



Hot Fun in the Su

Summer in the United States blends patriotism with frolics and public profit. Firemen's festivals and amusement parks thrive as the heat and the long summer evenings send people out of their houses searching for good times. Recreation takes on the character of a major industry and performs large scale good works at the same time.

The great summer holidays in this country are the secular ones — Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day occasion displays of patriotic fervor and a general migration to the resorts. Perhaps it is a result of our pluralism that we use our summers for national festivals and celebrate the more ancient religious holidays during winter and spring.

Mass meetings, once so essential to political life in the United States, provide the origins of our summer holidays, for obviously they could only be held in good weather. At the same time, we discovered as a nation that public fun could not only be good business, but that it could be turned to the public good. Now many civic and church organizations run festivals and carnivals to bring in a large share of the monies needed to continue their work.

These pictures from the amusement park at Seabreeze in Irondequoit show bumper cars, a roller coaster and a "Goofy House" where visitors walk through a spinning tunnel. For a shorter time, but providing no less fun, the annual Mendon Firemen's Carnival featured a ferris wheel and rotating swings.

