

Annals Addenda . . .

IOWANS ASSEMBLE AT LONG BEACH

Fond memories of Iowa, undimmed by years of absence, claimed first place with the 100,000 transplanted natives of the Hawkeye state in attendance at the forty-fifth annual picnic reunion of the Iowa Association of Long Beach, California, Saturday, August 12th last, at Recreation Park in that city.

These former Iowans have assembled year by year, meeting old friends and acquaintances and renewing associations, as not the greatest number in attendance come from immediate environs of the host city. The event was graced by the presence and address of Gov. Earl Warren, himself a former Iowan, and also, as always, by former governor of California, Frank F. Merriam.

As master of ceremonies Lon E. Peek, past president of the association, was in charge, and the "Welcome to the Hawkeyes" voiced by Burton W. Chace, mayor of Long Beach. Responses were given by Leonard J. Roach, president of the Iowa Association of Southern California, and C. E. Baldwin, president of the Iowa Association of Long Beach. The program of entertainment was preceded by presentation to the society of a flag of the battleship Iowa by Ward Johnson, former congressman, to former governor Frank F. Merriam, who had been designated by Gov. William S. Beardsley, of Iowa, to receive same.

Governor Warren was moved to say: "We have more Iowans here in California than they have in Iowa," which the crowd enjoyed immensely. But he turned to a serious note concerning the emergency faced by the nation, urging full co-operation in the civil defense plan of the state to be later outlined, saying: "Prudent people do not overlook the possibility—I say possibility, not probability—

of atomic warfare being brought to these shores. Civil defense is a job we can all do. We are in a bitter war! Thousands of our boys have been called again into active service. We can't just sit here without realizing the great job there is for us to do at home. It's going to take the very best in all of us to do the job that has to be done."

Governor Merriam has forwarded to THE ANNALS, newspaper accounts of the meeting, program enjoyed and photographs of celebrities and those in attendance.

At the Iowa state fair August 30, the flag with a Union Jack and streamer, having been conveyed to Des Moines, was formally presented to Gov. William S. Beardsley by Burr Williams, a former Iowan, in front of the grand stand, the flag being held in display during the ceremony by three members of the United States civil air patrol and three members of the Canadian air force drill team.

THE HUNGARIANS IN IOWA

More than a historical legend is contained in the record of the colony of Hungarian exiles that existed for a time in Decatur county, Iowa, one hundred years ago. Recently Miss Jessie Campbell, a former Iowan, now residing in Pasadena, California, wrote THE ANNALS editor for some detailed information regarding this settlement. She stated: "I am interested because my father, Duncan Campbell, taught the New Breda school the winter of 1877-78. Our family still owns the land he purchased soon thereafter—just a few miles east of New Breda, where the colony was located. In 1877, the colony was greatly reduced and finally disappeared. On a recent vacation in Decatur county we looked over the luxuriant crops, which now cover the site of the vanished colony, and speculated about its founding."

The data disclosed by research and supplied to Miss Campbell will be of interest to ANNALS readers. These refugees located in Iowa upon the recommendation of President Zachary Taylor. They journeyed to America

and settled first in Decatur county just 100 years ago. They were not peasants, but a group of patriots who fled from their country soon after the close of the ill-fated revolution in 1848. They traveled by rail from the east coast to Burlington, Iowa, and from there by stage and wagon westward about 150 miles to the newly organized, and as yet unsectionalized county of Decatur, where the colony was established.

The leader of the movement to Iowa was Count Ladislaus Ujhazy, a lieutenant in the lost cause of Louis Kosuth. He attempted to utilize this colony in setting up a feudal estate with a log manor house, and sale of lots at the new community of New Breda then started, the township lying south of Davis City near the south state line also receiving the same name. Though exiled and thousands of miles from their homeland, these refugees refused to admit their sacred cause was really lost. Kosuth had fled to Turkey, and retained claim to the title of "Governor of Hungary," and upon that basis appointed Ujhazy his personal representative in the United States, issuing to him formal credentials, though he was never accredited as such here, but was highly thought of in official circles and accorded courteous treatment.

President Fillmore suggested generous dealing with the refugees by congress and assurance of their obtaining land on most favorable terms. Ultimately congress accorded them the privilege of purchasing the land required by them at price of \$1.25 per acre. Few of them required more than two hundred acres. This provision was a forerunner of the famous U. S. congressional land act of 1861 for similar purchases of Iowa land by settlers.

The disappearance of these colonists from Iowa was occasioned by reason of the severe winters in this state, said not to be favorable for the successful raising of their grapes. In 1853, the count and many of his original party removed to the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, where by another concession of the government, he and his friends acquired a considerable amount of land. They had not

adjusted themselves to the rigors of development of virgin land, the cutting of timber, or the creation of Iowa farms. Likewise in Texas their ranches were not financially successful, and their efforts were disappointing.

In 1867, the Austrian government proclaimed a general amnesty permitting all exiled patriots to return to their native land. Count Ujhazy was not included in this action, though his children and associates were. Many returned. He thought it wise that his children should take advantage of the privilege accorded, and at the age of eighty-three took his own life, so that they might return to Hungary without leaving him in exile.

THE MILLS COUNTY DILEMMA

Delegate Daniel H. Solomon, of Glenwood, to the Constitutional convention of 1857 held at Iowa City, could hardly have realized when he proposed an amendment to attach Mills county to the Sixth Judicial district that his temporary provision would live almost 100 years. Listen to him as he speaks to the convention:

I wish to propose an amendment with regard to my own county. The county of Mills is now in no judicial district. There can be no provision made by the legislature until next winter. There can be no court in Mills county this spring, nor in the fall unless it is placed in the Sixth district.

Even then he did not appear to be entirely satisfied for he continues:

I would myself prefer to have it in the Seventh district; but it evidently is the intention that it shall be in the Sixth; and I want to have the court held.

The result is that Mills county has occupied a section by itself in the constitution of Iowa for the past 93 years.

Mr. Solomon was a lawyer, a native of Virginia and 27 years old at the time of the convention.

NEBRASKA'S FRENCH TREES DEAD

State Entomologist R. J. Walstrom, of Nebraska, has reported that the trees received in Nebraska's car of gifts from the French *Merci* train failed to survive the rigors of the state's climate.

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