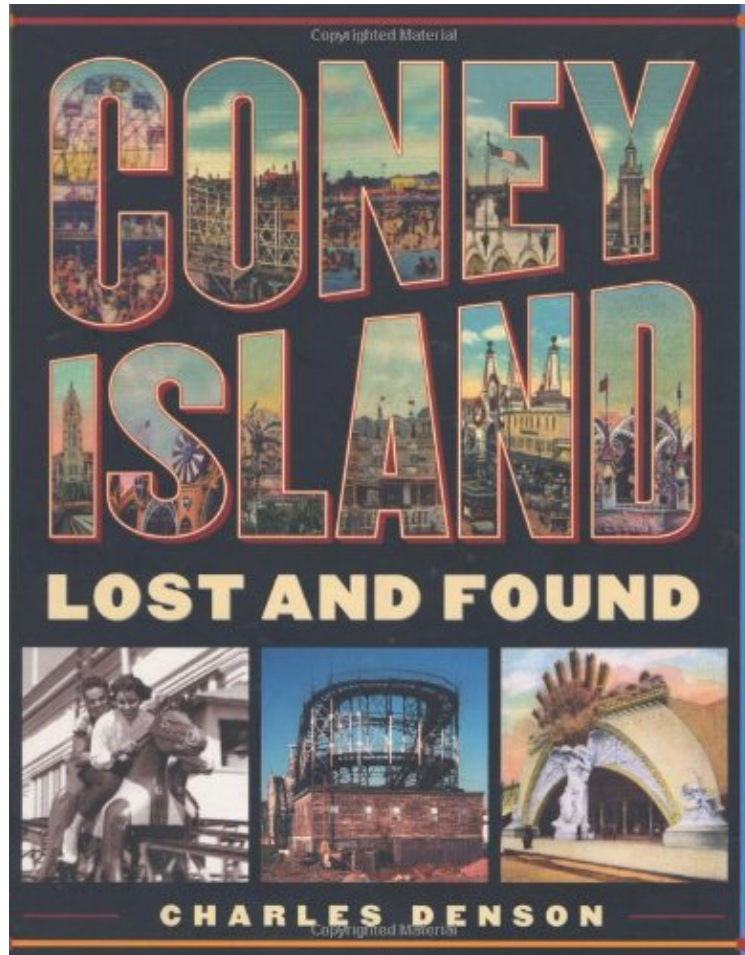


Coney Island: Lost and Found

Charles Denson

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#256041 in Books Ten Speed Press 2004-03-01 2004-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .69 x 7.961, 2.40 #File Name: 1580084559304 pages | File size: 51.Mb

Charles Denson : Coney Island: Lost and Found before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Coney Island: Lost and Found:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You CAN go home again if you lived in Sea Gate or CONEY ISLAND By Dr. Ronald Schwartz Born in Sea Gate in the late thirties, I was part of a generation that grew up during World War II and spent many years in Coney Island, even working in Steeplechase as a Barrel Boy at age 12, helping people through the rotating barrel if they fell forward or backward, scooping them and their belongings up and helping them exit the barrel. It was innocent fun. Charles Denson's book, CONEY ISLAND is a treasure trove of the history of Sea Gate, Coney Island, Steeplechase, Luna Park (I saw it burn down in the early forties), complete with archival photos that bring back memories of my youth, bicycling on the famous boardwalk, walking down Mermaid Avenue and the Bowery (seeing some of its freak shows) and riding the Steeplechase Roller Coaster, Horses and the iconic Parachute Jump! What a thrill it was! The book is organized in 3 parts--1. C.I. from 1945-55, 2. The Coming of Age in C.I 1956-1969 and 3. Decline Comeback of C.I 1970-2000. It is virtually loaded with photos, postal cards,

