

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

THE Humphrey Women



A promotional photo of Louise holding a shovel full of dirt on the future site of the Humphrey Company's indoor ice skating rink in University Circle

There are a number of reasons Euclid Beach Park and the Humphrey Family that operated it were so successful. One of the most overlooked reasons for their success is the many contributions made by the women of the family. From the beginning when the Humphrey's migrated from New England to Ohio, the Humphrey women were far more than homemakers responsible for rearing their children; they were decision makers who actively participated in the family's business endeavors.

Born on June 9, 1898, Louise was Dudley Sherman Humphrey II's youngest child. She was only one year old when the family opened their first popcorn stand at Euclid Beach in 1899 under the park's original owners. Louise went on to be educated at Hathaway-Brown School here in Cleveland and then Smith College. She excelled in music and before returning home to the family business, she wrote music professionally in New York City. Louise married John E. Lambie and like many of the Humphrey women before and after her, she took on an active role in the family business. She served as the vice president of the Humphrey Company for sixteen years and was responsible for the development of many of the architectural plans that changed the look of the amusement park. Most notably she oversaw the Art Deco makeover in the 1930's that changed the appearance of the entrances of the Thriller, Racing Coaster, and Flying Turns, the interior of the Dance Pavilion, and the Grand Carousel.

She was also active in the community and served on a number of civic committees in Cleveland. Louise served as the head of the League of Women's Voters and was the chairwoman of the Library Board of the City of Cleveland.

EUCLID BEACH PARK GRAND CAROUSEL

Yesterday & Today



1910

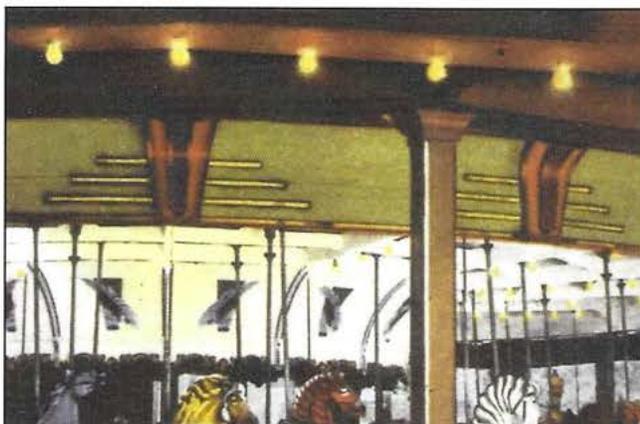


1969



2014

When PTC No.19 arrived at Euclid Beach in 1910, it was larger and grander than any of the other carousels that had operated there thus far. The Humphrey's spared no expense on their new carousel and the building that housed it was no exception. The ninety foot diameter building, crowned with a copper cupola, was adorned with ornate shields and paintings of familiar Cleveland scenes on the lower part of the roof. The look of the original building is far different than the modern glass walled sixty foot diameter pavilion that currently houses the Carousel at the Cleveland History Center. There is also a vast difference in the cost of the two structures. The initial cost to erect the Carousel building in 1910 of \$9,713.94 was far eclipsed by the \$1,500,000.00 price tag for its new home.



The overall appearance of the Carousel has changed significantly over the years. The first major change was made by the Humphrey family in the 1930's to reflect the Art Deco design style which was popular at that time. The Carousel took on a more modern sleek look. Much of the ornate decorative wood carving on the upper rounding boards was removed as well as the cherubs, swags, and mirrors which originally adorned each panel. They were replaced with a crisp clear linear design element backlit by illuminated shields at each of the rounding board segment joints. Today, the rounding boards pay homage to both the pre and post 1930 look of the Carousel with not only the restored shields but also the mirrors, cherubs, and flower swags adorning each of the rounding boards.