The Shocking Demolition of the Iconic Third Avenue El in the Bronx: A Look into its History and Impact

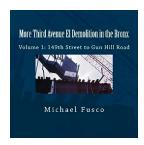


The Bronx, a borough known for its rich history and diverse culture, has undergone tremendous changes over the years. One of the most significant transformations in its infrastructure was the demolition of the iconic Third Avenue Elevated Train Line, popularly known as the Third Avenue El, which once served as a vital transportation link for the residents.

The Rise of the Third Avenue El

The Third Avenue EI, a remarkable piece of engineering, was conceived in the 19th century as an essential public transportation system in the Bronx.

Completed in 1887, this elevated train line revolutionized the way people commuted within the borough and connected it with Manhattan. The Third Avenue El played a crucial role in the development of the Bronx, allowing for rapid urbanization and economic growth.



More Third Avenue El Demolition in the Bronx

by Michael J. Fusco (Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4064 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 94 pages

Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Hardcover : 160 pages
Item Weight : 1.48 pounds

Dimensions : $9.7 \times 0.8 \times 6.7$ inches



Stretching over 5 miles, the Third Avenue El featured elegant Victorian-style stations, ornate ironwork, and picturesque views of the city streets below. The train line quickly became synonymous with the Bronx and a symbol of progress and modernity.

The Impact on the Community

For more than a century, the Third Avenue El served as a lifeline for Bronx residents, providing an efficient means of transportation to Manhattan and other parts of the borough. The El not only facilitated daily commutes but also fostered vibrant neighborhoods along its route, with businesses capitalizing on the convenient access to potential customers.

However, as time passed, the El's infrastructure began to deteriorate, leading to safety concerns and maintenance challenges. The once-pristine stations lost their charm, and the trains themselves became outdated. Eventually, the decision to demolish the Third Avenue El was made, sparking mixed emotions among the community.

The Demolition Process

The demolition of such an iconic structure was no easy feat. The Third Avenue El, with its vast network of elevated tracks, stations, and ironwork, required careful planning and execution. Beginning in the late 1960s, the El was systematically dismantled, section by section.

The demolition process was carried out in stages, allowing for the continued operation of the train line throughout the procedure. This approach ensured minimal disruption to the daily lives of Bronx residents who still relied on the El for transportation.

End of an Era

Upon completion of the demolition in 1973, the Third Avenue El's absence left a void in the Bronx community. While its demise signaled progress and modernization, it also meant the loss of a significant part of the borough's history.

Though the Bronx has evolved and developed new transportation networks, the memory of the Third Avenue El lingers. The empty spaces where the elevated tracks once stood serve as a reminder of a bygone era and the impact the train line had on the Bronx's growth.

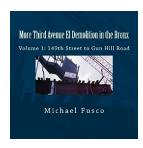
The Bronx Today

Today, the Bronx is a vibrant and thriving borough, continuing to undergo revitalization and transformation. Its transportation infrastructure has seen vast improvements with the of new subway lines, buses, and bike lanes. Commuting to Manhattan and other parts of the city has become easier than ever before.

While the Third Avenue El may no longer exist, its legacy lives on in the collective memory of the Bronx community. It continues to be a symbol of resilience and progress, reminding us of the borough's enduring spirit in the face of change.

In

The demolition of the Third Avenue El in the Bronx marked the end of an era, but it also paved the way for progress and innovation. As the borough continues to evolve, it is crucial to remember and honor the rich history that has shaped its identity. The Third Avenue El will forever be a chapter in the Bronx's story, reminding us of the vital role transportation plays in the growth and development of a community.



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The pictures in this book are part of a unique collection of approximately 1,400 slides taken by the author of the Third Avenue El demolition in The Bronx in the 1970's with a few from 2005.

These pictures were being made available for the 40th anniversary of the el closing in April 1973. The companion volumes to this book are The Third Avenue El Demolition in the Bronx – 149th Street to Tremont Avenue and The Third Avenue El Demolition in the Bronx – Tremont Avenue to Gun Hill Road, both published in 2012.

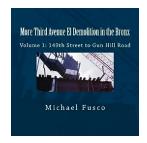
These books will not only appeal to train fans but to fans of autos, buses, the 1970's, Bronx and New York history.

Michael Fusco is a New York City based nature, botanical and weather photographer. His images appeared in the publications of the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Shutterbug Magazine.



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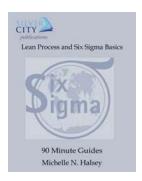
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