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THE BUMPS

A New and Novel Pastime at White City Amusement Park, Chicago (1905)

Chicagoans have never yet been given the opportunity of indulging in that exhilarating and hilarious pastime so popular at Coney Island and known as "Bumping the Bumps." During the summer amusement season at Coney Island the most frequent method of salutation among people of all classes was "Have you bumped the bumps" and the answer was almost invariably "You can bet your life I have."





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The Bumps first appeared at Dreamland and at once became the most popular attraction in that resort. Dignified national, state, and municipal executives gravely ascended to the platform and took the greatest possible delight in sliding down the smooth incline; caroming from one bump to another and landing at the foot against the air cushion with all the delight of school boys. It became a veritable craze before the season had become far advanced and the management of White City, when visiting Dreamland last season determined that the Bumps should be introduced in Chicago. It is impossible to explain exactly what the Bumps are, or is, but the following brief description will give an excellent idea of this attraction as it will be found at White City.

In a handsomely built and specially designed structure, the first building seen by the visitor to White City on the west walk, will be found the Bumps. The front of the building is open and a flight of stairs leads the seeker for amusement to a platform at the rear of the building and about 20 feet from the ground. Leading from this platform to the ground floor in front is a perfectly smooth and satin-finished incline, built of the finest maple lumber. The descent has an angle of about 30 degrees and here and there are cushioned protuberances which cause the person sliding down the incline to become diverted from a straight course and be directed in this way from one to another of the "Bumps" until the foot of the incline is finally reached. There will be found several precautionary appliances to prevent the possibility of injury or unpleasant sensation.

In addition to the main slide there are three others, one a straight and narrow Chute constructed of slippery basket work and which gives the slider an excellent speed. Another gives the sensation of alternate falling and rising until the bottom is reached by a succession of gentle inclines. But the most exciting of all is what a baseball pitcher would call the in and out curve. It consists of a narrow Chute with sharp and sudden turns occurring at the most unexpected places and finally landing the bumper at the bottom without injury.

The Bumps is an amusement device without any pretense of artistic effort or dignity. It will be conducted for the sole use of those who are seeking pure fun and hilarity. The location of the Bumps will be readily ascertained by the shouts of laughter and shrieks of hilarity which universally characterize this method of amusement. Any person who does not desire to laugh and who has a wish to preserve his dignity must surely refrain from approaching the Bumps, for once there, he will become so much affected by the spirit of noisy enjoyment that he must perforce join the happy throng and Bump the Bumps with the rest of them.

No cars or boats are required to give the participant in this unique and exciting pleasure a rapid ride. The minute the visitor seats himself on the incline, the momentum created



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by the weight of the body causes an immediate and rapid descent, landing feet foremost upon the great air cushion at the foot. So when anyone asks you next season if you have "Bumped the Bumps," do not find yourself compelled to answer, "I have not, "because you will certainly have missed one of the greatest enjoyments to be found. For a stubborn case of indigestion or the blues try the Bumps.