

FAIR MARCHING ON TOWARD OPENING

**Overcomes Strikes, Disputes
and a Boycott in Drive
to Be Ready on April 22**

PAVILIONS TAKING SHAPE

**Shows, Rides and Exhibits
Aimed at Stimulating the
Weary Being Installed**

By PHILIP BENJAMIN

There is no question about it: There will be a New York World's Fair 1964-65 and it will open on April 22 on schedule, just three months from today.

Come hell, high water, heavy snows, wildcat strikes, disputes with artists, disputes with the city, disputes with exhibitors and a boycott by the Bureau of International Expositions, a fantastic something is taking shape out in Flushing Meadow, Queens, something that could be a city out of a science-fiction movie.

Last week, under a patina of old snow, the fair was growing—a gathering, on 646 acres, of huge spheres, boxes, cones, cylinders, ovoids and curving pylons.

Inside these reinforced concrete shapes, men were putting in shows and rides and exhibits calculated to snatch away the breath of even the most jaded, footsore and fair-weary visitor.

Official Theme Song

The fair has an official theme song by Richard Rodgers ("Fair Is Fair") and an official World's Fair Summer Festival Queen (Ann McKeon), but what visitors are likely to remember more are the giant structures built by General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

General Motors's exhibit — its main feature is the Futurama, a ride into the global future that will handle 70,000 persons a day—has a shape that has been variously described as a jet airplane's tail assembly and a curved windshield.

Ford's pavilion has 100-foot-high pylons that stand in a huge circle, like some modern Stonehenge. In Ford cars, visitors will ride past scenes of yesterday and tomorrow through time tunnels designed by Walt Disney.

The Chrysler area, too, is taking shape. Chrysler, true to Detroit tradition, has been keeping its exhibit a secret, but one of the main buildings in its complex appears to be in the shape of an automobile engine topped by a huge carburetor.

