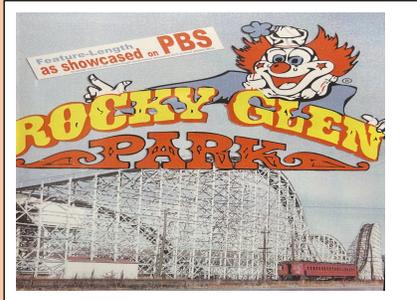


## ROCKY GLEN AMUSEMENT PARK

WHEN?  
1886-1987

WHERE? Moosic, PA



EVENT  
Popular amusement park

VOCABULARY  
Frank Sinatra  
Benny Goodman

Echoes of laughter and screams of riders on the Million Dollar Coaster were heard for many years at the Rocky Glen Amusement Park. Located near what is now Montage Mountain and very near Glen Maura in Moosic, thousands of visitors visited the park to picnic, ride the rides, and attend the concerts. According to Bob Savakinus who, along with the Lackawanna Historical Society, pushed for a historical marker for the park, the Laurel Line trolley delivered 223,000 people a season to the attraction in the 1920s. Savakinus also made two documentaries of the park (Lockwood Times-Tribune).

The park had its beginnings in 1886 when Arthur Frothingham purchased the land for \$15 at a tax sale. The focus was on picnics and a place for ethnic celebrations in the early days. amusement rides were added in 1904 by the park manager Frederick Ingersoll. The Dry Valley Run Creek was dammed to create a 33-acre lake which added to the interest in the park.

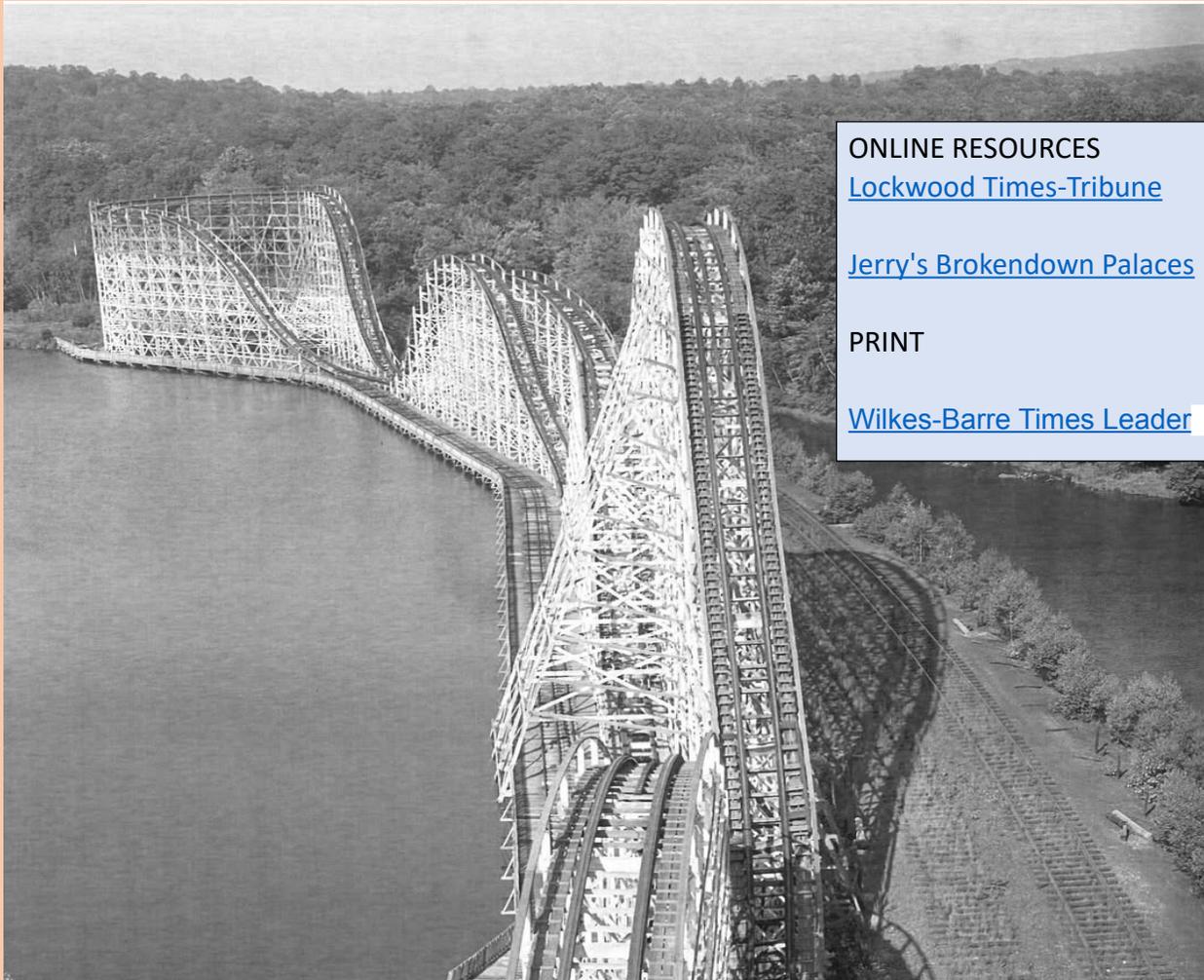


Unfortunately for Frothingham, it was not enough to keep attendance on the rise and by 1911 Frothingham decided to sell. Three businessmen: Joe Nallin, Joe Jennings, and Ben Sterling made the purchase in 1919 (Broken-down Palaces). Attendance began to climb once again, however, after the electric trolley line created a stop at the park.

The Million Dollar Roller Coaster became the main attraction after its construction in 1945 for \$100,000. The 4,700 feet of track thrilled its riders with a drop of 96 feet at its high point followed by enough twists and turns to keep riders coming back again and again (Lockwood Times-Tribune). That was not the only ride of course nor the only reason people came. The park had local and national acts such as Frank Sinatra, (1939), the Dorsey Brothers, Benny Goodman and His

Orchestra, and Bon Jovi (1985) and an appearance by the Lone Ranger (Lockwood Times-Tribune). Lockwood also writes that beauty pageants and boxing matches were also held drawing many to watch the events.

After 47 years of being involved in the day-to-day operation of the park, Ben and his wife Mae (who took sole ownership in 1950) decided to sell in 1970. Rocky Glen was renamed Ghost Town in the Glen by its new owners. The western theme, however, did not improve attendance. Other places like Great Adventure, Disney, the elimination of the trolley line, the increasing use of the automobile and ease of transportation created too much competition for the park, and it



ONLINE RESOURCES

[Lockwood Times-Tribune](#)

[Jerry's Brokendown Palaces](#)

PRINT

[Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#) August 9, 2009

closed in 1987 (Lockwood Times-Tribune).