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ride winners

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BONUS
SECTION **B**

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AUGUST 2001

Amusement Today's 2001 Golden Ticket Awards

Featuring three new categories

Tim Baldwin

Amusement Today

Once again, *Amusement Today* has selected a core group of experienced enthusiasts considered to be well-traveled park guests to ride, eat, observe, and enjoy the Best of the Best. As always, the findings are interesting as the tabulated results provide this year's Golden Ticket Awards.

Awards Overview

In 1998, the original *Amusement Today* survey was designed to divide participants evenly in geographic regions providing the most balanced poll possible. This year, more than 400 surveys were mailed. With our biggest response ever, 25 percent came from the Northeastern portion of the United States, both the Southern United States and north central states provided 23 percent of the votes, and the west coast tallied in at 22 percent. The remaining 7 percent were mailed in from international correspondents.

Keeping the survey fresh, *AT* is pleased to introduce a few new categories this year, adding a broader perspective to the Golden Tickets. Best Carousel, Best Kid's Area and Best Water Ride in an amusement park offer up a new set of entertaining opinions.

New for 2001

Due to our early July postmark deadline, parks are always challenged to see their newest attractions make our list. While a few new faces are landing in the charts this year, only three have managed to place after being open a few short months. Nitro and Titan in the Six Flags chain share boasting rights along with Kennywood's reworked Phantom's Revenge as being the only 2001 coasters on our list. New performers on *AT*'s Top 25 are Six Flags America's Superman Ride of Steel (2000) and Volcano (1998) on our Steel list. The Boss (2000) garnered throngs of fans climbing all the way to the number 15 spot on our wood list. As predicted last year, Tremors at Silverwood landed firmly in the Top 20 and Hersheypark's master-

piece, Lightning Racer, stormed all the way to 13th place.

Trends

A notable trend this year is coasters that have become more comfortable. The Texas Cyclone and Flight of Fear coasters started developing votes again this year. A perfect example appears on the list with Kennywood's revamped Phantom's Revenge moving into the number 15 position in just a few weeks, scoring much higher than Steel Phantom did in the past.

Gold Stars

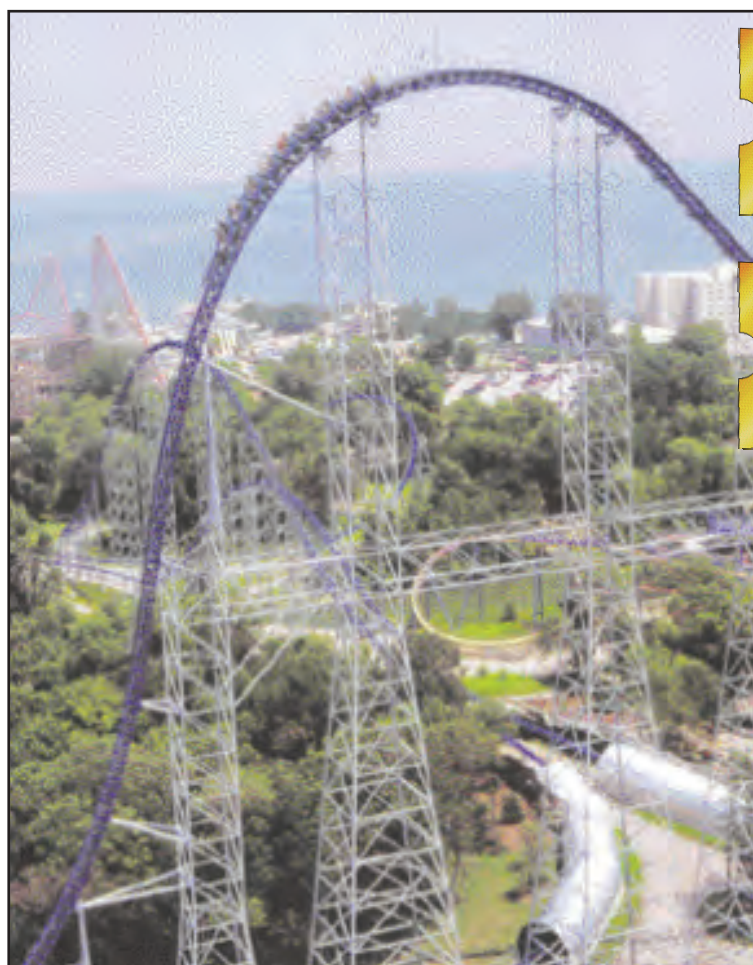
Three coasters in particular made spectacular strides over the past year. While appearing as a new entry on the 2000 Awards, Cedar Point's Millennium Force came close to doubling its points from the previous year to take stronghold as Favorite Steel Coaster. Perhaps even more impressive is the rise of two other coasters that debuted in the 2000 season. Boulder Dash at Lake Compounce leaps into the Top 10 by landing dramatically as the number three wooden coaster. Likewise, Superman Ride of Steel at Six Flags New England became powerfully competitive battling its way all the way to the number two position on the steel list.

