

Green Harbor Beach, Riverside Park Get Heavy Summer Play

By ART JENKINS
(Day Staff Writer)

Basking in the sunlight—if not, like Ocean Beach park, in the limelight—are two small beaches in this city which are for anybody and for free.

They are Green Harbor beach on Pequot avenue and Riverside park beach on the Thames river border of that park.

Neither is a show place, but both are minor paradises for hundreds of small fry who would do little bathing if the city had not begun maintaining the two beaches about 50 years ago.

Green Harbor beach is a crescent of white sand just south of the New London-Orient Point ferry slip. A 400-foot iron fence separating the beach from the sidewalk is open at each end.

At the northern extremity is a concrete boat-launching ramp for the convenience of those who haul their boats from home to water by trailer. At the southern end is located a masonry building that

houses 50 dressing rooms, toilets and a clothes checking room. Above it is a concrete pavilion.

The pavilion, which is pleasantly cool during the warmest days is bare of any furnishings at present, but Recreation Director Herbert F. Moran said the city may install some benches and tables. (They'd have to be concrete, he said, for lighter furniture would probably be tossed over the railings to the beach below by vandals.)

Spic and Span

The dressing rooms are kept spic and span by two attendants on duty there, but the rest of the beach presents a problem in respect to tidiness.

"Everything that floats on the river seems to be swept into this harbor," Moran said.

The lifeguards—there are usually two at this beach which was used by 20,250 persons last year—rake the sand each morning and pick up the rubbish from the beach and bottles and tins out of the water.

Persons on large boats moored in the area are some times responsible for the rubbish that washes up when they dispose of their trash by heaving it over the side, Moran said.

Other features of the beach are a raft and a concrete dock, which

is used as a sun deck by those who want to lie a little closer to the river's cooling waters.

The Riverside park beach, in addition to a raft, has a well-built 100-foot-long dock, with a diving board and a boat landing platform, has been developed extensively during the past seven years.

The sand is trucked to the river shore and has to be replenished occasionally because of the action of tide and river flow.

36 Dressing Rooms

There are 36 dressing rooms in the bathhouse located west of the Central Vermont railway tracks, well above the beach. Connecting the bathhouses with the beach, however, is a steel bridge and stairs which enables youngsters to traverse the tracks without danger.

Moran did not have figures on the volume of beach attendance, but a clue to that can be found in the fact that the city last year reserved the park pavilion to 39 large picnic groups numbering from 50 to 300 persons in each. The park was used by more than 28,000 persons last year.

There is one lifeguard at the beach during the week, and two are on duty week ends. One of their main jobs is to "slow down" the youngsters who are inclined to get too lively for their own good and who occasionally swim out too far.

At Riverside, as at Green Harbor, the lifeguards are instructed to be particularly watchful of children who play with inflated tire tubes, since they sometimes are used by those who cannot swim.

Fishing and Crabbing

The dock, which is lighted at night, although currently the park is closed at sundown, is a popular spot for fishing and crabbing. Readily available, too, is a row-boat for use by the lifeguards.

On Saturdays and Sundays there are usually about 150 or more persons at the beach at all times during the day.

Both beaches draw heavily on the residents of their respective neighborhoods and Moran says, "It is unusual for a city to have bathing beaches so conveniently located in respect to its crowded residential sections."

That they are popular is shown by the fact that at both beaches it is not unusual for the lifeguards to arrive in the morning to find early-bird youngsters already running about the sand or swimming.

Many children spend the whole day at the beaches. Moran would like, however, to see fewer very small children at the beaches unaccompanied by adults.

Horst to Lecture At Dance School

Louis Horst, dance authority and critic, will speak at the second in the current series of lectures sponsored by Connecticut

College School of the Dance at 8 p. m. Monday at Palmer auditorium. Horst is a member of the School of the Dance faculty and is teaching pre-classic forms and composition of modern forms.

He will discuss Modern Dance forms and the relation of modern dance to the other modern arts. The lecture will include a demonstration by faculty members and



OH BOY! THE WATER'S PERFECT!—Small fry splash and swim at Green Harbor beach. The beach, a crescent of white sand, is a popular spot.



HEY! WATCH THIS DIVE!—Youngsters at Riverside park beach put the raft to good use as they plunge into the cooling waters of the Thames river on the western shore of which the beach is located. Free to all comers, the beach has a large dock with a diving board from which this picture was taken.

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