

The AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

LEGION MEET WILL BE RECORD-BREAKER

With three great conventions in progress simultaneously in four convention halls, the 1924 gathering of the American Legion and its affiliated bodies at St. Paul, Minn., from September 16 to 19 promises to be one of the greatest veterans' conventions in the history of the country. Sixty thousand visitors are expected to make the pilgrimage to the convention city, coming from every state in the Union and from many foreign lands.

Greetings to the Legionnaires will be extended on behalf of the convention city by Mayor Arthur E. Nelson, himself a Legionnaire, and on behalf of the Minnesota department of the Legion by its commander. Formal response will be made on behalf of National Commander John R. Quinn, of the Legion, by James T. Williams, Jr., editor of the Boston Transcript.

There will also be greetings from many other organizations. Among these are the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Confederate Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Women's Overseas League, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Knights of Columbus, the Legion Auxiliary and the Forty and Eight. Commander W. B. Haldean of the United Confederate Veterans has stated that he will attend the convention.

At the opening session of the convention on Monday morning, Commander Quinn will make his report. It is of particular interest in this connection that this convention marks the fifth anniversary of the permanent organization of the Legion across the river from St. Paul at Minneapolis in 1919.

Among the distinguished speakers who will address the convention are Gen. Frank T. Hines, director of the United States veterans' bureau; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, baseball arbiter, and John Barton Payne, chairman of the American Red Cross.

Impressive memorial services in honor of the World War dead will conclude the first session of the convention. Miss Alma Forker, of Bakersfield, Cal., who has been chosen as convention soloist, will sing.

Tuesday afternoon will be given over to the great convention parade, in which 25,000 marchers and more than 300 bands and drum corps will take part. Bands of national officers on Friday morning will conclude the convention, which will be occupied in the meantime with formulation of Legion policies and in a round of convention festivities.

Dinner, Social Event for Legion Auxiliary

Foremost on the program of the American Legion Auxiliary convention, which opens at St. Paul, on September 15, is the state's dinner, which is also the leading social event of the entire Legion convention. This banquet will be held at the Masonic temple at 7:30 o'clock on Tuesday evening.

Brilliant decorations, beautifully gowned women, lights, music, combine to make a function which is not soon forgotten. Each department has its own special table, which is decorated in distinctive fashion by the department itself. The variegated schemes contribute largely to the dash and splendor of the scene.

National officers, department delegates, national executive committee women and all chairmen of the national committees of the Auxiliary will be present. The national commander of the Legion and notables on convention committees will be guests.

Sessions of the convention proper will be held at the Central Presbyterian church and will open on Monday afternoon. Judge Kenesaw M. Landis will address the Auxiliary. Election of national officers will be held on Friday morning and will conclude the convention.

