



An American Tour: 98



Memphis's *LakeLand*

No use looking for this attraction. It was a product of by-gone days. But, for awhile,...

Built in 1959, there was a sizable amusement park northeast of Memphis, TN, known as Lakeland. The evolution of Lakeland started with the construction of a dam and the building of one of the largest man-made lakes in Tennessee in 1959. It was located around the intersection of I-40 and Canada Road. The Park opened its' doors on June 2, 1961 with two trains; one of them had an old fashion train robbery for the guests to experience. The ride that most people remember best was Skyride, which offered a ride over the lake and back, but it was the famous Skyride from the 1958 Brussels World's Fair. You could also ride a river boat around the lake. Of course, there were all the standard rides of any park of the day. It closed down in 1976. One of its key attractions was a steam railroad known as the "Huff N Puff". The locomotive was an 0-4-0 with tender and it pulled a couple of open air rider cars. After the park closed, the train was sold to a group in Mississippi and sat for several years. Lakeland was torn down and is now a subdivision.

Garner Lake, a man-made lake, was the centerpiece of Lakeland Amusement Park. Eventually the town of Lakeland, TN, evolved from the park.

