

Peace Memorial Auditorium

What constitutes a
proper war memorial?

Before the Civil War memorials generally glorified military leaders.

After the Civil War memorials glorified leaders and added tributes to the common soldier.

After World War I memorials began a trend toward “practical expressions.”

After World War II memorials symbolized the principles for which the war was fought and the majority served the people’s good.

“Living memorials” to war dead serve a useful purpose. Only a small number of World War II memorials were of the traditional kind. The majority were practical projects such as auditoriums, parks, civic centers, hospitals, teen-age canteens, swimming pools, libraries or other similar projects.

THE POST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR PEARCE-KELLER POST OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Volume 1

Manhattan, Kansas, October 25, 1946

N

The Legion Button Is Badge of Honor

By the Sad Sack

I have been thinking for a long time that about one of the best ways to boost the Legion is to wear the Legion pin. It is a distinct honor to wear one of these pins and you should feel proud of the fact you are part of the Legion.

Now that fall is here and winter is just around the corner you will be wearing a coat and coats have lapels and lapels have little button holes which are just right for pins like those of the Legion. No doubt you belong to a dozen or so other organizations but by all means you should give the Legion preference when it comes to putting on pins.

When you wear the American Legion button you are advertising the Legion. We must keep on advertising the Legion so that it will keep on growing and continue to be the fine organization that it is today.

Speaking of pins, I will never forget when I got my good conduct ribbon. Our CO called us all out in formation one day and announced he had a big surprise for us. Right away, everyone thought the war was over and that we would be home in ten days.

"Men," said our CO, "you have been great soljurs and we are proud of you. You have done a good job in serving Uncle Sam and today we are going to reward you. As your name is called just step forward and receive your award."

When I made it to front and center and managed to get off a salute that would put a Boy Scout to shame, the CO handed me my award—a good conduct ribbon. Of course I was very proud of it and in a couple of weeks my wife sent me a clipping from the home town newspaper. "The Sack," said the clipping, "has been awarded the good conduct ribbon." This went over big in my home town. I was a hero.

But the biggest thrill I ever got in my life was when I was awarded a Legion button. That is the one thing I will always cherish and something I'll wear all the time—even on my pajamas at night!

This Is The Legion's No. 1 Project

Operations Memorial!

You will remember that the Legion voted unanimously at our September meeting to support the proposed Peace Memorial Building to be voted on at the November election.

Our offer of support has been accepted. The Riley County Historical Society, through its Peace Memorial Committee representing 45 or more Manhattan organizations, has asked the Legion to spearhead the drive to gain the voters' approval of the building.

Preliminary committees are being formed. The first meeting of the 45 interested groups will be held next Tuesday evening, October 22d. You will be advised through THE POST and through other papers, and letters, just what each legionnaire should do to bring about the erection of this Memorial to the men and women of Manhattan who gave their all to their Country.

This will be the biggest job ever undertaken by Pearce Keller Post of the American Legion. Not only must we explain to the community the obligation we have to dedicate such a memorial to slate that obligation into action our comrades, but we must tran- GET OUT THE VOTE. It should be the duty of every Legionnaire to familiarize himself and herself with the whole job ahead of us. You will be invited to attend a mass meeting of Legionnaires and other citizens—please be there on the day and time specified. During the coming weeks before the election on November 5th, and particularly before registration closes on October 25th, urge your friends to consider favorably the plan to build a Memorial in Manhattan that will long endure as a Living Memorial to our beloved dead.

K. P. ROSTER:

This week the lucky person is Harry Hicks. He will present this coupon at the box office and see "Young Widow" starring Jane Russell and Louis Hayward, showing Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Initiate 19 Neophytes

Memorial Building, Blood Donor Roster, Prize Drawing Also Discussed at Monday Nite Meeting

An initiation class of 19 new '47 members were given the Legion obligation to God and country and their comrades, at Monday night's meeting. The charges were impressively intoned by a degree team headed by Ivan Wassberg and including Alvin Hostetler, Sterling McCollum, Russ Hershey and Bill Chappell, with service-seasoned drill master Sarge Sandberg calling the marching maneuvers. The degree team will conduct an initiation for the Wamego post at the close of their membership campaign.

