* A brief history of Riverview Beach Park

Pennsville, NJ

- *1845 The land at Riverview Beach Park was originally a farm with a tavern and a ferry. It was leased to Elisha Wheaton for one year for \$250.00. Food and drinks were served to travelers in the house.
- *1851- It was moved into the building called the Silver Grove Hotel. (Later called Acton's Grill) The hotel was named for the sixteen silver maple trees between it and the river. Behind the hotel and extending to Front Street, was the Silver Grove picnic ground. The excursion boat "Delaware" brought people daily to the grove from Philadelphia.





- *1875 Taking the ferry from Philadelphia to the grove took 4 hours. The steamer "Major Reybold" also brought people to the grove as it made its trip from Philadelphia to Salem.
- *1889- Farmers began holding their picnics at the Park. A merry-go-round was brought in just for that day. It was small and moved by man-power only.





*1909- The "Silver Grove" changed its name to "Riverview Hotel"





*W.D. Acton inherited the Riverview Hotel from his grandfather, Jacob Acton. He enlarged the Park to include swings, movies, picnic tables, and a dance hall. The steamer Queen Anne, a steel hull sidewheeler, replaced the Adelaide and was later replaced by the Wilson Line. The Queen Anne brought Philadelphians to Batten's Beach in Pennsville.

*1914



BATHING BEACH, RIVERVIEW BEACH, N. J.

*1917-A "Dentzel" merry-go-round was purchased.

1918-Alvis W. Wallace opened a novelty shop at the Park.

1922-William D. Acton purchased the Baker farm from Mrs. Hannah Baker Batten. Boats began daily excursions to the Park. On Decoration Day of 1922, the City of Camden, City of Wilmington, City of Chester and the City of Philadelphia made their first cruise down the river to Riverview Beach Park.

*1917-1922

STEAMER "CITY OF PHILADELPHIA" ONE OF THE WILSON LINE FLEET

* New amusements were added to the Park.

- * Eli Ferris Wheel
- * Airplane Swing
- * Water Slide
- * Dry Slide
- * Toyland,
- * Humming Bird.
- * Landscape crews were hired to plant rhododendrons, trees, and various types of flowers in the Park.
- * The S.S. State of Delaware made a trial voyage on a cruise from Wilmington to Riverview Beach on June 11, 1923. The S.S. State of Pennsylvania



*1923



*The merry-go-round building was erected.

- *The carousel was purchased in Germantown, Pennsylvania and was built by the William Dentzel Company. It was reported that only three carousels were in the United States at that time.
- *The smaller carousel with its rings of stationary horse continued to operate at five cents a ride or six rides for a quarter. The larger, newer carousel charged ten cents a ride.

*1955-January 1, 1955: The Wilson Line fleet and wharves were sold to the City Investing Company of New York City.

- *1957-The City Investing Company of New York City sold the Park and the S.S. State of Pennsylvania to Riverview Lines for \$700,000.
- *1958-The Park was fenced in and admission was charged.





- *1960-The S.S. State of Pennsylvania, Flagship of the Wilson Line, was the final excursion steamer when its service stopped.
- *1961-The Wilson Line discontinued its boat services.
- *1967-Labor Day: The Riverview Beach Park closed. The carousel was purchased by the Sterling Forest Company in Tuxedo, New York. From there it operated until 1980, when it was auctioned off to various antique and carousel collectors.



*1976-January 15, 1976: The Township Committee of Pennsville voted to purchase the Park for recreational use. The price was \$950,000, with Green Acres funding half. The Park was made ready for the Bicentennial activities to be held on September 11,1976.

*1977-The first annual Pennsville Septemberfest was held at the Park on Saturday, September 10, 1977.



*The park we know today

Litvin, Donna. "Pennsville Township Historical Society." Pennsville Township Historical Society. Pennsville Township Historical Society, n.d. Web.