An international glance

Enthusiasts traveling abroad in that quest for the ultimate coaster continue to broaden their expertise. With more and more international tours planned each year, *AT* predicts even more European coasters making a presence in the upcoming years.

Holding their own again this year are Alton Tower's Nemesis, Parc Asterix's Tonerre de Zeus and Oakwood's Megafobia, with the latter maintaining a strong reputation as a Top 10 place holder. Already newer installations across Europe are gathering rave reviews and building momentum when points were counted. Look for some strong competition from across the Atlantic during the next two years.

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Clockwise from top left, Cedar Point and its record-setting coaster Millennium Force, Holiday World and The Raven as well as Schlitterbahn and its world-famous Master Blaster were all big winners in *AT*'s Golden Ticket Awards.

Photos courtesy Cedar Point, Schlitterbahn and *AT*



WINNERS

Continued from page 1B

The accolade of Best Park is once again bestowed to Cedar Point, a destination famous for providing a wide variety of entertainment, huge thrills and the world’s largest lineup of coasters and beautiful resort accommodations. Coming in second, Universal’s Islands of Adventure demonstrates what happens when beauty, theming and quality rides all combine into a package that exceeds guest expectations. Honest value and a collection of outstanding rides in a traditional atmosphere allow Knoebel’s Grove to round out the top three.

To no one’s surprise, Schlitterbahn once again takes half the votes earning them the Best Waterpark award. With a seemingly eternal lock on the award, the New Braunfels summer oasis may just find its most formidable competition in its sister park, Schlitterbahn Beach, as it continues to develop in south Texas in the next few years. If theming in a park is what you like, then Disney’s Blizzard Beach serves it up bigtime. The snowy, whimsical environment helps bring the waterpark in at second place. Escaping the day’s heat while visiting Holiday World has allowed Splashin’ Safari to rate as the third favorite.

And speaking of locks, when well over half the participants vote Holiday World as having the Friendliest Staff, any park would struggle to even place at all. Knoebel’s Grove is the only park that could even claim 5 percent of the vote making them second place.

Standing in line is one of the lowest points to any park visit. Moving people through lines as quickly as possible is a hot topic in the industry today. Cedar Point, with 51 percent of votes, rises to the top of the Best Capacity category. Disney also seems to have matters well in hand with Walt Disney World taking second place

and Disneyland holding a close third.

Naturally, any park would be pleased with an award bestowed upon it, but Holiday World takes particular pride in its goal to remain the Cleanest Park. As guests leave, one look is all it takes to see the continual effort put forth by this park. Likewise, apparent dedication is witnessed at both Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Walt Disney World, our second and third place recipients.

When 52 percent of votes cast go to a park for superior landscaping, people certainly take notice. Busch Gardens Williamsburg has garnered itself the perennial reputation of Best Landscaping. The beautiful and lush areas throughout Walt Disney World bring it into second place, and the old-fashioned charm of Silver Dollar City is accented by its landscaping placing them at third place.

Termed the “Year of Entertainment,” Fiesta Texas continues its heritage of creating outstanding shows for its guests with perhaps its strongest line up of talent in years. While many parks may be content to produce a good show or two, Fiesta Texas can truly boast an expansive scope of 11 shows featuring live bands and strong vocal performers, international diversity, a broad range of musical styles and crowd pleasers such as Rockin’ at Rockville High, the amazing Lone Star Spectacular and the new dynamic Circo Magnifico. In a similar vein, Silver Dollar City presents a commitment to talent and variety in its festivals throughout the year. Finally, Walt Disney World presents a quandary as many voters wanted to lump all four parks together, while others wanted to vote for a specific park as *AT* intended. In so doing, the results tabulate as 8 percent one way and 18 percent when tabulating all the parks.