Approximately 100 Legionnaires signed the blood donor roster, the need for which was convincingly explained by committee chairman Dr. Fay Garner. Dr. Garner pointed out that this roster is intended to supplement similar previous efforts by other organizations. From 5 to 10 of the signers will be called each day to St. Mary Hospital for blood typing, and will thus be available for emergency calls. No blood bank will be established. Dr. Garner stated there are four types of blood and two so-called sub-types. Some types are exceedingly rare and in some cases 100 donors must be typed to find the right one. One type is particularly vital in transfusions for new born infants. The post will continue to circulate the donor roster. Dr. Garner mentioned that Legionnaire Sterling McCollum has donated blood for 20 transfusions during the past 3 or 4 years.

Commander Chappell announced that the Legion Club Room Committee had been expanded to include C. W. Penley, Walter R. Gage and Joe Menzie, who join Elmer Jackson, C. L. Lovell, Sr., and Bob Swan in directing the greatly increased activities on that front.

City Clerk Art Hjort was present and did a brisk business registering voters for the November election.

An important place in the night's agenda was devoted to a

spirited discussion of ways means to effectively implement the campaign for approval of the Peace Memorial Building at polls November 4. At the request of the Peace Memorial Commission, the Legion had voted to spearhead this drive in an effort to assure eventual completion of this needed structure of practical combination of cost and utility. Commander Chappell announced acceptance by the Majors of the chairmanship of the committee. A standing vote indicated virtually unanimous support. Majors reminded that "all enthusiasm must be translated to votes November 5."

Chairman Jess Thompson and First Eunuch Elmer Jackson of the Building Fund Contribution Committee, reported tickets for the grand drawing going and announced the date for the month dance and drawing had been fixed for New Year's Eve at the Avalon with Matt Betton's musician providing the omph. Prizes include a Chevrolet car, electric sweeper, radio, electric wrist watch and car horn. Following adjournment, a cord gang of Legionnaires and ladies crowded the club rooms for relaxation and comradeship.

AIRMAIL WEEK
October 27 - November

AIR MAIL NOW 5 CENTS AN OUNCE anywhere in U. S., To Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, and for Air Mail addressed to A. P. O.'s and P. O.'s.

Domestic Air Mail at 5c an ounce may be Registered, Insured, sent C. O. D., and Special Delivery.

The Limit of Weight for Mail to the Armed Forces Overseas has been increased from 2 ounces to 8 ounces, when address includes an Army or Navy office Number or a Fleet or Fleet office designation; also to civilian personnel authorized to receive mail through such Army or Navy post offices.

Air Mail for Certainty - Security - Celebration

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VOTE YES!



NOVEMBER 5

FOR A

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

-- FOR THE 2,610 WHO SERVED IN WORLD
WAR II AND FOR THE 101 WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES FOR US

The Members of Pearce-Keller Post of the American Legion, in going all out to obtain a favorable vote on the Memorial Auditorium in the November 5th election, do so with these facts in mind:

1. The 2,610 men and women from Riley County who served their Country all over the World in World War II should be honored by a suitable memorial.
2. This Memorial should be something that will be useful to Manhattan—not a statue or a granite shaft but a building. One that will fill a definite need and be used for the convenience and better living of everyone in the community.
3. The plans for the Memorial Building call for a memorial foyer displaying prominently the names of those who served in World War II, and a plaque listing those who gave their lives.

So we feel that a favorable vote for the Memorial Auditorium on November 5 is the way for Manhattan to show that we have not forgotten and will not forget.

