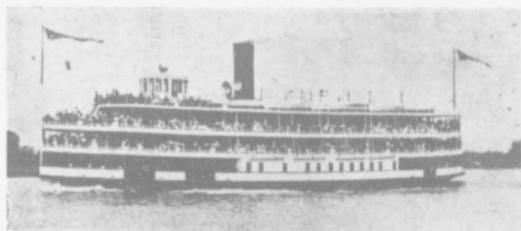


houses were erected, and for a number of years the springs were well patronized until finally the flow of water stopped.

In 1885 a Mr. Geo. C. Buchanan, of Kentucky, opened an amusement park on the river front, just below the springs, and called it Brighton Beach. This only remained open for two or three seasons, and during that time the boats ran to both the Mineral Springs and Brighton Beach. Among the novelties of the Beach was a roller coaster, one of the first to be operated in this locality. Another feature was the staging of the then popular opera, "Pinafore," from the deck of a large sailing vessel anchored on the river front there. In the act where Dick Deadeye is thrown overboard (on the regular stage), in this case he was actually thrown overboard into the river.

In the early nineties there was open for a few seasons a summer resort on Fighting Island, a few miles further down the river, under the name of "Des-chree-shos-ka," an Indian term meaning "a place to catch good fish." A large casino was built for the summer trade and for a few seasons the resort was well patronized. The ferry company ran a line of boats to the island until the place was closed.



The Steamer Ste. Claire.

The last resort opened up was that of Bois Blanc Island. "Bois Blanc" is from the French, meaning "white wood." During the war of 1812-13 the celebrated Indian chief Tecumseh and his warriors encamped at Bois Blanc. It is now owned by the ferry company, and was opened to the public in 1898. A large casino and dance hall were built and the grounds improved and beautified. Since then a larger stone and steel dancing pavilion, with 20,000 square feet floor space, has been built; also a bath house, a women's building for the use of women and children only, and a modern cafe. The grounds have been still further improved by the laying out of play grounds for children and athletic fields, including six baseball diamonds. The island is situated eighteen miles below Detroit, at the head of Lake Erie, and the trip down the river is a most enjoyable one.

Belle Isle Park, owned by the City of Detroit since 1879, is a wooded island, two miles long, and contains 707 acres. It is situated three miles above the Woodward Avenue dock. In 1768 a Lieutenant George McDougall bought the island from the Ottawa and Chippewa Indian tribes for the value of about \$975, and in 1879 the City of Detroit purchased it from the Barnabas Campeau