

THE FAIR CLOSES ITS FIRST SEASON; 200,000 ON HAND

Ceremonies, Fireworks and Employee Parties Wind Up Six-Month Exhibition

27.1 MILLION ATTENDED

Last Day Quiet in Contrast to Picketing on First— Reopening Is April 21

By **ROBERT ALDEN**

The New York World's Fair closed its first season last night in a burst of fireworks blazing into the skies over Flushing Meadow, and with a shower of brightly illuminated waters playing from the fair's huge fountains.

Yesterday's final crowd was large, but hardly a record one. At midnight it totaled 200,076. With overcast skies in the morning, the grounds were virtually empty and forlorn.

But just after noon the sun broke through the overcast and patches of blue appeared. The crowds began to pour across the bridge leading to the main gate. The parking lots around the fair filled up. Queues began to form at all of the popular pavilions.

The fair, which opened last April 22, will reopen next April 21. In its approximately six months of operation, it had just over 27.1 million visitors. Officials had thought it would draw 40 million.

Many Farewell Ceremonies

There were farewell ceremonies and parties all over the fair grounds. At the Spanish Pavilion all the employees gathered on the terrace as evening fell and joined in singing a Te Deum, a hymn of thanksgiving to God.

Then, with the singing of the Spanish and American national anthems, the flags of the two countries were lowered. They will not be raised again until opening day next season.

"Long live the friendship of the United States and Spain," one of the employees called out in Spanish as the ceremonies ended.

At the Tower of Light, sponsored by American electric power and light companies, the 12-billion-candlepower light was turned on, for the first time, by the electricians themselves, rather than by a visiting Governor or other honored guest.

"It's about time that these fellows in shirtsleeves who've been nursing this big baby along all summer got their chance to share in the glory,"

Continued on Page 35, Column 1

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THE FAIR CLOSES ITS FIRST SEASON

Pavilions Hold Ceremonies,
Employees Give Parties—
200,000 in the Crowd

BITTERSWEET OCCASION

Last Day Quiet in Contrast
to Picketing on First—
Reopening Is April 21

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

Jim Stanley, spokesman for the exhibit, said.

The closing was a bittersweet occasion. Many who were fond of the fair were saddened that it would be closed for the next six months.

A little girl about 6 years of age cried as her father led her toward the main gate as autumn dusk closed over the fairgrounds.

"But I want to come back next week, the lights are so pretty," she said again and again. Her father sought vainly to stop her tears with an explanation that the fair was going to "go to sleep for the winter."

Contrast With Opening

The entire force of World's Fair police was on duty, in case an emergency developed. While no rioting or sit-down picketing by civil rights demonstrators, such as occurred on the fair's opening day, was expected, there was some fear of looting or vandalism before the gates were closed.

As a huge crowd began to gather at the Fountain of the Planets for the final water and fireworks show, the recorded voice of Robert Moses, president of the fair corporation, was broadcast over the fair's loudspeaker system.

"We are approaching the end of the 1964 season of the World's Fair," Mr. Moses said, "and those who have been here have been very pleased with the fair and they have manifested that by their letters and comments..."

"We are very pleased with the people who have helped to make the fair a success—the exhibitors, the bands and all of them, and we trust they will all come back in 1965."

Mr. Moses is now attending the Olympics in Tokyo.

Not Up to Hopes

Even while Mr. Moses was closing the fair on an optimistic note, Thomas J. Deegan, chairman of the fair's executive committee, acknowledged in a radio broadcast over WINS that all had not gone as well as expected.

Mr. Deegan said the fair's surplus over the two seasons would fall short of the \$53 million that had been expected.

"If I had to guess I would say it would be \$30 million," he said. He admitted that fair officials had been disappointed by the first season attendance, but he felt that attendance next year would be higher because of word-of-mouth advertising.

Mr. Deegan also revealed that the area that had done poorest, the Lake Amusement Area, was seeking new exhibitors and possibly a new home. He hoped, he said, to attract some industrial exhibitors to take over the spaces where shows had failed.

At midnight, the loudspeakers that had been playing marches became silent and the Coca Cola carillon began pealing "Auld Lang Syne." The jets of the fountains trickled to nothing and one by one the lights went out.

