

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

☐ Monument *with* Sculpture ☐ Monument with Cannon
☒ Monument *without* Sculpture ☐ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque

Affiliation

☐ G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) ☐ M.O.L.L.U.S.
☐ W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) ☐ Other Allied Order
☐ SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
☐ DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
☐ Other: _____

Original Dedication Date 1939 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location corner State Fair and Woodward Sts.
 City/Village Detroit Township Detroit County Wayne

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☒ South ☐ East ☐ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...
 Name State of Michigan Dept./Div. State Fair Exposition Center
 Street Address 1120 W. State Fair Ave
 City Detroit State MI Zip Code 48221
 Contact Person DIRECTOR Telephone (313) 369-8250

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☒ Stone ☒ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Limestone on Concrete

Material of the Sculpture = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Undetermined

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

Material of Cannon = ☐ Bronze ☐ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm

Markings on muzzle = _____

Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? ☐ If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height 50 FT Width 12 FT Depth 12 FT or Diameter _____

Sculpture: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found _____

The "Dedication Text" is formed: ☒ cut into material ☒ raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

See attached field notes - civil war plaques as follows:

- EAST: "Fairbanks Post 17 GAR Detroit, Department of Michigan Grand Army of the Republic 1861-1865". 58 Plaques total
- North: "General O.M. Poe Post 433 GAR" 63 Plaques total
- West: "Michigan War Memorial 1939 AD" 66 Plaques total
- South: "NONE" TO PLAQUES TOTAL

NOTE: Partial List of Plaque Assoc: AmLeg, AmVET, VFW, Can Leg, Polish AmVet, DAV, USWV, Romanian VETFW, Canadian Corps, USA-AEF, Marine Corp League.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

☐ Rural (low population, open land)
☐ Town

☐ Suburban (residential, near city)
☒ Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

☒ Industrial ☐ Commercial
☒ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☐ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	___	<u>N</u>
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	<u>Y</u>
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	<u>Y</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	<u>Y</u>

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	<u>Y</u>
White crusting	___	<u>Y</u>
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	<u>Y</u>
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	<u>Y</u>
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	<u>Y</u>
Chalky or powdery stone	___	<u>Y</u>
Granular eroding of stone	___	<u>Y</u>
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	<u>Y</u>
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

SEE NEWS ARTICLE
Cement surround and cannon bases cracked + need repair

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unable to tell

Surface CoatingDoes there appear to be a coating? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

☐ Gilded ☐ Painted ☐ Varnished ☐ Waxed ☐ Unable to determineIs the coating in good condition? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unable to determine**Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)**


In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

☐ Well maintained ☐ Would benefit from treatment ☒ In urgent need of treatment ☐ Unable to determine**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector IdentificationDate of On-site Survey 13 Oct 2001Your Name Richard E. DanesAddress 2612 BurnsCity DearbornState MI Zip Code 48124-3204Telephone 

