

SIXTH VETS' REUNION HELD JUNE 18-19

FOR the sixth consecutive year Springfield, Mo., was host to the Frisco Veterans' Association, when on June 18 and 19, more than 2,000 veterans, their wives and families, crowded its hotels, its stores and its parks. Springfield may have been host to many conventions, but it would have been hard to have found a group more appreciative of attentions and courtesies.

The vets began arriving as early as Sunday, June 17, and when Monday came, they began to play their respective parts on a stage which had been set for their appearance for many months.

Taxi cabs and street cars carried them to the door of the Colonial Hotel, the scene of the registration. Veterans and their families piled out. There on the sidewalk stood groups, anxious to see the new arrivals and looking for old friends. "Hi there, Bill," and "Well, for goodness sake—boy, how are you," were greetings exchanged. But there was no hurry, and they smiled. Springfield had been turned over to Frisco veterans, and Springfield proved a smiling, courteous host.

The lobby of the Colonial Hotel was a milling mass. There were no introductions necessary. It was the meeting of a big family. Although they arrived on early morning trains, or arose early to descend to the lobby, it took until 11:00 o'clock to get them registered and seated in the street cars which conveyed them to Doling Park.

Long before President J. M. Kurn made his personal appearance they were reminded of his gracious and enthusiastic support of their organization, when upon registering they were presented with a pin in the form of the Frisco insignia in red and white. Printed in gold letters were the words, "Frisco Lines Veteran Asso-

Two Thousand Veteran Employes and Families Attend Two-Day Session in Springfield

ciation," and the little card which went with each read, "Compliments of J. M. Kurn."

President Kurn arrived at the park at 11 o'clock, together with T. H. Gideon, Mayor of Springfield, and following their arrival, the Mayor was

Springfield."

Mr. Wm. Marsh, of Memphis, vice-president of the association, made the response. He spoke of Springfield as the hub of the Frisco Railroad and stated that Springfield was "home" to the veterans and that the Frisco and Springfield were united.

Charles E. Gray, of the Central Boarding and Supply Company of Springfield, again had charge of the barbecue. His four long tables were filled with delicious food, fresh barbecued meat, topped by a huge center-

piece of flowers on each table, donated by the Springfield Seed Company. President Kurn led the line of march, and the veterans and their families divided into four long lines. They were served quickly and smilingly by the chefs and porters, attired in white uniforms.

It took until about 2:00 p. m. to gather the crowd together for the big panorama picture, which was taken at the entrance to the Cave.

And then they scattered.

Crowds filed into the dancing pavilion where prizes were awarded by C. C. Mills, of the accident prevention department, for various events. Burch's Orchestra furnished the mu-

sic. The athletic events claimed several hundred, and still others crowded around the hotly contested horseshoe pitching games.

One of the most unique events of the day was the bathing beauty revue. It was a strange affair. Before the event, many inquiries were directed at the men in charge of the affair by girls, as to the rules, who could enter, and where they might find the bath house. When the bathing "beauties" did appear, the shrieks and screams from the fair sex and the loud laughs from the men brought the people hurrying from all parts of the park. The participants were men, and the

Two of our Frisco Presidents



J. M. KURN
(Pres. Frisco Lines)

MRS. WALTER BOYD
(Pres. Women's Auxiliary)

called upon for an address of welcome.

Mayor Gideon said, "I am a believer in the Frisco Railroad here and think it is one of the biggest things Springfield has." In speaking of the bus situation, the Mayor said, "It is a big problem for the railroads, and it is unfair competition, but it is a condition that has to be met and I say to you it is my desire to co-operate in every way possible, not to antagonize, but to assist in bringing about fair competition. If there is anything I can do for you veterans while here on this visit or on any other, I shall be delighted to serve you, and I welcome you on behalf of the city, to

