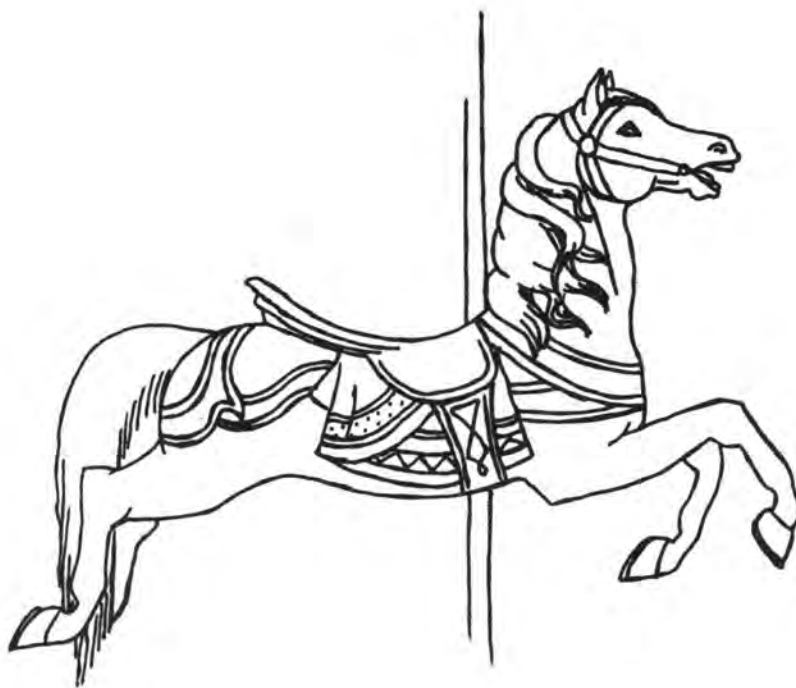


# 100 YEARS OF ROCHESTER AREA PARKS



**COVER:** The carousel at Ontario Beach Park features menagerie animals like the cat with a fish, the rabbit, the giraffe, the ostrich and the horse. Many of the animals were carved by Gustav Dentzel. The recently restored carousel is a perennial favorite of young and old.

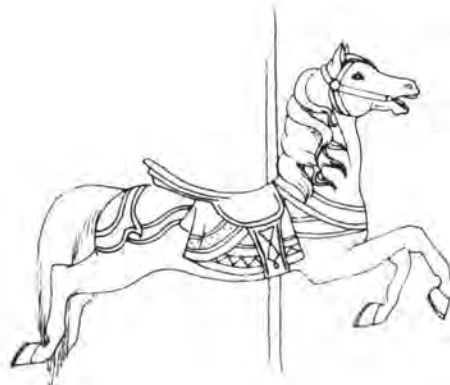
To Parents and Teachers:

This coloring book was produced to stimulate your child's interest in Rochester's history and its parks which were organized a century ago. Many of them preserve historic sites like Indian Landing and the trading post at Fort Schuyler on Irondequoit Bay at Ellison Park. Others provide canoeing, baseball fields, golf courses, a zoo and beautiful gardens inspired by the nurseries that once flourished here. It is my hope that the hours spent coloring this book will excite your child to think about the city's history and his role in it. He will learn to ask questions and may be inspired to make drawings of his own experiences.

Every page was drawn from photographs and has been researched by the City Historian to assure historical accuracy. The pages are not numbered and all are framed so that the finished artwork may be displayed. Large figures in the foreground and smaller ones in the background allow the varied skills of a child or an adult to enjoy this coloring book. The watercolor cover and the drawings are the original work of sculptor Susan Geverdt, done especially for the celebration of the Rochester Parks Centennial and dedicated to her friend Matt Tompkins. Susan grew up in Rochester, worked at the Seneca Park Zoo and enjoyed hours riding the Ontario Beach carousel. She is now a member of the National Carousel Association.

I hope that you enjoy this book and that you visit Rochester's parks in this centennial year with a renewed interest in Rochester's past and an appreciation of its parks.

Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck  
City Historian



# A Coloring Book

Illustrated by Susan Geverdt

Researched and written by Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, Rochester City Historian and Chair of the Parks Centennial Committee for Education and Interpretation.

Coordinated by Joan Sullivan and the Children's Education Subcommittee of the Parks Centennial Committee for Education and Interpretation.

Printed by Betty Shangle of the Publication Section of the Monroe County Department of Planning.

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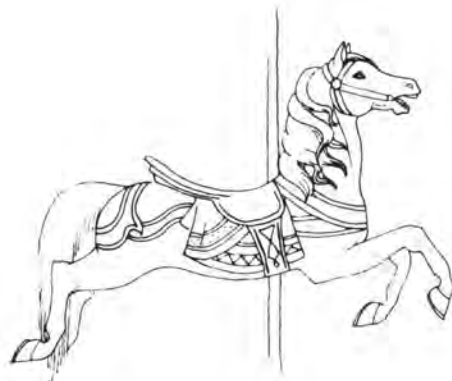
Members of the Children's Education Committee are: Joan Sullivan, Chair; Shirley Stephens; Shirley Husted, County Historian; Gloria Lioacono; Linda Weiner; Susan Geverdt and Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, City Historian.

