

The View Of The 1904 World's Fair From The Eyes Of Editor Nathan Wheeler

The editor [Nathan Wheeler], his wife and two little girls attended the meeting of the Southwest Press Association in St. Louis last week and had a very enjoyable time. A large number of the editors from the section of the state embraced in the territory of the Association were present. The Association held its meetings at the Missouri building in the World's Fair grounds at ten o'clock, a.m., Monday and Tuesday and the remainder of the week was spent in visiting the various places of interest in the Fair and as a matter of fact the "Pike" was not forgotten nor slighted in any sense of the word.

The Fair Commission provided the members and their families with passes into the grounds and everything possible for our entertainment was done. The Concessionaires on the Pike also admitted us free to their shows - or at least most of them did— - and treated us in such a manner that we were inclined to remain another week and enjoy further their bountiful hospitality.

The fair is indeed a grand thing and no one can afford to let this opportunity pass of seeing the greatest fair that ever has been or will be.

Among the concessions on the Pike that we visited we mention the following, all of which are good and worth going to see when you go [to] the fair:

Under and Over the Sea, represents a trip to Paris in a submarine boat and return in an air ship. The scenery is grand and - we suppose - natural, and the electrical effect is something that you will long remember and well worth seeing.

Hagenbeck's Trained Animals comprises one of the largest collections of wild beasts from



The amusement street named "The Pike" was over one mile in length. In the left foreground is Battle Abbey, which displays panoramic views of famous battles. In the right foreground is the station of the extensive scenic railway system. The concessions represented an investment of between seven and eight million dollars.

all parts of the globe ever shown in the United States and shows the influence of mind over matter. One hair raising exhibition is the keeper feeding a herd of lions raw meat from his bare hands in an open arena.

The Baby Incubator is one concession that all should see, as it is doing a grand work for humanity and is solely dependent upon the admission fee of 25 cents for its support. It shows the little ones in different states of progress one week to two months in the incubator, all doing well.

Roltair's Creation is a mystifying illusion, original and novel and is a representation of the

creation of the world as narrated in Genesis. It shows first the earth as a ball of fire rolling through space, then the light is divided from the darkness and the dry land from the water, and so on through all the stages of its formation and habitation are plainly shown.

Cummins' Wild West Show is something that is attracting much attention and being largely patronized. It comprises some of the most noted Indian chiefs and warriors in the world and gives an exhibition of fancy rifle shooting, fancy riding and many other feats of daring well worth seeing.

The Galveston Flood is one of those electrical illusions which

are so natural that they make you wonder whether or not they are an illusion or real. The destruction of Galveston by a mighty sea wave and the restoration of the city are beautiful to behold. The Battle Abbey showing a panoramic view of some of the greatest battles of the civil war, and New York to the North Pole showing a trip through the frozen regions of the North, both by the same company as the Galveston Flood are grand and beautiful illusions that no one can afford to miss while at the fair.

The Boer War is not on the Pike but a valuable display just the same., showing a real battle between the Boers and



Dubbed "The Red Devil" by Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles, Geronimo had been in custody since 1886. Imprisoned at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the Army offered him as part of the U. S. Department of Interior's Indian anthropological exhibit. Geronimo had his own booth. He made bows and arrows and occasionally performed traditional dances. The 75 year old Apache chief signed autographs for 10 cents and sold his photograph for prices that ranged from 50 cents to \$2.00. Geronimo died in 1909.

English as they took place in the recent war between those nations. Many feats of daring and many brave deeds are enacted before your eyes. It is a real battle and worth seeing.

The Tyrolean Alps is a beautiful village gaily and artistically decorated and many things are found therein to interest the sight seer and souvenir hunter.

Hale's Fire Fighters show a fire company in actual service giving exhibitions of the work of rescuing helpless victims from a fearful death, afterwards extinguishing the fire. The entire workings of a fire department are displayed before your eyes.

The City of Jerusalem is intended to represent the ancient city of that name; in it

we beheld the Church of the Holly Sepulcher, built over the Place of Crucifixion, diorama of Mount of Olives, including Garden of Gethsemane. The Mosque of Omar on the site of Temple where Jesus taught the Holy Rock where Abraham went to off up Isaac, the Jews Wailing Place, the Tower of David and many other places of note mentioned in the bible.