ladies were the judges. Across the chests of the participants were pinned banners in true bathing beauty style, and each of these "beauties" represented one of the states through which the Frisco runs. C. H. Baltzell represented Miss Mississippi; A. K. Smith, Miss Missouri; James Bruce, Miss Kansas; E. L. Magers, Miss Texas; D. L. Forsythe, Miss Florida; G. T. Blankenship, Miss Arkansas; C. J. Stephenson, Miss Tennessee; O. L. Young, Miss Oklahoma and W. H. Van Horn, Miss Alabama. John Forster, a special bathing beauty, in blonde wig and brightly painted cheeks, represented "Miss Frisco." Three judges, Mrs. M. M. Sisson, Mrs. F. H. Shaffer and Miss Martha Moore selected Miss Florida as the winning beauty, disqualifying Miss Frisco on the grounds that, while "her" grace and beauty could not be denied, and with due respect for the belief that gentlemen prefer blondes, she came to the board walk smoking a cigarette.

The athletic events, in charge of "Uncle Charlie" Baltzell, attracted a tremendous crowd. He had pitched a tent nearby the field, and had on display the prizes for the various events. Two fifty yard dash races for men, the first for men over 180 pounds, was won by E. M. Carr of Oklahoma City, while J. M. Warren, of Shamrock, Okla., won the race for men under 180 pounds. The ladies fifty yard dash was won by Star Crosby of Oklahoma City, and the egg race for ladies was won by Mrs. J. E. Pearson of Springfield. Mr. M. B. Creigh, of Cape Girardeau, and Mrs. J. E. Pearson, of Springfield, won the lady and gentlemen's race of fifty yards, holding hands, while Star Crosby and her father, B. P. Crosby of Oklahoma City, came in second. The fat men's race was won by W. O. Adams, of Cherryvale, Kans., who weighed 240 pounds. J. M. Warren, again entered the contest for the longest standing broad jump and won with a jump of ten feet. Mr. Warren is an engineer on the southwestern division and is 53 years of age. He was one of the most active contestants in all of the athletic events. He also won the prize in the men's walking contest.

The following prizes were also awarded: oldest veteran blacksmith, H. S. Ostegard, Springfield, age 77, service 49 years, two months; veteran having largest number of grandchildren, J. Dennis, Birmingham, nine grandchildren; veteran with oldest Ford, Wm. Marsh, Memphis, 1913 model; veteran with largest family, W. L. Lane, Eldorado, Okla., eight children; oldest section employe from

Wm. Marsh, Memphis Dispatcher, Elected President For Coming Year—Mrs. Walter Boyd, Springfield, Again Heads Women's Auxiliary



Wm. Marsh
(Pres. Frisco Vet's Ass'n.)

the various divisions; Eastern, S. P. Hendrix, Niangua, Mo.; River, J. R. Kirk, Kennett, Mo.; Northern, Edward Lock, Golden City, Mo.; Southern, J. N. Golsby, Jasper, Ala.; Southwestern, R. B. Streeter, Chickasha, Okla.; Central, Dave Wilson, Leith, Ark. There were no registrations from the Western division or the Texas Lines.

Two special prizes were given for a boys' race, and also one for girls, both between the ages of nine and twelve. Orval Hall and Jack Fellows, won first and second prizes in the boys' race, while Dorothy Lewis and Dorothy Barnett, won first and second in the girls' race.

While the athletic events were in progress, Mr. Mills was, by a process of elimination, culling out the prize dancers on the floor. R. S. Dickey and wife of Springfield, won first prize as being the oldest couple in the grand march; H. W. Hudgen and wife of Springfield, were acclaimed the best looking couple and Harry Kengle and wife awarded the prize for being the fattest couple. Harold Johnson,

of Springfield, won first prize as the best boy Charleston dancer, and Katherine Ellett, of Marshfield, won the girls' prize in this event. Martha Lou Nay won first prize as being the best girl dancer, and Katherine Ellett won the prize for the best demonstration of the Black Bottom. Dent Howard and wife won the prize given for the old fashioned waltz, and S. B. Musgrave and wife were the fox trot experts. J. H. Livingston astonished the audience with his jig, which consisted of numerous intricate steps. He was awarded first prize.

