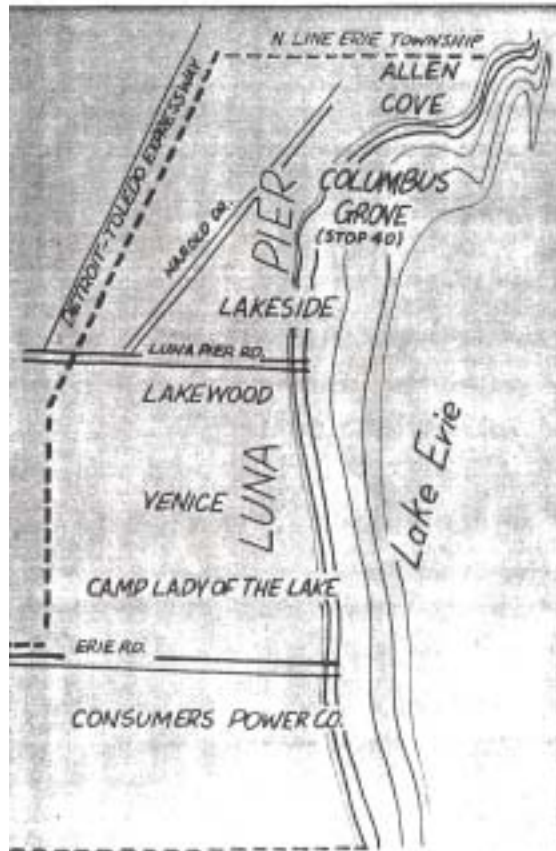


Appendix 2

History

Luna Pier is a relatively new City having been incorporated in 1963. Prior to this time, the area was governed by Eric Township. The move to incorporate was driven by concerns that the structure of township government did not lend itself to the more urban problems evident in the Luna Pier area. Debate concerning incorporation took place in the early 1960's and was driven by the need to upgrade infrastructure such as roads and water/sewer systems. The Luna Pier Citizens Committee for Home Rule spearheaded the effort which ultimately led to a special election in January of 1963. The measure passed by a wide margin and led to the creation of a nine-member charter commission.



Voters at Luna Pier To Decide Its Future

LUNA PIER — A battle of words will become a battle of ballots here Tuesday. Voters will decide whether a 1,000-square-mile region of some 1,000 residents will be incorporated as a home-rule city. About 500 year-round inhabitants of the region proposed for incorporation are registered to vote.

A polling place in the Luna Pier Fire Hall on Lakewood Rd. will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Also to be chosen are nine members of a city charter commission. This group will not formulate a city charter until after the city has been incorporated. Eighteen persons are candidates for the commission.

Over a number of late-afternoon hours in Monroe County, Luna Pier has become part of the neighborhood. Many of its residents are their homes at Toledo, Monroe and other centers.

Overseas visitors, clustered along the lake shore and the shore to visit other for safety and excitement by today's standards, were mentioned for government attention.

Many of the "summer-dwellers" still return every year for a short period of late-afternoon sport. They come from Lakewood, Lakeside, Allen Cove, Venice and other "summer-dweller" communities that make up Luna Pier. As part-time residents, they will not be allowed to vote on the city question.

The move toward city status began about a year ago when residents of Lakewood, a 300-acre private beach resort south of Luna Pier, 3d, incorporated themselves in collecting assessments.

According to Mrs. Patricia W. Wolkstein of 490 19th St., the late-afternoon visitors are "noted as a private group, setting up their own regulations. Let's say they did not pay assessments, they would not be allowed to vote in local elections."

The assessments of 1952 year-rounders and 1953 year-rounders were used to improve the town's position although the town's voters will have about 70 per cent of the tax base in revenue from the town of Luna Pier incorporation.

Lakeview officials and Mr. and Mrs. Wolkstein, who last the case in Judge Foster G. Lane's Monroe Municipal Court, are ready to be appointed to Monroe County Circuit Court.

At the same time, Detroit South was getting a campaign to locate a 125-class city as a stepping stone toward municipal sewer and water systems. The committee suggested Luna Pier residents, City Council, the Wolksteins, Robert W. Herby, Leo Miller, Mrs. William Green and others, Luna Pier also needs a water supply and sewer system to replace with 100,000 residents now used two systems.

The real estate was located with a Michigan Council of Grand Jurors still in a "preliminary" stage. "You have a real estate that day within all a total township level."

A Citizens Committee for Home Rule was formed and quickly gave its name to the committee. A more costly form of government which does not include the cost of incorporation.

The group is a diverse one and, "I'll be over and the week-end-dwellers, Jack K. Wolkstein, president of the Consumers Power Co., would be in a "preliminary" stage as a city. The plan, as the Lake Erie shore at Erie Pier, is included in the incorporation plan, giving the proposed city a huge tax base.

Persons favoring incorporation say Luna Pier's valuation is about a million dollars below the power plant and 100 million with it. Growth of the city's economy has adopted a "hand-off" policy regarding the election.