VOTE YES — NOVEMBER 5

Pearce-Keller Post No. 17—American Legion

These Gave Their All --

Riley County GOLD STAR Honor Roll



Allen, Arthur M. Jr.	Hynes, Paul H.
Armstrong, Gerald D.	Immerwink, Gilbert
Berry, Marvin O.	Isakov, George N.
Burke, Henry L.	Jacobs, Richard A.
Burke, Bert	Johnson, Dale E.
Burke, Eldon	Johnson, Samuel Loy
Burns, Charles J. Jr.	Joss, Vincent C.
Calder, Douglas K. Jr.	Kilmer, John F. Jr.
Callahan, Leslie J.	Konrad, William M.
Campbell, Forrest B.	Laine, Earl C.
Carson, Arnold V.	Miller, Joseph Dale
Caster, Arthur	Mills, Charles L.
Chapman, Donald J.	Minton, Alfred L.
Coffman, William J.	Mitchell, LeRoy
Conroy, Emerson W.	Mosher, Jess E.
Crompton, Earl	Murphy, Lyle M.
Crumpton, Elmer E.	Newell, Ralph
Davenport, Leo M.	Nichols, John W.
Dobson, Claude W.	Norman, Norman F. Jr.
Dougherty, James G.	Novak, Harry
Dresser, Francis H.	Parlin, Charles H.
Ehardt, Elmer M.	Parlin, Harry Byron
Ehardt, Forest V.	Parsons, Paul E.
Elliott, Robert E.	Parson, Glenn E.
Elliott, Robert A.	Reider, Harry Dean
Eichman, Adelman J.	Rail, James R.
Emmett, Valby W.	Raskin, Ralph T.
Eukelert, Lee E. Jr.	Rickards, Forrest F.
Fahner, Lawrence H.	Roni, Frank F. Jr.
Evans, Kendall	Schaefer, Waldo B.
Fisher, Charles E. Jr.	Shawell, Martin R.
Fisher, Donald A.	Speron, Dean
Fulton, Donald W.	Stack, Robert W.
Gardner, James H.	Starnes, Raymond J.
Gilre, Richard C.	Stevenson, Frank J.
Gold Pill	Stevenson, James
Green, James M.	Stull, Dale E. Jr.
Hammer, Ralph C.	Thomas, Joseph C.
Hansen, Charles H.	Tobacco, Emerson L.
Hale, Edgar Leighton	Toussie, Robert T. Leon D.
Hansen, Joe Kenneth	Van De Walker, Leon D.
Harris, Ernest O.	Van Duren, Lyle E.
Hartwig, Elmer	Van Winkle, Richard J.
Holland, Ross F.	Valkauer, Neale H.
Hull, James J. Jr.	Ward, Milton L.
Hunt, George	Wattson, Warren E.
Hutchins, Richard E.	Wertz, Oscar LeGrand
Huson, Francis Neal	Whitcomb, Elmer A.
Hube, Earl B.	Winn, William A.
Hunt, Wemy Harold	Wright, Ernest O.

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Pearce-Keller Post No. 17—American Legion



MANHATTAN CHAPTER
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Meeting, November 4, 1946



**WE Are the Young Fellows
of Manhattan:
We Believe In Manhattan
and Its Future:
We Are FOR The Proposed New
Peace Memorial
CIVIC AUDITORIUM!**

HERE'S WHY:

We repeat: we are the young fellows of Manhattan. Most of us served our country in the Armed Services all over the world—then we thankfully and joyously returned to Manhattan, because we considered it the best "home town" in America, the finest place to settle down, go to work, to rear our children, and to build for the future.

Yes, build for the future—and help to provide the things for our fine city which it needs now and will need in the future. Thus we turn our attention to the big need for the Peace Memorial Auditorium—a place where our children and yours, the adults and youth of all our fine surrounding rural territory can gather for games, for music events, for school events—all the thousand and one groups and occasions which would put such a building to such fine use.

Yes, we are the young men of Manhattan. Many of us are clerks, many of us are junior partners in local businesses, and a good many of us have courageously and confidently established our own businesses. Thus we are taxpayers—and as alert taxpayers, looking with confidence to the future of Manhattan, we are ready and eager to vote for the auditorium, to pledge our strength and our tax dollars and our resources to the proper management and payment of this building into the future.

**WE SAY:
"Vote For the Auditorium!"**

*Manhattan
Junior Chamber of Commerce*



WHY YOU
SHOULD
VOTE YES
ON THE PEACE MEMORIAL



Because the project is a Memorial, several of the patriotic societies of Manhattan have agreed to take leadership in requesting the voters of Manhattan to support this lasting tribute to the 2600 men and women from Riley County who served in the armed forces in World War II----and more particularly to the One Hundred and One who gave their lives for God and Country.

You are familiar with the fact that the Peace Memorial committee, sponsored by at least 45 Manhattan organizations, after studying various proposals for a memorial to the sacrifices of Riley County men and women, recommended construction of an auditorium with memorial features as the most desirable type of memorial, combining dignity and utility---a LIVING MEMORIAL.

Not only will the building contain such tributes as a complete roster of those in service from this community, with adequate facilities for the proper observance of our sacred holidays, but it will be dedicated, as they in whose honor it is built would have it, to recreation, and music, and Community Service.

The Peace Memorial committee has the assurance of the City Commissioners that an advisory group will be formed from four important cross-sections of Manhattan citizenry:---the school system, patriotic societies, recreation commission, and the City. This group will be asked to make suggestions as to the location, size and type of building, and will probably refer the choice of a final location to a referendum vote of the people.

