

## EAGLES PREENING PLUMAGE FOR THE FLIGHT TO OMAHA

Thousands of Members of the Great Order Will Attend Session of the Grand Aerie to Be Held Here During the Early Days of September of the Present Year

OMAHA will be entertaining the eleventh grand aerie convention of the Fraternal Order of Eagles from the 13th to the 20th of September next. Nation-wide, and then some, is the proud boast of this 10-year-old fraternity, with a membership running strongly over the 240,000 mark. There are aeries in Alaska, in the Philippines, in Mexico and in Canada and Cuba.

Eight hundred delegates were on the roll call at Seattle last August. They represented over 1,800 aeries. Of these eighteen had a membership over the 1,000 mark and sixty-three had better than 500 members. Omaha was in the first class, and still there with both feet. Nebraska stood nineteenth in the list of states for membership, having grown from 149 members in 1900 to 5,556 June 1, 1908. There are now about forty aeries in this state.

The grand officers are expected in Omaha within a short time to decide finally on whatever details for the convention that may demand their attention. The present grand president is Hon. Bernard J. Monaghan of Philadelphia, and at the Omaha meeting he will be succeeded by Frank E. Hering of South Bend, Ind., the present grand vice president. By operation of the law of the order, in force now for two years, the second in authority moves up at each grand aerie session. For several years before becoming vice president Mr. Hering was grand treasurer of the order. He is a practicing attorney at South Bend and years ago used to be a good enough ball player to be tempted with offers to play professionally.

President Monaghan is a hustler for fair, and before reaching the top seat had served his time as a pacificator, settling disputes and straightening out tangles of various kinds in local aeries. The office of grand president of the Eagles is no snap, and while the salary is good, a man who attends to the office conscientiously earns every cent he gets. Past Grand President Bell asserts that a congressman's troubles are nowhere in comparison, and he has tried both jobs.

Conrad H. Mann, the grand secretary, is an Irish Dutchman from Milwaukee. He is a keen, hard worker, with a nervous head of good red hair. Pure Germanic by blood, he is counted in with the Irish because of a patented brand of blarney that he carries. Mr. Mann can say "no" with vim and meaning when he has to, but fair and easy in his rule of conduct. Competent judges say that he keeps at Kansas City, in the head office of the order, a system of books and accounts that are models of what fraternal records should be. He was managing secretary of the grand aerie meeting held at Milwaukee in 1907 and his work there so commended him to the delegates that he was chosen to the office of grand secretary by a big vote. He will probably hold the place as long as he wants to, for here is one office the Eagles do not believe in up-setting very often.

Because of the new deal affecting the succession to the office of grand president the main contest at every grand aerie meeting is over the office of vice president, for which there are always several candidates. This and the scramble for next meeting place are the most interesting features of the annual elections.

In number of members the state of Pennsylvania leads, or did in the last annual report, with 23,939. California was second, with 25,912, followed by Ohio, with 25,340, and Washington state with 16,818. Then came Indiana, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York and Wisconsin. Taken by and large, the membership shows strongest in the states of the Pacific coast and in the west. This is quite natural, because the order had its origin in Seattle in 1899.

In spite of its remarkable growth in membership since its inception, the Fraternal Order of Eagles has had its own troubles. Some of them were pretty serious, too, and the fact that it has weathered the storms within and without speaks well for the warm place it holds in the heart of the wage-earning element, from which comes its main strength as a fraternal order. Organizers, even deputy grand presidents, have defaulted in funds gathered in forming charter lists; but the grand aerie has always made good where its authority and confidence was thus abused. One particular point wherein this order differs from many others is that subordinate aeries have full and complete jurisdiction in the matter of regulating and paying benefits. The effort has never been made to build up a fat treasury so much as it has been to collect and spend money for useful purposes. For instance, in 1907 the cost for current expense and special relief alone was \$3.50 per capita.

During the eleven and a half months preceding June 1, 1908, the net gain in membership was 33,834. Yet the net gain in assets during the same time was but \$13,685; and the total available assets of the grand aerie at the time of the last convention amounted to only \$151,588.

Because of its large membership among the toilers of the land the Fraternal Order of Eagles is frequently called on for heavy drafts for special relief. Such was the case at the time of the earthquake in California; also when the Monongah, W. Va., mine explosion occurred, and when Chelsea, Mass., was wiped out by fire. Hardly a disaster of any kind happens of the nature of those mentioned but what the grand officers of the order are called on. And they always respond with alacrity—helping first, investigating afterward to details. Nor organized body got in ahead of the Eagles at San Francisco and but rarely at any other point where brother Eagles were involved.