The Last Lines Have Wended Their Way Into the Last Shows at the Marvel on the Meadow—Till 1965



Visitors arriving at the World's Fair yesterday morning. At the rear is Shea Stadium.



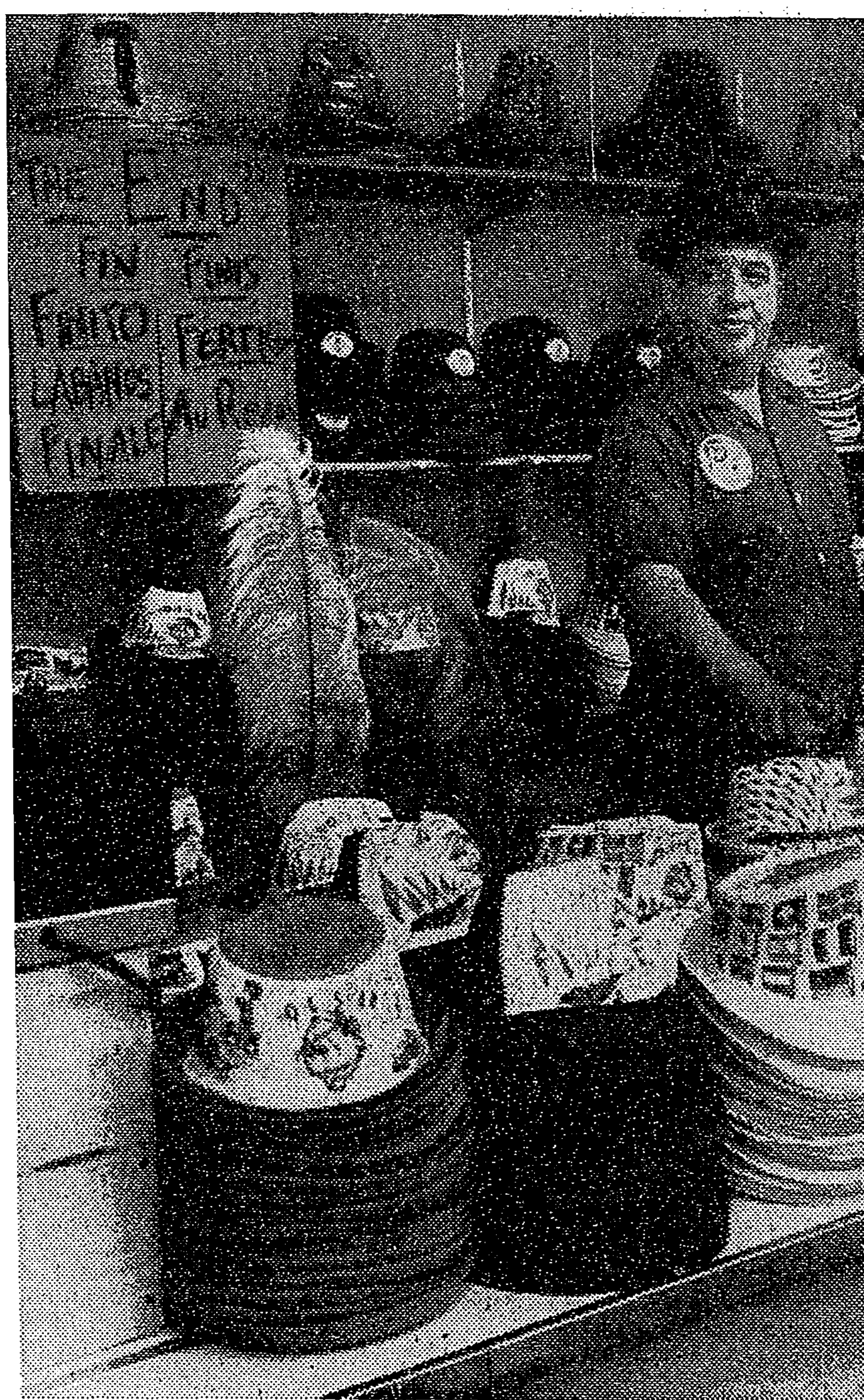
General Electric show figure went off duty.



