Merrie Way Concession Stands

Adolph Sutro’s Pleasure Grounds, otherwise known as Merrie Way, would not be a true amusement park without a collection of vendors offering visitors a variety of goods for sale. Nine small concessions lined the north side of Cliff Avenue (now Point Lobos Ave.) near the midway, offering fresh roasted peanuts, fruits, candy, drinks, and other refreshments to visitors looking for more casual alternatives to the formal dining of the Cliff House.

Like most of the attractions at Merrie Way, the concession stands were remnants of the 1894 Midwinter’s Fair of San Francisco purchased by Sutro at the close of the fair. The Merrie Way concession stands were housed in the fair’s reused Mudjar-roofed buildings. These included a produce and refreshment stand run by the Antipa family (Stand O), an Oyster and Chop House (Stand S), and a cigar shop (Stand U). The stands began operating around 1895 and were as short lived as Merrie Way, most of them closing by the early 1900s.

*Top:* Produce and refreshment stand (Stand O) run by the Antipa family, ca. 1895 to 1910s;  
*Middle:* Stand T and Cigar Stand (Stand U) in front of the Firth Wheel, ca. 1895 to 1910s;  
*Bottom:* Oyster and Chop House (Stand S) and Stand O on Point Lobos Ave., 1910.