

Harmon Park

Page 1 – Picture of entrance to the park (taken by June, Sept, 2009)

Page 2 – [fact page]

Third Ward Park

- Established in August 1876
(deeded by Perkins estate. If not used as a park would revert back to the estate)
- One square block between 5th & 6th Ave., 29th & 30th Streets
(Southeast corner of Harmon)
- 1907-1924 – Chautauqua events held each summer

Page 3 – Picture of Chautauqua meeting

Hundreds of people from Kearney and the surrounding area attended

Special trains provided transportation

Programs included music, speeches on religion and politics

And just plain entertaining speakers

Page 4 – City Park Chautauqua Grounds camping postcard

Chautauqua lasted 9 days

Many people rented or brought their own tents and camped on the grounds

Page 5 – Second camping picture

1909 - Purchased three blocks north of 3rd Ward; 500 trees planted

1919 - 1920 – tourists camping – neighbors protested

Park was overgrown & had dead trees; neglected

1919 Chautauqua held at high school grounds but moved back in 1920

Page 6 – View of Kearney, Neb. Postcard

Clean up the Park [Harmon Park bunch of trees on left?]

1920-1923 – Public push to clean up the park

Aug 3, 1920 – Citizen protest at City Council meeting the use of Third Ward Park as a camping ground. Lawyer Sinclair’s point: Park was deeded to city in 1876 by Perkins estate. If not used as a park for citizens of Kearney it could revert back to the Perkins estate.

Page 7 – Picture of William Harmon

Grant from Harmon Foundation 1924

- Land added [north]
- park renamed
- Tennis courts
- Playground
- Playground equipment
- Wading pool

Page 8 – Current picture of Tennis Courts

Today the tennis courts are located on the northeast corner of the park, north of the ball field, east of the rock garden

Donated by Cosmopolitan Club

Page 9 – Playground & Equipment

Jennifer Harvey in swing – 1942 Slide

It’s also changed in location and type of equipment over the years

Page 10 – The Wave merry-go-round was a favorite (Like the one at Harmon)

Page 11 – Also croquet and Roque where Rock Garden is now

Page 12 – Early baseball field

Page 13 – Wading Pool

Dedicated in Aug 1926 and was donated by the Kiwanis Club

Page 14 – Located on back side of Sonatorium’s west end

Page 15 – National Youth Administration Project

Lily Pond – Built in Summer 1937

(located east of present day swimming pool's water slide)

Page 16 – Elinor Hardin by Lily Pond soon after it was built

Note the two young trees behind her

Page 17 – Lily Pond post card

Again note the two trees

Page 18 - Filled in - First made into a rose garden

Later filled with small bushes

Note the bolder beyond the lily pond

Page 19 – The Boulder

Boulder with Harmon plaque

Page 20 – close up of plaque on the rock

Page 21 – WPA Projects

Ball field developed

Swimming pool & bath house

Rock garden

Sonatorium

Page 22 – Ball fields [Jennifer's ball field #3]

Have been redone at various times over the years

Page 23 – Recent photo [June ball field #6 taken this spring]

Page 24 – Swimming pool & bath house

Opened in 1937

Page 25 – View from Rock Garden entrance corner

Page 26 – Swimming pool restored

Page 27 – Bath house restored – street side

Page 28 – Pool end with water slide

Page 29 – Rock garden – 1937-8

Page 30 – Rock Garden waterfall then

Page 31 – Rock Garden waterfall now

Page 32 – Rock Garden overgrown

Page 33 – Rock Garden cleaned up, last fall

Page 34 – Face in the Sidewalk

Page 35 – Star in the sidewalk

Page 36 – Boulder fell off cart – original destination unknown

Page 37 – Sonatorium – Dedicated 1938

Page 38 – Performing on Sonatorium stage

Page 39 – Sonatorium, present day

Has not changed over the years

Shows picnic shelter on east end

Google “Sonatorium” – 5-3-11

First three sources are the City of Kearney website with rent information about the three areas of the Sonatorium – East end, West end, & stage

4th source is t a French website about a seminar held in Feb. 2008

Sonatorium #1 – the Sound & Outside

Sessions on

Sound and space

Anthology of noise

Method of construction

Electronic music

Voice and concrete

Several sources were relating to postcard pictures of the Sonatorium in Harmon Park

This page from the American Dialect Society’s 1939 publication, *The Speech*

NOTES

Kearney, Nebraska has a new *Sonatorium* at Harmon Field. The building is equipped with electrical sound transmission, a number of amplifiers in the two pylons and in other places in the structure as well as in the Field and the parks adjoining, so that its music can be heard all over the two recreation places. The word *Sonatorium* is stated to have been coined by McClure and Walker, Kearney architects, to describe the combined out-of-door theater, band shell, and shelter.

Page 40 - Light house

Completed in Summer 1940

Why was a lighthouse built?

Page 41 – Jennifer Harvey’s picture of the lighthouse

Page 42 – Lighthouse in fall 2009

Page 43 – A Special Pile of Rocks – Pyramid of rocks from every state

Page 44 – James E. Harvey, 5, and father James K Harvey

Page 45 – The Harveys lived in the caretakers house on park grounds.

Page 46 – Other features in Late 1930’s & 1940’s, 50’s --

Pony Rides

Page 47 – Monkeys

Page 48 – Today where the monkey cages stood

Page 49– Playground 1942 – Swings on right, teeter totters in center

Page 50 – Ellen Baldwin Playground – current playground

Page 51 – Horseshoe court with playground equipment in background

Page 52 – Hose Cart

Page 53 – Tank, was also a cannon at one time

Page 54 – Tank, cannon, & hose cart now at the cemetery

Page 55 – Fire truck – in park a few months. Now at Firemen’s Museum
Restored by LeMoyne Fern

Page 56 – Activity Center – Also formal garden layout – no fountain

Page 57 – New Activity Center

Page 58 – Flower garden & Fountain

Page 59 – Rose garden

Page 60 – another picture of formal garden

Page 61 – Original fountain

Page 62 – Jack & Judy Robinson, about 1943-4 – new fountain

Page 63 – Art deco (Concrete) Fountain

Page 64 – Restored fountain & formal flower bed layout

Page 65 – the Restored Fountain

Page 66 – Afternoon in the Park

Sculpture was added in 1995.

Sculptor was Mark Lundeen from Loveland Colorado

Ron and Carol Cope assisted in getting it, July 1995.

Page 67 – Dr. Sidner Memorial Plaza around the gazebo – 1994

Page 68 – Justin Belfany Memorial shade structure by the tennis courts – 2010

Page 69 – Memories about Harmon Park