From the inception of the order in 1899 to June 1, 1908, close to \$4,000,000 had been disbursed along the lines of relieving distress. For sick benefits there had been paid out \$2,181,142; for funeral benefits the payments totaled \$665,816; special relief, \$279,500; for aerie physicians (since June 1, 1906), \$793,971. These are all in round numbers and do not represent the whole expenditure for those purposes by a good deal. This is because of the fact that local aeries help members temporarily by giving money, if necessary, when the need is urgent. An Eagle away from home, meeting misfortune of any kind, can confidently appeal to the local aerie, if there be one, or to the nearest aerie in the section where he may be. He will be cared for and his home aerie notified and a physician's services will be at his command so long as needed. The Eagles follow the Roosevelt theory that any man is worthy of help who is willing to help himself if given a chance.

While the grand aerie treasury is never at that stage of fatness where it can be boasted of very much, the local aeries scattered throughout the country are, as a rule, always well provided with funds for any emergency. Sixty-five aeries owned their halls, according to the last report of the grand secretary, and the valuation

placed on same totaled \$945,175. Near home, Benson aerie has since built and equipped a magnificent hall and auditorium at a cost of \$25,000 for grounds and building. This new building is to be dedicated on the evening of Friday, February 12, by Assistant Grand Worthy President J. S. Parry of San Francisco. Mr. Parry is the trouble settler on the staff of the grand president, a leading candidate for grand vice president and a man of great personal popularity in the order. The occasion of his visit to dedicate Benson aerie hall is to be made a memorable event by the hustling brothers of Omaha's live suburb. Omaha aerie has also laid the keel for a hall of its own to be built in the future. It now owns the corner opposite to Trinity cathedral, on the southwest corner of Capitol avenue and Eighteenth street. There is no certainty that No. 33 will build on that site, but the money invested therein is regarded as a nest egg to be carefully cared for against the future development of the order in Omaha. Twenty papers, weekly and monthly, are published in various parts of the country, devoted exclusively to the interests of Eagledom. Nebraska has one of the number, the Mid-West Eagle, published in South Omaha.

Estimates of the number of people likely to be brought to Omaha by the grand aerie meeting vary from 20,000 to 40,000. Because of the very central location of this city the number is as likely to reach the high mark as the low one. The Eagles are a sociable bunch, a large proportion fairly well fixed in the matter of finances, some even wealthy. Their grand aerie meeting is always the big event of the year and they flock to it more numerous than can who have never attended a gathering of the winged ones. When they do gather the air is all a-tremble with their winging to and fro. And they bring their women folks, too, unlike the man who was going to Europe and said, when asked if he was going to take his wife, "No, I'm just going on a little pleasure trip."

Delegates representing aeries—past junior presidents—have their expenses paid by their locals; and the latter are never stingy in their allowance to their spokesmen. From \$150 to \$300 is about the average, depending on distance from the point of meeting. Very rarely is any of this spending money taken home. What is not spent for railroad fare and hotel bills is used to buy souvenirs, personal furnishings and a hundred and one things that appeal to a liberal spender away from home. The women visitors see to it that the men do not slight their duty on an occasion like this.

Clubs are organized, sometimes a year ahead, as at Kansas City, where a movement was begun immediately on the adjournment of the last grand aerie meeting to get up a club of a thousand to come to the Omaha convention. During a recent visit to the metropolis on the Kaw Mrs. J. A. Tutthill of Omaha was chosen as honorary member of this Kansas City Omaha club, her number being 500. She will be considered as the local sponsor for Kansas City aerie and brings word that the Omaha boosters down there will surely reach the thousand mark when the approach of convention time warms up the enthusiasm. Johnographical Tutthill is, by long association, a live wire with the Kansas City Eagle folk, and in Captain John A. Pelletier, past grand worthy president, and Grand Secretary Mann, Omaha has two very staunch friends. Mr. Pelletier is a former chief of the fire department and at present superintendent of the Kansas City Salvage corps.

Preparatory to what it reckons to do toward entertaining the grand aerie delegates, Omaha aerie, No. 33, has leased new quarters on the second floor of the building formerly occupied by Rutherford & Jensen, 1410 Harney street. The whole second floor is to be devoted to a meeting hall, except a small portion across the Harney street front. Workmen are now busy tearing out some parts of the interior, placing new partitions, deadening walls and arranging the many details necessary to make a big store room into an elaborate hall.

No expense is to be shirked by the aerie to have the furniture and decorations of its new hall of a character that will reflect credit on the local membership. While not as large as some other aerie meeting rooms, the Omaha room will be sufficient for every ordinary demand, and its accessibility, in a location with which absolutely no fault can be found, is bound to prove an attraction to old and new members alike. The membership list is growing satisfactorily on the strength of the grand convention coming here, and as the dues have been voluntarily boosted for the year the local Eagles have no doubt of their ability to competently handle their end of the big job ahead of Omaha. President West, Secretary Canon and the other aerie officers are fully alive to the size of the contract they have taken and are not going to sleep on their work.