The Palais du Costume, the production of which cost the promoters an outlay of \$600,000 illustrates in a series of tableaux the history of dress throughout the ages. It portrays an exact imitation of costumes worn by women from the earliest history up to the year 1904.

But space forbids me going into detail as there are too

many places of note for us to describe all of them. There is the Hereafter, Dixie Plantation, Trip to Siberia over the great Siberia Railway, the Esquimaux Village, the Cliff Dwellers, the Ferris Wheel and the Scenic Railway are all things not to be forgotten when you go to "Do the Pike."

We spent a pleasant week at

the fair and could have enjoyed ourselves for a much longer period had our time and circumstances permitted.

Pulaski County Democrat
July 1, 1904

All Fair pictures courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas



As the light of a busy day at the Fair recedes, Fair goers relax on the Terraces around the Grand Basin. Singing gondoliers provided a restful cruise around the lagoon. Festival Hall is in the center background, flanked by the Colonnade of States, each of fourteen eagles with outspread wings represent a Louisiana Purchase State or Territory.



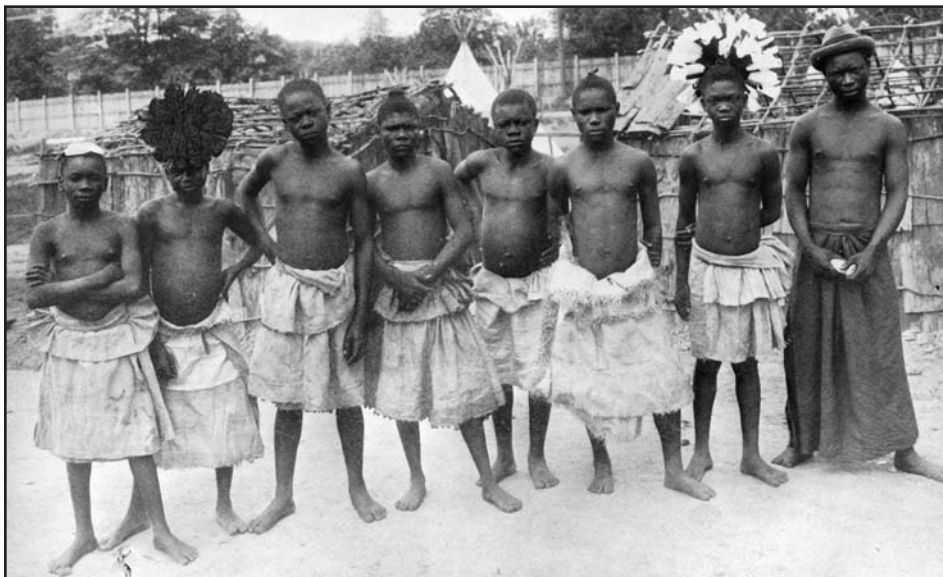
This view down the North Lagoon was considered one of the most beautiful vistas of the Fair. Beyond Hennepin Bridge (named for the explorer of the Northwest) in the center of the lagoon were the Sunken Gardens. The lagoon is flanked by the ornate Palace of Liberal Arts (left) and the Palace of Mines and Metallurgy (right). Most visitors ranked Liberal Arts as the most beautiful of the Exhibition palaces. Centered at the far end of the lagoon is the Government Building.



