

THE ROLLER-COASTER

Tivoli's Roller-Coaster from 1914 is the world's oldest wooden roller-coaster still in operation. It pitches and weaves on 720 meters of track at speeds up to 50 k.p.h. The Roller-Coaster runs on gravity alone after it's pulled up to the first hilltop.



A car full of passengers weights about 2,000 kg. A brakeman at the rear applies manual pressure in all curves to control the car's speed. The ride gives you a view inside the Fun House, built into the Roller-Coaster's "mountain," along with the Tubs Ahoy ride and The Alley, Tivoli's bustling midway.

Maintenance is the responsibility of Tivoli's own experts, who replace planks and track sections as needed. In winter, they paint and grease the cars, and replace the cable that pulls them up the first hill.

During World War II, energy rationing made it necessary to use manpower to haul the cars up. A team of brawny men turned a big winch mounted on the Roller-Coaster's roof.

Tivoli has had a Roller-Coaster since it opened in 1843. The first "Rutschbane" was a hit with guests who loved the seven-second thrill that the ride offered. However, the press scoffed at it as a frivolous waste of political energy and an imprudent use of money.