As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, you are certainly interested in making this a better town in which to live. Most of us agree that we ought to have some sort of a Municipal building where we can hold important meetings, corn shows, conventions, 4-H exhibits, Pet and Hobby shows, banquets, concerts, stage shows, large dances----but you all know that in the past we have disagreed over location, size, shape, style, color, design and a dozen other things which were relatively unimportant.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is the Third Time we've tried to agree. It will either be the charm, this time, of the chance chance for perhaps a dozen years! If we don't get this Memorial Auditorium next Tuesday, you won't have it for a decade.

So----pitch in and help, and VOTE YES next Tuesday!

VETERANS FOREIGN WARS

AMERICAN LEGION

SPANISH WAR VETERANS

and their Auxiliaries

RILEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DAUGHTERS UNION VETERANS

Veterans Foreign Wars
American Legion
Spanish War Veterans
and their Auxiliaries
Riley County Historical Society
Daughters Union Veterans

October 24, 1946
Newspaper Editorial

It's Up To Voters

The report made Tuesday night by the Peace Memorial committee to the organizations which created it was a revelation of civic enterprise. Since last winter, this committee, headed by G.A. Filinger, has spent an unbelievable amount of time and energy studying the problems of a memorial building—gathering facts about what this community needs, what it can get for how much money, what other cities have found satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

The members ultimately drew up their recommendations, and presented them to the city commissioners, which resulted in the memorial auditorium bond issue being placed on the November fifth ballot.

These citizens have devoted their spare time for the better part of a year to this problem—not because their names will be engraved on a cornerstone, not because of any selfish gains which the proposed peace memorial might bring them. They have given their time and work because they are vitally interested in the welfare of Manhattan, and because they felt that the need for a civic building is a crucial one.

They have carried the ball up to now. It is the voters of Manhattan who, a week from Tuesday, can carry it over the goal line.

The reference was to a memorial

auditorium

because the auditorium and its stage

constituted the heart of the project.

Nov. 5, 1946.

Regular meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Manhattan, Kansas, held Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1946, at 3 o'clock P. M. with Commissioners Carlson and Pfuetez present and Mayor Busenbark presiding. Also present were city attorney Harlan and others.

Minutes of the regular meeting of Oct. 29, 1946, were read and approved.

Ordinance No. 01117 appropriating \$14,353.61 out of the City treasury to pay approved claims was read, adopted by sections and on motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Pfuetez, to adopt as a whole, the roll was called. Busenbark, Carlson and Pfuetez voting "aye" said ordinance No. 1117 was duly passed.

No further official business a motion to adjourn carried.

PS: Dr. J. W. Evans appeared at this meeting with a proposition to vacate a small portion of Legore Drive. No action taken at this time. PS: Mr. Siska appeared before the Com. to advise them that he was building a dehydrating plant at Eureka Lake and that he would be interested in buying the alfalfa from the Airport next year.

Nov. 8, 1946.

The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Manhattan, Kansas, met Friday Nov. 8, 1946 to act as a canvassing Board to canvass the votes cast at a special election held in the City of Manhattan, Kansas, on Nov. 5, 1946, voting on the following proposition:

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED?

"Shall the City of Manhattan, Kansas, issue its bonds in the amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00), the same to run not longer than twenty (20) years and to bear interest at a rate not exceeding five (5) per cent per annum and to be issued in the manner provided by law, for the purpose of paying for the erection of a public auditorium in said city, equipping the same and acquiring a site therefor?" - - and found the following results:

GENERAL ELECTION
Nov. 5, 1946

Canvass of ballots - Public Auditorium votes.

WARDS	Yes	No	Void	Not Voted	Total	Total Registrants Voted - Poll Sta.
Wd. 1	394	253	5	33	685	684
W 2-P 1	419	285	11	40	755	756
W 2-P 2	238	199	2	30	469	474
W 3-P 1	470	230	10	51	761	778
W 3-P 2	653	282	2	44	981	992
W 4-P 1	271	194	1	25	491	505
W 4-P 2	353	237		33	623	626
W 5	838	344	7	57	1246	1246
Totals	3636	2024	38	313	6011	6061

The proposition was declared to have carried by a majority of 1612 votes.

Attest:

[Signature]
City Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor
[Signature]
Commissioner
[Signature]
Commissioner

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No official busin

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P.S. Mr. Sterlin appeared before t crippled saleslad

P.S. Ira Snyder filling station a might consider an was paid.

P.S. Mr. Ken Cha reference to park had been instruct

P.S. Recommendation for 'Walk with the Poyntz, was presen

November 19, 194

Regular meeting November 19, 1946 present and Mayor and others.