Judging by some of the comments received at *AT*, eating at a park is not always a pleasure. However, many parks are famous for providing great eating experiences. Knoebel’s tops the Best Food category by offering a variety of tasty food at a reasonable

price. The home cooking and delicious offerings of Silver Dollar City bring it in at second place, and Kennywood, led by its world famous fries, rounds out the top three.

Ride Categories

Remaining consistent with last year’s winners, IOA’s Spiderman webs in first place as Best Dark Ride, Knoebel’s Haunted Mansion demonstrates what a great classic dark ride can still be by taking second place, and Disneyland’s Indiana Jones delivers a breathtaking experience into the third place spot.

One of our newest categories, Best Water Ride (in an amusement park), allowed voters to highlight a great selection of terrific attractions within the industry. Dudley Do-Right’s Ripsaw Falls takes the top spot with its humorous theming, lengthy ride experience and breathtaking steep drop. Steeper yet is the second place winner, Knott’s Perilous Plunge, which took splashwater rides through a whole new thrill barrier when it debuted in 2000. What Plunge did for thrills, Escape from Pompeii at Busch Williamsburg did for theming. The effects-heavy, scenic adventure comes in at third place. A close contender is SeaWorld Orlando’s Journey to Atlantis, which takes all of the previously mentioned elements and packages them into one terrific attraction.

Even amongst big thrills, there is always a place for the mild side. For Best Carousel, Knoebel’s Grand Carousel takes the brass ring, just as riders at the park can still do while enjoying this classic ride. This glimmer of nostalgia also can be enjoyed at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, our second place winner. Six Flags Over Georgia’s placement of the beautiful Riverview Carousel on the hillside showcases the true treasure it is, and it rates as third best.

Paramount’s Kings Island beams at the honor of being awarded Best Kid’s Area for our first year with this category. The expanded area actually includes two sections for kids, Nickelodeon Central and Hanna Barbera Land. Boasting the world’s biggest collection of coasters for kids (four), thematic elements, life-size characters, numerous scaled down rides and attractions and the incorporation of the newly remodeled flume into their family area makes the park an ideal place for families with small children. Islands of Adventure’s Seuss Landing scored big with our participants bringing it into second place, and going Looney at Six Flags Worlds of Adventure brings that park in at third.

In the world of waterparks, Schlitterbahn’s Master Blaster keeps impressing with its cutting-edge technology. Although a distant second, the park also places with its 30-minute “low-tech” Raging River tube chute. Blizzard Beach’s outlandish Summit Plummet slides into third.

Fiesta Texas’ Circo Magnifico is one of a broad range of shows that voters rate the best.

Photo courtesy Fiesta Texas



Park and ride winners

Ranked by percentage of votes.

Best Park		
Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	21%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	12%
Knoebel’s Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	11%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	10%

Best Waterpark		
Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	50%
Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.	7%
Splashin’ Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.	6%

Friendliest Park Staff		
Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	60%
Knoebel’s Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	5%

Capacity (fastest moving lines)		
Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	51%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	12%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	7%

Cleanest Park		
Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	46%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	16%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	15%

Best Landscaping		
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	52%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	8%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	6%

Best Shows		
Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	23%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	14%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	8%

Best Food		
Knoebel’s Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	23%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	21%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	10%

Best Dark Ride		
Amazing Adv. Spiderman	Islands of Adventure	31%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebel’s Grove	23%
Indiana Jones...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	8%

Best Water Ride (Amusement Park)		
Dudley Do-Right’s Ripsaw Falls	Islands of Adventure	35%
Perilous Plunge	Knott’s Berry Farm	9%
Escape from Pompeii	Busch Williamsburg	8%
Journey to Atlantis	SeaWorld Orlando	7%

Best Carousel		
Knoebel’s Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	39%
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	13%
Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	12%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	6%

Best Kid’s Area		
Paramount’s Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	24%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	9%
Six Flags Worlds of Adventure	Aurora, Ohio	7%

Best Waterpark Ride		
Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn	42%
Raging River	Schlitterbahn	9%
Summit Plummit	Blizzard Beach	7%

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Amusement Today’s annual Golden Ticket Awards were bestowed upon all first-place finishers in each category. *Amusement Today* congratulates the many fine parks that won or placed in this year’s categories. We also would like to thank the many people who took the time to return our survey forms and participate in the polling process. If you were not selected to vote, and would like your name added to the selection list, please drop us a postcard and we’ll be glad to add your name to next year’s ballot list. Remember, industry employees are ineligible to vote. *AT* also would like to thank our advertisers for their help in making this Bonus Section possible.