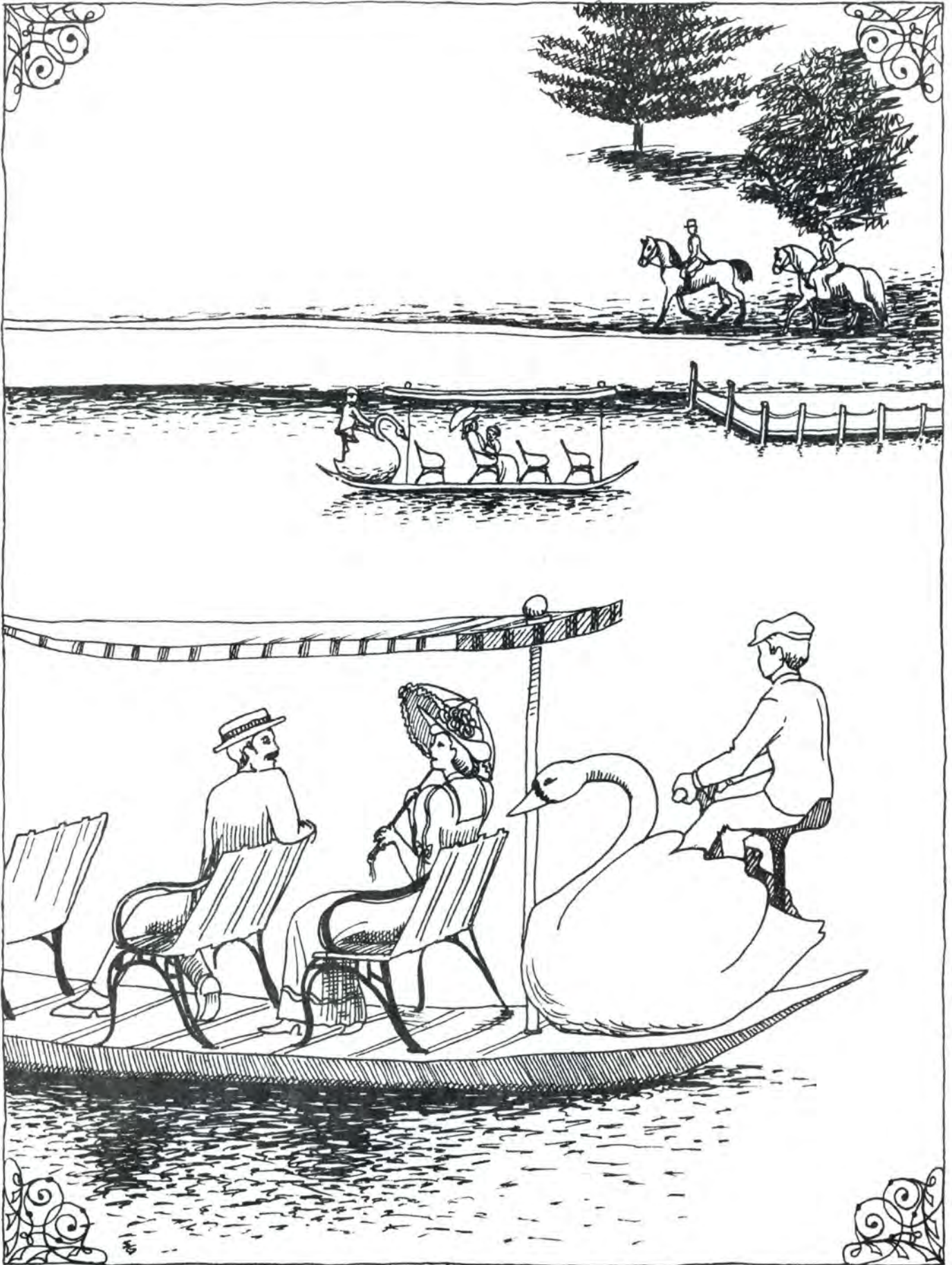
Published by the Rochester Parks Centennial Committee.

Thomas P. Ryan, Jr., Mayor, and Thomas R. Frey, County Executive, Chairmen.

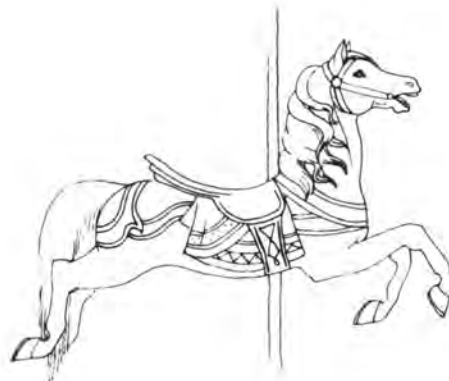
Tom Argust, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Human Services and Dean Spong, Director of the Monroe County Department of Parks, Co-chairmen.

The swan boats at Seneca Park carried passengers on Trout Lake on pleasant summer days. The driver sat on a cast iron seat and propelled the boat with a foot pedal like a bicycle. The passengers sat on park benches under a canopy. The swan boats ran for the last time in 1922.



