

# \$1 Billion World's Fair, 50 Million Visitors Old, to End Quietly Today

NEW YORK (UPI)—The New York World's Fair 1964-65 — a billion-dollar monument to modern man, his space-age gadgetry and his yearning for a better life—shuts down forever tonight.

Fading quietly into the history books and the memories of its 50 million patrons, the giant exposition will not be forgotten easily.

The fair was the big show of the mid-60s — a bright, bold and brassy international extravaganza. Even its troubles were great; often its controversies loomed larger than its delights.

## No Ceremonies

But at 10 p.m. today with no more than a few booms from an old Swedish cannon, the planting of a time capsule and an extra load of closing night fireworks, the big fair folds forevermore.

"There'll be no ceremonies," said a fair spokesman. "So far as I know they'll just turn off the lights and go home."

But there is more, much

more to closing down a big fair.

The fairgrounds will give way soon to the wrecker's boom and the landscaper's bulldozer and, within a few years, one of the nation's most beautiful and spacious city parks will rise on the former garbage dump known as Flushing Meadow.

A few structures will remain, however, as monuments to the days when millions trod the fair's flower-lined walkways.

It was 18 months ago when President Johnson opened the fair on a rainy, windswept day which saw civil rights pickets heckle the Chief Executive and a threatened stall-in on the fair's major roadways flop.

After this clouded opening, more squabbles arose. The fair ran into drastic financial woes. Attendance fell off, causing officials to scale down their original estimate of 70 million fairgoers. The fair's second season saw admission prices

raised, from \$2 to \$2.50 for adults.

But there was a bright side and these memories will no doubt outweigh the fair's troubles.

Millions and millions of dollars poured into New York City's economy, generated by the fair and its financial fruits. It employed 30,000 persons each day and countless others found jobs in other industries that served the fair.

## Legacy of Fair

Besides a \$26 million city park, the fair's legacy includes a boat marina, a major league stadium, wide expressways and more than 10,000 hotel and motel accommodations. Of course, there is also the immeasurable good will of millions of tourists who made this big city their host for a visit to the fair.

The fair attracted more people than any other similar event in history, its 50 million nosing out the 1958 Brussels Fair by more than 10 million.