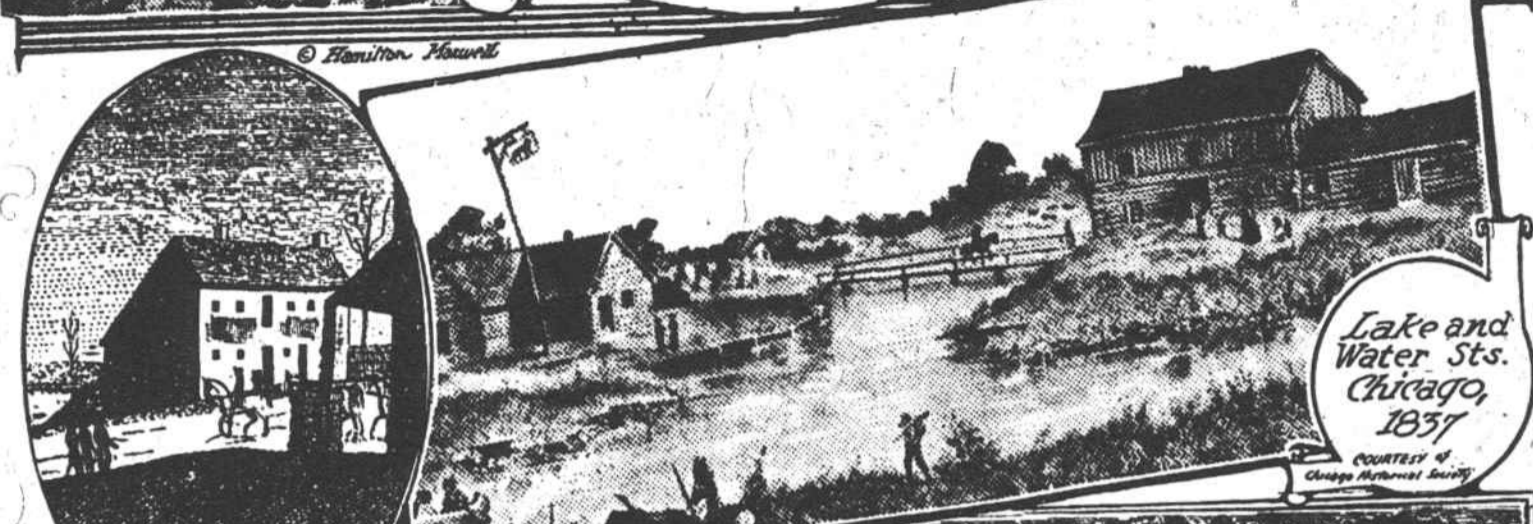
Damage Memorial Steps; Forced to Pay Marble Sum

Disregard of the fine marble steps that adorn the entrance to the Legion Memorial building at Shamokin, Pa., recently cost Vincent Lopez, famous leader of a dance orchestra that appeared in the Legion gymnasium last May, a neat sum in damages. In removing their trunks from the memorial building following the entertainment, members of the orchestra dragged their trunks down the marble stairs to the street, inflicting a number of dents in the ornamental stairway. Lopez and his organization repeatedly in the vicinity of Shamokin recently and a committee of the American Legion and "old John Law" armed with a warrant attended the concert. The illustrious leader at first presented an indignant mood when the claim of damages was made, but finally settled in full when confronted with a warrant and the prospects of the city bastille.

Growth of U.S. Cities



New York Harbor, 1794



Lake and Water Sts. Chicago, 1837



Cincinnati, 1810

Seventy-nine Now Have More Than 100,000 Population

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

ELEVEN cities of the United States have passed the 300,000 mark in the last year, according to estimates by the census bureau. That gives us 79. And the big cities are getting bigger. New York has passed the six-million mark. Chicago is approaching three million. Philadelphia will soon have two million. Detroit, for which no estimate was made, has probably passed the million mark. Other rapidly growing cities for which no estimates were made are Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Akron, Bridgeport, Houston and Spokane.

The estimates make several changes in the relative rank of the cities. New Orleans has passed Cincinnati. Rochester has outgrown Jersey City. Providence has fallen behind St. Paul, which in turn has been passed by Oakland. Springfield, Mass., is now ahead of Grand Rapids. The 79 cities:

New York	6,015,504
Chicago	2,939,605
Philadelphia	1,951,076
Detroit	No estimate
Cleveland	912,502
St. Louis	812,698
Baltimore	784,983
Boston	776,783
Los Angeles	No estimate
Pittsburgh	625,215
San Francisco	548,284
Buffalo	545,273
Milwaukee	492,087
Washington	486,936
Newark	445,606
Minneapolis	417,280
New Orleans	409,534
Cincinnati	407,835
Kansas City, Mo.	359,650
Seattle	No estimate
Indianapolis	350,425
Rochester	325,211
Jersey City	312,157
Portland, Ore.	278,002
Denver	No estimate
Toledo	276,359
Columbus	266,767
Louisville	258,465
Oakland	246,893
St. Paul	243,946
Providence	243,745
Akron	No estimate
Atlanta	227,710
Omaha	208,025
Birmingham	200,785
Worcester	195,405
San Antonio	191,398
Syracuse	188,060
Dallas	187,862
Richmond	183,723
New Haven	175,947
Memphis	172,276
Fall River	169,236
Dayton	No estimate
Bridgeport	164,105
Houston	No estimate
Hartford	156,167
Youngstown	155,153
Springfield, Mass.	148,402
Grand Rapids	148,322
Des Moines	148,107
Fort Worth	145,053
Scranton	141,451
Paterson	140,637
New Bedford	139,602
Trenton	137,705
Salt Lake City	128,564
Camden	126,399
Nashville	123,424
Fall River	121,834
Wilmington, Del.	119,888