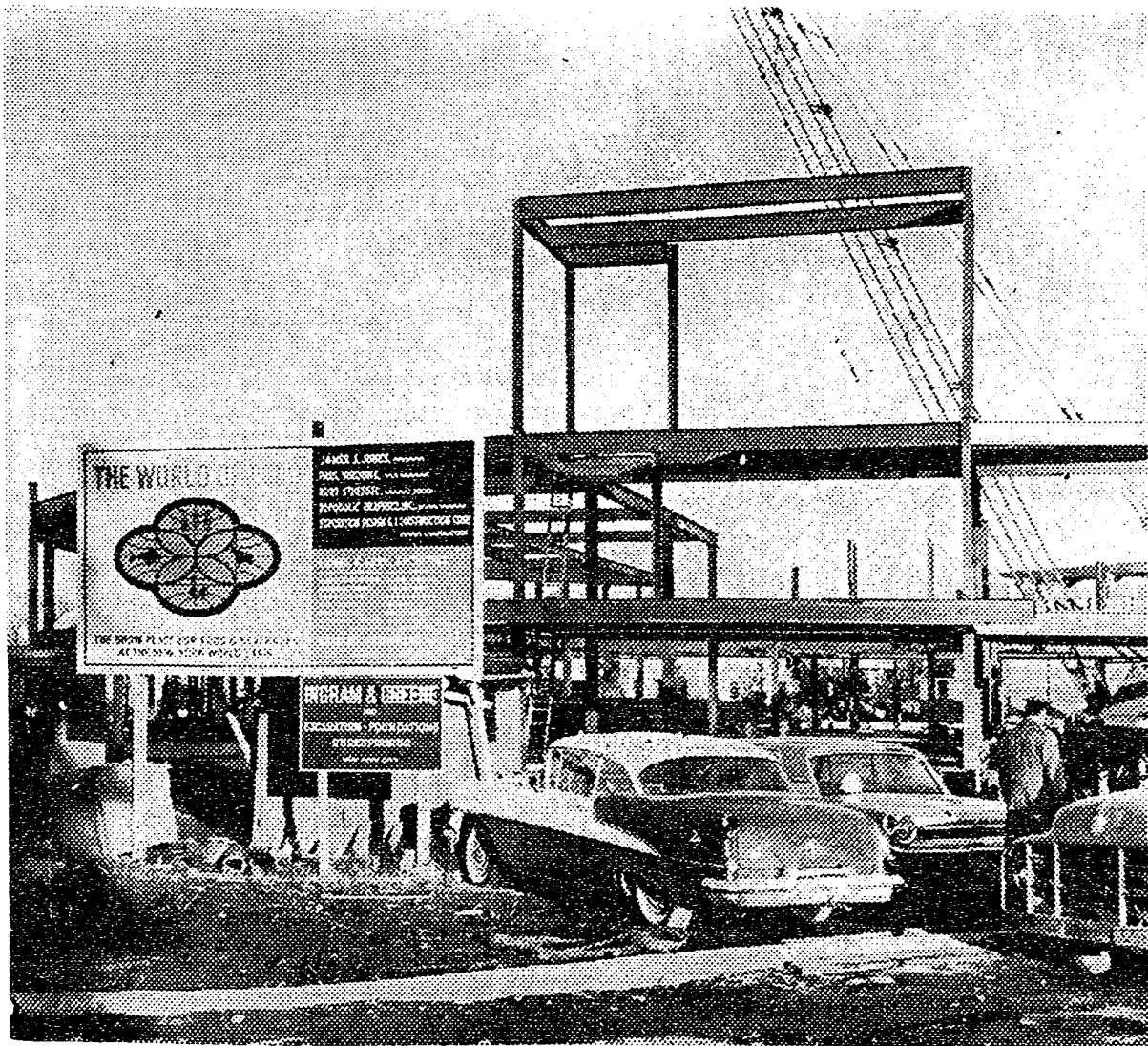
Moving Wall With Seats

The International Business Machines pavilion is dominated by a huge concrete egg with "IBM" monograms in relief all over the shell. Inside the egg there will be filmed exhibits. Spectators will rise into the egg on a moving wall with seats.

And there are other startling shapes: General Electric's latticed dome, Johnson Wax's flying clam shell, the Travelers Insurance Companies' red umbrella.

Also on the World's Fair skyline are the Mormon Temple facade, the four-story pagoda of Nationalist China, the concrete pillbox of West Berlin, the A-shaped arches of Austria and the four-sided T of the

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PAVILION CANCELED BY FAIR: The World of Food pavilion as it appeared yesterday. The lease for the building was terminated because of the slow pace of its construction. The New York Times

Fair Hurdles Many Obstacles In Drive for Opening in 90 Days

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Port Authority's heliport and restaurant, the Top of the Fair.

In the center of all this is the Unisphere, the 14-story stainless steel globe built by United States Steel. The Unisphere represents the fair's theme of "Peace Through Understanding."

Fair officials say that more than 85 per cent of the rentable space has been taken by various exhibitors. The remaining unrented space has been, or will be, turned into park areas and a parade grounds.

Almost at the beginning the fair ran into a serious, but surmountable, obstacle when the Bureau of International Expositions, representing 30 countries, boycotted the New York exposition, eliminating official participation by most of the countries of Europe.

But officials of the fair embarked on a campaign of recruiting private industries to represent the countries officially barred from partaking. The result is that 37 nations of the world will be represented, some by official participation, others by private sponsorship.

French Pavilion a Secret

There are still some problems. No one seems to know yet, for instance, who or what will be in the French pavilion, built with private United States money and expected to be filled by private French exhibitors, since France is one of the countries officially snubbing the fair. (So are Britain and the Soviet Union.)

The fair is also involved in a court action with one of its own tenants, the World of Food Pavilion. Fair officials are trying to force the pavilion to cease construction, contending it will not be ready until two months after the fair opens. The officials are afraid, they say, that the pavilion would present an image of the fair's unreadiness.

At a news conference yesterday, R. Mike Butner, president of Energy Dynamics, Inc., which plans an exhibit in the World of Food pavilion, contended that the pavilion would "have the appearance of completion" by opening day.

Later in the day the New York World's Fair Corporation issued a statement saying it "was compelled to act to terminate the World of Food's lease when engineering reports made it evident that the build-

ing at best was not going to be ready until long after the opening day . . . and financial reports indicated that it might never be completed because of lack of sound financing, orderly procedure and compliance with schedules."

The fair corporation said that last September the World of Food "signed an amendment to its lease acknowledging that it was in default and granting the fair corporation an absolute right to terminate the lease."

Tomorrow the World of Food will attempt to obtain a temporary injunction permitting it to go ahead with construction.

But the fair has weathered such things as a wildcat strike by truck drivers last October, a battle with the city over reduced admissions for school children (Robert Moses, president of the World's Fair Corporation, finally agreed to permit school children to pay 25 cents each if they attended in groups during normal school hours) and an attack on the fair by artists who asserted that Mr. Moses was anti-art.

There will be a World's Fair, and it will open on April 22, when a 12-billion-candlepower shaft of light will stab into the sky from the Electric Power and Light exhibit, proclaiming what New York hopes will be its greatest fair.