



THE WEBFOOTER

The official publication of The Webfooters Post Card Club in Portland, Oregon

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"Every subject known to man can be found on a post card"

www.thewebfooters.com



Christmas Greetings



See page 3 for the story of Portland's Jantzen Beach Amusement Park

Next Meeting – December 15, 2007

At Russellville Grange - 12105 NE Prescott Street

10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Card sales to begin at 10:30

Holiday Potluck at noon

See the full color version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com



President's Corner

As elected at our November 2007 meeting, the following individuals will serve as next year's Board of Directors:

President - Mark Moore, Vice President - Tony Roberts, Secretary - Maggie Parypa, Treasurer - Arne Soland, Membership Chair - Steve Bieler, Members-at-Large: Phyllis Palmer, Irene Adams and Brian Hansen.

In November, we had a great meeting, over 50 people attended and we had more dealers set up than any of us can remember. There was a silent auction and a free book table. Bob Hadlow, Historian for the Oregon Department of Transportation, gave a really well-received presentation on the Columbia River Highway.

A number of people have already signed up to bring food for our Christmas Potluck. After we got an abundance of desserts last year, we asked people to sign up for salads and casseroles. However, some of us consider dessert the main course. For questions, or to sign up, contact [Mark](#). The word on the street: there will be a lot of new cards to be found at the next meeting.

Note from David Sell: New Membership cards now available for all members. They will be handed out at the December meeting. So, please attend to receive your card. See the Membership Chair for more information.



Card postmarked 1908 from Al Powers' Collection

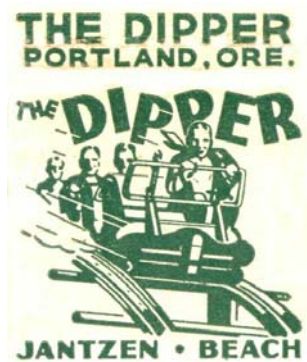


Jantzen Beach Amusement Park was heralded as Portland's Million Dollar Playground. When it opened on May 26, 1928, Jantzen Beach was the largest amusement park in the nation. The park sprawled over 123 acres at Hayden Island at the northern tip of Portland.



Entrance to Jantzen Beach Park

There was the huge Big Dipper Roller Coaster, the thrill rides, the Midway games and the midget auto racing. There was the Golden-Canopied Ballroom, which attracted big name bands, and people from all over the world came to compete in the dance competitions, which were complete with orchestras.



Carl Phare, designer of The Dipper



Carl Jantzen had been a partner in Portland Knitting Mills when the company was formed in 1910. Jantzen's success with designing swimsuits used by the Portland Rowing Club resulted in the name change to Jantzen Knitting Mills in 1918. Jantzen and his partners at Jantzen Knitting Mills opened Jantzen Beach Amusement Park in 1928.



The world famous Big Dipper Roller Coaster was the main attraction. Built in 1928 by the legendary Coaster Designer Carl Phare, the Big Dipper was the biggest and best roller coaster in the West. Lasting for over four decades, the Dipper was the source of many happy memories for millions of Amusement Park enthusiasts.

FAMOUS *Jantzen Beach* DIPPER



Fun FOR EVERYONE AT *Jantzen* BEACH PARK

BU 9-5555

THRILL RIDES

Have the time of your life on the 14 major thrill rides. Take a breathless trip down the 83-foot dip of the famous Jantzen Beach Dipper. Have fun in the Dodgem bumper cars and Fun House, or a romantic ride through the Old Mill. Fun for everyone, old and young!

MIDWAY

Exciting games on the Jantzen Beach Midway. Throw the Darts — play basketball — break the Balloons — shoot the rifles — try your skill and win a prize!

MIDGET RACES

A variety of special racing events including Stock-Cars, Jalopies and Hard Tops. Watch your newspaper for scheduled races.

