The NW Pa Heritage Public History Project

MARAC April 26, 2013
S5. Mobile Archives: Bringing Your Collections to 21st Century Devices

Amelia Carr, Ph.D.
Assoc Prof. of Art History
Quick Response codes take advantage of ubiquitous mobile technology to deliver content in non-traditional locations by connecting to web-based multi-media elements.
QR codes fulfill desire for MORE information in traditional locations

The Mobilists: QR Codes in Museums
QR codes carry an expectation of interactive multimedia

Cleveland Museum Gallery One
QR codes need to access significant content in a compatible format

QRPedia  http://qrpedia.org/
Allegheny College History & Heritage Committee Outreach

- Brochures
- Narrated Walking Tours (CDs)
- Laminated Easel Displays
Plans for Plaques in Historic Buildings to commemorate the 2015 Bicentennial

Montgomery Gym and Field
ABOUT
NW PA HERITAGE

NWPaHeritage is a free app that puts the history of Northwestern Pennsylvania (Crawford and Venango Counties, and the Oil Heritage Region) at your fingertips. Explore unique historic places and take self-guided walking tours. Find interesting people, places and events in NW Pennsylvania history. With a growing list of interpretive stories, each point on the interactive GPS-enabled map includes historical information about the location.

CONTACT
EMAIL: info@nwpaheritage.org
TWITTER: @nwpaheritage
PHONE: 814-332-3378

DONATE

Your donation helps us continue to provide the NW PA Heritage App. Future updates will include additional content, new features and more, but we will need your support. Help us keep this app free and continue to keep our history history alive.

Please contact us directly if you would like to support the project.
Public History Project

Steering Committee:

Faculty: Art Historian, Historian, Communication Arts

Archivist

Instructional Technologist

Community Partners

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Euclid Beach Park

Although it has been closed since 1969, Euclid Beach amusement park lives on throughout Northeast Ohio in a number of ways. Indeed, even those too young to have visited the park themselves can still take a ride on the rocket car, crunch into an authentic Humphrey popcorn ball, and hear the quavering cackle of Laughing Sal. In addition, the park’s 1910 carousel, lovingly restored after being rescued from a shuttered amusement park in Maine, will soon be open for rides again in its new location at the Western Reserve Historical Society in University Circle.

The former site of Euclid Beach, on the other hand, has largely been stripped of remnants of the amusement park located there from 1901-1969. The grand entrance arch still stands on Lakeshore Boulevard, and sections of the concrete pier remain. A public park on part of the site is frequented by elderly residents of the high-rise apartment build-

ings that were built on most of the rest of the old amusement park’s land following its closing. Fortunately, the efforts of preservation groups like Euclid Beach Park Now and the Cleveland Euclid Beach Park Carousel Society have ensured that Euclid Beach will not be forgotten by the generations of Northeast Ohioans too young to have experienced it directly, even as its original site on the shores of Lake Erie crumbles.

To learn more about each site on the tour, download the Cleveland Historical mobile app for iPhone and Android devices or use the QR code to open the tour in your browser: bit.ly/euclid-beach
Laughing Sal

Laughing Sal evokes a number of different reactions from those who encounter her. Her larger than life presence, mechanical gyrations, and raucous cackle cause delight in some and fear in others. Some deep thinkers have even speculated about the meaning of Laughing Sal. Is she the incarnation of modern wo(man) in an industrial age? A soulless, machine-powered being with an empty laugh and an empty mind?

Love her or hate her, there is no doubting the fact that Sal creates a lasting impression on all who lay eyes on her. She debuted at Euclid Beach amusement park in the 1930s, placed in a glass case at the entrance to the Surprise House, a traditional fun house with moving floors, slanted rooms, and distorting mirrors. That is where she stayed until 1969, when Euclid Beach closed. A Euclid Beach enthusiast purchased Sal in the years following the closing, and she has since appeared at events across Northeast Ohio, becoming a prominent symbol of the park. Now those too young to have visited Euclid Beach themselves can be amused or terrified, delighted or repulsed, by Laughing Sal.

Laughing Sal, however, was not unique to Euclid Beach Park and Cleveland. In fact, in the 1930s the Philadelphia Toboggan Company (PTC) mass-produced Laughing Sals (as well as 'Laughing Sams') and sold them to amusement parks across the United States. The Old King Cole Papier Mache Company of Canton, Ohio got the contract from PTC to actually build the Sals, tweaking their laughing, papier mache Santa Claus model for the job. Sal's gyrations were created by two rotating cams (or discs) attached to a single motor in her hips. Springs in her arms, head, and chest provided even more movement. Sal's famous laugh emanated from a repeating record player hidden in the base of the figure. The combined effect of Sal's evocative appearance, constant motion, and endless laughter proved to be a hit with amusement park goers, and Laughing Sals became a fixture in fun houses during the 1930s. It appears that no more Sals were built.
Center Stage
For a time in the mid-1990s, Laughing Sal was prominently displayed at a Euclid Beach-themed restaurant and bar in suburban Kirtland, Ohio.

