

Athletic Field Entrance Is Officially Dedicated

The new Lincoln athletic field entrance, completed recently at a cost of \$8,000, was officially dedicated at appropriate ceremonies in conjunction with the Fourth of July celebration here yesterday. C. A. Normington, chairman of the Lincoln field commission, presented the building to the citizens of Wisconsin Rapids through Mayor William T. Nobles, who responded with the declaration that "this building in my opinion is but the beginning of what will soon follow, and is the proper beginning in that all structures hereafter placed upon this field should be permanent and of such kind as will serve the public best."

Traces History of Field

Mr. Normington traced the history of the athletic field from the

time the idea first originated up to the present. He mentioned the names of those who have taken an active part in making the field possible, including Isaac P. Witter, who has contributed \$7,000 for the advancement of the field, W. J. Taylor, John Roberts, William F. Huffman, Otto Roenius, George W. Mead, A. A. Ritchay, Julius Winden, C. P. Gross and former Mayor Fred J. Whitrock, as well as those who have served and are now serving on the athletic field commission.

"The American Legion, Wisconsin Rapids Baseball association, The Tribune, the common council and the citizens of Wisconsin Rapids have always given us the best of cooperation and I want you to know that our commission does appreciate

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this cooperation and hopes you will continue to cooperate with us," Mr. Normington said.

Funds Voted Last October

The chairman then told of the work leading up to the construction of the new entrance. On October 3, 1933, he said, the common council voted to spend \$8,500 to build the entrance, the main object being to provide adequate rest room facilities. The commission was authorized to proceed with plans, and on March 20 of this year the plans were accepted. On April 6 the contracts were let and on June 25 the completed building was accepted by the commission.

Accepting the new building in behalf of the citizens, Mayor Nobles said, "This dedication, on the anniversary of our American independence, of the permanent structure at the entrance of our athletic field presents to us all a useful structure and complies in every respect with the demands of the public and will adequately serve all of the purposes for which it was intended."

Recalls Early History

"In addition thereto it commemorates an event which dates back to a time when our athletic field as the same stands partially developed today was nothing but a piece of unoccupied real estate used by the Wood County Agricultural and Mechanical association as a fair grounds." He went on to tell how the association, which existed from 1865 to 1897, had run into financial difficulties. The debts of the association were assumed by the city of Grand Rapids in return for a deed to the premises. This was made largely possible through the efforts of T. A. Taylor, then secretary of the association, and his associates, in the face of strong opposition. They were forced to defend themselves in a court action before the plan could be put through, Mayor Nobles recalled.

"During the time that the late W. E. Wheelan was mayor of the city there was a movement afoot to have the city convey the legal title to this property to the school board. This movement was fought most vigorously by Mayor Wheelan and due in the main to his efforts the city was able to retain possession."

"Build for Posterity"

"Many of those who were most enthusiastic when this entrance was being planned have been called away, but they were public spirited men who thought not of themselves but for posterity, and I believe that this is the spirit that should prevail in the minds of all of us when we are taking into consideration any public building program, not that we ourselves would receive any particular benefit, but that we will be content and gratified in the thought that someone will share in and enjoy the fruits of our efforts."

"The number of people who congregate here during the years and the diverse purposes for which the field is used is a sufficient testimony

ROBERTS TALKS TO KIWANIANs

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writing. On July 4, 1776 all members of the Continental Congress signed the document, he said.

He referred to the seven years of war which followed the signing of the document and opined that "if there had not been a George Washington there would not have been a successful revolution."

"Framework of Constitution"

Attorney Roberts called the document "the framework of our constitution which was drafted in 1789 and which has served as our basic law since that time." He quoted Gladstone, the great English premier and considered the greatest student of government when he said that "the United States constitution is the greatest single instrument ever struck off at one time by the hand of man."

He told of constant attacks on the constitution and how it had always come through for a century and a half. Today, he said, the constitution has had a "good stretching" as he urged his listeners to stand by and protect the constitution. He referred to the newspaper code which was approved after the publishers had demanded that the right of free press as given by the constitution be made a part of the code.

"It's up to all of us to protect those rights given us by the constitution," the attorney said in closing.

Dagen Garage Now Hupmobile Agency

Announcement is made today of the appointment of Dagen's garage as the Hupmobile agency in Wisconsin Rapids. The public is invited to visit the garage, on First street north, Friday, Saturday and Sunday to see and drive the new models which will be on display on these days.

The Dagen garage has been in business since 1921 doing service work on all cars and servicing Hupmobiles in this territory since 1928. Jack Dagen, proprietor, today stated: "We expect to continue our service work as in the past and give car owners the most service possible out of their present cars, but hope to sell them Hupmobiles when they are in the market for new cars. Our past experience with Hupmobile work makes us fortunate in being appointed Hupmobile agents in this city."

al of gratification to the commissioners in charge and a receipt in full for any amount of money that has heretofore been spent in its development or may in the future be spent to continue the good work."