When it comes to a committee of business men to plan and carry forward an entertainment proposition for a big convention Omaha has a winning bunch in the seven named by the Commercial club. They are T. A. Fry, C. B. Liver, F. N. Clarke, A. L. Schantz, W. M. Burgess, W. S. Jardine and W. H. Bucholz. The special committee of Aerie No. 33 is composed of George F. West, president; Emil Brandels, John A. Tutthill, W. R. Bennett, Robert Bacon, Harry B. Zimman and Charles E. Black.

It would be a difficult matter to make better selections than these fourteen men to handle the work that must be done. There is not only a large fund to be raised, but the line of entertainment to be laid out will engage the best thought of the committee for some time. Some features have been tentatively agreed upon, needing only to be worked out in detail; but some others are incubating in the fertile minds of George West, Charles E. Black and the rest that

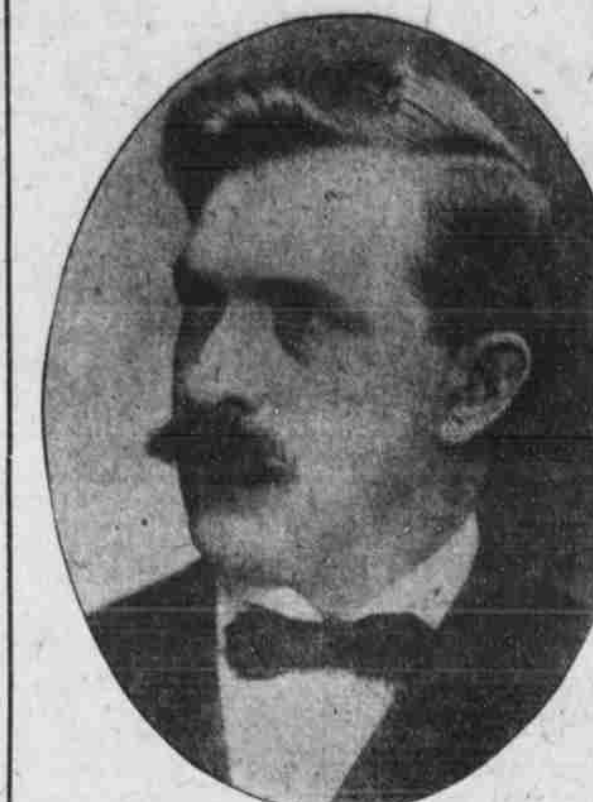
### Grand Officers of the Fraternal Order of Eagles



FRANK E. HERING,  
Grand Vice President.



P. J. MONAGHAN,  
Grand Worthy President.



CONRAD H. MANN,  
Grand Secretary.



DAN CANON,  
Secretary of Omaha Aerie and a Hard-Working Eagle.



JOHN A. TUTTHILL,  
He Brought the Eagles to Omaha.

will surely open the eyes of the throngs who will come here next September from the two coasts and the country immediately surrounding the center.

As to amount of money necessary to be raised to take care of 20,000 or more visitors and maintain Omaha's reputation as a willing and a generous host, those who have given this phase of the matter attention have about come to the conclusion that \$20,000 will not be too much. To raise the necessary fund will be the task of the Commercial club and other business organizations of the city.

Pending the raising of the entertainment fund, the general committee is not going to delay the beginning of a local organization which will devote its attention exclusively to advertising the coming convention and answering questions relating thereto. Already Mr. Tutthill, State President Ryder and other men in the Eagle organization have received queries from the east touching the features planned by Omaha. An early arrangement will be made for a secretary and a stenographer, and a circular is now in press to be sent to all the aeries as a starter. This will be followed up from

time to time by other circulars to keep Eagles everywhere posted on the Omaha plans as they develop.

An effort is to be made to have the Nebraska aeries all represented by uniformed marching clubs in the great parade which is an annual jollification. Prizes are always offered by the grand aerie for various good things that show up in this parade and the chances are that a series of prizes will be offered for the state division of the parade. Men in Omaha who have witnessed the Eagle parades agree that a more enthusiastic or inspiring sight is seldom seen. At several of these grand aerie meetings the Benson degree team has won for itself not only prizes, but high commendation. What Benson has done can be done by any aerie with the necessary vigor.

The oldest aerie is at Seattle, No. 1, and the youngest is at Anthony, Kan., No. 1,849. Secretary Mann, in a letter just received, reports the actual membership at this time as 341,000, and says there are enough class initiations in sight, and enough new prospects for charters, to bring the membership to 350,000 by the time the convention meets in Omaha.