Thanks also go to Tim Baldwin for his countless hours in tabulating the poll results and to Ted Davidson and his staff at Corporate Graphics in Arlington, Texas, for the design and printing of the Golden Ticket Awards.

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Dudley Do Right by AT; Hanna Barbera Land courtesy PKI
As two of our newest categories, IOA's Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls rates as Best Water Ride and Paramount's Island is voted as having Best Kids Area.

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Holiday World

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2001 Golden Ticket Awards

Splashin' SAFARI.

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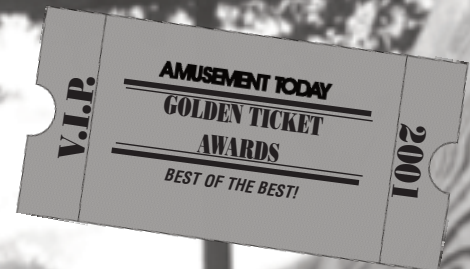
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1. **Raven**, Holiday World
2. **Shivering Timbers**, Michigan's Adventure
3. **Boulder Dash**, Lake Compounce
5. **Legend**, Holiday World
6. **GhostRider**, Knott's Berry Farm
7. **Rampage**, VisionLand
10. **Megafobia**, Oakwood Park
15. **The Boss**, SF St. Louis
17. **The Villain**, Six Flags Worlds of Adventure
18. **Tonnerre de Zeus**, Parc Asterix
19. **Tremors**, Silverwood



"Best Children's Area"

*Congratulations
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The List

Top 25 wood roller coasters

RANK	NAME	YEAR	PARK	LOCATION	POINTS
1	Raven	1995	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	688
2	Shivering Timbers	1998	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	615
3	Boulder Dash	2000	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	554
4	Phoenix	1985	Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	533
5	Legend	2000	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	431
6	GhostRider	1998	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	424
7	Rampage	1998	VisionLand	Bessemer, Ala.	369
8	Texas Giant	1990	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	363
9	Comet	1994	Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	336
10	Megafobia	1996	Oakwood	Pembrookshire, Wales	295
11	Cyclone	1927	Astroland (Coney Island)	Brooklyn, N.Y.	283
12	Beast	1979	Paramount's Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	271
13	Lightning Racer	2000	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	269
14	Thunderbolt	1968	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	192
15	The Boss	2000	Six Flags St. Louis	St. Louis, Mo.	186
16	Georgia Cyclone	1990	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	185
17	Villain	2000	Six Flags Worlds of Adventure	Aurora, Ohio	165
18	Tonnerre de Zeus	1997	Parc Asterix	Plailly, France	142
19	Tremors	1999	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	137
20	Twister	1999	Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa	130
21	Giant Dipper	1924	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	129
22	Wildcat	1996	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	125
23	Coaster	1958	PNE Playland	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	115
24	Timber Wolf	1989	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	97
25	Cyclone	1983	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	73

Amusement Today also presents the next 25 wooden coasters as determined by points.
26: Grizzly (PKD), 27: Roar (SFMW), 28: Screamin' Eagle (SFSStL), 29: MegaZeph (Jazzland), 30: Colossos (Heide Park), 31: Roar (SFA), 32 tie: Grand National (BPB), Timber Terror (Silverwood); 34 tie: Mean Streak (Cedar Point), Thunder Run (SFKK); 36 (tie): Jack Rabbit (Kennywood), Viper (SFGAm); 38: Stampida (Port Aventura), 39: Giant Dipper (Belmont), 40 tie: Excalibur (Funtown), Thunder Coaster (Tusenfyrd); 42 tie: Great American Scream Machine (SFOG), Racer (Kennywood), Rebel Yell (PKD); 45: Big Dipper (SFWoA), 46: Son of Beast (PKI), 47: Colossus (SFMM), 48: Blue Streak (Cedar Point), 49 tie: Cyclone (Lakeside), Wild One (SFA)