**HIWAY 99 AT INTERSTATE BRIDGE
PORTLAND, OREGON**



Stephen Kenney Collection

Jantzen Beach was also home to the C.W. Parker Carousel (shown above right), built in 1921 by the C.W. Parker Amusement Company in Leavenworth, Kansas. In the early days, they were also called "Carry Us All". C.W. Parker began building carousels in Abilene, Kansas in 1896.



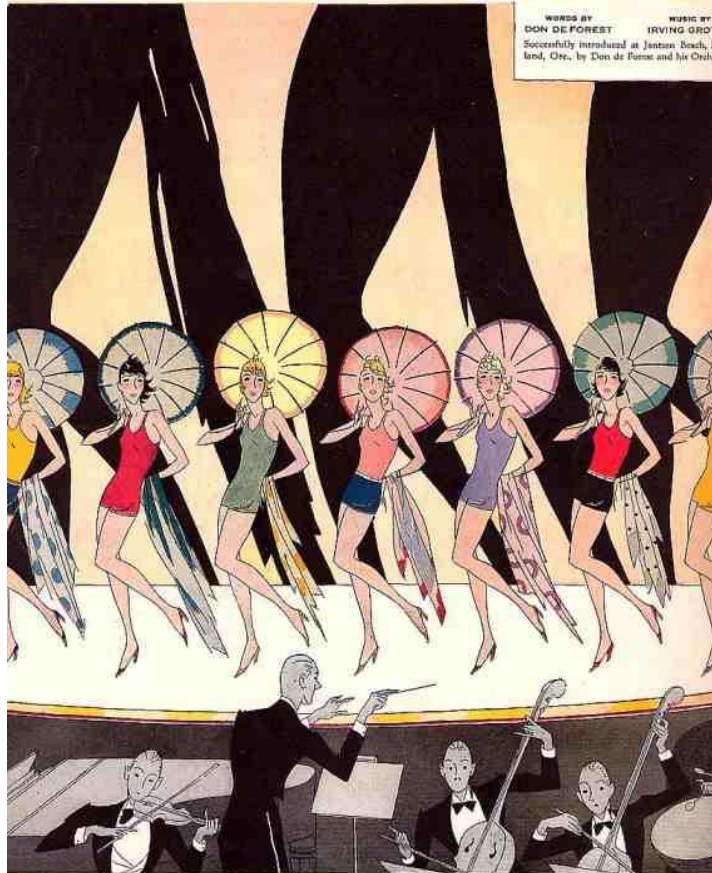
This view of the swimming pool, at its original location, was seen from the railroad bridge, on the Northwest edge of the Park. Behind the swimming pool, you can see the Bathhouse, the Skooters, the Midway, the Golden-Canopied Dance Pavilion and the Ferris Wheel. In the 1930s the swimming pools were moved a little further to the south and to the east. Jantzen Beach had the first Musical Swimming Pool. You could swim and enjoy music underwater.

**DANCE
SWIM
PLAY**

A wonderful place for a wonderful time!
The largest, finest amusement park on the
entire Pacific Coast . . . forty acres beautiful
with pools, fountains, rare trees, gorgeous
flowers. A magnificent new ballroom where
Don de Forest's orchestra plays nightly.
Four famous swimming pools. Scores of
new thrillers . . . many of them to be found
only in the West at Jantzen Beach Park.
Come often . . . spend many happy hours at

BEAUTIFUL NEW
Jantzen
**BEACH
PARK**

JANTZEN HOP



Sheet Music cover from the Jantzen Hop at the Jantzen Beach Amusement Park in Portland, Oregon; Words and music by Irving Grothe and the Legendary New York Bandleader Don DeForest. He was one of the bandleaders who was responsible for making the Golden-Canopied Ballroom at Jantzen Beach a world-renowned Dance Pavilion.

FROM
NEW YORK!

Don DeForest
and his
Jantzen BEACH PARK Orchestra

They are the hit of the town—plan to dance to Don De Forest's sparkling music tonight. Be there at eleven for the big wonderful show and revival in the magnificent new Jantzen Beach Ballroom. Do as beautiful New

JANTZEN
Beach park at 10:15 for the cross-tional fireworks show!