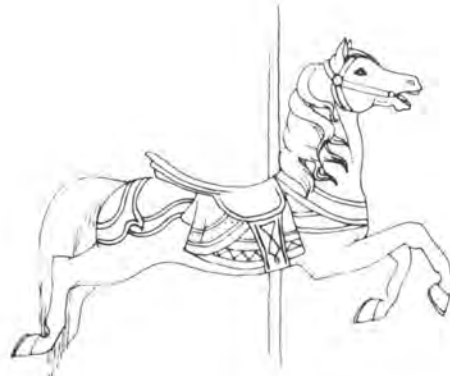


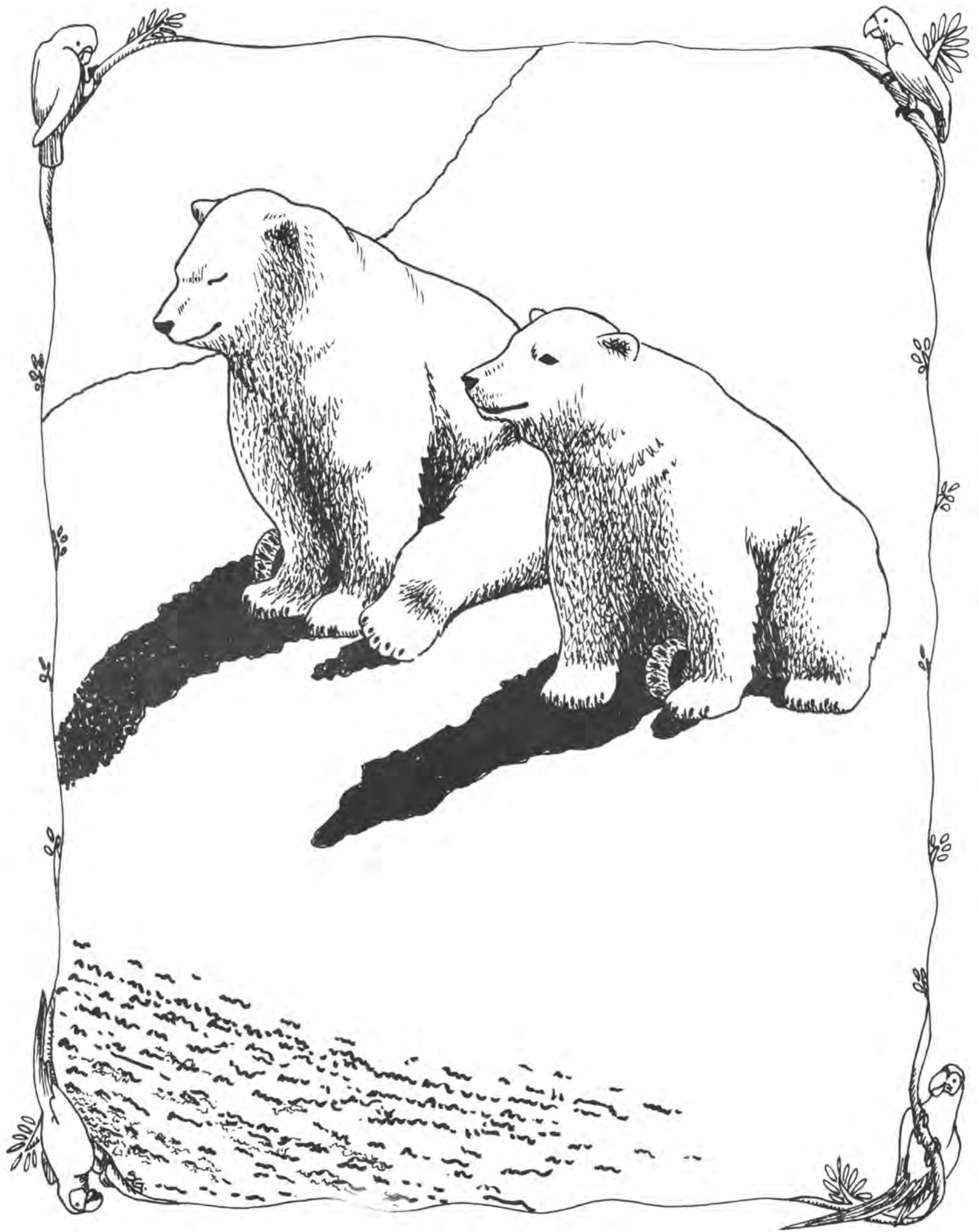
Bicycling was very popular when the Rochester City Parks opened in 1888. Women wore long dresses and men often wore suits. Little boys in sailor suits loved to shoot marbles at the turn of the century.





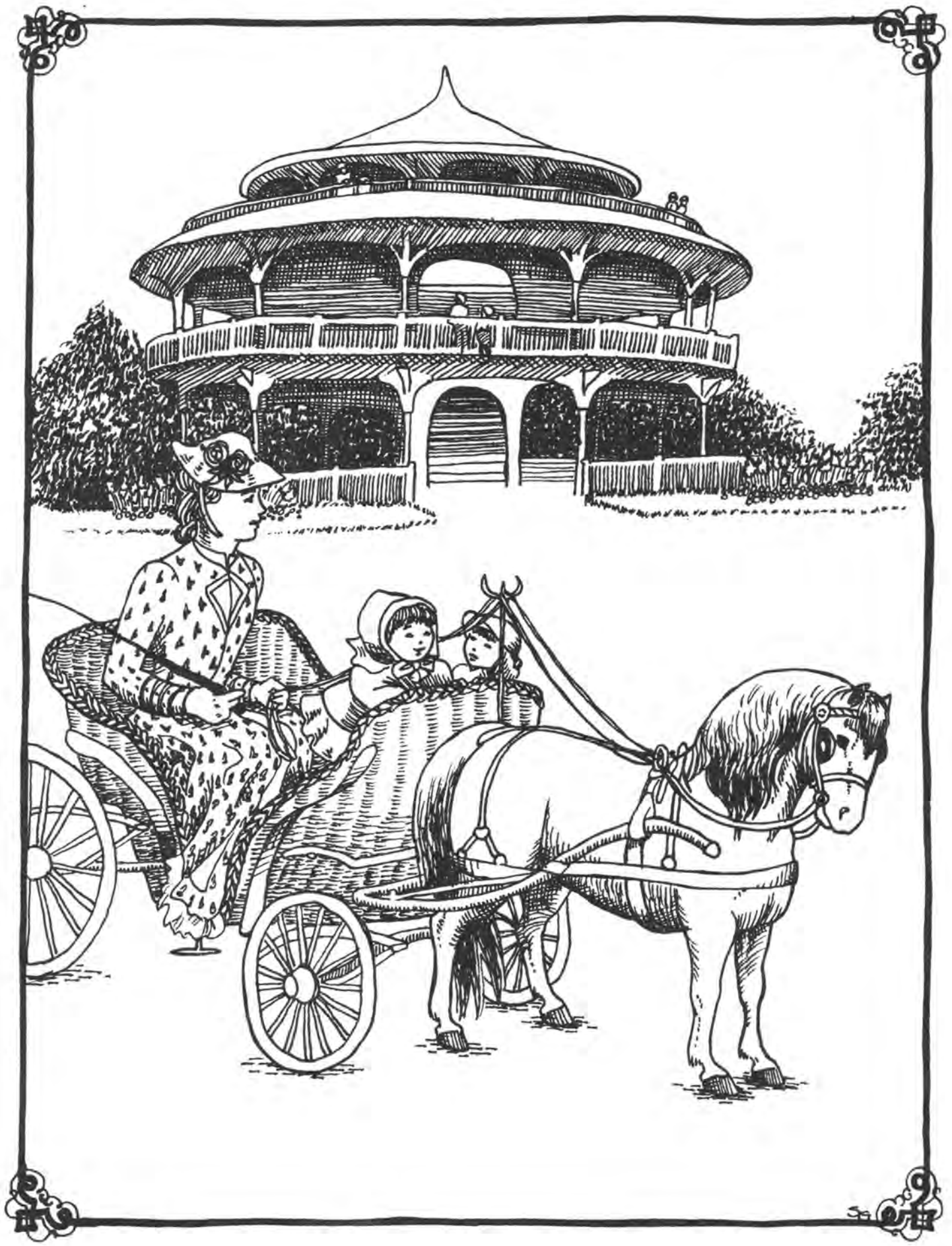
School children collected nickels and pennies to help buy the polar bears at the Seneca Park Zoo. The bears were named Nickels and Penny. You can still see them today.





