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COLLEGE INN RESTAURANT

"Best in America"

White City Amusement Park, 63rd Street and South Parkway, Chicago, IL (1905)

The finest restaurant in America. How often has this phrase been applied to even mediocre eating places? Nearly every chop house or lunchroom makes claim to this title, until it has become trite and meaningless. But when applied to the White City College Inn the phrase again is filled with meaning and is the literal truth, for this restaurant is the finest in the country, barring none. However great the crowds that throng to White City during this summer [first year of operation], every facility for catering to them has been supplied. In this structure can be found every delicacy desired by the rich, and also a full meal for those whose purses are limited. After walking about the grounds and indulging in the sports to be found there, hunger asserts itself and the crowds naturally turn to College Inn.



College Inn Restaurant - White City Amusement Park - Chicago 1905



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The White City College Inn is a duplicate of the famous College Inn located in the Sherman House in the downtown district, but it is reproduced on a much larger scale and is equally complete in its appointments. To those who have visited the noted eating place in the Sherman House it is useless to try to expand upon the beauty of the place, for they already know all about it. But to those who have never been so fortunate as to visit the former place, the chance to visit even a finer restaurant will be granted. It occupies one of the most pretentious and beautiful buildings on the grounds. It is architecturally perfect, being constructed of cement, covering a framework of steel. It was especially designed for White City and is probably the largest building in the country devoted exclusively to a restaurant.

The College Inn proper occupies the entire upper part of the structure, the whole front of the building consisting of enormous plate-glass windows, which afford the diners an excellent opportunity of watching the merry throngs on the grounds. The location of the College Inn, being in the middle of the Sunken Gardens, gives a view from the windows that is not excelled anywhere at White City. Thousands of incandescent lights stud the ceilings and the walls are done in green and white, the effect being most harmonious and pleasing.

The great dining hall is reached by steps at either end of the structure. Inside there are balconies and alcoves where parties may dine in semi-privacy. Hundreds of skilled waiters are ready to obey the slightest motion of the diner, and a full orchestra is constantly retained to furnish music. In this beautiful place eating is robbed of its material side and at once becomes a psychic pleasure. In all this building will accommodate 2,400 diners at a time.

Downstairs, and fronting on the "Board Walk," is the dairy lunchroom. Here a person may obtain a meal at whatever price he may wish. The prices in this dairy lunchroom are the same as at any of the lunchrooms in the downtown district, and the best of service is given.

Adjoining the dairy lunchroom is a German Rathskeller, which is typical of the many similar places in every German town. Here a person may sit and drink his beer and be surrounded with many accommodations afforded visitors. The cement floors, the typical bar, and the decorations of the room, all tend to lend a distinctly German atmosphere to the place. This Rathskeller has already proved very popular, and doubtless will continue to grow in popularity as the summer advances.