Fireworks Tonight!
Dancing Every Night—Til 12:00
Saturday 'Til 1:00

Every NITE
8:30 till 12:00 Saturday till 1 A.M.

A Wonderful Place to

DANCE SWIM PLAY

and Now—
The Latest Song Hit
Jantzen Hop

Free Copies
Saturday Night

Tap, tap, tuppety-tap, oh, you can't keep your feet still with the Jantzen Hop going. It will be the rage of the Pacific Coast this summer. Saturday night only, every couple to visit the magnificent new Jantzen Beach Park ballroom will receive a copy of the Jantzen Hop free! Dance to this sparkling music as Don De Forest plays it. Dance with the guy crowd—dance 'til one if you like—for it only costs you a dime a couple—or four chances for a quarter.

Jantzen BEACH PARK

Resort Waits Gala Opening

Jantzen Beach
Event Saturday

Jantzen Beach park will start the 1941 season Saturday with new features, remodeled attractions and all the fanfare of a circus, according to Paul H. Huedepohl, manager of the park.

Featured will be two robot circus criers, "Joe Barker" and "Laffing Sal"—complete with the tones and accents of the best sideshow spielers. Life-sized figures capable of realistic motions, they are calculated to out-talk anyone in any audience.

An exhibition of Chinese art, including fabrics, metal and wood, will be presented by Miss Kay Shean, while the ballroom will feature the first of a series of famous dance bands—the first to be Hal Howard and his orchestra.

The Portland Traction company will operate special bus service to the park from the Kenton station, Mr. Huedepohl announced.

Tin Barker



"LAFFING SAL"
She'll direct Jantzeners.

As this article from The Oregonian from May 2, 1941 says, Jantzen Beach installed two robot circus criers, "Laffing Sal" and "Joe Barker" to direct Patrons as they entered the Park.



The Fun House was a popular attraction where you could see the laughing lady and the hall of mirrors. There were air jets in the floor with animated ghosts and goblins. There was also a swinging bridge and a turntable. The exit was made of a giant slide that featured a magic carpet that went out from underneath you, sending you over some rollers and out the door. The Fun House and The Old Mill were lost to a fire on March 29, 1960.



The Jantzen Beach Railway with the Big Dipper and the Merry Mix-up in the background

Jantzen Beach survived the Vanport flood in 1948, but the people who survived moved away. The loss of people in the immediate vicinity led to the loss of patrons to the park and attendance never did reach pre-flood levels.

In 1958 the Highway Division doubled the size of the Interstate Bridge by adding the western span to match the eastern span. The new span goes right through the area that was once the Jantzen Beach Swimming Pool. A significant portion of the park was given up for the bridge expansion.

After years of dwindling revenues, the park closed on Labor Day in 1970 and the rides were sold. The buildings were razed to build a shopping center. The Pumping System from the Swimming Pools is used to pump drinking water to residents of Hayden Island. The C.W. Parker Carousel survives today at the Jantzen Beach Shopping Center. Legend has it that there are a couple ghost children in the center of the carousel.

"Have you seen the children? It is a boy and a girl. They play in the center of the merry-go-round... inside, behind the door. They seem happy and full of spirit but every so often they turn and gaze, as if looking for their mother. Have you seen them?" This quote comes from a website about ghosts in Portland.

Plans call for moving the C.W. Parker Carousel off Hayden Island next year as the Shopping Center takes on a new design and all remnants of the Amusement Park at Jantzen Beach will be lost forever.





Club Officers

President/Editor.....Mark Moore
 Vice President.....Dale Nix
 Secretary.....Dave Elston
 Treasurer.....Arne Soland
 Membership Chairman.....David Sell
 Member-at-Large.....Jane Burton
 Member-at-Large.....Phyllis Palmer
 Historian.....Joe Macdonald
 Librarian.....Steve Kuryk



Calendar

December 12 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
 10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

December 15 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
 12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

January 16 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
 10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

January 19 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
 12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com



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