

The growth of the place up to this period far exceeds the expectations of the originators. Unlooked-for problems have been met and solved, especially that of sewerage and water supply. The sanitary condition of the place, even in the heat of summer and during heavy rains, is remarkably good. There is very little sickness, and the majority of those who are under the care of a physician, come to the place in search of good health. Ocean Grove is eighteen years old (past). The first meeting was held at the grounds on 31st July, 1869. A large and beautiful vase now marks the spot. It was held in a tent with twenty persons present, which included all to be found within one mile and a quarter of the only family living on the ground. Now one hundred and fourteen daily trains stop during the season and nearly half a million of persons visit the grounds. The first purchase was six acres. An association of twenty-six persons was soon formed, and they purchased the tract comprising the three hundred acres between Wesley and Fletcher Lakes. It is said that a portion of this property which was purchased for \$500, cost \$15,000 additional to obtain a clear title.

Asbury Park is separated from Ocean Grove by a beautiful sheet of water about a mile in length, called Wesley Lake, which empties its overflow through a flume conducted under the ocean plaza to the sea. This plaza presents an unbroken plank walk, extending about two miles. Along the front of Ocean Grove and Asbury Park is one of the finest sea-side promenades to be anywhere found. Varying from sixteen to thirty-two feet in width, it is thickly studded on each side with comfortable settees. Visitors may walk or sit in full view of the sea, with the waters breaking almost to their feet.

There are also commodious pavilions extending out into the sea, where one may sit and listen to the "sad sea waves," and the bands of music which frequently play. Thousands of persons enjoy their promenade every evening on the plaza, under the blaze of the magnificent electric lights.

Wesley Lake is literally covered with pleasure boats from early dawn till long after dark. The boats are fantastically dressed, and at night are illuminated with Chinese lanterns, which produce an enchanting effect. There are two points where ferry boats are constantly crossing, and the fare is only one cent each way. No boating is allowed on Sunday on the lakes, but the ferry boats are run to accommodate those attending church.