The roller skating rink and the swings attracted the younger generation as well as the boating and bathing on the beautiful lake.

About 5:00 o'clock the veterans and their families trudged up the hill. Their steps lagged a bit, but the smiles were still there, and they were hurrying to their hotels to freshen up a bit for the evening's program, which they had anticipated for many months.

The evening affair was held in the auditorium of the Pipkin Junior High School. The musicale presented by the Frisco Girls' Club of Springfield and named "Frisco Show Boat Company" was one of the most enjoyable programs ever presented to the veterans at the end of their first day's meet.

The production, under the personal supervision of Miss Marie Arnold, president of the club, did not have any of the ear marks of an amateur production. The girls who participated appeared quite at ease, and the affair was one of startling beauty. Forty girl members of the club made up the cast, and the musicale was divided into seven parts. The first part, an opening song by Marjorie Risser, Beatrice Arnold, Kathryn Risser and Dorothy Thoms, was a pleasing bit of color and music. The Frisco Girls' Choral Club followed with three numbers. Several skits, including "The Municipal Davenport," "Schoolday Sweethearts," "The Sailor's Dream," and "Just Lettuce Alone," were cleverly worked out by the Misses Vivian Justice, Eleanor Bridwell, Cora Pitts, Bertie Sutton, Florence Kline, Mary Campbell, Ruth Uselton, Gertrude Fryer, Helen Murray and Beatrice Arnold.

One of the outstanding features of the production was the solo work done by Miss Marjorie Risser. She charmed the audience with her "Italian Street Song," her several mother songs, and her solo work in the various chorus parts. Her sister, Kathryn, also took important solo parts. The Risser girls are daughters of O. E. Risser, passenger conductor on the Southern division, with forty years'



Above: "Bathing Beauties" who participated in the Revue. From left to right: C. H. Baltzell, A. K. Smith, James Bruce, E. L. Magers, J. Forster, D. Forsythe, G. T. Blankenship, C. J. Stephenson, O. L. Young and W. H. Van Horn.

Extreme right: Judges and winner of the Revue: Mrs. M. M. Sisson, Mrs. F. H. Shaffer, D. L. Forsythe and Miss Martha Moore.

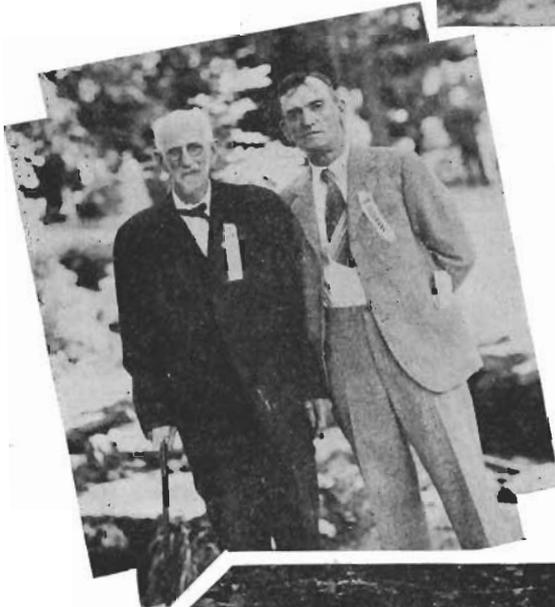
At right: The Tug of War for men!



