

Nebraska's Wonderful Story Told in Pageant Covering Aeons of Time

WITH A SWEEP of the eye, covering a period of a single hour, perhaps, the history of Nebraska for a million years is to be reviewed.

This history, if the weather be fair on the afternoon of October 5, will be reviewed by scores of thousands of people from Nebraska and adjoining states.

For the great drama, covering a vast succession of accumulated centuries, is to be re-enacted on that day in Omaha, by means of the historical parade, a magnificent procession some two miles in length, and including thirty-one costly floats and fifteen historical groups.

For this is the semi-centennial year.

Nebraska is a half century old this year as a state. She was graduated from "territoryhood" a half century ago, and admitted to statehood.

This year, then, a big committee, known as the committee of one hundred, influential men from every corner of the state, has been working up a semi-centennial celebration in commemoration of this event.

Ak-Sar-Ben Helps.

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben took up the work of producing Omaha's part of the celebration, and the result is the creation of the many historical floats and historical groups, worked out by the official artisan, Gus Renze, assisted by the fund of historical knowledge of General John Lee Webster and others.

Mr. Renze has had to master great, thick volumes of history to work out these floats. Likewise he has had to devour great volumes of geology to learn what kind of tropical animals and lizards flourished in this region a million years ago. For he has them all in the parade. He begins with the tropical age, long before the glacial age, and brings this territory down through the successive ages.

Title Float.

The pageant begins with the figurative "title float," surmounted by an allegorical figure of History, and showing upon the polished sides of a majestic boulder the names of many of the rugged and stalwart men who helped in building the infant state.

Float No. 2, "the Tropical Age," represents the aeons ago, as shown by geological remains, when this country was a limitless reach of tropical verdure, with mammoth flowers and huge prehistoric animals.

After that, through ages came the gradual change in the earth's axis, and there crept remorselessly down from the north great stretches of glacial ice, crushing out before them the gorgeous life of the tropics, and all became a boundless, cold, gray desolation. This is shown in Float No. 3, with its towering icebergs and the entrapped mastodon.

In ages following, the sun forced the grim icebergs northward, and now came the first appearance of human life in the prehistoric Indians, whose habits and customs have been faintly discovered by the delvings of patient scholars among the hills of eastern Nebraska. They will be shown marching as Group No. 1, with

their semi-Astec garb and pack carriers.

Darius Coronado.

Next in order, upon horseback and foot, will come the daring Coronado and his Spanish cavalier, who in 1541 visited these Nebraska regions in search of the riches of Quivera, supposed to be wealthier in gold than the seven cities of Cibola. These warriors and men-at-arms were accompanied by valiant sons of the church, slaves and pack horses.

Following Coronado and his band of Spaniards will come a cavalcade of Indians of that period, with contemporaneous costumes and accoutrements.

Float No. 4 will show a Mandan Indian hut or willow lodge, with Indians dressed in the costumes, as Coronado and his companions saw and described them.

This float will be followed by Group No. 4, consisting of modern Indians, on horseback and on foot, with war bonnets and all of the modern redman's gaudy trappings. This party escorts Float No. 5, with its teepee. The reclining warriors and their squaws are engaged in scraping buffalo hides and in crushing corn.

As a fitting complement there follows Float No. 6, showing the vanishing races of man and animal. The Indian on horseback is pursuing with bow and arrow the fleeing buffalo.

Hardy Traders.

Next follows group No. 5—Malley Brothers, French Canadians, hardy traders, who traversed almost entirely across the state in 1739, and who christened the Platte river. They were the advance couriers of trade and the first example of the spirit of western commerce.

As a pathetic sequel is float No. 7

—with a noble equestrian figure of Chief Blackbird, gazing over the lands his people were soon to lose, looking for the approach of white men up the Missouri river, with whom he bargained and traded. His grave is upon the top of Blackbird hill, in Thurston county, where he is believed to have been buried sitting astride his favorite war horse.

The history of Nebraska finds its next episode across the Atlantic ocean amidst the wars and councils of Europe. The American continent was being gradually partitioned, and the vast region west of the Missouri river was under the flag of France. The bold and master stroke of Jefferson in purchasing this region from Napoleon is shown by Float No. 8. (The Louisiana Purchase) representing the consummation of the bargain by which this mighty empire of the west came under the Stars and Stripes. This float shows with historic fidelity the contracting parties, Napoleon, Talleyrand, Marbois and the American commissioners, Livingston and Monroe. The accessories, the French and American colors, the purple-draped throne, the golden crown and lilies combined, make a most striking picture.

Lewis and Clark.