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The List

Top 25 steel roller coasters



RANK	NAME	YEAR	PARK	LOCATION	POINTS
1	Millennium Force	2000	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	758
2	Superman Ride of Steel	2000	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	682
3	Magnum XL-200	1989	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	661
4	Steel Force	1997	Dorney Park	Allentown, Pa.	399
5	Montu	1996	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	336
6	Superman Ride of Steel	1999	Six Flags Darien Lake	Darien Center, N.Y.	305
7	Apollo's Chariot	1999	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va. .	298
8	Raptor	1994	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	266
9	Incredible Hulk	1999	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	261
10	Alpengiast	1997	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	252
11	Raging Bull	1999	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	220
12	Dueling Dragons	1999	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	210
13	Kumba	1993	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	201
14	Goliath	2000	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	196
15	Phantom's Revenge	2001/1991	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	168
16	Nitro	2001	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	164
17	Mindbender	1978	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	163
18	Mamba	1998	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	158
19	Nemesis	1994	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	148
20	Superman Ride of Steel	2000	Six Flags America	Largo, Md.	146
21	Titan	2001	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	126
22	Medusa	1999	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	125
23	Superman Ultimate Escape	2000	Six Flags Worlds of Adventure	Aurora, Ohio	100
24	Desperado	1994	Buffalo Bill's Casino	Primm, Nev.	99
25	Volcano	1998	Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	93

Amusement Today also presents the next 25 steel coasters as determined by points.
26: Big Bad Wolf (BGW), 27: Shock Wave (SFOT), 28: Wildfire (SDC), 29: Batman Knight Flight (SFWoA), 30: Talon (Dorney), 31: Dragon Kahn (Port Aventura), 32: Superman the Escape (SFMM), 33: Texas Tornado (AstroWorld), 34: Top Gun (PC), 35: Riddler's Revenge (SFMM), 36: Suprman Krypton Coaster (Fiesta Texas), 37: The Big One (BPB), 38: Batman the Ride (SFGAm), 39 tie: Mantis (Cedar Point), Space Mountain (Disneyland); 41: Matterhorn Bobsleds (Disneyland), 42 tie: Great Bear (Hersheypark), Hypersonic XLC (PKD); 44: Loch Ness Monster (BGW), 45: Fujiyama (Fujikyu Highland), 46: Batman The Ride (SFMM), 47 tie: California Screamin' (DCA), Georgia Scorchers (SFOG), Medusa (SFMW); 50: Kraken (SeaWorld)

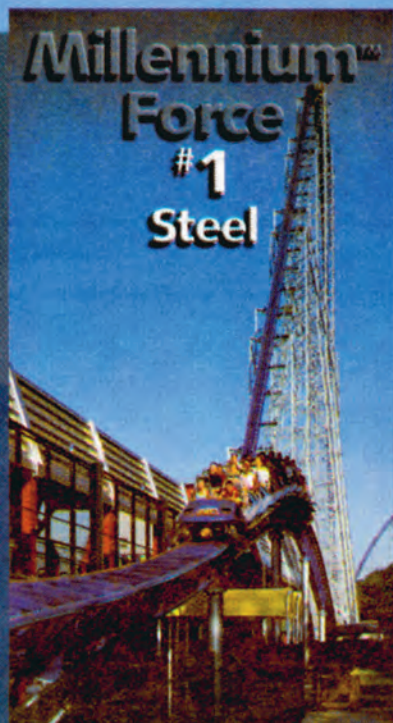


What a Great Year!

2 Golden Tickets
2 Top 20 Coasters

Thank you readers of *Amusement Today*!