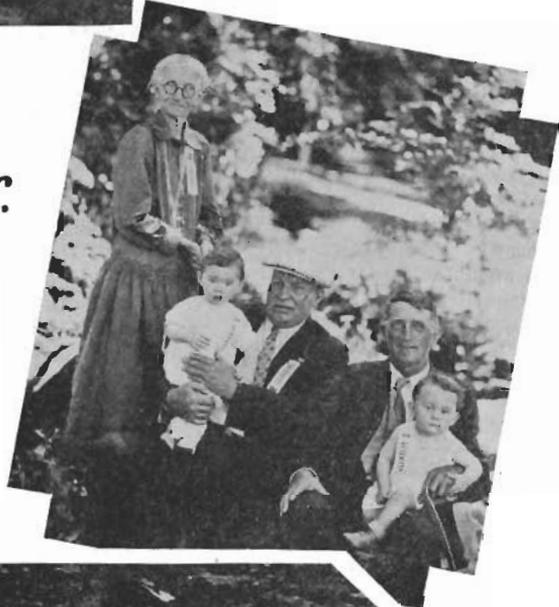
Below left: John Clark, conductor, eighty-six years old, with fifty-four years service, and J. E. Harris, yardmaster, Kansas City, fifty-four years of age with thirty-nine years service to his credit.

Below right: "Mother Clark" with two young veterans and their grandfathers: T. A. Ridley, engineer, and 8-month-old grandson, Joe Wheeler; J. P. Pearson, yard foreman, Cape Girardeau, and 11-month-old grandson, David Overshaw.

Bottom picture: President Kurn poses with Bert Coleman and wife. Mr. Coleman now in active service with fifty years of service. Grouped around the three are, W. H. Van-Horn, Wm. Marsh, L. E. Martin, D. Forsythe and F. H. Hamilton.



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More Vets' Pictures on Pages 42-43



Watch for the Southern Extension Number in August



The service of the six 50-year men, posed around Mrs. John Clark and F. H. Shaffer, general manager, totals 323 years. From left to right: C. J. Wright, Baggage man, St. Louis, fifty years service; J. F. McEuen, engineer, St. Louis, fifty-one years service; John Clark, conductor, Kansas City, fifty-four years service; "Mother" Clark and Mr. Shaffer stand next; L. Bangert, engineer, Salem, Mo., fifty-three years service; P. Herd, roadmaster, Carl Junction, Mo., fifty-one years service; J. E. Dulin, engineer, Springfield, fifty-four years service.

service to his credit.

The finale and cleverest skit of the group, closed the program, "A Busy Half Hour in the Ticket Office Waiting Room at Springfield," and the credit for the writing of a number of the scenes is given to J. L. McCormack, secretary of the reunion. Charlene Willard as the reliable ticket clerk, created a great deal of fun when she attempted to secure the right party over the phone who would assume the authority to stop the Blue-bonnet fifteen minutes, while delegates to the Houston Democratic Convention might be transferred to a Frisco train after a serious bus accident.

The scene was a typical one, and the agent was required to answer questions of every description. The red cap, played by Loree Acton and Hazel Baker as the news stand clerk, furnished a number of laughs. Those who participated in this skit were, the Misses Shirley Williamson, Alice Mills, Grace Jochum, Edith Middleton, Anna Sheehan, Della Stevenson, Hattie Hindman, Betty Adams, Kathryn Risser, Julia Engleking, Gene James, Mayme Hindman, Flo Blevans, Zella Shawley, Amy Bradley, Mamie Bradley, Bettie Blake, Louise Laes, Edith Widemeyer, Roseltha Perry, Nellie Clifton and Isabelle Cosby.

The house was filled to capacity, and the audience was enthusiastic. So great was the crowd that before the curtain rose, the ushers had run out of programs.

A long night of sleep, breathing wonderful Ozarks ozone found the veterans in coffee shoppe and dining

room at an early breakfast hour on the morning of June 19.

They conversed again in the Colonial Hotel lobby, seeming never to tire of discussing the days of long ago. At 9:15 p. m. the men departed for the Shrine Mosque where their business meeting was to be held. The women met on the roof garden of the Kentwood Arms Hotel at 10:00 a. m., for their meeting of the members of the Auxillary to the Frisco Veterans' Association.

The men plunged into their business session, and following the reading of the minutes of Mr. J. L. McCormack, secretary of the Association, there was read a financial report, which showed the treasury funds to be in splendid shape.

