

Epitome Of New York

ALAN MARKUM

Rushing, surging, tough — roaring, overfed, rough. Hard as steel. The cultural and financial seat of the world; the leading port of America; Noisy, moving, ever-changing. The greatest melting pot of the globe; the home of the common man. That's New York!

Settled by the Dutch and named New Amsterdam, taken by the English, and won by Americans, this world of islands, whose heart is the rock of Manhattan, is, today, the greatest city in the world. New York is, without a doubt, the wonder city of all time. A city of steel and bronze, of brick and mortar, it has a face as hard as the geometric diamond and as fresh and gleaming as the sparkling sapphire. New York is a city of unparalleled extremes. Wall street represents fabulous wealth; the Bowery depicts hopeless poverty. Central Park is a spacious expanse of beauty; Dead End a squalid area of tenements. Wealth and poverty, beauty and sordidness, all describe individual modes of New York life. Every race, color, and creed is represented in New York, and all peoples have equal chances for success. Immigrants have played a leading roll in the outstanding development of this city, for here they have found boundless opportunities in all fields of endeavor. New York is an endless sea of commerce, industry, and professional, all manifesting the unsurpassed progress which the city has attained.

The skyline of any other city, if placed in New York, would be lost in the soaring heights of Manhattan, the borough of masts and spires towering serenely above the sparkling ocean waters, the borough of tunnels and canyons, of bridges and elevations, of thoroughfares and highways.

Manhattan, seen thus, represents the image of all human endeavor.

There, in the heart of the metropolitan area the massive Empire State Building, tallest structure in the world, looks proudly downward from the dizzy height of one thousand two hundred and fifty feet to street level, and dwarfs all other objects to microscopic proportions. There, the ultra modern Chrysler Building, with its world famous spire, towers one thousand and forty-six feet from the ground and is but another tribute to the genius of human ingenuity. Rockefeller Center, a city within the city, is a modern colossus of construction. Composed of countless buildings, it houses many large establishments, of which Radio City, the heart of American broadcasting, is the predominant part. The Radio City Music Hall, largest indoor theater in the world, has the astounding seating capacity of six thousand six hundred people. The rows of anxious patrons are ever pressing towards its doors so that a line reaching two city blocks is not at all unusual. Times Square, the Great White Way, is the pulse of the city. Electric signs, theaters, night clubs, roof gardens, restaurants, automats, honkeytonks, gift shops, all blend together to make the Great White Way the brightest spot on earth. Crowds, milling, shoving, and shuffling endlessly along, all hours of day and night, create a constant World's Fair in progress.

To say that New York is vast, is to say the obvious. To say that it represents the magical power of life and energy that has made America a living symbol of freedom and democracy, is to reflect its true greatness.