Albany	118,527
Kansas City, Kan.	117,762
Lowell	115,755
Cambridge	111,944
Reading	111,812
Tulsa	111,328
Yonkers	109,618
Spokane	No estimate
Duluth	108,395
Lynn	105,310
Oklahoma City	103,980
Lynn	103,693
Tacoma	103,093
Canton	102,754
Jacksonville	102,741
El Paso	100,624
Schenectady	100,467
Somerville, Mass.	100,440

STATISTICS, say you? Just population statistics and dry as dust? Not so. Quite the contrary. Read between the lines and you will find it a fascinating list. It spells the three hundred years of our history; the march of the American people across the continent; our territorial, industrial and commercial development from a new land to the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth; the triumphs of both war and peace; glimpses of the contrasting civilizations of colonial and Twentieth century times.

In proof of this, run through the list and note what each city suggests to you. New York likely says, "Broadway, Wall Street, Tammany Hall, Woolworth building." Chicago probably suggests windy opera, stock yards, Great Fire, grand city and phenomenal growth. There are living native-born Chicagoans who have seen it grow from about 2,000 when incorporated in 1837 to the fourth city of the world. Boston means baked beans and culture. Detroit shouts "Flivvers!" Minneapolis spells flour; Grand Rapids furniture, and Tulsa oil. Philadelphia takes us back to the Declaration of Independence, the Revolution and the Constitution. San Antonio recalls the Alamo; Richmond and Atlanta the Civil War. Washington means congress and Uncle Sam. And so on.

STUDY of the names of these cities is interesting. A few are purely Indian: Chicago, Place of the Wild Onion; Seattle, an Indian chief; Kansas City, Omaha, Tacoma and others. Several are Spanish: Neustra Senora La Reina de los Angeles, San Francisco, San Antonio, El Paso. The French are represented by Detroit (Strait), New Orleans, St. Louis, Des Moines and Duluth. The Dutch lost New York (Nieuw Amsterdam) and Albany (Fort Orange) to the English, but gave names to Yonkers and Schenectady.

There are classical names, like Philadelphia, Utica, Syracuse, descriptive names, like Grand Rapids, Fall River, Salt Lake City; made names, like Indianapolis. Boston, New York, New Bedford are named after cities in England.

Cities named after men often open up whole chapters of interesting historic associations. Houston, for example, bears the name of Sam Houston, the hero of San Jacinto, a most remarkable character. Jacksonville is named after Gen. Andrew Jackson, who, before his election to the Presidency, took possession of the Spanish territory of Florida. Cincinnati, one of the oddest names in the list, commemorates the Society of the Cincinnati, organized in 1783 by regular officers of the Continental armies, with George Washington as its first president.

RELIGION, it is interesting to note, bulked large in the founding of several cities. Boston (1630) was founded by the Puritans who came over to secure religious freedom. New Haven (1638), the "Bible Commonwealth," was a Puritan experiment in government, according to the Bible.

Providence (1636) was founded by Roger Williams, who was persecuted by the Puritans because he believed that church and state should be separate. Baltimore (1636) was established by Lord Baltimore as a refuge for Roman Catholics who were anathema—as were Anglicans, Baptists and Quakers—among the Puritans.

Philadelphia (1682)—City of Brotherly Love—was founded by William Penn, leader of the Quakers. San Francisco and Los Angeles were Franciscan missions. Salt Lake City (1847) was founded by the Mormons, seeking asylum from persecution because of their religious belief.