Women and children drove pony carts in the parks one hundred years ago. Many families arrived at Highland Park in horse drawn carriages for the dedication of this three-story children's pavilion. It was donated by George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry to honor the children of Rochester. The Rochester Parks System was begun at Highland Park in 1888 with 20 acres donated by them from their Mt. Hope Nursery.



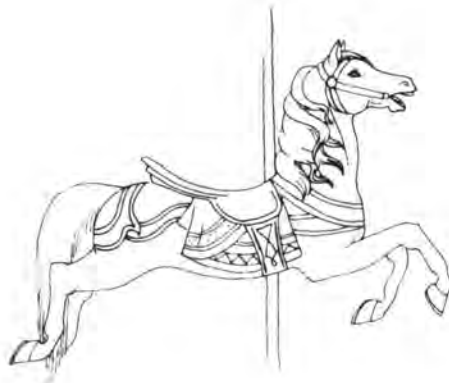


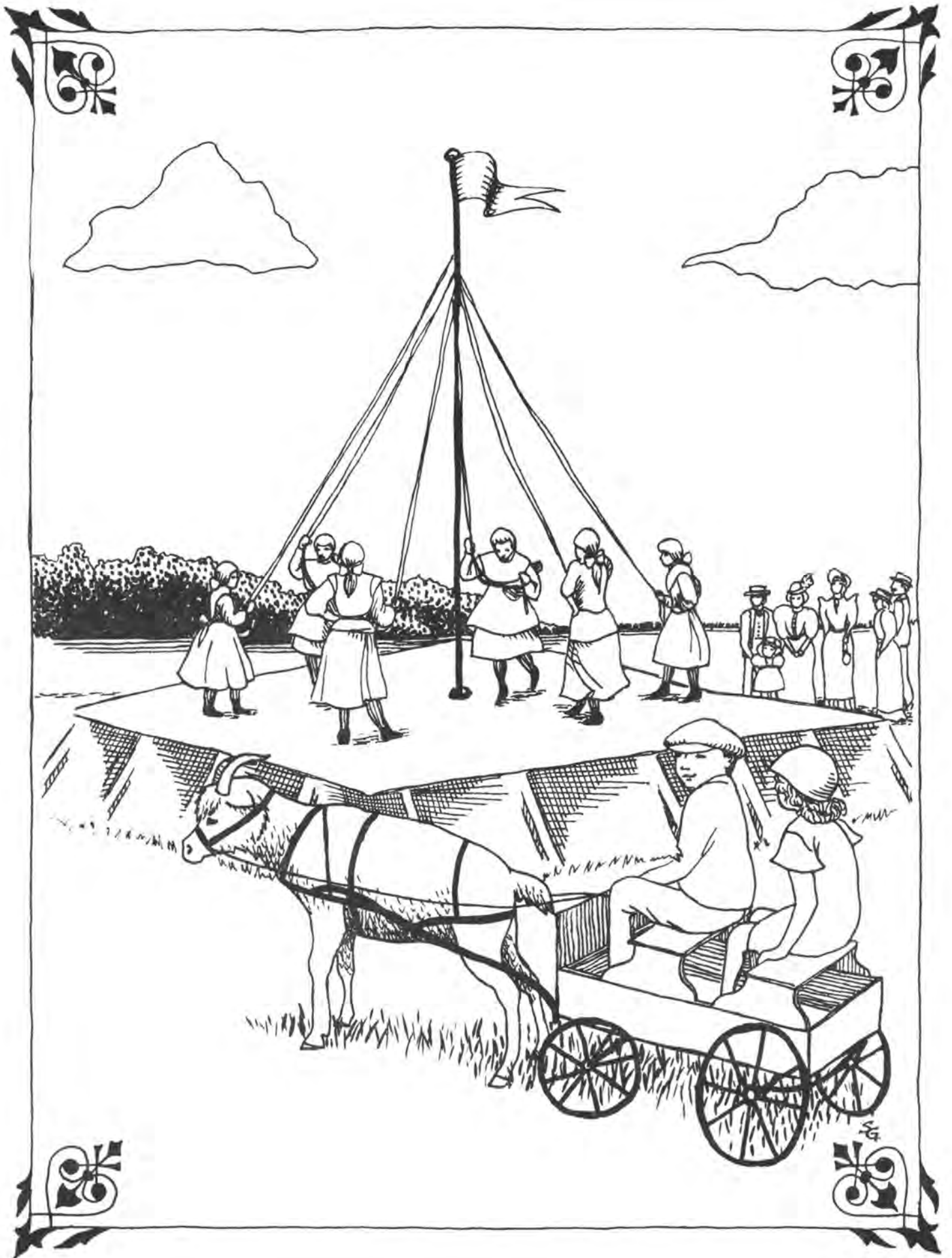
The lilac became Rochester's official flower in 1948. Every year thousands of people visit the city to see the beautiful floral parks.





