

# DANCING THE THING AT CONEY ISLAND

## Lame Duck and Maxixe Are Crowding Out the Lemon- ade Stands.

### EVERYBODY DOING IT

#### Ballroom Experts Take the Places of the Turkish Dancers in the Bowery Theatres.

They're dancing their way through Coney Island this season. From Brighton Beach to Sea Gate the crowds, the same old crowds that have been going to Coney year after year, are tangoing and maxixing and half and halving and lame ducking every foot of the way. Even the man with a two-by-four concession on the Boardwalk has cut down the size of his lemonade stand and put in a dancing floor, and the old time places of amusement have thrown out the Turkish dancers altogether or else have attired them in modern clothes and are billing them extensively as ballroom experts.

Of course, Coney has been open for weeks. The first ray of warm sunshine in the Spring marks the opening of the resort, but not until Decoration Day is the Island in full swing. Yesterday having been Decoration Day, the season is now on, and, as remarked before, it is a season of dancing and dancing and then more dancing.

Just where all the "Society Dancers" come from is hard to explain. Every restaurant and every café and every sideshow, to say nothing of the hotels, has its full quota of real blown-in-the-bottle society couples. If all of the advertising is true—and who is there to doubt a Coney Island press agent?—any society event in New York this Summer will be in an awful predicament to scare up any guests, for all of the 400 are dancing at Coney.

At Luna Park the big feature is the Castle's Summer House which is backed up by a letter from Vernon Castle himself saying that it is a real Castle enterprise and that if he and Mrs. Castle had the time they would dance there themselves. At Steeplechase Park dancing is the main attraction and at Louis Stauch's, which always was given over to dancing, there is more dancing than ever before. Henderson's, the chief vaudeville theatre on the Island, is featuring dancing teams as the headliners, and the same is true of the New Brighton Beach Theatre.

And the dancing contests with prizes, so the signs read, "For the best lady and gent dancer," are so numerous that the makers of silver trophy cups are working their factories overtime in order to grind out the prizes demanded by the Island's dance impresarios.

Aside from the dancing, everything else at Coney is about the same as it ever was. During the Winter the city cleaned away a bit more of the ruins of Dreamland Park and made that spot slightly more presentable. There is much agitation over the proposed extensive boardwalk, but so far that hasn't been started and the same old merry-go-rounds and wild rides and popcorn and other refreshing amusements and refreshments are to be found in the same old places—except where they have been crowded out by the dancing resorts.

#### New Things at Luna.

Several innovations have been introduced at Luna this season. Among them is the Clown Combination suit. Visitors at the park this season can don these vari-colored uniforms, oin the hundreds of funmakers and enjoy the carnival spirit to their hearts' delight.

The Mirano Brothers with their "Cloud Swing" are thrilling the visitors. Eighty feet in the air, whirling through space, propelled by a captive aeroplane, the members of the Mirano family perform a number of difficult aerial features. Dozens of trapeze, tight-wire and other acts are among the as well as horns, blow-outs, whistles, free circus features that provide continuous entertainment for the visitors.

So that the rising generation can satisfy their heart's desire, "Noah's Ark" looms up prominently in the Court of Luna. Inside the "Ark" are toys of every description to the total of more than 500,000. Stuffed cats, dogs, sheep, and various sorts of tin toys. Noah personally distributes the gifts to the kiddies.

"The Titanic Disaster." One of the new attractions is the reproduction of the disaster as it occurred in 1912. This is not a moving-picture attraction, but a realistic reproduction, with miniature counterparts of the Titanic and Carpathia, showing the principal events in the destruction of the massive ocean greyhound.

Another attraction is Capt. Louis Sorcho's Great Deep Sea Divers. The performance begins with a large ship floating on the crest of a giant glass tank containing 80,000 gallons of water. Suddenly there is an explosion and the vessel sinks to the bottom of the tank. Submarine men, clad in diving costume, descend to the wreck, showing the work performed in the raising of the sunken vessel and the recovery of valuables in the hold of the steamer.

"Crazy Town" is a village of surprises, one that is not only a treat for the little folks, but which appeals to the grown-ups as well. The character of its inhabitants and dwellings is one to cause a continual round of merriment. The Moving Picture House, the picture produced especially for the village, is one of wonderment. The Carnegie Library, with its innumerable volumes of standard books and the 594-pound librarian is a treat.

"The Beauty Shop," with all sorts of pomades and powders, where complexions are designed to order; "The Bathing Palace," where every one takes a dip, and the "Drink Emporium," with its varied sorts of beverages and lunch compels hunger to leave, and the "Hall of Fame" are some of the attractions of the village that drive dull care and the blues away.

#### In Steeplechase Park.

Down at Steeplechase Park clown costumes are also a feature, with all of the old attractions which made the Tilyou resort famous, such as the horses and the bathing pool, still very much in demand.

