

M CENTER **city** ©

VOLUME II, NUMBER 24
JUNE 19, 1975

**OVERNIGHT CITY
POPULATION
SWELLS WITH
100,000 GUESTS**

Confederate Reunion

April 22, 1901

All Confederate organizations and Confederate soldiers and sailors of all areas, grades, and departments, Daughters of the Confederacy, and Sons of Veterans are cordially invited to attend the eleventh general reunion of the United Confederate Veterans.

With pride and pleasure, [Gordon] also announces that thirteen hundred and thirty-one camps are already enrolled in the U.C.V. organization, with applications for over one hundred more....

...The meeting in Memphis and in Tennessee will arouse many tender and sacred recollections, and its pathos will touch the hearts of all who witness the remnants of the survivors of the Confederate armies assembled in the city which their beloved chieftain, ex-President Jefferson Davis, once called his home....

The general urges the officers and members of all camps to commence now, without delay, preparing for delegates, alternates and as many members as possible to attend, so as to make it the largest and most representative reunion ever held; as business of the greatest gravity affecting the



welfare of the old veterans will be transacted during this eleventh annual reunion — such as the benevolent care, through State aid or otherwise, of disabled, destitute and aged veterans and the widows and orphans of our fellow brothers-in-arms, which will be one of the most important matters for our consideration.

* * * *

On the bluff and overlooking the river 150 carpenters are now building Confederate Hall. It will be a gigantic structure with a seating capacity of 18,000 in its gallery and 3,200 on the convention floor. It will contain the reunion post-office, sleeping space for 1,500 veterans and a hall for each of sixteen State headquarters.

On Thursday afternoon the most imposing spectacle ever witnessed in the South will be the parade of the United Confederate Veterans, with Forrest's Cavalry on horseback. The regiment alone will represent over a mile of moving horseflesh....

COURT OF HONOR

Re Vance has been looking to the city's decoration and the work will attract architects all over the country. The master achievement of architectural skill will be the court of honor which will reach from North to South Court street on Main street. This will consist of a double row of white columns standing on each side of the street, each representing a Confederate State, with an urn of burning oil on top to illuminate the court at night. At the two extremities of the court will be the superb arches which will span the street, erected to the army and navy of the Confederacy and to the men and women of the South....

Work of modeling on the court of honor is in progress at the workshop of Builder Gorman on Madison street...It was the intention at the outset to have the columns and decorations made of staff, but it proved far too expensive and the committee compromised on papier mache. The work has first to be modeled in clay and from the clay models plaster casts are made....After the columns are completed and the models in place, the whole will be painted white and it will be difficult to tell it from staff work. The only thing is that it is not so durable and will not stand much rough weather. When properly illuminated the court of honor will be one of the most beautiful features of artistic decoration ever seen in this city.

May 28, 1901

*All Day Long There Was A Constant Stream
of Special Trains Running
Into the Union Depot and This
Morning 50,000 Ex-Confederates
And Other Visitors Are Guests
of Memphis*

Memphis has laid aside her old frock and today is doing honors to thousands of visitors in her best bib and tucker.

This morning the city will present a brilliant picture of color with a back ground of gray, it will be merry with the mingling of martial music and the cheers for the heroes in gray.

May 29, 1901

*Army of Occupation Holds Memphis
And Make Themselves at Home*

The strain of meeting such an enormous and sudden increase was terrific but it was met in heroic style....

It is something new for Memphis to undertake the herculean task she has but her indomitable spirit and her genius has been equal to it.

* * * *

The grand stands along Court Square were black with thousands of spectators all afternoon. The people assembled there were content to amuse themselves by observing their fellows as they passed in endless procession. This peculiarity emphasizes the fact that the great army of guests that Memphis is entertaining is made up of people who are near to nature's heart. They still possess the flavor of the soil. City life is new to them and its excitements, its sounds and its sights are unique and curious.

And Main street yesterday was a panorama of sights and sounds that would make the eyes of the most blase city man dance with interest and catch the spirit of that observant crowd...