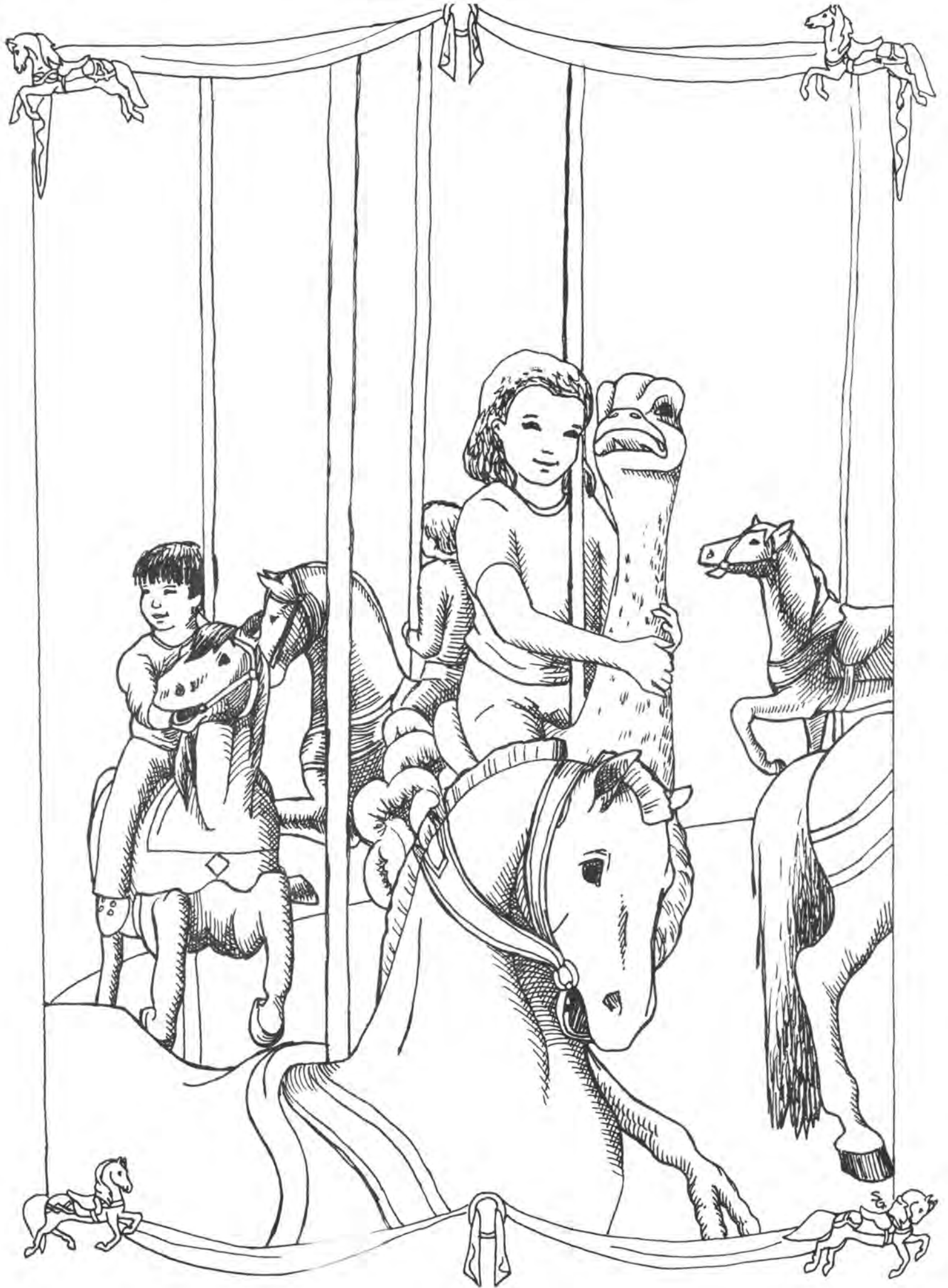
In the 1900s, children drove little carts pulled by ponies or goats. School children gathered at parks and in school yards to dance around the May Pole twisting colorful streamers. The May Pole dance celebrated springtime.



