

Ghosts of rides gone by

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SANDUSKY

A new cemetery at Cedar Point is paying homage to rides that have passed on.

But this new attraction for the start of tonight's HalloWeekends isn't as much sad as it is fun to see the remains of old favorites.

The focal point of "The Land of the Lost Thrills" on Cedar Point's Main Midway is the young German maiden from the late Schwabingchen spinning ride.

However, instead of a red dress, the towering statue is wearing a black gothic outfit. The 32-year-old ride last operated in 2002.

Keeping the German maiden company are recovered dancing figures from the San Francisco Earthquake theme ride. Earthquake was at Cedar Point in 1965 until 1985 when it was replaced with the indoor portion of Berenstain Bear Country, which is now the Snoopy Boutique gift shop.

The cemetery also pays respects to the Mill Race, Rotor, Wild Mouse and Frontier Lift, among a total of 19 rides dating back to the late 1950s.

All of the rides are represented by towering tombstones; some have memorabilia accompanying them.

The oldest ride in the cemetery is the Monorail, which was at the park from 1959 until the early 1970s. The exact date was unknown.

One of the recently retired rides is the Swan Boats, which left after the 2003

Boo to you

► HalloWeekends starts tonight and runs every weekend through Oct. 31. The park is open from 6-11 p.m. Fridays; noon-midnight Saturdays; and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays. Limited rides are open on Friday nights.