SUVCW Camp 427 Senior Vice Commander

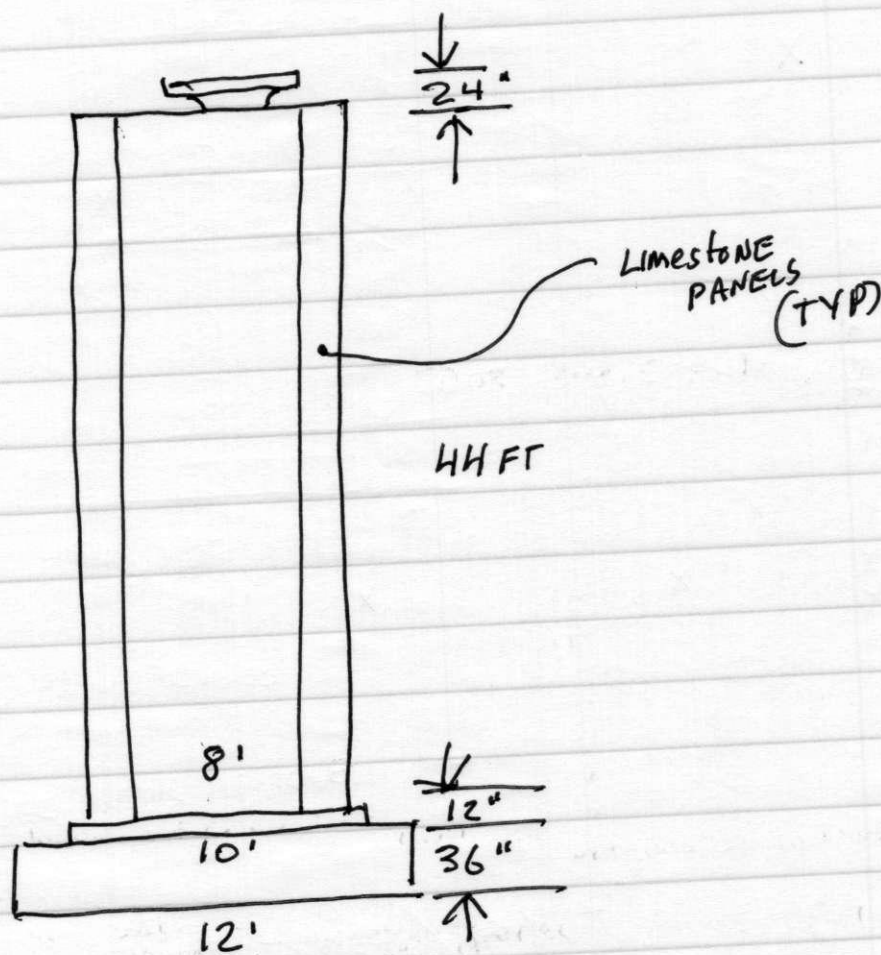
Please send this completed form to:

Douglas R. Armstrong
Civil War Memorials Officer
Department of Michigan - S.U.V.C.W.
236 E Frederick Ave.
Lansing, MI. 48906-3226