ADEQUATE inquiry into the why and wherefore of the settlement and development of these cities would of course take volumes. In the case of Boston and San Francisco, doubtless the harbor was the attraction. The gold rush of 1849 changed the latter from a mission to a city almost in a day. New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans have a combination of river and sea. In the early days of a new land interior travel and trade follow the big rivers; hence Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville, Omaha and Kansas City; the latter was the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail and St. Paul the center of the American fur trade up to 1843.

Special conditions account for certain inland cities. Discovery of gold and the "Pikes Peak or Bust" rush of 1859 settled Denver. The Mormons literally made Salt Lake City to blossom like a rose in the desert. Find out why Detroit, Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Akron, Bridgeport, Houston and Spokane—the cities not estimated—are growing so rapidly and you have something interesting.

MISS FORKER IS OFFICIAL SOLOIST

Alma Forker, of Bakersfield, Cal., veteran of the United States Army service of the Chemical Warfare and descendant of Spanish Conquistadores and of Morgans of American Revolutionary fame and of the noted Lees of Virginia, will sing at the sixth annual convention of the American Legion in St. Paul, Minn., on September 15 to 19. She has just been selected by National Commander John R. Quinn from a list of forty applicants as convention soloist.

Sixty thousand veterans, it is estimated, will hear the California songbird, who, while war was on, thought that it was the duty of a young and able-bodied American woman to do more than sing for the boys in France and so enrolled in the Chemical Warfare branch of Uncle Sam's army. Miss Forker found time from her military duties to sing for the soldiers at camp and canteen.

Born in California, Miss Forker has an established reputation as a church and concert singer in her native state and also in New York city. Beginning her musical education with the study of the piano and becoming later an accomplished violinist, she went to



Alma Forker.

New York to cultivate her natural vocal ability. While there, she filled numerous engagements in and about the metropolis. Returning to California, she has been teaching voice and filling concert engagements throughout the state.

The convention soloist is the only woman member of Frank S. Reynolds post of the Legion at Bakersfield. She is also president of the newly organized Bakersfield unit of the Legion Auxiliary.

Big Time Planned for Members of "40 and 8"

Spicy and full of pep will be the program which awaits the 25,000 members of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, practically every one of whom is expected to attend the national convention held in connection with the American Legion at St. Paul, from September 15 to 19. The boxer society will live up to its reputation as the playground of the Legion, it is said.

Convention affairs will culminate for the Forty and Eighters on Thursday. That afternoon will witness the election of national officers and in the evening will be staged the great promenade at the Minnesota state fair grounds, where some 300 men will be initiated.

Proceedings will be enlivened in true Forty and Eight fashion by 15 Hommes-Chevaux bands. They will take part in the great convention parade Tuesday afternoon and will play the Forty and Eighters on their way to the depot to en-train for the disings at the fair grounds.

Sessions will be held at Junior Pioneer hall in the afternoon, so as not to interfere with the sessions of the Legion convention proper, it was announced.

Open hours will be the order of the day at all St. Paul clubs and social organizations for the annual convention of the American Legion, it has been announced. Special arrangements for housing, parties, athletic and aquatic sports and other courtesy privileges have been made by the Y. M. C. A. and the K. of C. for the boys they served in 1917 and 1918.

Shriners, in addition to extending the facilities of their building, will conduct a series of automobile tours to points of historic, scenic and industrial interest in and about St. Paul for the various days of the convention. Distinguished guests and officials of the Legion will be housed at the Athletic and Minnesota clubs, where St. Paul people will be given a chance to meet them. At the Elks' club, the White Bear Yacht club, the Auto club and other civic organizations every effort will be made for the entertainment of the convention crowds.

Want 1925 Convention

Several invitations have been extended to the American Legion for its 1925 annual convention. Louisville, Ky., is seeking the convention with the support of the state department. Newark, N. J., is also after the honor of entertaining the Legionnaires. San Francisco, Cal., has extended an invitation for 1925, offering the use of its \$2,000,000 Exposition auditorium. San Francisco is the second city in which a national convention of the Legion has been held, to extend a pressing invitation to the veterans to return.

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