

“IT WAS THE PLACE TO BE AT THE TIME.”
SANDY MAURER WANAMAKER

I worked in the Park about 1958 to 1963. I worked in the Penny Arcade and in the novelty stand for Patsy Wallace. Also worked in the food stand with Katie and Anna Mae Warren. I remember Mary Saletra very well.

Our family lived in the big white house in the Park from the early '60's until the Park closed. The house was very large. There were four big bedrooms upstairs with four fireplaces. There was an open stairway, large living room, den, kitchen. It was a nice, big, white house. It was the place to be at the time. When you went into the big doors that faced the Skating Rink there was a big open stairway. One side was the house where we lived, and the other side was the Park Office. That is where Mary Saletra took care of all the money and tickets and everything else. I couldn't tell you what that looked like. We weren't permitted to be in there.

The last year the Park was open I worked for Mr. Moore. during the winter. I answered the telephone and sometimes opened the mail. It was a wonderful place to live and work.

Right, Sandy Maurer Wanamaker,
at about 15 or 16.



“THEY WERE FUN TIMES FOR EVERYONE”

WILLIAM McGOWAN

From 1949 to 1955 I worked on different things in the Park, like the two roller coasters, the Humming Bird and the Wild Cat. I also worked on the Merry-Go-Round, Bubble Bounce, Flying Skooters and the Laughing Castle. I remember that “Reds” used to be in charge of the Merry-Go-Round, and that Ralph Dorrell and Harry Woodlin were in charge of maintenance for the different parts of the Park. I also worked as maintenance man, helping to open and close the Park.

One year while I worked there, when the season was over, the workers got together and went by bus up to Coney Island. We went on all the rides and had a swell time. Another time we went for a hayride. After work at night the workers were allowed to go in the Swimming Pool, and that was fun. I remember that George Schrier was the guard and used to go around the Park in his pick-up truck. I had an aunt and uncle who lived on Oriental Avenue in Pennsville in those years, and I would stay with them. It was easy for me to get to work.

The girls who worked in the food stands used to bring sandwiches to some of the ride attendants on their time off. Then the ride operators would let the girls go on the rides. I also was a Red Cross Swimming Instructor at the pool from 1949 to 1951.

They were fun times for everyone who worked there, and I have some really good memories of that time.

“THEY HAD TO CALL THE FERRY BACK INTO THE SLIP.”
MARTHA FISHER GAUDET

In 1941 I got a job at the Park selling tickets, but it was so hot in the booth that I quit. In 1944, when I went into labor for my son, my brother was taking me to the ferry to go to Wilmington to the hospital. The police stopped us in Pennsville and said we had to get an ambulance. I didn't want to, but I did. When we got to the ferry slip, it had already left. They had to call the ferry back into the slip so we could get on it. That was at 5:45 a.m. and he was born at 6:57 a.m.

“HAYSTACK CALHOUN FLOATED ALL AROUND.”
JACK MARQUETTE

I worked as a lifeguard, and once Haystack Calhoun, who was a professional wrestler came into the pool. I saw him waddling towards my chair. Now he weighed 609 pounds, so I went to him and said, “Excuse me, Sir, I don't want to be ignorant, but can you swim?” Well, he kind of grunted and nodded his head yes. He went down to the 3 foot end of the pool and kind of waddled in, and started to float. He floated down to the eight foot section, and floated all around. It was kind of strange to see.

It was swell working in the park.

(Another source told us that Mr. Calhoun also broke the diving board that day.)

“I LOVED TO WATCH THE SKATERS.”
GLORIA BALAMONTIS BENNETT

I started to work in the Park right out of high school. I worked on the Bubble Bounce, Laughing Castle, (that was fun!) Trains, and as a cashier at the Swimming Pool. I used to walk home and go by the Skating Rink. I would stop and look in at the skaters, and lots of other people would be watching also. I loved to watch the skaters. Sometimes the same people came by another night, and we would talk and become friends. It was always such good music, and I met such nice people. I really enjoyed working there, and I really do miss it.