

Philadelphia Gets Ready For 1948 Conventions

PHILADELPHIA (UP)—The 1948 "convention city" is getting ready to welcome an estimated 30,000 delegates and visitors to two national political conventions in three weeks this summer.

The months-long job of preparing for the republican national convention, scheduled to open June 21 and its Democratic counterpart on July 12, calls for the combined efforts of thousands of persons—carpenters and construction men, street cleaners and the nation's top political figures.

Convention officials predict the biggest crowds ever to attend a national political convocation will descend on Philadelphia the week ending preceding the openings, bringing an estimated \$10,000,000 in new money into the city. More than \$2,000,000 is being spent to get everything ready.

To Be Televised
In addition to the 1,500 persons who will be able to watch the proceedings in Convention Hall, site of both conventions, up to 20,000 visitors will be accommodated in television booths set up in the Commercial Museum adjoining the auditorium. Millions of Americans in their own homes are expected to follow the conventions on television and radio.

Political conventions are an old story to Philadelphia. Four presidents were nominated here—Zachary Taylor in 1848, Ulysses S. Grant in 1872, William McKinley in 1900 and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. Two unsuccessful candidates for the presidency also were nominated by the Republicans—John C. Fremont in 1856 and Wendell Willkie in 1940.

Preparations for the 1948 shows started seven months ago when a housing committee for each party began arranging sleeping accommodations for the 2,000 Republican delegates and alternates and 2,400 Democratic delegates and alternates.

Not Enough Rooms
In addition, space has been allocated to candidates and their parties, congressmen, senators, political bigwigs and other important visitors. The record large crowd to be provided for places a strain on the 6,000 first class and 1,500 medium class hotel rooms available for visitors.

With more applications received already than there are hotel rooms available, residents of the city are asked to offer 3,000 more rooms in private homes and apartments. Every bit of space, including vacant college dormitories, is being pressed into service.

The task of providing for news coverage is the largest ever undertaken in a convention. More than 1,500 applications for space are being received from press, radio, television and motion picture people.

Biggest News Gathering
That is three times as extensive as in other years and is believed to mark the largest gathering of news people ever to assemble in one spot. While the housing job is the

Britons To Unveil Statue Of F.D.R. On April 12th

LONDON (UP)—In a clattering art foundry south of the Thames, the 10-foot, 39-inch statue of Franklin D. Roosevelt which will stand in London's Grosvenor Square is taking form.

It took the Albion-Singer company the better part of six months to cast the massive bronze creation of the noted British sculptor, Sir William Reid Dick.

The statue, which will be the centerpiece of the re-landscaped park known as F.D.R. in wartime as Lincoln Square, was financed by the subscription of Britain's entire people at the instigation of the Pictorial Society, an Anglo-American group of considerable influence in British circles.

Subscriptions to the 40,000 pound, \$100,000 fund for the statue were limited to not more than 5 shillings, \$1.50 from any person so that as many as possible could have a part in Britain's commemoration of America's wartime president.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will unveil the statue April 12.

Under Reid Dick's direction, the foundry now is in the final delicate stage of assembling the statue, which depicts Roosevelt standing with an Inverness cape thrown over his shoulder. His left hand grasps the lapel of his jacket.

Castings were done in three main stages. From Reid Dick's original clay model, a plaster impression was made. It was divided into sections for the bronze casting.

They Keep Home Fire Burning

BELLFLOWER, Ill. (UP)—If you think you luck is bad because you can't find a home, just read this.

Hap Wallace and his family moved from Farmer City to a house here. Before they had finished the unpacking job, the place caught fire and burned down.

biggest one facing convention officials there are countless other details surrounding the democratic process of nominating a presidential and vice presidential candidate.

Tickets, badges, credentials, entertainment, mass coverage, decorations and program all must be arranged for by special party committees.

In addition to overnight guests, hundreds of visitors are expected to commute from New York, Washington and other eastern cities to attend part of the sessions. Both conventions are expected to last at least five days, but GOP party officials believe their meeting may well run over into the second week.

Texas City Victims Ask Big Damages

GALVESTON, Tex. (UP)—Dockets in local courts are crowded with suits representing more than \$1,000,000 resulting from the Texas City disaster of last April. The explosion claimed more than 500 lives and injured thousands. Of the 28 disaster cases filed in

the United States District court, 27 have been filed against the federal government for a total of \$10,000,000.

In one of the largest cases, the Texas City Terminal Railway Co. brought suit against the American Equitable Assurance Company of Philadelphia for \$2,300,000. The claim applied to terminal buildings which were destroyed when the ammonium nitrate cargo aboard

the ships Grandcamp and High Flyer exploded.

The Texas and New Orleans Railway Company brought suit against the government for \$100,000 damages in the destruction of 20 freight cars.

Ten workmen's compensation cases total \$70,000. Other claims by survivors of victims range from \$6,047 to \$167,000.

Smart People Live In Glass Houses, He Says

CHICAGO (UP)—An authority on community planning says that home builders who abandon "out-moded tradition" are putting money in their own pockets.

Frank Sohn, a housing expert, believes that "keeping up with the architectural Joneses" helps protect the value of a home builder's

property. "Today's outstanding development in home design is the sensible use of glass to create a new concept of indoor-outdoor living," Sohn says.

"The builder who plans a house with old style, small windows is marking it 'vintage 1890' while it is still on the drawing board," Sohn said.

"In 20 years the property will be

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