

AMUSEMENT PARKS TO OPEN THIS WEEK

Coney Island Starts Its Season on Thursday with Spring Floral Carnival.

STEEPLECHASE UNDER WAY

New Spectacle, "Fire and Sword," at Luna Park—Mayor Strolls Along Surf Avenue.

By the end of the week New Yorkers will find the amusement park season in full swing, most of the managers of large outdoor entertainment places having announced their intention of throwing open the gates. The sounds of hammering and the smell of paint will give way to feminine shrieks and the odor of roasted corn and hot frankfurters.

George C. Tilyou's Steeplechase Park at Coney Island started the ball rolling by opening its season yesterday. The fair weather brought 75,000 persons to Coney, and Steeplechase got its share of the visitors. Those who passed through the turnstiles found a number of new attractions prepared for the sixteenth season of the resort. The stage in the pavilion has been remodeled and now accommodates 500 persons.

The entrance in Surf Avenue has been rebuilt, as has that at the Bowery. An innovation is a line of cars from Surf Avenue to Steeplechase Pier and the beach. An arcade runs the full distance from Surf Avenue to the sea and on top of this are the tracks. The outdoor swimming pool is also retained.

Mayor Gaynor paid a visit to Coney in the afternoon. He motored from St. James and stopped at the Prospect Park Police Station. Bicycle policeman James McNamara was detailed as an escort. It was just 2 o'clock when they arrived at the end of Ocean Boulevard, and there the Mayor jumped out of his automobile. Accompanied by McNamara, who was in uniform, he walked a mile up Surf Avenue to West Twentieth Street. Several passers by who recognized the Mayor called a greeting, and he nodded his head in recognition. He returned by way of the Bowery. He remained at the island for just an hour.

Those who went to the island yesterday wearing Summer clothes soon deserted the streets, and the restaurants did a thriving business. Hundreds in the crowd brought overcoats along. Fifty extra policemen were detailed under Capt. Thomas Murphy to keep order but their services were not required. Up to a late hour last night not an arrest was made.

The New Brighton Theatre also opens for the season to-day at Brighton Beach. The opening bill is headed by Bert French and Alice Eis in "The Dance of Fortune," and other acts include Maurice Levi with his "Invisible Band," Gertrude Barnes in a repertoire of songs, Charles and Fanny Van in "From Stage Carpenter to Actor," O'Brien and Havel in "Monday," Frank Mullane in a monologue, A. O. Duncan in ventriloquism, Chester's "Canines de Luxe," and Bell and Caron in an acrobatic novelty.

Fred Thompson will open Luna Park on Wednesday for its tenth season. Many changes have been made in the arrangements of the resort and new features added. Chief among the new features is a spectacle called "Fire and Sword," which shows the destruction of a Turkish city in the war of the Balkan allies on the Ottoman Empire. It occupies a site at the northwestern corner of the park. Other features announced are "Crazy Town," "Tornado and Flood," a reproduction of the Omaha and Dayton disasters; "Fairyland," a scenic ride; an exhibition by diving girls, "The Flyers," and "The Whirling Waves," two new mechanical thrillers; "The Bridge of Laughs," and other novelties, including a ride on hand-cars.

On Thursday Coney will officially open its season with a Spring Floral Carnival, which will be for the opening what the Mardi Gras is for the closing of the season. There will be nightly parades and festivals intended to emphasize the fact that Coney Island is ready in every particular to begin its annual task of amusing New York's pleasure-seekers.

Brighton Beach is also getting into line. Although the formal opening date of many of the attractions is set for Decoration Day, most of them will be doing business before that time. On Saturday the Giant Safety Coaster and the Roller Skating Rink will open. For the latter a new floor has been laid and a new skating outfit been installed.

Palisades Park, across the Hudson opposite 130th Street, will inaugurate its seventh season under the Schenck Brothers' management on Saturday night. The biggest novelty this year will be a large swimming pool where moonlight bathing will be indulged in. Frank Goodale and his dirigibles will also be on hand to provide thrills, and a new motordrome where three motor cycle riders will give exhibitions of fast riding is another feature. In the rustic theatre vaudeville performances will be given, and there are free band concerts every afternoon, and evening. The usual number of smaller amusement devices are provided for the season.