Float No. 9 fittingly represents the expedition of Lewis and Clark under the commission of Thomas Jefferson, as they pass up the Missouri river in 1804. It was near old Calhoun that they landed on Nebraska soil and held their council with the Indians, which is represented by Float No. 10. This expedition thereafter continued its perilous journey along the rivers, through the valleys and over the mountains, until it had fixed the boundary of American rights and had

planted the American flag westward to the Pacific ocean.

Following Float No. 10 will come the expedition of Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike with his group of cavalymen, his pack train and mules, who in 1806 carried the American flag across the Nebraska prairies and raised it on the mountains of Colorado.

In another group—the Seven Astorians—immortalized by Washing-

ton Irving, who, after having withstood almost unbelievable hardships, were on their return across the prairies of Nebraska from the Pacific in 1813.

Float No. 11—Represents the early traders with a facsimile of the trading post of Peter Sarpy, with its broad southern porches. In the foreground stands Logan Fontenelle, the well known Omaha chieftain. Grouped about the next float will be seen a

representation of General Atkinson's command of 1819, with his infantrymen, his bugler and his pack horses, the party all caparisoned in the brilliant uniforms of that day.

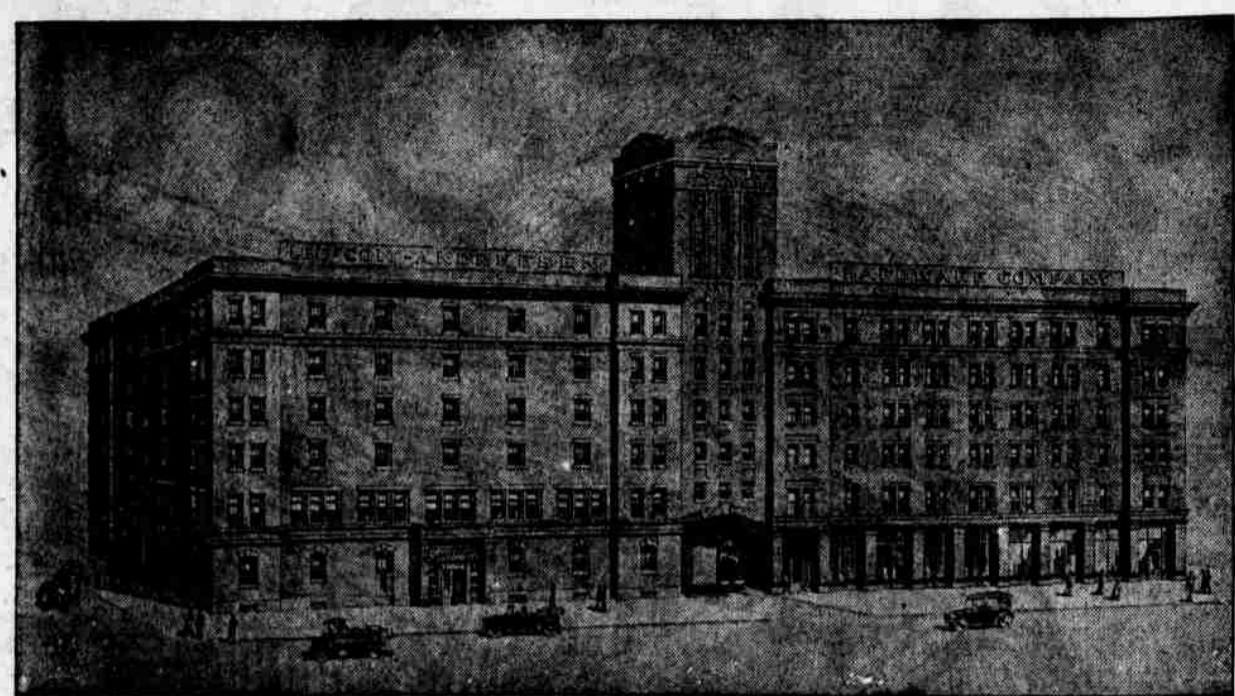
Fort Atkinson.

Float No. 12—Shows in miniature facsimile Fort Atkinson, where Calhoun now is. The rude, substantial log blockhouse, guarded by soldiers, was designed as a haven of refuge for the settlers and their families

from sudden Indian raids, when the tomahawk and the scalping knife spared neither man, woman nor child.

Next will come an Emblematic float of the Missouri compromise of 1820, whereby Nebraska means "Free Soil," and the heated debates of that day were the forerunners of the angry appeal to arms, which came two score years later, to decide if "A govern-

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TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR

August, 1916 . . . 7,967 cars

August, 1915 . . . 2,915 cars

Increase over
 same month
 last year . . . 5,052 cars

TOTAL SHIPMENTS FOR

August, 1916 . . . 7,671 cars

August, 1915 . . . 2,404 cars

Increase over
 same month
 last year . . . 5,267 cars



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