular entertainment of the time? How do today's concerts compare?
2. Using at least two parks discussed, explain how the amusement park industry was less about profit and more about recreation. Do you think the assumption is true today?
3. How was Carsonia negatively affected by a decline in a facet of the transportation industry? How does Willow Grove's decline differ?

Activities

1. Organize a Castle Garden sock hop in which students dress in authentic 1950s attire and dance to popular music from the time.

Spotlight: John Philip Sousa (cont'd)

Sousa was married to Jane van Middlesworth Bellis on December 30, 1879 and returned to Washington to assume leadership of the U.S. Marine band the following September. From 1880 to 1892 he conducted "The President's Own," serving under presidents Hayes, Garfield, Cleveland, Arthur, and Harrison. After two successful tours with the Marine Band, promoter David Blakely convinced Sousa to resign and organize a civilian concert band. Sadly, two days prior to his first concert in New Jersey, Sousa's bandleader Patrick Gilmore died, but the show proceeded on September 26, 1892. Nineteen of Gilmore's former musicians eventually joined Sousa's band. In 1895 "El Capitan," Sousa's first successful operetta, appeared.



In the time ranging from 1900 to 1905, Sousa's band toured Europe three times. In 1910, they traveled to New York, Great Britain, the Canary Islands, South-Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Hawaii, and Canada. During World War I, at age sixty-two, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve with a salary of \$1 per month and was assigned the rank lieutenant. After the war, Sousa continued to tour with his band; he received several honorary degrees and fought for composers' rights, testifying before Congress in 1927 and in 1928. Sousa's final piece he conducted was the legendary "The Stars and Stripes Forever." At age seventy-seven, after conducting a rehearsal of the Ringgold Band in Reading, Pennsylvania, Sousa died.

More information

Amusement Parks of Pennsylvania by Jim Futrell

Academic Standards

A Carousel of Memories is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.3 United States History as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.2.12

B. Identify and evaluate primary documents, material artifacts and historic sites important in United States history from 1890 to Present

C. Identify and evaluate how continuity and change have influenced United States history from the 1890s to Present

