

LOCAL HISTORY

# Welcome to Ka-noo-no

Each week, the Onondaga Historical Association looks back at important events:

**110 Years Ago:** On Sept. 12, 1905, the Ka-noo-no Karnival debuted in Syracuse. Its purpose was to attract people to Syracuse for the New York State Fair, which was struggling at the time and in danger of being moved to another city. An organizing committee determined that a Mardi Gras-type carnival held in the evening would be the best way to draw visitors. A general Native American theme was chosen to pay tribute to the first inhabitants of New York state. Dr. William Beauchamp, president of OHA, suggested the native name "Ka-noo-no," which he indicated meant "the territory within the State of New York." Each year had a theme component, along with floats and parades. Strand lighting illuminated the extensive parade route throughout the city for the nearly 100,000 people who lined it nightly. By 1917, the state fair was doing well and there was no longer a need for the Ka-noo-no Karnival.



A float in a Ka-noo-no Karnival parade. (OHA photo)



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— Dan Connors for the OHA