

INTERVIEW WITH BEATRICE AND GEORGE EPSTEIN, AUGUST 2, 1980

B. I remember I wasn't married to George then. I came out with my parents and everything . . . It was very crowded and you had to wait wherever you wanted to go for any exhibit. It was very fascinating and we came back many times. I know we covered a great deal of the area at the fair. The large companies all had tremendous exhibits at the time.

G. Well, since I'm interested in communications, the thing I remember most at the fair was the RCA exhibit with the fairly new television at the time and I remember the television picture was seen on a mirror which reflected the television program to the viewer. I also remember the telephone exhibit and the breakdown of the voice into its component sounds., The feature of course of the fair was the Trylon and Perisphere and I believe they had a lot of fireworks at night and a lot of people waited till fairly late at night to see them. Since this was 40 years ago it is a little hard to recall anything other than the outstanding items I mentioned.

B. I remember the shows from the different countries. I don't remember which ones I saw though.

G. I don't recall whether it was at the 1939 or 1964 fair, but the outstanding show from a different country were the ones from either Noreway or Swede--the Scandinavian countries that showed the large transmsion of D.C. power which seemed to be different from what was done in the United States. Here the transmissions were mostly A.C. power.



Q. How old were you when you came to the Fair, Beatrice?

A. I was 32 years old.

Q. Did you find whether or not the fair had any influence on your lives in the years to come? Was it influential in any way?

A. No. But it's interesting when they had the telephone building for instance with all the different phones and being able to talk and you could tell, and I think that's when nylon came in, the idea of everything. But I couldn't say that it did influence my life.

G. I can't say that it had very much influence in my life either. The big thing of course in the fair was the new items that were being introduced by the different companies and scientific advances that had been made up to that time.

B. I was disappointed after this fair and the second fair in 1964 that the city did not do anything to make it sort of a real national park or state park. I understood the buildings were put up just for a certain amount of time and they would have fallen apart anyhow, but it's too bad because it's surely something to see.

Q. You mentioned the 1964 World's Fair. Did you feel any different about the '64 fair versus the '39 fair? Which one would you say was the most dramatic?

A. I would say the 1939 fair because we never saw anything like it. It was really sensational.



G. The 1964 fair sort of reminded you of something that you had already seen but brought up to date because of the difference in the number of years that had passed. I remember the '64 one a little bit more because they had the setup of a radio amateur station which could be used by amateurs and I was doing that since 1942 or so and I had a chance to operate and that sticks in my mind.

Q. Both of you have mentioned foreign pavillions. The foreign pavillions that stand out, do you remember any other pavillions, walking past or through?

A. I remember the Mexican pavillion but I don't remember if it was the first or second fair.

G. Also in the Belgian Pavillin and I think this was the 1964 fair, they had these foods, like the ice cream waffle and that was very good and seemed to be their specialty.

B. I do remember dressing very warm and I don't know how long it was because when I looked at some of the pictures, the people wore a hat and coat and I think it must have run into November.

G. It was fairly late and the evenings were quite cool in this area and it gets quite cool. It's a wonder on these double headers at Shea Stadium how they're able to stand it.

We forgot about Billy Rose's Aquacade. That was the big attraction. I remember they made a swimming pool out of it and later on it was used as a municipal pool. But that was a great show.

Q. Do you remember the shows that you'd seen?

B. We went in for these girlie shows with a lot of swimming and figures and . . .