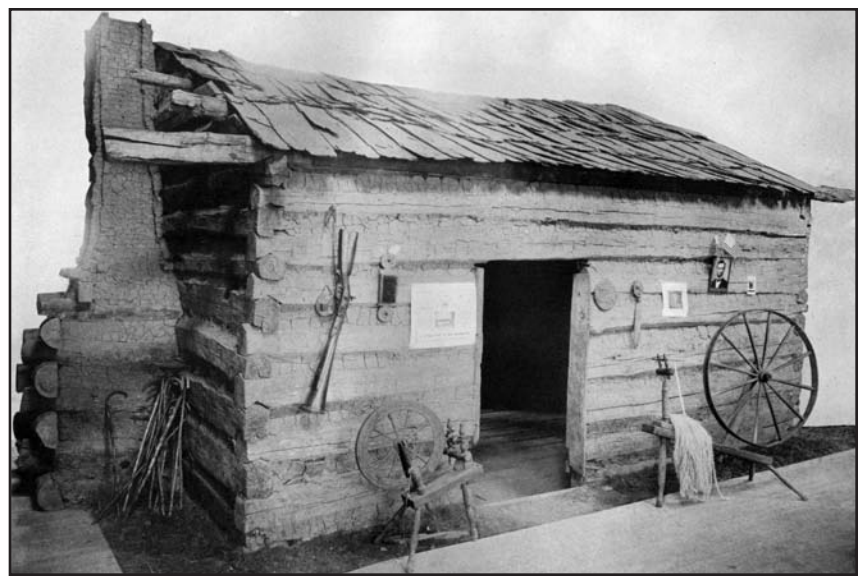
Festival Hall was the greatest auditorium on the World's Fair grounds. The dome was one hundred and sixty-five feet in diameter and one hundred and ninety feet tall, exceeding that of St. Peter's. The auditorium seated over three thousand people and housed the largest pipe organ ever built.



This photograph taken from the south facade eave line of the Palace of Liberal Arts shows a high angle view of Jefferson Way. It reveals the elaborate sculptural details found on the palaces. In the center of the photo is the Louisiana Monument and beyond is the south facade of Varied Industries.



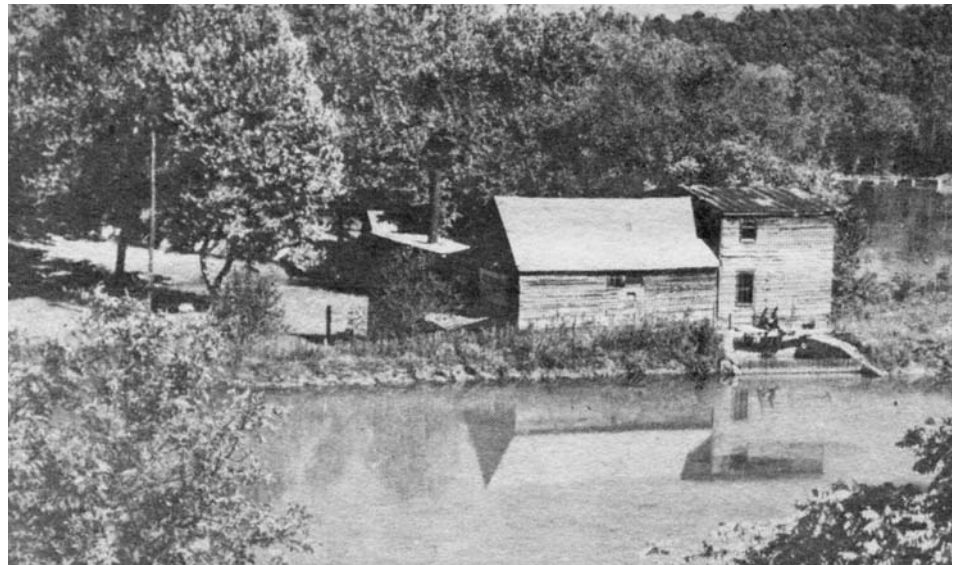
The Department of Ethnology traveled to the heart of the Dark Continent of Africa and brought back Pygmies from the Congo. These eight first ever visitors to "civilization" are members of the Batwa and three other tribes. Aboriginal people from the Phillipines, along with Native Americans, drew throngs of sightseers.



When he was four years old, Abraham Lincoln lived in a one room log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. That cabin ("duly authenticated") was brought to the World's Fair and rebuilt. The cabin was 15 feet square and chinked with yellow clay. The wheel and loom used by Nancy Hanks was also on display.



Scores of citizens caught the Frisco at the depots lining the railroad track through the northern part of Pulaski County. The Frisco publicized the Fair and offered special rates. Citizens stayed from three days to a week or more in St. Louis to view the splendors of the Fair. For some, this was not enough and return trips were made. Courtesy of John F. Bradbury.



While Pulaski Countians were riding the rails to the big city, St. Louisans were heading to the Ozarks for the cool air and clear water of Schlicht Mill and Forest Lodge, escaping the heat and crowds of the city. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.