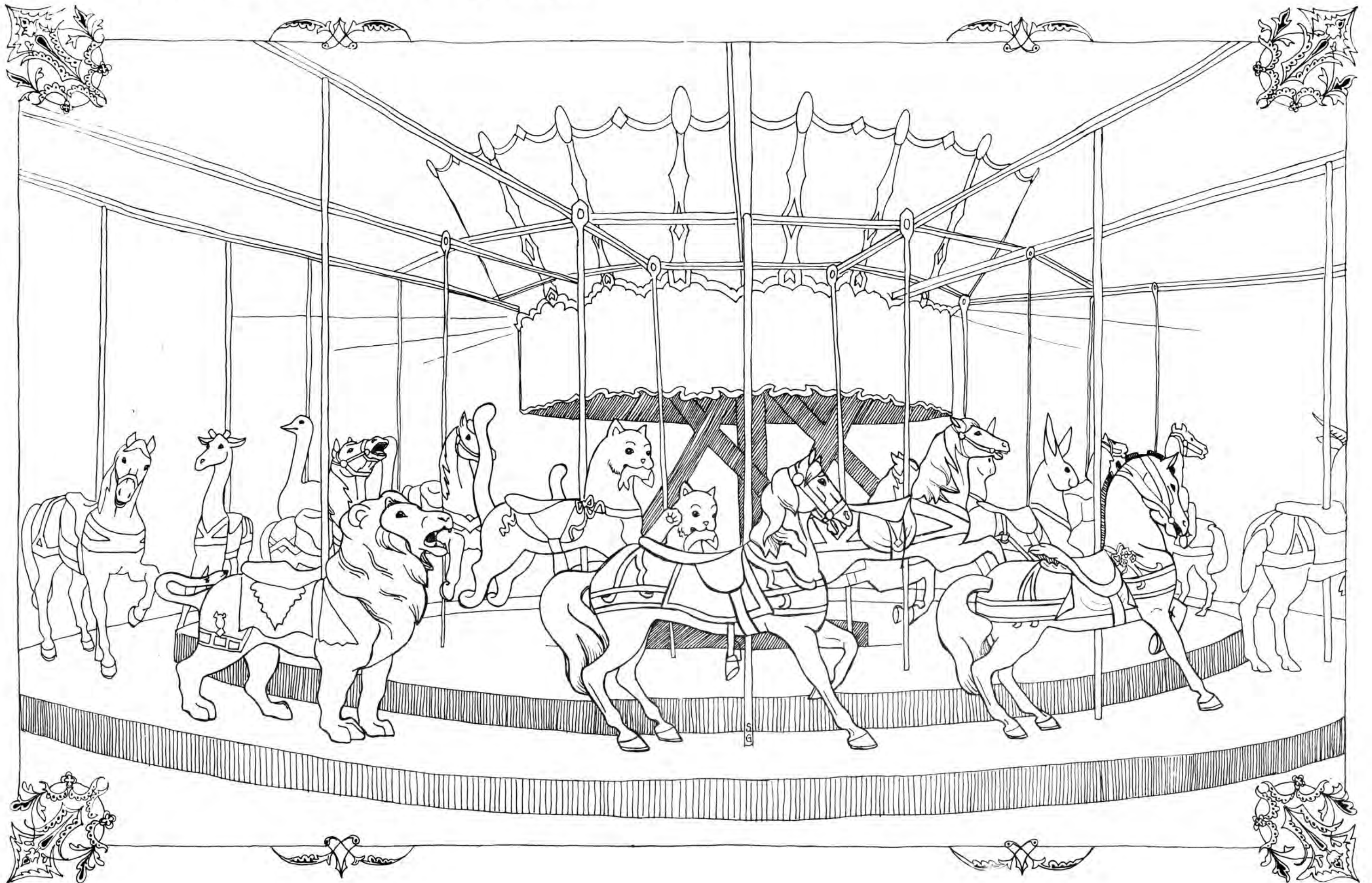


Throughout the years, the favorite ride of children is the carousel. Hundreds of children ride the carousel at Ontario Beach Park every summer.



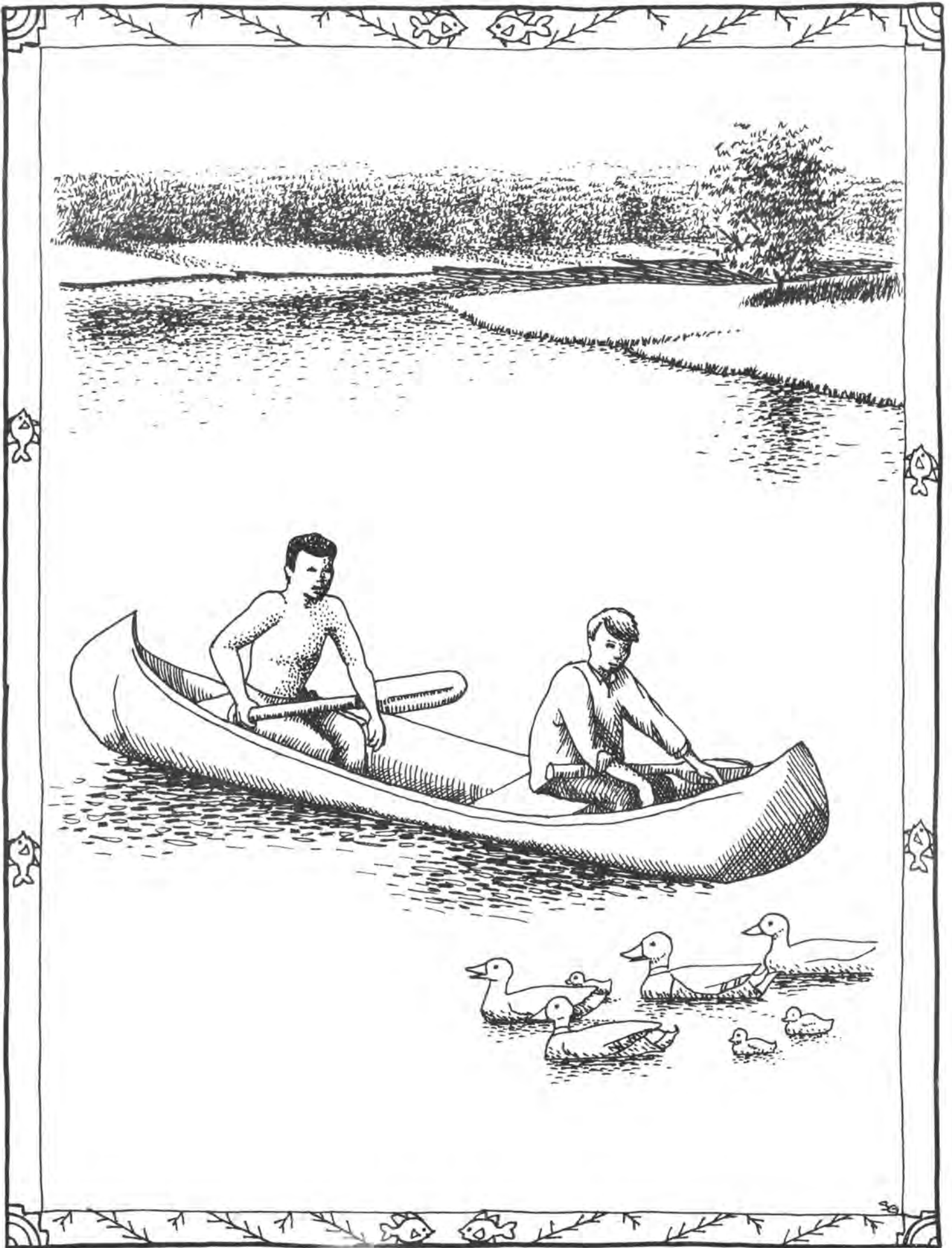


Can you paint the Ontario Beach Carousel?