memorabilia and is somewhat autobiographical. My family and I left the Sea Gate-Coney Island area in 1987 during its resurgence and have been back visiting before and after Hurricane Sandy, especially someone we know at the Shorefront Rehab. Center on West 29 St. and Surf Avenue where the Half-Moon Hotel used to stand. I'll never forget the time Jewish gangster Abe Rellis was tossed out of high window from the Half-Moon Hotel when I was a youngster. We now live near Columbia University in Manhattan but all of us have some contact with fellow-Sea Gate-ers. In fact, the original wooden gate shown on p.28 is no more and the private Sea Gate Police Force occupy the Chapel which is still standing today. Whether you lived there or not, I highly recommend to you to buy this terrific book, wonderfully researched and beautifully bound in paperback. Nathan's Famous, famous for its hot dogs and Gargiulo's Italian Restaurant on West 15th Street and Surf Avenue are worth the visit alone for its wealth of culinary fare. And the rides, the roller coaster alone is still as thrilling as it used to be. I still take my grown children to the amusement parks. Too bad Steeplechase is closed and the girders of the towering parachute jump are still standing, unused, but I remember how thrilling it was to grow up there. I even went to Mark Twain JHS and Abraham Lincoln HS with actor Louis Gossett and singer Neil Sedaka and even worked for and met George C. Tilyou, the owner of Steeplechase before it closed! A great book for those of us who lived there and terrific for tourists since the Renaissance of Coney Island has taken place. I recommend you read it first and go for a visit--its one of the last treasures of Brooklyn and always a pleasure to see the Atlantic Ocean and swim on the beaches of CONEY ISLAND. I am so glad I bought and found this book on .com 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. The BEST of Coney Island! By Chaz Although his name doesn't ring a "bell", I had to have known the author. In 1963, my family moved into the same NYC "Projects" (i.e. Coney Island Houses) where the author lived. His story is in many ways my story, his outlook on the one and only Coney, my outlook as well. In a borough of giants (well, maybe only "Dodgers"), when Brooklyn *really* WAS the "World", Coney Island was KING! Where else in the world could working-class folk (white, black, Jew and Gentile) live in relative peace and harmony while enjoying the waterfront views millionaires would be envious of? Author Charles Denson hits the right balance with both his superb history of America's original "Playground" and his personal reflections on growing up in the shadow of a myth. Coney *was* changing along with America in the 1960s. Much of the change was harsh and relentless. Poverty and greed bred crime and desolation. Coney Island, more vulnerable than most Brooklyn neighborhoods to the ebbs and flows of capricious fortune, became a victim to the times. The author aptly outlines this decline and recent rejuvenation with such skill that (unlike other "neighborhood" memory/history books) one can "taste" the vitality of the arisen "Phoenix" known as Coney Island. Almost as good as a Nathan's frank and a bag of fries, sitting in a boardwalk "pavillion", watching the summer fireworks. (Or maybe skating in Abe Stark and going to the Tilyou for a matinee?). Just an afterthought... I thought I was the only one on earth who remembered "Al" the "Good Humor"-man... To Mr. "Coopey" (of the immortal "Coopey's Corner"), who's recommendation here on prompted me to buy this book... You'll never know how many children's souls you touched and made smile. A THOUSAND blessings! Charlie R,... (who broke his leg at age 6 on the monkey bars in the "little" playground next to 2928 in 1964) 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A well-done history of Coney Island By Barry Wolborsky Like many of the other reviewers, I'm a Coney Island native. Unlike them, I grew in Trump Village, located on the border between Coney and Brighton. Growing up in the 1970's and 80's, I'd only heard vague stories about how great Coney used to be. I had always been told that before Trump Village and Warbasse, there used to be nothing but empty land in that area. Thanks to this book, I have finally learned the truth, that there used to be a vital, functioning and even happy lower and middle income neighborhood called the Gut, before Fred Trump, Robert Moses and other developers and politicians came along and destroyed all that. Despite it's controversial beginnings, Trump still ended up being a decent, affordable place for many middle class Jews and Russian immigrants to live. In part, thanks to this book, I'll continue to see the ghosts of the homes, buildings and people who came before. For anyone who is interested in Coney Island or the rise and fall of a city neighborhood, this book is most definitely recommended. And if you grew up in or even near Coney, this book is a must-read.

Growing up on Coney Island in the '50s and '60s, Charles Denson experienced legendary amusements and attractions like the Cyclone and Thunderbolt roller coasters, the Parachute Jump, and Steeplechase Park. In CONEY ISLAND: LOST AND FOUND, Denson gives us an insider's look at one of New York's best-known neighborhoods, weaving together memories of his childhood adventures with colorful stories of the area's past and interviews with local personalities, all brought to life by hundreds of photographs, detailed maps, and authentic memorabilia. CONEY ISLAND is a heartfelt chronicle that stretches from colonial times to the island's heyday in the early 20th century and through its subsequent decline and revival, culminating in the 2001 opening of the new ballpark that brought baseball back to Brooklyn. Features 300 color and black-and-white photographs, including many never-before-published images. Detailed hand-drawn maps trace a century of amusement park history. Includes posters, programs, and tickets from past and present. Reviews "Evocative." -Newark Star-Ledger Recommended in "New York Bookshelf, Nonfiction" -New York Times "Charles Denson traces CONEY ISLAND . . . in all its glory." -Birmingham News "[A] crisply researched and tenderly rendered love letter." - St. Petersburg Times "Many delightful details assembled in the thoughtful and handsome" volume." -San Francisco Chronicle "Denson's CONEY ISLAND is a well-researched,

passionate account of his neighborhood's decline and rebirth is an invaluable addition . . . to American history." -New York's City Limits