Letters and telegrams from distinguished guests who were invited but could not attend, were read. Motion was made and unanimously carried that a cable be sent to Mr. J. E. Hutchison, vice-president in charge of operation, who at that time was enroute to Europe for a short vacation. A wire of best wishes for a speedy recovery from a serious illness was also forwarded to Dan Hartman, retiring president of the Association, who at the time of the reunion was confined to his bed.

The election of officers to serve for the 1928-1929 season, was handled quietly and efficiently and the following were chosen: Wm. Marsh, Memphis, Tenn., president; W. T. Lane, Eldorado, Okla., first vice-president, and J. L. McCormack, Springfield, secretary-treasurer.

The following were elected as new members of the board of directors: Messrs. C. Melton, Ft. Scott; C. S. Churchill, Memphis; Warren Baker, Festus, Mo.; A. Scherry, Ft. Smith, and V. G. Fisk, Vinita, Okla. Messrs. W. S. Christopher, Enid; J. D. Killough, Stephenville, Tex., and J. W. Small of St. Louis, 1927 members of the board of directors, were retained.

The women, under the direction of their capable president, Mrs. Walter Boyd, opened their session with a song. Mrs. Boyd then called her officers to the platform and introduced her vice-presidents, Mrs. W. E. Belter of St. Louis and Mrs. W. L. Spangler of Thayer, as well as her secretary, Miss S. S. Fish of St. Louis. Each made a short response.

Mrs. J. P. Dwyer, chairman of the Springfield Unit of the Auxillary, welcomed the women to Springfield and told briefly of the work done by the Springfield unit. She was followed by representatives from the various division points who reported the activities of their respective chapters.

The following officers were elected for the 1928-1929 season: Mrs. Walter Boyd, president; Mrs. M. D. Scotten of Kansas City, 1st vice-president; Mrs. W. E. Belter, St. Louis, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. W. L. Spangler, Thayer, 3rd vice-president and Miss S. S. Fish, St. Louis, secretary-treasurer.

Following both morning sessions, approximately 300 veterans and their wives met at the Kentwood Arms

Hotel, where they enjoyed an informal luncheon.

At 2:00 p. m. the entire body went to the Shrine Mosque for the Memorial services. E. D. Levy, former general manager for Frisco Lines, who had dropped into the meeting to greet old acquaintances, was called upon for an address. He told the veterans of his work in South America, after he left the Frisco Lines. "In South America, and on the little railroad which I used to haul my commodity to the water, we paid the engineers \$1,800.00 a month. However, their dollar is only equal to two cents of our money, therefore the engineer received \$36.00 a month. The conductor got \$1,500.00 a month or \$30.00 in American money."

In closing, he said he had always had Frisco in his heart, and his best lifelong friends were on the property and he was still loyal to it and gave the Frisco about 1,000 car loads of freight each month. When he had finished, it was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn until Mr. Levy's friends might have a chance to greet him.

Lawrence Blanchett, accompanied by Will James, both of Springfield, led the veterans in community songs, which lasted for about an hour.

Following the community singing, W. D. Bassett, secretary of the pension board, made a brief talk in which he outlined several important points of the pension plan. He stated that there had been a rumor circulated that the pension money was being paid from hospital fees. He said this statement was absolutely false and that the pension money was paid out of and charged directly to operating expenses. He had also heard, he said, that there was a rumor that the pension plan would soon be changed. "The pension plan, as it is now, has been in effect for 15 years and if any changes whatever are made, they will have to be made by the board of directors. No other persons can change the pension plan." He stated that the pension list is an Honor Roll, and each pensioner should be proud to have his name listed on it.

Mrs. Walter Boyd, president, and the other officers of the newly elected Auxiliary were introduced to the audience, and each made a short response. J. L. McCormack read for a brief memorial service, the names of the members on the pension roll who had passed on during the year 1928. J. B. Hilton, industrial commissioner, was asked to distribute numbers for the drawing of some extra prizes which were not claimed during

the athletic events. Following the claiming and distribution of the prizes, the meeting was adjourned until the banquet at 6:30 p. m.