Minutes of the me

Motion by Commission be permitted to u

FRONT

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City of Manhattan, Kansas, 1946
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Russ C. Jansoubals
Mayor

Sam L. Chassey
Commissioner

E. C. ...
Commissioner

Attest:
[Signature]
City Clerk

In 1946

3,636 voted YES

2,024 voted NO.

The proposition carried by a majority of 1,612.

Manhattan's population was

11,136 in 1940

and 19,056 in 1950.

Newspaper article
November 6, 1946

Bond Issues for County Hospital and Peace Memorial Both Get Big Majorities

Paul Chappell, Legion post commander, said he was “extremely pleased” that citizens had favored a “living memorial” for the World War II heroes, and expressed appreciation for the enthusiastic support of the project by the voters.

Where should our Memorial Auditorium be built?

The Manhattan Mercury reported on January 11, 1948 that the League of Women Voters suggests the block from Eleventh to Twelfth on the south side of Poyntz.

Others suggest building the Memorial Auditorium in a variety of places, including near Woodrow Wilson School and in City Park.

From the Mayor's Auditorium Committee Report
September 6, 1949

Committee Members:

George Filinger – Riley County Historical Society

John Toburen – United Spanish War Veterans

Mrs. Margaret Hopkins &

Mrs. E. Lee Smith – Daughters of the Union Veterans

Andy Geffert &

R.A. Babb – Veterans of Foreign Wars

J.E. Hayes &

Melvin Dodd – American Legion

Harvey Langford &

A. Thornton Edwards – Board of Education

Committee Members, continued

L.R. Quinlan &

Blake Wareham – Planning Commission

W.W. Hofsess &

Bob Irvine – Recreation Commission

Harry Trubey – Junior Chamber of Commerce

Sam Charleson &

Hal E. Harlan – City Commissioners

A.L. Hjort – Secretary

Auditorium Location Is Unsettled Question

Commission Must Decide, Harlan Says

Does the mayor's auditorium committee have the final say so on the city auditorium site?

This question first came up last Friday night when the committee, in an unofficial meeting, voted 10-4 in favor of the block directly east of Woodrow Wilson school for location of the

The Argieville Grange went on record this week favoring the proposition of selecting a site for the city auditorium by placing the question on the coming city election ballot, John Jenkins, worthy master, announced. "We believe the choice of a site should be made by the voters," he said.

\$800,000 structure. Before it was dissolved last autumn, the committee had gone on record as favoring this site.

After last week's meeting, the opinion was expressed that the committee had been given authority to choose a location, and that its decision was final.

City Attorney Hal Harlan disagrees. He believes the committee doesn't have the power to determine the auditorium site.

The committee had the power to determine a site for the auditorium but it still doesn't have the power to bind the city commission to its recommendations," Mr. Harlan told The Tribune-News.

For that matter, Harlan continued, if the commission decided to put the question up to the voters, they still wouldn't be bound by the results of the referendum.

"However, the commission probably would abide by the results of the referendum," the city attorney added.

Basis of the whole controversy is a motion passed by the city commission, October 29, 1948, which set up the committee. The motion approved was "... for the purpose of selecting a site for, and planning the type of, and uses for a city auditorium, ... and further to approve a city wide referendum to select the final location for such auditorium in the event ... we named committee do ... procedure advisable ..."

The city commission has not said when and how to review the situation.



WILLIAM FITZGERALD

Bill Fitzgerald to Business Staff of Tribune-News

William Fitzgerald, former editor of the North Platte, Neb. Daily Bulletin, has joined the business staff of The Tribune-News, Albert Hollings, publisher, has announced.

Fitzgerald went to work on the Bulletin after his graduation from the University of Kansas, where he was managing editor of the Daily Kansan. He spent nearly five years in the Navy, and came out a lieutenant (junior grade) in 1946. He has been employed as a salesman the past 3 years.

He was married in 1942 to the former Maxine Pickering, a Kansas State graduate. They have four children, Barry & Barbara 2½, and twin daughters, Mary Lou and Martha Ann, 6 months.

Manhattan Credit Association Says Business Better

The Manhattan Production Credit Association has reported business was better in 1949 than during the preceding year.

Fred G. Morgan, Association president, reported at the annual stockholders meeting Thursday in the Lucinda Harris Memorial Temple that more farmers borrowed from the local PCA in 1949 than in 1948.

The meeting was attended by 300 farmers, ranchers and their

Dodd Reviews Committee's Site Location

Final decision by the mayor's auditorium committee to locate the city auditorium in the block east of Woodrow Wilson school wasn't a hasty one promoted by "downtown interests," Melvin Dodd, steering committee chairman, has told The Tribune-News.