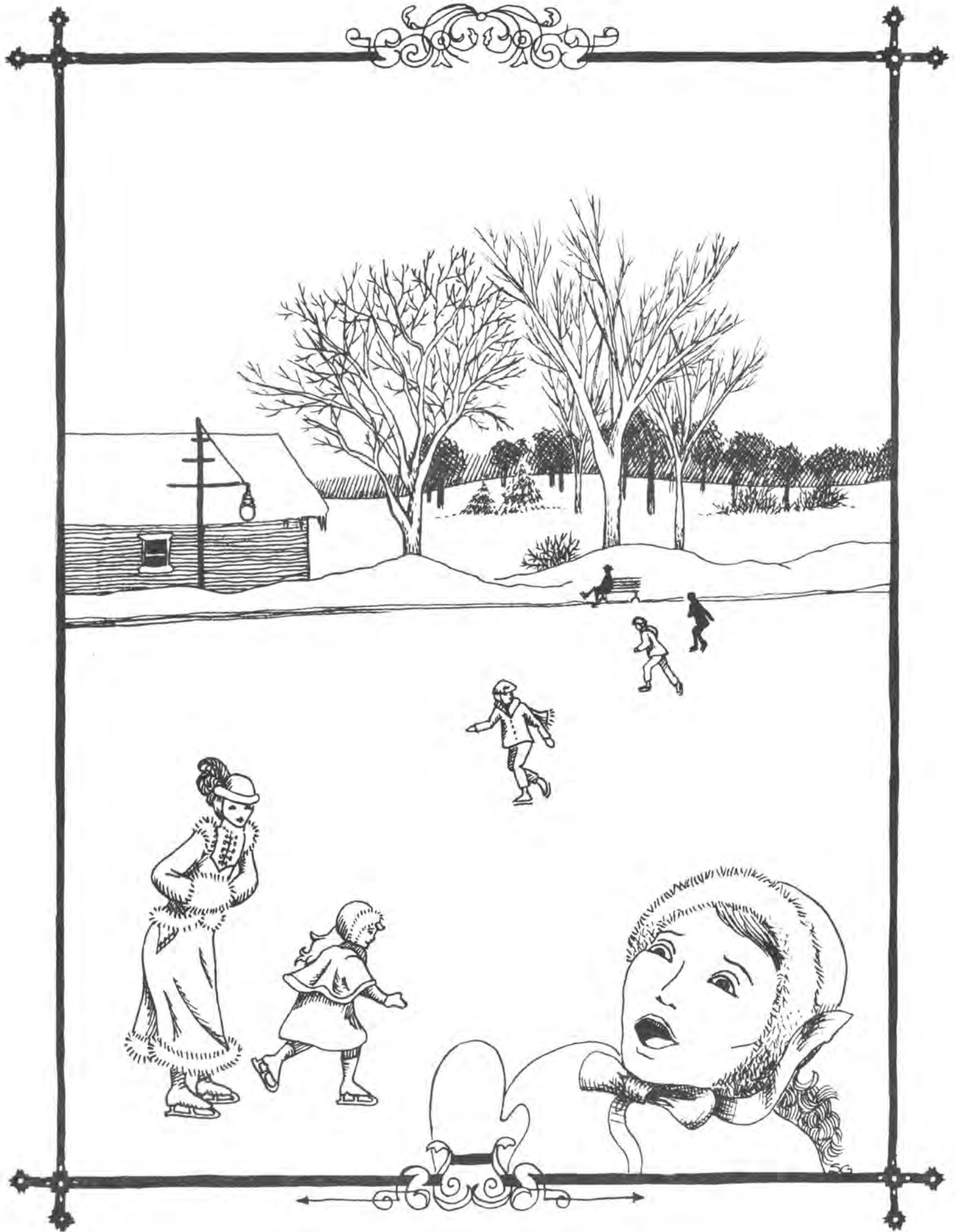
Indians and early settlers often traveled by canoe around Rochester. Today we paddle along the waters at Genesee Valley Park and other places where the water is peaceful.





Ice skating has always been popular among people of all ages. Skaters glided over the frozen Erie Canal aqueduct and ponds in the parks.



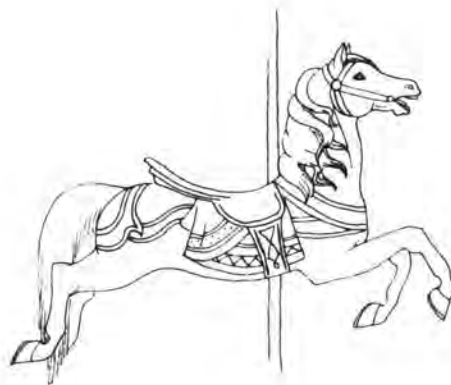


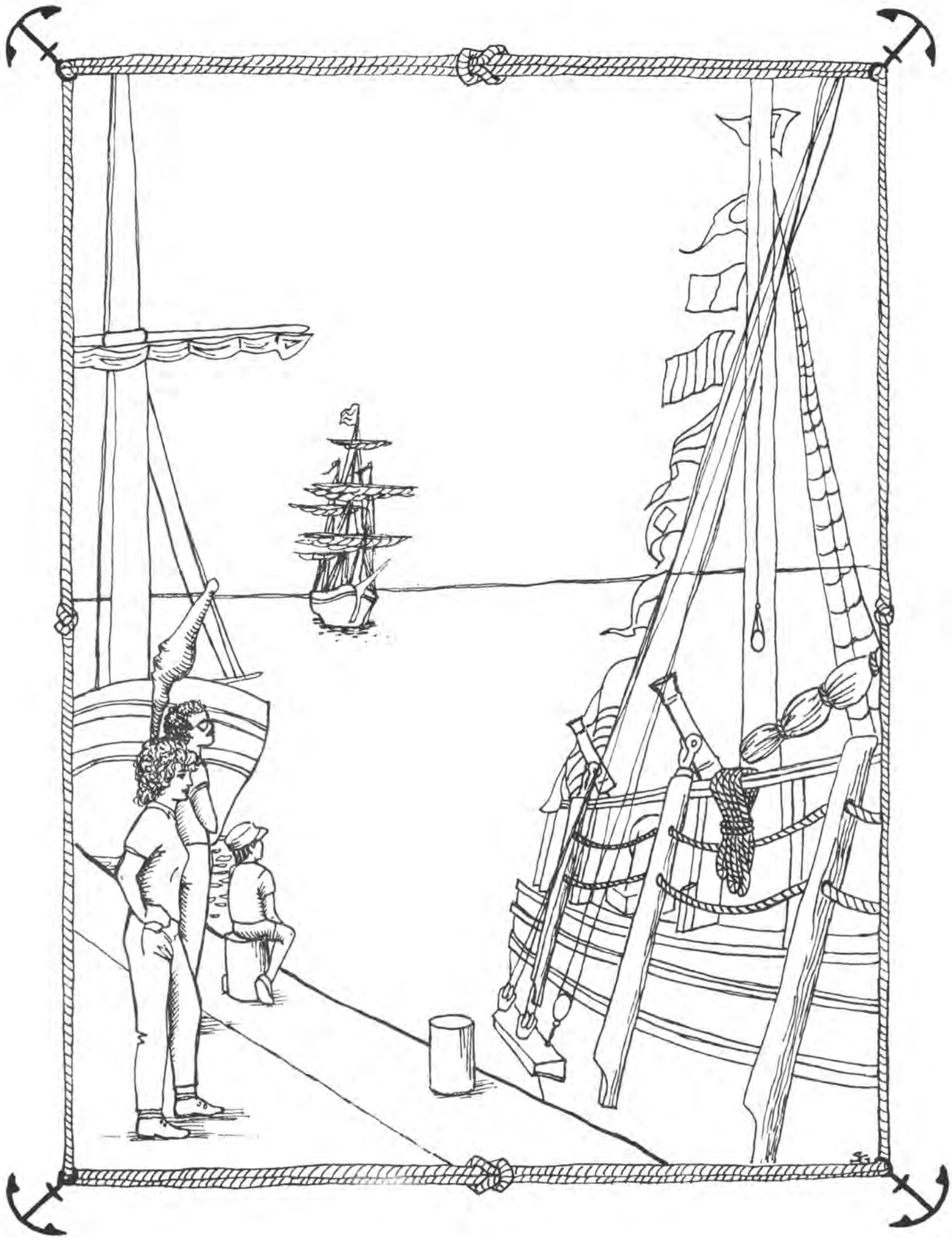
Baseball was very popular in the last century. Families packed a snack and went to the park on hot summer days to cheer for their favorite team. Hot dogs and lemonade anyone?