There was not a trace of fatigue on the faces of the veterans at the two strenuous days almost ended when they filed into the large dining room at the Shrine Mosque at 6:30 p. m. the evening of June 19.

The Frisco stenographers and secretaries of the general offices, as was done the preceding years, served the guests in a most efficient manner, and their courteous attention was greeted on numerous occasions with applause.

Burch's orchestra played while the guests were being seated. Mr. Marsh, newly elected president, called on W. L. Heath, of St. Louis, to offer blessing. The meal was up to its usual high standard, with chicken a la King, supplemented with raspberry ice, lettuce and tomato salad, browned potatoes, ice cream and cake and coffee.

Following the dinner, the guests ascended the stairs to the main auditorium where the Girls' Drum Corps of the Springfield High School, and the Boy Scouts Band, both under the able direction of Professor R. Ritchie Robertson, director of music, Springfield schools, entertained the guests for over an hour. The demonstration by Mr. Robertson's proteges is always an anticipated event, and following the presentation, he was cordially thanked on behalf of the veterans by C. C. Mills of the accident prevention department.

When the stage had been cleared, and the curtain had been dropped for a few moments, it arose again on a veritable garden. Don Fellows, Frisco florist, had decorated the background with potted plants of many descriptions. Begonias, fern, hydrangias and other potted plants, with pots wrapped in various colored paper, formed a picture. A bank of green ferns and evergreen trees was arranged on the two far sides of the stage.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McCormack were called to the platform and presented with a silver coffee set as a token of appreciation for their splendid help with the reunion. Mrs. McCormack also was given a beautiful basket of cut flowers.

Charlene Willard, assistant secretary of the Association, was presented with a check and a basket of flowers in appreciation of her help.

John Clark, former Frisco conductor, with fifty-four years' service, and "Mother" Clark received several honors during the evening. Mr. Clark

was presented with a medal for being the oldest pensioner present. "Mother" Clark was presented with a basket of roses and an armchair, and she made a delightful response. Logan Thompson, of Springfield, made the presentation of the roses and C. H. Baltzell, the chair.

F. H. Shaffer, general manager, made the principal address of the evening, expressing his delight at being able to attend the reunion, and he also spoke in glowing terms of the veterans of the Frisco Lines. He sketched briefly the two days' events, and wished that they might all meet again in the following year. He outlined the progress of the Frisco Lines during 1927-1928, and complimented the pensioners on their work in the solicitation of freight and traffic. Miss Dorcus Gustafson presented a very delightful solo to the audience and generously responded to an encore.

M. M. Sisson, assistant general manager, and Edward L. Westbrook, district attorney, of Jonesboro, Ark., both made short but interesting addresses.

S. S. Butler, general freight traffic manager, spoke on the importance of soliciting freight and traffic for Frisco Lines and asked that the pensioners assist in any way they could. He also expressed his delight at being able to be in attendance.

Following this program, Burch's orchestra played dance music for all those who wished to participate in the dancing.

Between 11:00 and 11:30 o'clock the veteran dancers began to leave the Mosque for their various hotels. Taxi cabs whisked them to the Union Station and the Colonial Hotel lobby, the scene of the greatest activity, was empty.

But the voices and the smiles, in fancy, remained. The greetings that rang through the lobby for two days lingered long after the Frisco trains had carried the last veteran and his family safe to his home.

In his office in the Frisco Building, the morning after the reunion, J. L. McCormack, who has been chairman of the Veterans' Association for five years, was in his office chair again for the first time in several days.

"I would rather help in this event for the veterans of our railroad than anything else I know", he said. "They are the most appreciative group of men with whom I have ever worked. It is a genuine pleasure to make the arrangements for a veterans' meeting, even though it does involve a lot of work and take a great deal of time."