The auditorium committee, no longer an active group, has been the target of considerable criticism since its report September 6, 1948, to the city commission.

"It definitely is the best site taking into consideration the cost, growth of the city, parking, eating, town and recreation committee activities, and city offices, Mr. Dodd emphasized.

In reviewing history of his committee's work, Dodd disclosed they had taken many sites into consideration. But none seemed to work out.

One of the earliest sites considered was adjoining the high school with the thought that high school athletic contests could be staged there. A check with other cities in this area which had a city-high school auditorium setup indicated that this was unsatisfactory. The Manhattan board of education also was unfavorable to the plan.

Another proposal was the 1100 block between Poyntz and Houston.

"This was a bad idea, it wouldn't work either," he continued, "because of the higher property cost and the traffic problem on Poyntz Avenue.

A city park site on Eleventh Street facing Leavenworth has received strong support from many Manhattanites, of whom Mayor Charles Rust is one.

One of the strongest reasons for rejecting the park location was financial but not because downtown merchants were afraid of losing business, the former committee head revealed.

It was decided, he said, to pay for the building's upkeep by renting the city space for office buildings since only one-half mill of Manhattan's tax budget goes toward upkeep of all city buildings. The police department and other city officials were against the park location.

When the city auditorium was first discussed, one of the most suggested features was dis-

Who will decide where the auditorium will be built?
Would it be the mayor's auditorium committee, a vote of the people, or the City Commission?

City Attorney Hal Harlan weighed in: the committee doesn't have the power to determine the auditorium site. For that matter if the commission decided to put the question up to the voters, they still wouldn't be bound by the results of the referendum.

“However, the commission probably would abide by the results of the referendum.”

Some people favored placing the memorial auditorium in City Park in order to hold down costs.

Others cited the wisdom of the early settlers in their efforts to retain as much open space as possible in the Park.

Save Our PARK

VOTE to Keep the Auditorium OUTSIDE City Park

Think

The early pioneers who laid out Manhattan were not men of wealth. They had to borrow the money to complete the original survey of the Townsite and yet they set aside for public park purposes 40 acres of the most valuable land on the Townsite. The founders of this City looked far into the future when they provided this wonderful recreation and playground for all the people. Not all of our Citizens can go to the mountains, lakes or seashore for their summer vacations. Our City Park is the principal recreation place for a majority of our Citizens and neighboring friends.

Every inch of the park is badly needed for recreation purposes, even at the present time. If Manhattan continues to expand the need will continue. Many of our citizens have in the last 40 years seen the park grow from a hay meadow to a recreational center and a place of scenic beauty.

Is there any reason to suppose that the need for this park, accessible as it is to all the people, will decrease? Should we suggest day Citizens of Manhattan limit the opportunity of those who will come after us to expand and enjoy the facilities of this beautiful park by taking a substantial part of this land for Public Auditorium when an appropriate and available site nearby can be purchased?

Save our beautiful park.
Vote for an auditorium site OUT-
SIDE the park.

A vote to keep the auditorium out of the park is a vote:

1. To keep the park as a place for the kids and adults to play in.
2. To favor our good neighbors from our surrounding country and towns who enjoy our park for family reunions and picnics.
3. To prevent setting a precedent for using our park as sites for many of our future public and semi-public buildings.
4. To prevent the destruction of many beautiful trees in our park.
5. To help keep our town distinctive and outstanding for its splendid city park.
6. To honor our forefathers who worked so diligently in setting aside our city park for future generations to enjoy.
7. To help provide for the needs of the rapidly increasing school-age population which demands that we keep every inch of play space in our parks.

**Our beautiful park is our great civic heritage-
let's keep it a park**

Signed: The League of Women Voters and members of the Park Board

Newspaper Article

2-15-1950

Manhattan's Auditorium Site Is A Hot Topic

“This memorial, “ said Clyde Powell, “is for the boy I lost and for many others lost in the war. I don't think there's any place on earth too good to put it. The memorial is not a business proposition and I think we could put up a beautiful building in the park I am not so much interested in where the site is but in getting started. The longer we put it off, the more heated the discussion will be.”

[Article found in City Clerk's scrapbook]

The election to determine if the memorial auditorium was to be in City Park or not was held on April 10, 1950.

The people voted that Memorial Auditorium would NOT be built in City Park.

The City Commission listened to the will of the people.

December 15, 1953

The bids came in about \$75,000
higher than the estimate.