The cool green turf, the flowering magnolias of Court Square, was the one glimpse of the sylvan shades of the rural district that the country people caught that was accessible while here, and they availed themselves of its shade and comfort during the noon hour, while the sun was shining. They gathered on the turf and converted the city's beauty spot in a genuine rural picnic grounds....

The great number of transient people in the city have changed the lunch hour of Memphis. Formerly it ran from 12 to 1 o'clock, but it now starts at

9 o'clock a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. The restaurants that are scattered all over the city did a rush of business all day long....

The levee and the Mississippi river both possess a great attraction for all reunion visitors....

This account has been reprinted from three issues of the Memphis COMMERCIAL APPEAL, 1901.

BANDSTAND REMAINS

Center City:

In response to questions about the bandstand in Court Square, let me assure you that it will remain. The structure will be restored with a concession stand added and will function as a snack pavilion. Seating at tables will be provided under the canopy affording an overlook of Court Square.

Band concerts and other entertainment will be held on the Mall at the intersection of West Court and Main (adjacent to the old Gerber Building). A performing area is being constructed at this location as a part of the Mall development.

Charles Shipp, Project Co-ordinator
Mid America Mall
Gassner/Nathan/Browne, Architects/Planners,
Inc.

Editor's Note: CENTER CITY would like to thank Charles Shipp for clarifying this question. Also, we would like to express our appreciation to Phillip Bohrman, who took the time to write to Bob Harper concerning the bandstand.

LOVE SONG

*Why is it that day
Opens like a wound,
A scapel
Glinting along the dawn,
As the moon watches and weeps*

at its

*Effacement.
An O-faced Onan,
Pondering his sleazy seed
On the sheeted day.*

*Why is it
That we do not grieve
This witness
To our night love-labors.
Pale and silent
Like a paid mourner.
We lovers!
To the last spilling
Of the loins
We're the moon's accomplices.
Like thieves
We do our dirty work
In the dark.*

*Our cat's kissing
Sucking the last milk-breath,
We murder with our clutching
And make the lover's bed
A Gethsemane of the night.*

We are without exemption.

*The scapel dawn
That slits the night
Cuts us, too,
to the quick,
This clinched knuckle and bone
Of our love dreams,
Bragging through our days
A solitary count-down,
Subtracting our waking and sleep
Until, the last
O-song of zero
Is sung
And the heart fails.*

*This failed heart.
This fist of lies!*

M. L.

earthly delights

Announcements

DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

First National Bank (Lobby)

June—paintings by Richard Knowles*
City Hall

June—Smithsonian Exhibit of Mississippi
Folk Architecture*

Sterick Building (Lobby)

June—paintings by Mrs. Terry Pera*

FILM

Peabody Library

June 20—"The Legendary Champions"—
7:15 p.m.*

June 27—"In Search of the Lost Worlds"
THEATRE

Circuit Playhouse

June 5-July 6 (Friday thru Sunday)—
"Veronica's Room"—8:30 p.m.

MSU Theatre

June 20, 21 & 23-28—"The Mousetrap"—
8:00 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Confederate Park & Second at Jefferson

June 21—"Mid-Summer Night's Carnival"—
parade, performances by 15 musical
groups, the Circuit Playhouse, and the
Red Balloon Players, and Jim Crosthwait
— 4:00 p.m.*

*Free

CENTER CITY TREATS EXPLORERS

The winners of the fourth "Exploring Downtown" contest were: Don Tate (five lunches); E.R. Wright (three lunches); and Bernadine Reynolds (one lunch). These explorers correctly identified the four photographs in the June 12th issue as: (1) 339 Madison, (2) 130 Court, (3) 56 S. Main, (4) 119 Madison.

CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB

Serving from 11:30 to 1:00

First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue

PRICE: \$1.50 per serving, including drink

MENU FOR JUNE 19-JUNE 27

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Fried Chicken, Rice w/gravy, Squash or Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Barbeque Beef/Bun, Baked Beans, Pineapple/Cottage Cheese & Salad

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Corned Bread

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Pork Chops, Potatoes Au Gratin, English Peas, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, Rolls

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Fried Chicken, Rice/Gravy, Apple Sauce, Rolls

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Meat Loaf, Whipped Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Rolls



166 Poplar
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

*Second-class
postage paid at
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