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# THE SCENIC RAILWAY

## *AN ENCHANTING RIDE IN SWIFT MOVING CARS*

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

With the exception of the Fire Show, the Scenic Railway is the most elaborate and pretentious attraction at White City. This feature of the park is located on the west side of the "Board Walk," near the Electric Tower. The front of the building is wide open and inside is a spiral railway representing the ascent up a steep hill or mountain. This, however, is merely the loading station. This attraction has been installed at a great expense and is most complete in every detail. This attraction appeals strongly to those who are seeking excitement, combined with a high degree of entertainment. Every moment of the long and swift trip up hill and down dale through the castle of views is one of the keenest enjoyment.



Loading Station for Scenic Railway



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After the cars are loaded at the station bordering on the "Board Walk," they are drawn up a steep incline. Here they are started down a precipitous incline without any motive power. Making a long sweep downward, the car speeds at a terrific rate up a hill, then down another, and then dashes upward into the Palace of Views.

This is a most sumptuously fitted place, showing many of the most beautiful scenes in the country actually reproduced in detail. The car glides swiftly past a delightful little waterfall, sweeps onward around the pond, a fleeting view of a party of bathers is had and then the car plunges into a dark tunnel. On dashing out from the darkness a huge and grotesque figure of a man brandishing a club is seen. The coloring of the figure and the effect of the various colored electric lights thrown on him, give the figure a most startling appearance. Onward dashes the car into darkness again, only to emerge a moment later into another beautiful scene. Thus come a succession of changes from darkness to light, and then the car sweeps out into daylight again and gently drifts on over an undulating track to the starting place and the ride is over.

But all this takes up a good amount of time, as the trackage for this attraction covers more than three-quarters of a mile and is so scattered with different views and figures that the spectator believes that he has traveled much farther than he really has. There is a keen sense of exhilaration as the car starts on its initial downward course, the occupant grasps his seat and hangs on for dear life, though he is securely strapped in. Soon, however, this fear wears off, and after a second or so the visitor is laughing and shouting and urging the car to a faster speed. This feature of White City has already attained a great amount of popularity, and it is safe to predict that the Scenic Railway will draw as great crowds as any other attraction at the grounds. This feature is especially delightful on a warm day or night, and is sure to draw enormous crowds of visitors every afternoon and evening. The tracks are inspected several times daily, so that the Scenic Railway is kept constantly in a state of repair and precludes all possibility of any mishap. This is true of all the amusements at White City — the safety of the public is the first consideration of the management.