Image courtesy of Cindy May
Euclid Beach Park Riot

On August 4, 1946, almost one year after the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan and the end of World War II, a picket line appeared in front of Cleveland’s Euclid Beach amusement park for the first time in its history. Protesting the park’s long-standing policy of excluding African Americans from using the park’s roller rink, swimming facilities, and dance hall, an interracial crowd of over 100 picketers - including many uniformed World War II veterans - held signs reading "We Went to Normandy Beach Together - Why Not Euclid Beach?" Others compared the park’s owner with the recently defeated leader of Nazi Germany. ‘Hitler and Humphrey believe in super race.’

In the weeks that followed, protests continued and violence broke out. On August 23, Albert Luster, a member of the interracial civil rights group the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), was severely beaten by Euclid Beach Park Policemen. Luster was to be one of an interracial group of ten or so CORE members who, like other groups that summer, sought to test the park’s policies by entering the dance hall together. He had arrived late to the park; the group had already been roughly ejected from the park by the time he showed up. Park policemen Julius Vago came upon Luster sitting by himself on a park bench and set upon him with his nightstick in an apparently unprovoked attack.

Then, on September 21, two black Cleveland police officers scuffled with members of the Euclid Beach Park Police, and Patrolman Lynn Coleman ended up with a bullet in his leg. Coleman and Henry Mackey, off duty at the time, observed an interracial group of CORE members being treated roughly by park policemen as they tried to enter the dance floor. When the two Cleveland Police officers attempted to intervene, a fight ensued and Coleman’s gun went off, hitting him in the leg. Other Cleveland Police officers detailed to the park soon intervened. Coleman was taken to the hospital, while the Euclid Beach Police officers involved in the fight, after undergoing questioning at Central Police Station, were released, the Cleveland Police Department opting not to pursue charges against them. The events that night came to be known as ‘The Euclid Beach Park Riot.’

Discussions soon began in Cleveland City Council that would result in
Publicizing the App

Door cling in a bookstore with scannable QR code to access website.
Both small and large groupings of demonstration homes were constructed on Parkland Drive, Van Aken Boulevard, Courland Boulevard, and South Woodland. Each home was architecturally distinct, but also built in harmony with both surrounding structures and the natural environment. Designs for the demonstration homes employed the three recommended architectural styles for Shaker residences: English, French, and Colonial. The sturdy yet picturesque homes offered a vision of permanence within a highly landscaped rural setting. These demonstration homes were a symbol of the dignified, enduring community that the Van Sweringen brothers desired to create and market. As evidenced by the Van Sweringen Co. advertisement on the front of this card, the brothers imagined Shaker Heights as “a city upon a hill.”
DUGWAY BROOK, among the bluestone brooks that flow into Lake Erie, is all but invisible today. Generations ago its serpentine branches plunged into culverts buried beneath streets, parking lots, and parks. Though mostly unseen, Dugway traces a path through the heart of Cleveland Heights. Among its scenic courses, John Peter Preyer carved orchards and vineyards; Orville A. Dean built a successful dairy business; and John D. Rockefeller, Frank Cain, and Eric Mendelsohn created some of the city’s most iconic places in Forest Hill, Cain Park, and Park Synagogue. Yet citizens mostly forgot about the brook amid relentless expansion. Cleveland Heights, 60K strong by 1960, was a mosaic of suburban neighborhoods and business districts. A two-mile greenbelt of parks transformed one branch of Dugway into ballfields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities. By the 1970s, devastating floods in University Circle prompted new concerns about Dugway, leading to the construction in Lake View Cemetery 1. Cain Park
2. Superior Schoolhouse
3. Dugway Brook
4. Cumberland Pool
5. Boulevard Elementary
6. Park Synagogue
7. Dean Dairy
8. Heights Rockefeller Building
9. Forest Hill Church
10. Forest Hill
11. Forest Hill Park Footbridge
12. Monticello Modern
13. Cleveland Heights High School
14. Cedar Lee Theatre
15. Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates

of the largest poured-concrete dam east of the Mississippi. Today, we are rediscovering the Dugway Brook as a fragile yet important resource.

To learn more about each site on the tour, download the CLEVELAND HISTORICAL mobile app for iPhone and Android devices or use the QR code to open the tour in your browser: bit.ly/Dugway-Brook
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