

History of Movement Leading to Construction of Memorial Structure

The Bannock County servicemen's memorial building is nearing completion and will be formally dedicated in the near future. An interesting history may be found in the action taken previous to beginning the memorial and the following movement for the building which the entire citizenry of the county is loyally supporting. The first effort was for a clubhouse by the American Legion members which was to cost \$12,000 and was to be financed by themselves. The contemplated clubhouse was to be a rustic affair constructed of logs to be brought from the Island Park country. The site was to have been the same as the one on which the memorial building now stands.

Pocatello's leading citizens, however, did not think it was proper for the veterans to build their own clubhouse or a memorial to their "buddies." These citizens decided that the patriotic plan would be for Bannock county to build a memorial building to its veterans of all wars and show this county's appreciation for their loyal patriotism.

Mass Meeting Held

A mass meeting was called in May, 1923, and it was determined that a memorial building should be constructed that would be an appropriate tribute to the soldier dead and a clubhouse for our service men. This building would be a Bannock County servicemen's memorial for all who had ever worn the uniform. The structure should be the product of the best architectural skill and thought, constructed of the very best materials and of dimensions that would accommodate all patriotic organizations in lodge and clubrooms and also afford a place for relics in the possession of the organizations. The building was to become the

patriotic and civic center of the city. To carry out the plans an executive committee was appointed, composed of A.J. Pierce, chairman; W.H. Cleare, J.E. Edgerton, J. Jesse R.S. Budge, William Wallin, Mrs C. E. M. Loux, Mrs. W. E. Trapp, A.C. Hinckley, C.W. Pomeroy, W.L. Raymond. This committee immediately organized for a campaign to secure the \$50,000 needed to carry out the plans outline. The campaign continued until June when the subscriptions amounted to \$34,242.19. The campaign in the farming districts was not successful because of the extreme financial distress and it was decided to abandon this district until a more favorable time.

Description of Building

The plans submitted by Frank Paradise, and the bids for building presented by A. Mathers were adopted. The building, now nearing completion, will cost \$51,523.50, its size being approximately 74 x 104 feet. The building has a spacious assembly room and community and clubrooms which will form headquarters for all patriotic bodies.

It is erected on the west side of the Portneuf river between Fremont and Lander streets. The concrete and brick work is completed, the room sheeting is on and the roof tile on the ground and being put in place. The site owned is most attractive. The building is a thing of beauty. When entirely completed and the grounds fully improved, it will be the show place of the city and its patriotic and civic center. The memorial association has a warranty title to the building site. The building pictured herewith shows the west elevation of the memorial, one and one-story, facing Johnson Avenue. The east elevation is two-story, facing on the Portneuf.

With the completion of the Bannock county servicemen's

memorial building, Pocatello will have the proud distinction of having a standing monument to its veterans, the likeness of which hardly has been equaled in any city of its size.

Architect Paradise says: “The structure is 104 feet by 58 feet, exclusive of the porches. These measure 16 feet by 40 feet. The basement of the Memorial Building is devoted to a banquet hall, 38 feet by 65 feet, three equipment rooms, two meeting rooms, boiler and coal rooms, kitchen and pantries. Off the banquet hall is the enclosed porch, surrounded by French type windows, overlooking the Portneuf river.

The flooring in each is of tile finish, and the rooms are decorated throughout. At the rear of the building, two stairways lead from the clubrooms to the basement, which serves to provide kitchen service to the clubrooms and also as exits. There are three main exits in the building in the front and the structure is such that by opening the windows and French doors which surround it, the building can be thrown almost entirely open for ventilation purposes, or for air in the summer months. The building itself is of inlaid two-color tapestry brick on the interior and exterior is of cream-colored tapestry brick for the body, trimmed with white mortar. The window and door belts and sills are of dark red tapestry brick, trimmed in black mortar. The roof is of Spanish grananda clay-tile of mixed colors. The entire building is designed in Italian architecture and will cost approximately \$51,523.50

“It faces in from down Johnson Avenue, and the rear of the structure looks over the Portneuf river, with a view of the city park across the stream and a cluster of willow trees along the river bank. The assembly room is featured with a height of two stories. The whole interior will be in tinted colors.”

“The main floor of the building is of hardwood and is devoted to a

main assembly room 38 feet by 65 feet, where dances and socials may be held and which is steel trussed and of white ivory woodwork finish.

The ceiling beams of this room are of ornamental plaster and the wall panels will contain the names of Bannock county's veterans, on imitation copper plating. Off the assembly room are French doors opening to the main floor porch, which is entirely open and surrounded with wrought-iron railings and cast stone columns. The porch has a flooring of tile in decorative scheme. The main entrance opens onto a large corridor, constructed of tapestry brick, which opens into the assembly room. There also are vestibules, two club rooms at each end of the building, connected with one another by accordion doors and each containing a fireplace. There are toilet rooms located off each of the clubrooms.

The memorial building is at one end of a scenic route which will comprise in a space of fourteen blocks, most of the fraternal, religious and educational institutions of the city. Driving down Arthur to Fremont, from Fremont to Johnson, then north to Center and back to Arthur the course will lead past on of the largest R. R. Y.M.C.A.'s in the country and the finest Elk's club, probably for any city of this size in the United States. The sites of the Masonic temple and the public-school square, the Episcopal church, the Baptist and the Congregational churches are included in the route. The drive continues past the Catholic school square and then across a steel bridge to the memorial building. On the route returning is the General Hospital, the public library, and the Methodist and L.D.S. churches. This route will be one of which the city may well be proud.

[Transcribed by Trent Clegg 4/2016 from photocopy in library collection. Care was taken to retain spelling and punctuation as printed.]