



STORY BY KATHY BERGREN SMITH

**T**he Recreation Pier at the foot of Broadway on Baltimore's historic Fells Point waterfront has been many things to many people. In 1914, the 500-foot pier served both commercial and public interests as a cargo pier below and a municipal dance hall above.

When this photo was taken in 1973, the pier was the headquarters of the Maritime Exchange, whose radio towers can be seen on the roof. The east side of the pier was the homeport of the Baker Whitely fleet of tugboats, which was acquired by McAllister Towing. The west side was home to Curtis Bay Towing, which became Moran Towing and was the last tenant to leave the pier in 2010. Also in the shot to

the east are the red freight boats of Marine Launch, a.k.a. Broadway Meats. These boats shuttled ships' stores and lube oil to vessels. Marine Launch was acquired by Vane Brothers, which still owns the *Carlyn*, the first boat in the photo.

The grand old Rec Pier, as it is known, hit its low point in 2010 when the organization Preserve Maryland named it one of the most endangered historic sites in the state. The Moran tugs have moved to Clinton Street. However, a new chapter may be beginning for the building. The city sold the pier for \$2 million in 2010 to Aloft Hotels, which has plans for a 135-room property at the site. 🌐

The above photograph is provided courtesy of the Baltimore Museum of Industry and is part of the museum's BGE collection. Visit the Baltimore Museum of Industry at 1415 Key Highway on the south side of the Inner Harbor; check out their website at [www.thebmi.org](http://www.thebmi.org); or call 410-727-4808. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.