January, 1954

Construction began.

April, 1954

Voters approved an \$75,000 bond issue
to completely fund the project.

City offices moved in June 15, 1955.
The formal open house would wait until fall.

First City Commission meeting in new building
June 23, 1955

The building was dedicated
September 26, 1955.

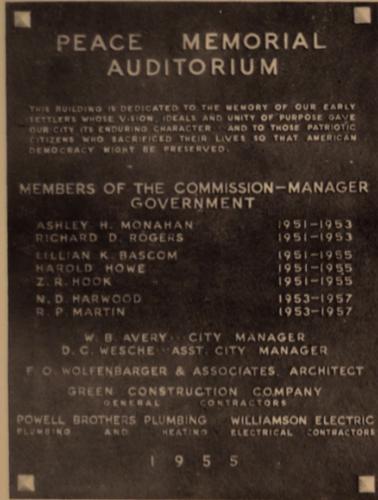
Newspaper article
September 27, 1955

In Monday Ceremony

**City's Auditorium Officially Dedicated by
Mayor Harwood**

“I accept this building for the city, and dedicate it in honor of the pioneers and the men and women who gave their lives in the service of our country.”

[Article found in City Clerk's scrapbook]



PROGRAM

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

- Master of Ceremonies (President, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce) C. M. Skaggs
- Invocation (President, Manhattan Ministerial Alliance) Rev. Leslie L. Kingsbury
- Music Matt Betton
- Honored Guests City Commission Members, During Building Project
 - Z. R. Hook
 - Ashley Monahan
 - Richard D. Rogers
 - Harold Howe
 - Lillian P. Bascom
- Ribbon Cutting Mayor, N. D. Harwood
- Address Topics:
 - Planning for the Building Harold Howe
 - Site Acquisition Richard D. Rogers
 - Early Planning for the Building Sam Charlson

OPEN HOUSE, CITY OFFICES AND PEACE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

CITY OFFICIALS



City Commissioners:
 N. D. Harwood, Mayor
 R. P. Martin
 Ray H. Pollom
 Charles Arthur
 L. E. Conrad

City Manager: W. Barton Avery
 Asst. Manager: D. C. Wesche

PEACE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

DEDICATION

SEPTEMBER 26, 1955

HISTORICAL SKETCH

A structure presenting the awed, silent commemoration of pioneer ancestors, the hope that that courage and stamina which once built a nation will remain forever to strengthen its character; this is the design of Peace Memorial Auditorium.

Perceiving this wish of commemoration and hope on the part of Manhattan citizens, the idea of a functional memorial was conceived following World War II.