On all sides in the Steeplechase pavilion are novel tricks, queer mechanical and electrical devices, grotesque surprises, odd contraptions. One can slide, be blown about, whirled around on some strange, fun-making invention, or be beguiled by prankish fooling. If you enjoy a thrilling experience, there are runaways with queer twists, rides, bumty-bump things, and whirligigs that make the blood tingle.

At the Bowery entrance are the famous Michelin twins, huge collapsible figures, whose grotesque antics and contortions are ludicrous. Then suddenly you find yourself in a circus tent fronting an auditorium which seats 500 persons, and you indulge in some stunts. It is great fun, not alone for yourself, but for the spectators.

To the right are the "Bounding Billows," an exciting ride, and also the "Golden Stairs." To the west is the "Human Pool Table."

As you pass out of the gates to the garden or the beach the visitor will hear patriotic airs or hymns played on the chimes at the top of the big steel tower. Few people know that it is a pretty memorial erected about seven years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Tilyou to their little daughter, Gladys. The silent story it tells is a pretty and touching bit of sentiment that illustrates in its environment how lives are intertwined with pleasures and sorrows.

In the old Steeplechase Park there was a set of chimes, then, as now, a memorial to the little one. When flames licked up old Steeplechase in 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Tilyou watched the blaze. The old tower in which the bells were hung was trembling between a fall to the west and the east. If the top had fallen westward it would have spread the conflagration to the few buildings, including the home of Mr. Tilyou, that were east. The tower fortunately fell to the east.

This Mr. and Mrs. Tilyou believe, was

due to the good luck which the bells carried with them, and even with the \$1,000 which constituted their fortune after the fire, they decided to restore the chimes. On each bell is this little verse:

We live for those who love us,  
For those whose hearts are true,  
For the God that reigns above us,  
And the good that we may do.

And so there is some sentiment at Coney Island after all—but there is more dancing.

## CONEY DRAWS A BIG CROWD.

### Afternoon Shower Caused a Rush to Shelter, but No Accidents.

The great crowds that went to Coney Island yesterday enjoyed perfect weather conditions for the greater part of the day. A shower about 5 o'clock in the afternoon drove the visitors in swarms into the railroad stations and all other shelters available, and the uproar was so great at one or two places that police reserves from the Culver and West End Stations had to be called out to preserve order.

Considering the number of persons at the resort the day was remarkably quiet. There were few arrests, and no accidents were reported. All the bathing establishments were open, but none of them had much trade. The chill of recent cold snaps still lingered in the water, and bathers who ventured in came out shivering, with the remark that they did not belong to the midwinter swimming crowd. The municipal baths did a little better business than many of the private concerns.

The Brighton Beach Hotel opened for the Summer yesterday. Maurice Levi's band has been engaged for the entire season.

George B. Tilyou found a number of civil war veterans of the Federal and Confederate armies, who had finished with the Memorial Day processions, wandering about Steeplechase Park and invited them all to dinner. The meal was served in the restaurant on the pier.

## GIVE TEA DANCE AT MATOA.

### Mr. and Mrs. Heth Lorton Entertain at Their Garden City Villa.

Mr. and Mrs. Heth Lorton (Miss Mary Newbold Lawrence) entertained yesterday at Matoa, their Garden City cottage, with a tea dance for young married people and others. The first floor of the little villa was gay with Spring flowers. The guests came from New York, Philadelphia, and other cities.

Among those accepting invitations, most of whom attended the dance, were Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Von Gontard, Mr. and Mrs. Ryder Henry, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bartholomew, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Rhineland, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Bateson, Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Montague, Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Hewlett, Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Cammann, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bateson, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Jackson.

The Misses Henrietta Hewlett, Ethel Du Bois, Helen Sahler, Frederica Prentice, Eleanor Lockwood, Annie Tweedle, Bessie Jones, Anna Herrick, Rosalie Floyd, Mary Ostrander, Virginia Schoonmaker, Edith Johnson, Priscilla Lockwood, Rosina Boardman, Katharine Satterlee, Marion Leale, Angelica Church, Florence Harper, the Misses Moutague. Also John Van S. Bloodgood, C. C. Goldsborough, George Bramwell, Dr. George Bolling Lee, E. Throop Geer, Charles A. Coe, C. M. Bleecker, Edwards Johnson, Van Wyck Ferris, Roger Jones, W. P. Baxter, R. H. Gaines, Augustus T. Wynkoop, Dr. Catesby Jones, Emmet Irving, Robert Hewlett, Kenneth Boardman, H. Lenox Mott, Montague Tweedie, Loyall Faragut, Dr. Egbert G. Rankin, E. S. Bentley, G. H. Passmore, Alexander M. Orr, Jr., and Montague Geer.