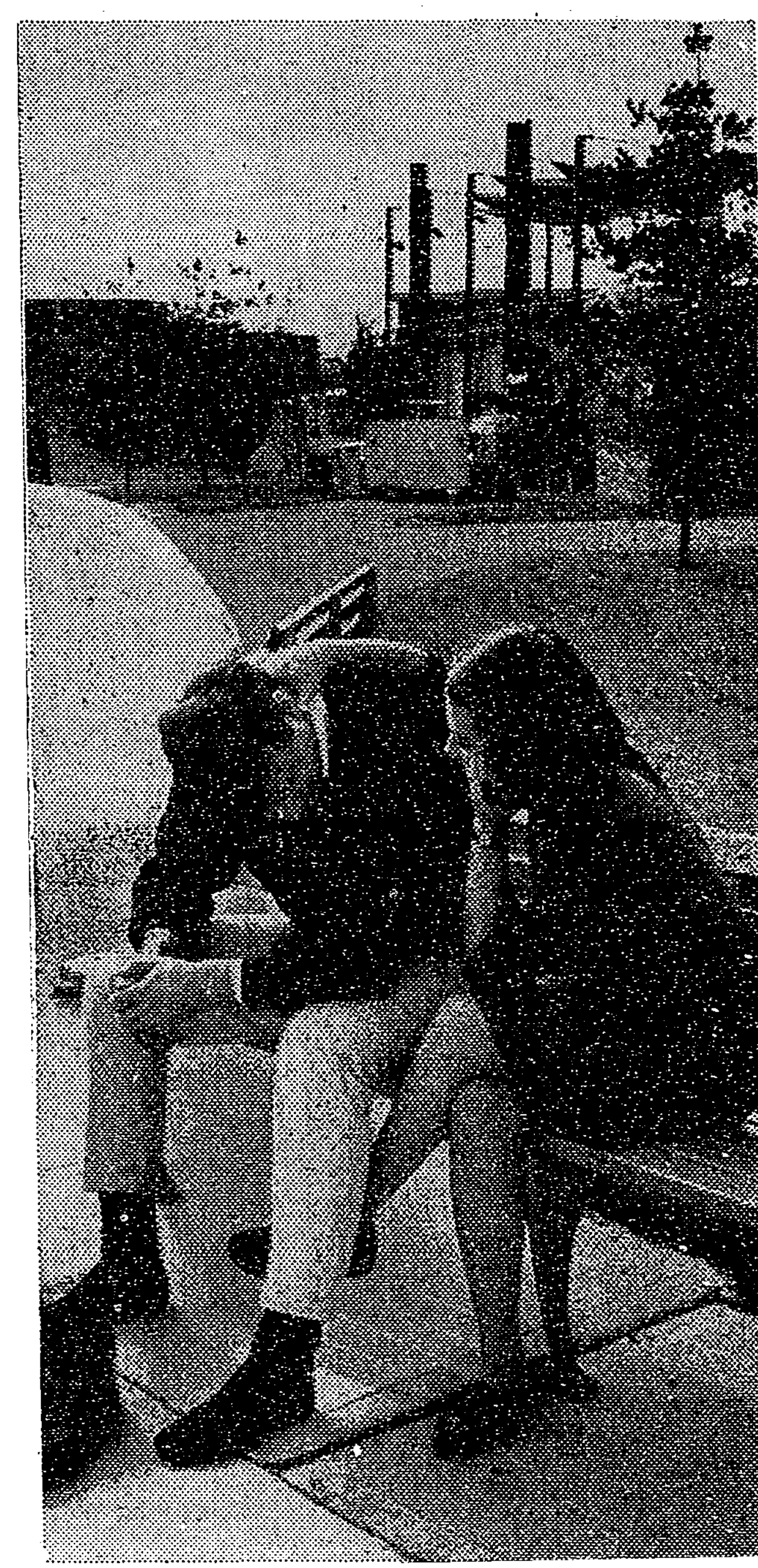
Shop near Unisphere was closed and lonely.



Line of guests on hand for Du Pont musical and exhibit.



Seller of hats Charles Warren showed a multilingual footnote.



The New York Times (by Allyn Baum and Jack Manning)
And, as the fair ended its first year, people relaxed.