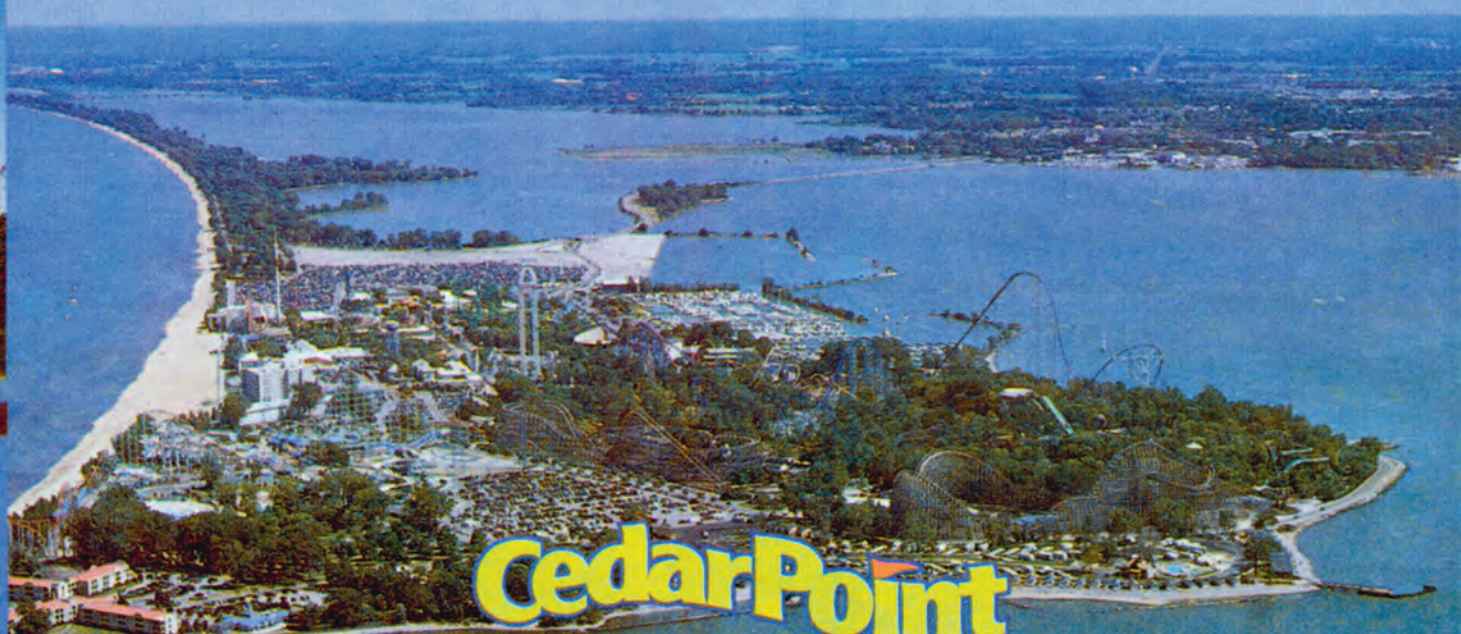


Cedar Point



Cedar Point

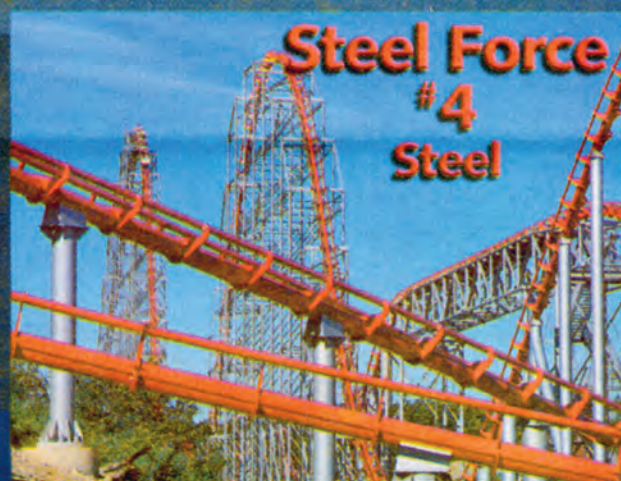
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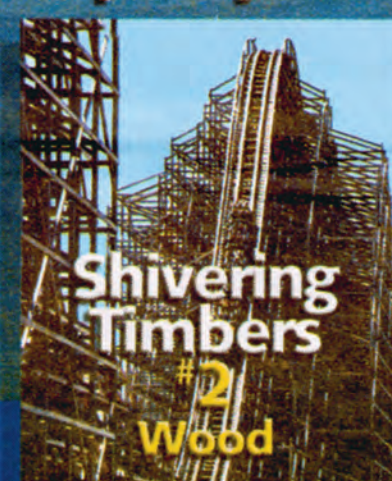
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