



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Astroland Photographs

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2022

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Astroland Photographs
Date:	January 4, 2009
Identifier:	NASM.2022.0021
Extent:	0.67 Gigabytes (33 digital image files)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 33 color digital images made by Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Space History curator Margaret Weitekamp on January 4, 2009, during her collecting trip to the space-themed Astroland Park at Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, four months after amusement park had closed to the public. The images include views of Astroland signage and rides as well as several hand-made signs affixed to security fencing by the members of the public.
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM-9A19013, Astroland Park sign, Coney Island, New York; January 4, 2009.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Margaret Weitekamp, NASM Space History Department, transfer, 2022, NASM.2022.0021

Processing Information

Arranged, described and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Astroland Photographs, Acc. NASM.2022.0021, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

In 1962, Dewey Albert and his business partners founded Astroland, a space-themed amusement park located at 1000 Surf Avenue, Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, at the height of the space craze generated in

the early 1960s by the successes of United States' human space flights, including John Glenn's orbital flight. The park's first amusement was a 71-foot long rocket ride initially called the Cape Canaveral Satellite Jet (although later continually renamed and refreshed during the 46-year life of the park). Mounted on hydraulic lifts, with fixed seats, a movie screen, and a sound system, the 12,000 pound ride took visitors on a simulated trip to the Moon. The Colonel Glenn Sky Ride, quickly renamed the Mercury Capsule Skyride, flew visitors above the park in plastic bubble cars. A star-topped entranceway sign, added to the Surf Avenue entrance in 1963, reflected the space theme of the park. After Astroland closed on September 7, 2008, owners Carol and Jerome Albert donated one of the sign's two stars to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM) in 2009 [Lighted Sign, Star, Astroland, A20090091000].

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 33 color digital images (3072 x 2304 pixel JPG files) made by NASM Space History curator Margaret Weitekamp on January 4, 2009, during her collecting trip to Astroland Park at Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York. The images include views of the star-topped sign at the Surf Avenue entrance, the rocket-shaped Astroland Park sign above Gregory & Paul's food concession stand, the Astroland ticket booth, the AstroTower gyro tower ride, the Wonder Wheel Ferris wheel, the iconic Cyclone roller coaster (first opened in 1927), a memorial plaque dedicated to Astroland founder Dewey Albert, and several hand-made signs affixed to security fencing by the members of the public following the park's closure in 2008.

Arrangement

The images are arranged in chronological order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Amusement parks
- Amusement parks--New York (State)--History
- Amusement rides -- Photographs
- Astronautics

Types of Materials:

- Digital images

Places:

- Coney Island (New York, N.Y.)