## Geronimo at the Omaha Exposition

GERONIMO they called him, those who dreaded him and fled before his band of Apache braves for more than twenty years as they turned their attention first to one side, then to the other, of the Mexican border, now raiding a settlement in northern Mexico with only a handful, then gathering hundreds and marching against troops of the United States, murdering, scalping, robbing, destroying, until the upper waters of the Sonora river were red with Mexican blood and every basin of southern Arizona was a battleground and every hilltop and every valley a scene of blood and carnage.

All this loss of life would have been saved; all the years of hunting by Captain Lawton, General Crook, General O. Howard and General Miles would have been saved had Geronimo been met by peaceful white men and given a summer vacation in Omaha about the year 1860, instead of bringing him to this city in 1898, after he had fought for twenty-five years and been a prisoner of war for almost twenty years.

When Geronimo did visit Omaha he got his first real glimpse of civilization and said honestly, "I was a fool—I did not know. I thought no more white men lived than those in Arizona and Mexico, and I could kill them all and have lands Usen gave us in the beginning."

The old Indian, whose name among his people, the Bedonkohe Apaches was Gokhla-yeh, died on the Fort Sill military reservation a week ago, where he had been a prisoner of war since 1885, when he surrendered to General Miles and made the treaty of Skeleton Canyon.

Geronimo visited the Transmississippi and International exposition in Omaha in 1898 as a member of the Indian congress, the most remarkable gathering of the tribes of the original inhabitants of America ever held. He came to Omaha with Nathe, son of Cochise, hereditary chief of the Chiricahut Apaches, who was Geronimo's lieutenant in the Arizona wars and was taken with the old chieftain by General Miles when the Apaches surrendered. Nathe also acted as interpreter for Geronimo while the Apaches were visiting Omaha, and the Indian who had terrorized the southwest got glimpses of civilization, conversed with white men at his leisure and learned many things which doubtless led to his better understanding of

the ways of the United States and conversion to the Christian religion, which he embraced in 1903, joining the Dutch Reformed church and being baptized.

Geronimo was taken to Buffalo to the Pan-American exposition and also to the Louisiana Purchase exposition in St. Louis, but the expositions were old to him after he had seen the Transmississippi at Omaha. They evidently did not impress him. He saw the white men at Omaha and on his way here. He realized that it was true, as he had heard that the government could place a soldier behind every tree and stone in the southwest, and, going back to Fort Sill reservation, he reflected on what he had seen at Omaha—the beautiful buildings, the lights which seemed no less grand to Geronimo,



GERONIMO—Photo by Rinehart, Copyright 1898.



MAICHE—Photo by Rinehart, Copyright 1898. He wore the uniform of the Indian Police and was very proud of it.

the gaily-dressed crowds, the bands and the long lines of uniformed soldiers.

On the consciousness of the old warrior must have been engraved a picture which he remembered until his death at Fort Sill last week. Other pictures must have shed a secondary light and seemed only a dull luster beside the impression the Transmississippi exposition made upon Geronimo.

It never was possible to get Geronimo to understand that the troops which hunted him in the southwest served the United States government—a general government, instead of any particular town or settlement. He thought to the day of his death that each town was independent and each city a separate tribe, and could not understand the relation of

cities to the general government.

One of the strange experiences of Geronimo in Omaha was meeting President McKinley and General Nelson A. Miles. This was at the Indian camp on the exposition grounds. The president and General Miles visited Omaha in October, after the exposition had become a jubilee of victory at the close of the Spanish-American war. A reception was arranged that the Indians might meet the great "White Father" and also General Miles. Most of those who attended the Congress of Indians respected the president of the United States and were awed at mention of his title. Even Geronimo took this position with regard to the president. He had told General Miles that day when the treaty was made in Skeleton Canyon that he did not believe what Miles told him about taking him to a happy hunting ground, as all the officers had talked that way whenever they wanted peace but since the president of the United States had sent him (General Miles) to urge the Apaches to make the treaty, Geronimo promised to make it and to keep it. Thus it was with respect and

feeling it a great honor that Geronimo met President William McKinley in Omaha. He rode out from behind his tribe in scout's uniform, wearing only the headgear of a chief. This he doffed when presented to President McKinley. Then he met General Miles, the man who brought his bloody trail to an end. He never liked General Miles, because the general had agreed to certain things in the treaty, according to the Indian, which the officers of the government did not fulfill. Geronimo held Miles responsible for the violation of the treaty to the day of his death, and always thought the general with whom he made the agreement could have kept every promise. But when he met General Miles on the exposition grounds October 13, 1898, he smiled and doffed his headgear as he had for the president.

To have met General Miles in this way must have been the personification of humility and brought to the mind of the old chief the scene where the treaty was made in the Skeleton canyon, which he described

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