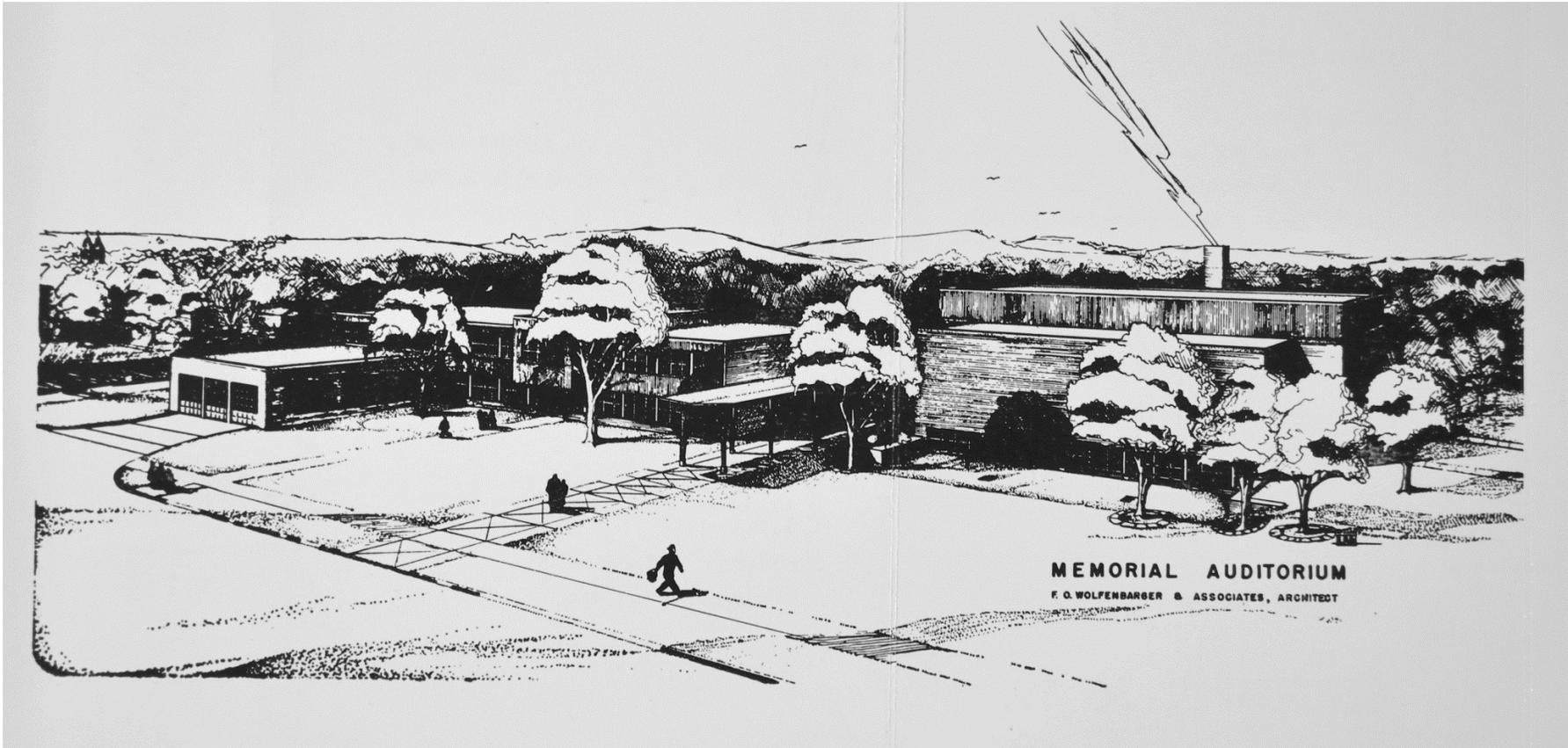
First concrete action toward the structure's realization began with a \$300,000 bond issue in March of 1946.

Lying fallow for the next five years to nourish itself on public enthusiasm; then catching the same spirit that gave Manhattan its new governmental form, its world renown rehabilitation after the 1951 Flood, the auditorium project began anew with the acquisition of the site at Eleventh and Poyntz.

Our building, under the architectural design of Floyd O. Wolfenbarger, incorporates ideal concepts of beauty and function. There are 33,872 square feet of floor area. Several elements of design are outstanding; the use of aluminum and brick exterior serve texture beauty, greatly reduce construction costs, and facilitate maintenance; the acoustical quality of the auditorium meets the highest requirements; and the "arena" design embodies all the uses to which a municipal auditorium can be put.



Photographs by Studio Royal,
Manhattan, Kansas



MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

F. O. WOLFENBARGER & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECT

The Manhattan Mercury

June 16, 1955

IN OUR OPINION

Excerpt:

“.....And there is, of course, the consideration of having at last an auditorium—actually the original reason for voting municipal building funds in the first place.

One glance should serve to convince almost anybody that our new auditorium facilities are of the type to accommodate the widest range of community activities. Through the years it assuredly will ‘pay for itself’ time and time again on the basis of being the scene of many cultural, recreational and other type gatherings.

.....Manhattanites are justifiably a proud lot. By reason of being a college town and because of notable recognition our city has had on numerous occasions, much is expected of Manhattan.

Our new auditorium-city hall fits into that pride and expectation admirably.”

[Article found in City Clerk’s scrapbook]

Newspaper article

6-30-1955

Excerpt:

City Sets Rental Rates for Auditorium

Rental charges for use of Manhattan's new Peace Memorial Auditorium and of certain facilities in the municipal building were set by ordinance adopted by the City Commission.

The charges are based on a comprehensive survey of similar sized and equipped auditoriums in other cities of Manhattan's population. The are listed here for easy reference....

[Found in City Clerk's scrapbook]

Newspaper article

September 26, 1956

Architect's Prize to City Hall

A short article reveals that in September of 1956 the Kansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented an award to City Hall in the governmental building category. Awards were presented to Mayor Charles Arthur who represented the City as owner, to Mont Green, Jr., the contractor, and to F.O. Wolfenbarger & Associates, the architect.

The AIA citation lauding the auditorium:

“A difficult multipurpose program which has been amply solved by clearly defining the division of elements and functions. The building is carefully designed, situated well on the site, and related well to the parking. The character of the building is good and expresses the dignity required of a municipal building.”

[City Clerk's scrapbook]