In the early part of the last century, many such ships sailed into the harbor to trade or carry settlers and travelers. Many settlers arrived in Rochester on a sailing ship. Today the parks along the lake and river let everyone enjoy the water and sometimes on special occasions, you may even see another tall ship on the Genesee River at Charlotte.





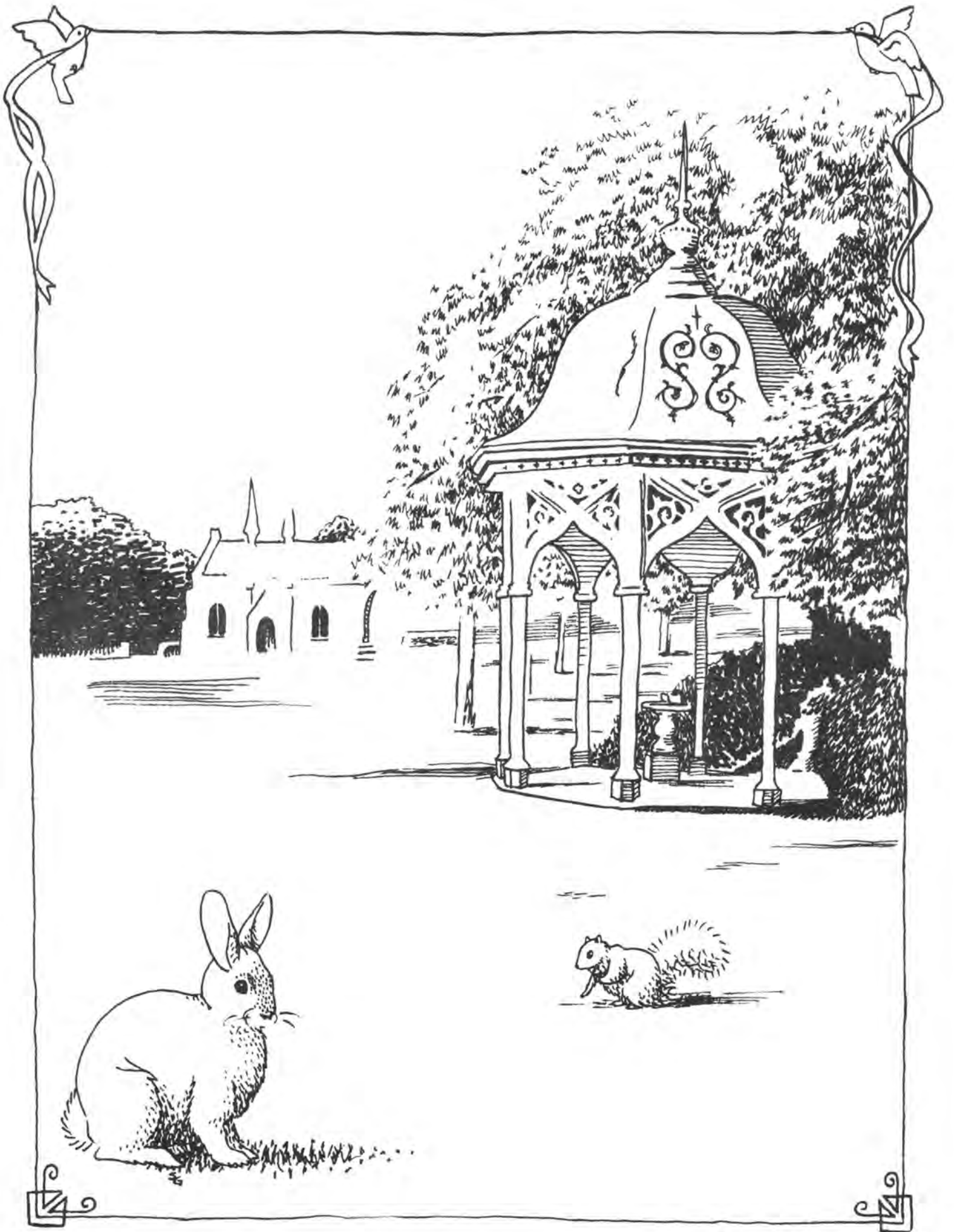
Herds of sheep at Genesee Valley Park kept the grass in the valley meadows cropped short. People loved to see the sheep as they grazed the meadow or walked down the dirt roads.





Mt. Hope Cemetery opened in 1838. Before the parks opened in 1888, people went to the cemetery to stroll among the monuments and flowers. Many people picnicked there. The steep hills and ponds were made by the glaciers thousands of years ago. The gatehouse on the left was built in 1874. The gazebo and fountain on the right were added in 1875.





A story about my day in the park.

My day in the park.

Draw your own picture.

A story about my day in the park.

My day in the park.

Draw your own picture.

You can learn more about the parks  
and their history at your local library.  
Learn about the Indians, Germans,  
Italians, Irish, Poles and others who  
hold special festivals in the parks.



Sponsored by the County of Monroe and the City of Rochester