The Lake Erie Board, which has governmental jurisdiction over

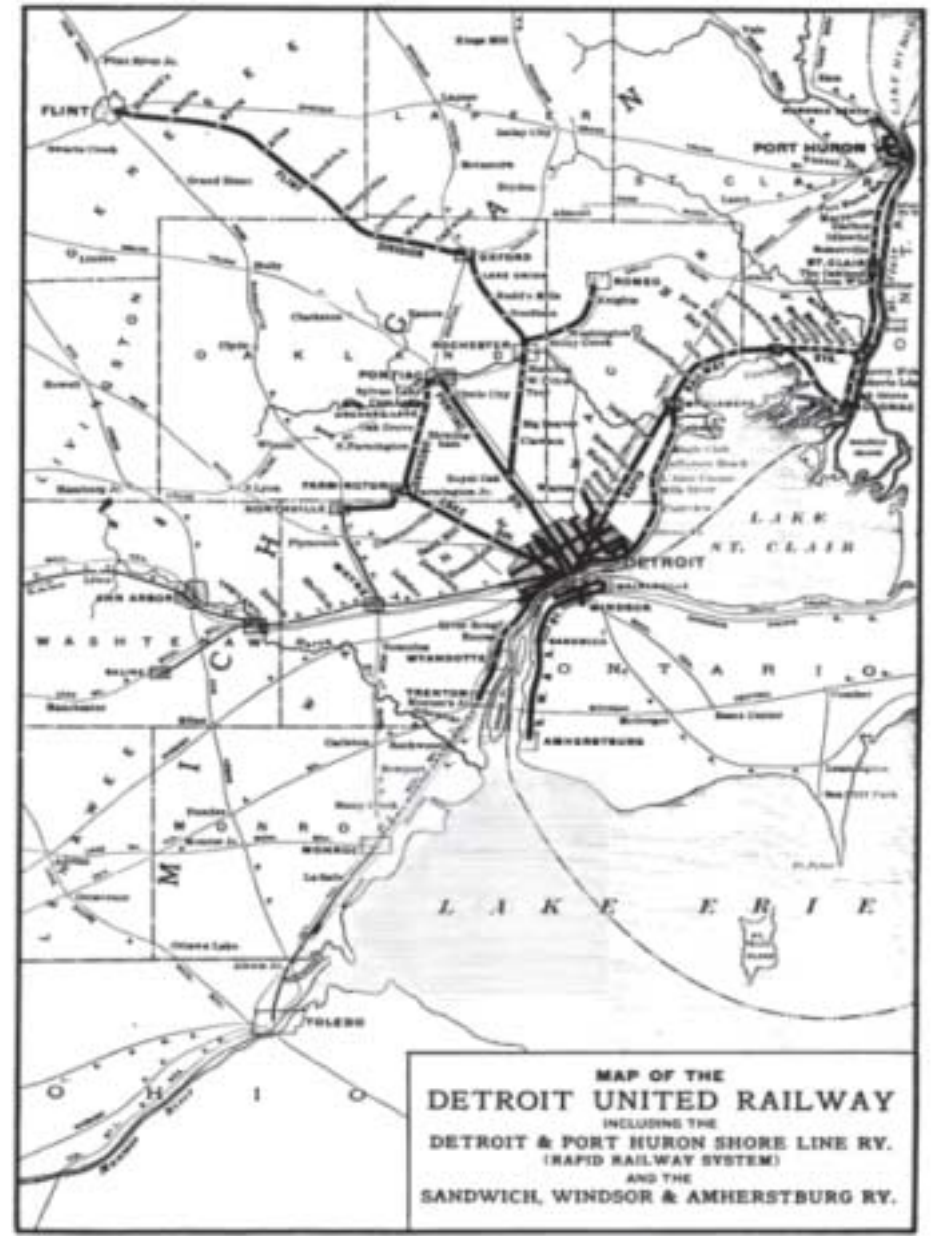
The Monroe Evening News

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One of the key factors that helped Luna Pier grow in its earliest years was its location along the interurban line. Interurban lines involved a type of electric passenger car on rails that were popular in and near major cities during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Often roads were unpaved and sometimes impassable during wet weather, so the interurban line was a popular predictable, durable, and comfortable way to travel. Luna Pier was located along an interurban line that ran between Detroit and Toledo. This line ran along Harold Drive and remnants of the interurban rail bridge are still evident over LaPointe Drain near the existing municipal boat ramp. The Detroit United Railway was the operator of this and many other streetcar and interurban lines in southeast Michigan.



SOURCE OF POWER AND REVENUE — The Hamilton Justice R. Wolkstein generating plant of the Consumers Power Co. is at the south end of the proposed Luna Pier incorporation area. Supplying electricity to southeast Monroe County, the plant also would provide a solid tax base for the proposed City of Luna Pier.



