Sample photos and captions



The submarine S-49 was a very unusual exhibit, for instead of being a US Navy vessel, it was actually privately owned. Built in 1922 and sold for scrap in 1931, the sub was purchased by F. J. Chrestensen, who charged 25 cents for a tour. Afraid that it might be mistaken for a German U-boat and sunk he sold the sub back to the Navy at the onset of World War II.



Visitors entering at the North Entrance came upon the Avenue of Flags, the main route to the rest of the fair. Originally planned to showcase flags from the participating nations, it was later decided to use simple colored banners instead. They were felt to be more esthetically pleasing – and they didn't point out that there were actually very few international exhibitors.



Eighteen states and Puerto Rico exhibited at the fair. While prior fairs generally featured individual buildings for each state, the Chicago organizers realized they could attract a larger number of participants by grouping them into one large building. Allotting equally-sized sections also kept states from getting into a pricy competition for exhibit space. At the center was the Court of States which hosted performances by state groups that traveled to the fair.



Among the many offbeat attractions in the Midway area was the Gorilla Villa, which featured two gorillas and ten chimpanzees. One of the star performers was a large gorilla named Massa who later became famous for being the oldest gorilla in captivity. During the fair he entertained crowds by performing household chores such as dusting and sweeping the pavilion.



Great Britain loaned the famous Royal Scot train, which provided express passenger service between London, England and Glasgow, Scotland. Guests could look into the cab of the 158-ton locomotive, then stroll through eight lavishly appointed dining and passenger cars. The train was very popular and attracted 2,074,348 visitors. After the fair ended the Royal Scot went on a tour through the United States and Canada before being shipped back home.



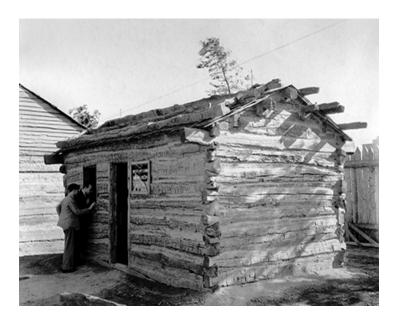
The Indian Village section included Navajo hogans, built of logs and dirt, which served as working homes for several Navajo families during the fair. Guests could buy a variety of souvenirs, including highly sought-after Navajo rugs, apparel, and jewelry. For an extra fee they could also watch performances of tribal dances and rituals.



Observation decks near the top of the 628-foot high towers of the Sky Ride boasted that they offered views up to 70 miles and four states. Chicago's reputation as the Windy City undoubtedly made the experience one not to forget. This gentleman, suitably impressed by his visit, wrote "This is as close to heaven as I'll ever get" on the back of the photograph.



The Bendix Lama Temple, seen next to the West Tower of the Sky Ride, recreated the Golden Pavilion of Jehol in China. Each of the 28,000 pieces in the original was carefully duplicated in a project funded by Vincent Bendix, one of the fair's trustees. The roof alone required more than \$25,000 of 23-karat gold leaf. The temple later appeared at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair.



One of the main attractions in the Lincoln Group area was this recreation of the cabin where the 16th President was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky in 1809. To make it as realistic as possible it was constructed from timber taken from other structures built during the same period as the original cabin. Vintage furnishings completed the effect.



The wooden blockhouse and barracks of Fort Dearborn were built using the original plans for a fort that was conquered by the Potawatami Indians during the War of 1812. The battle was brief, lasting only 15 minutes, but all of the defenders were killed or captured in what is now known as the Dearborn Massacre. The recreated fort was featured on a United States postage stamp issued to celebrate the fair.