As noted, the community became known as Luna Pier when an actual commercial pier was built out into Lake Erie. This pier attracted thousands of people and hosted famous dance bands such as Benny Goodman and Guy Lombardo. The pier itself extended far out into Lake Erie. Reportedly, the pier collapsed into Lake Erie under the weight of ice in 1946. Steel could not be used to reinforce the structure due to wartime restrictions. In front of the pier, a bar known as the Luna Pier Tavern was also a popular destination and was destroyed by fire in 1954.

Luna Pier, at Lakeside Will Be Opened Sunday.

Elaborate plans have been made for the opening of Luna Pier, the new outdoor summer dancing pavilion at Lakeside, south and east of Monroe, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The pier which will give Monroe and Toledo folk an opportunity to enjoy dancing out over the water, is said to be one of the most pretentious on the Great Lakes. Satisfying dancing is also scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

The Lakeside Resort and Amusement Co., which owns the pier, has spared no expense in building the 800 ft. board walk and dance pavilion out over the lake. The pier is a novelty in this part of the country. In planning it, Lou Cresner and Chester Sarkis visited many in the east and around Chicago to gather ideas that might be embodied in their plan.

The dance surface is 128 by 92 feet and is built at the terminus of the wide board walk. The dance floor is only eight feet above the water's surface. Special lighting effects modeled after those of the famous Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, have been installed.

The dance floor is connected to the mainland by a wide board walk and on the land side terminates in the building formerly used for dancing at Lakeside. This building will be used for administration purposes and as an emergency dance floor in inclement weather.

Singing Bill Halvey, entertainer, has been engaged for songs and specialties. Don Alvin, violinist, will terminate his vaudeville engagement and bring his band here from California to play during the summer at Lakeside.

Special arrangements have been made by the management for parking automobiles.

On Tuesday evening, July 6, a special engagement of the original Nighthawks has been booked. This orchestra broke into fame on the radio in Kansas City and was called to Chicago to play at the Congress Hotel. For two years the band has played there and has been heard over station WY4.



LUNA PIER

"The Song is Ended But the Melody Lingers On", were the thoughts of thousands of Monroe County couples in the 1920's and 30's as they strolled away from Luna Pier beneath a star studded sky.



ENTRANCE TO THE PIER



LUNA PIER DANCE PAVILION

It was the only open air dance pavilion of its kind built over the waters of Lake Erie at the end of a huge commercial pier. The band shell was the only part covered and the luxurious dance floor was constructed of terrazzo made of tons of marble chips. Soft glowing lamps outlined the long pier and huge pavilion.

There under the stars couples waltzed and fox-trotted to the music of Paul Whiteman, Glenn Gray, Wayne King, Ben Bernie, Fred Waring, Benny Goodman, and Vicent Lopez, to name only a few of the big name bands to play there. For the more popular bands, crowds were often so huge that dancing was impossible and would-be dancers would stand packed together at the band shell to listen and applaud.

Small boats frequently anchored near the pier to enjoy the beautiful music and many of the residents of the Village of Luna Pier recall enjoying the music as it was wafted ashore. (Luna Pier took its name in 1920 when the Pier was being built). In the 1940's interest in dancing waned. Our young men were answering their country's call to service while sweethearts, sisters, and mothers became busy with "war work", Red Cross or U.S.O.

Only nostalgic memories remain. The pier was destroyed by fire and in March, 1954, ice removed the last vestige of the historic landmark.



Days Gone By

This photo was taken in 1912 at what was then Strip 42 near Alder's Cove (just South of Luna Pier). Thanks to Becky Myland for the use of the photo. The three women on the right are identified as In-D Anna Foster (grandmother), Lucy Foster (mother), and Mrs. Wallace (neighbor). The Foster's were living in Toledo at this time and moved to La Salle in 1914.

Flooding

Given Luna Pier's location on Lake Erie, fluctuating lake levels and storms have been part of community history. In the fall of 1963 it was reported that lake levels had receded to the point that swimming and boating activities were impacted. In other years, seasonal high water flooded streets. In November of 1972, the City of Luna Pier was particularly hit hard by flooding that caused severe property damages. Gale force winds raised lake levels and damaged about 80 percent of the homes in Luna Pier. Waves reportedly reached 12 feet in height.



Turtle Island Lighthouse

Turtle Island is located about 4 nautical miles southeast of the City of Luna Pier near the Mouth of the Maumee River. Turtle Island is a small island, less than an acre in size and it is actually partly in Michigan and partly in Ohio. Turtle Island is named after a Miami Indian Chief named Little Turtle. The Turtle Island Lighthouse ceased operation in 1904, and the island was sold at public auction. Today the island is privately owned and only portions of the Turtle Island Lighthouse structure still stand.



Sewer Plant

Luna Pier's sewer plant began operation in August of 1969. It was built at a cost of \$840,900. This plant was unique for its time as it was believed to be the first in Michigan to greatly reduce the phosphate content of raw sewage. Also in 1969, a contract ratified by Monroe County, Luna Pier, Bedford Township, Erie Township and LaSalle Township authorized the purchase of City of Toledo water. The distribution system was completed in the early 1970's.