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee

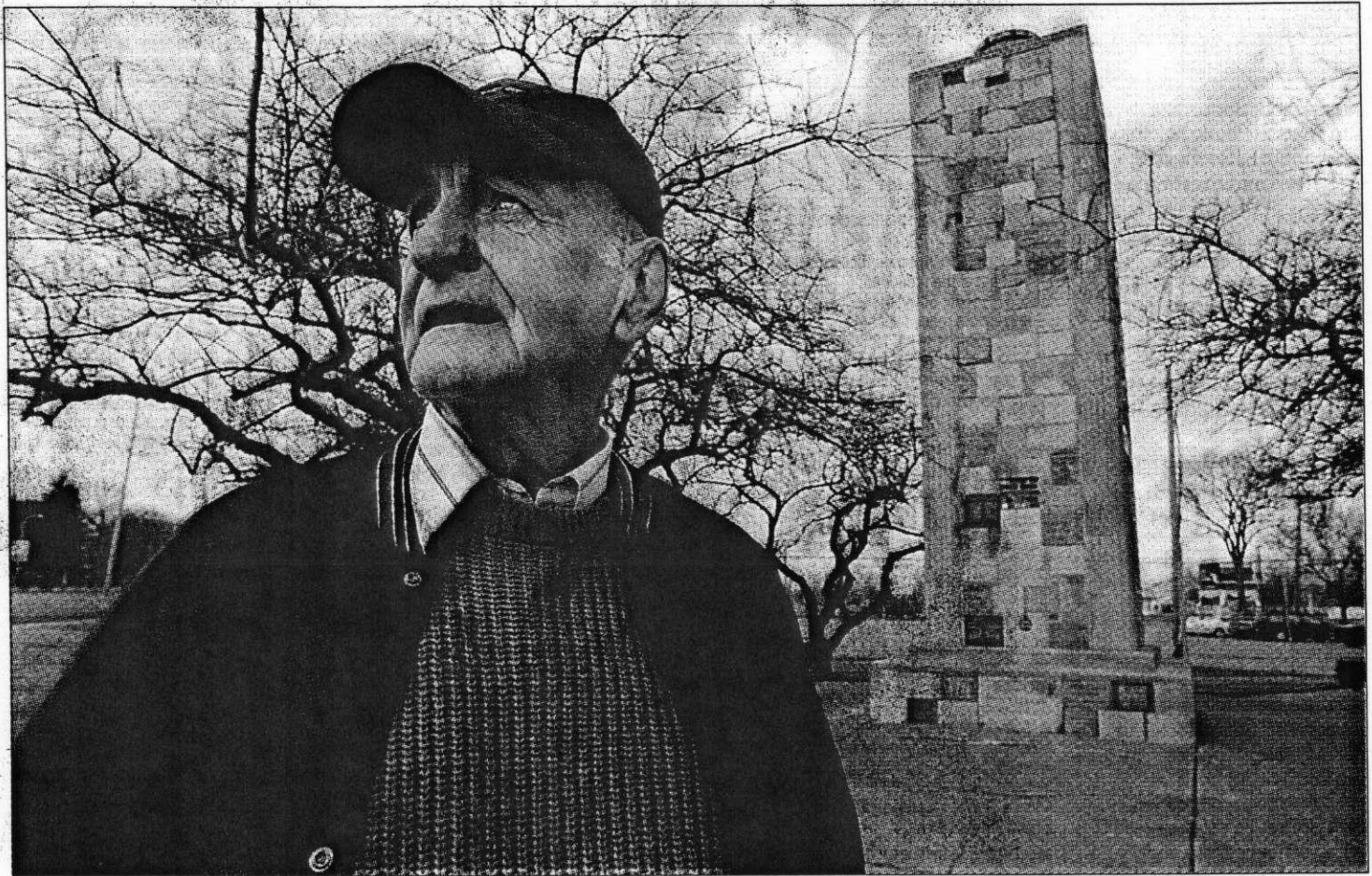
FIELD NOTES



SOUTH SIDE: "Michigan War Veterans Memorial" 1939 A.D.

Other sides various individual plaques (257 TOTAL)

Veterans' groups rally to restore war monument



Photos by PATRICIA BECK/Detroit Free Press

Ferndale veteran Vincent Brennan, 63, calls the condition of the state war memorial a shame. He's battling to fix and maintain it.

NO TAPS FOR MEMORIAL

By SALLY TATO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Michigan War Veterans Memorial is supposed to be a monument of peace.

Instead, it looks like it has fought a long, hard battle.

Buckled sidewalks, cracked limestone, missing plaques, rusted cannons, an eternal flame that has been snuffed for years.

It's even hard to spot: The monument is surrounded by five apple trees at the corner of State Fair and Woodward in Detroit. And it sits behind a white sign screaming "Michigan State Fair Exposition Center."

Local veterans — ashamed of the monument's condition — are meeting with a state official today to figure out how to raise money to fix the site and maintain it.

"It's a shame," said Vincent



Brennan, a Navy veteran from Ferndale who spotted the problem while at the State Fair last fall.

Embarrassed, Brennan rallied the help of his friends at American Legion Post 1 in Warren. "Patriotism has gone away," he said.

Thousands of World War I veterans and their families

There are about 260 memorial markers on the Michigan War Veterans Memorial on the southwest corner of the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

Weather-worn mortar would be replaced and the cracked limestone ledge that surrounds the monument would be swapped for marble, Neijndorff said. The buckled sidewalk would be replaced with brick pavers — purchased and engraved by veterans and their families.

As for the eternal flame? It could be replaced by a lightbulb or a flagpole.

"It's disgraceful the way they let it go like this," Neijndorff said. "It's in pretty bad shape."

Maintaining veteran monuments is the responsibility of local veterans' groups and municipalities, said Hubert Hess of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

He said the state only maintains its monuments, those located on the grounds of the Cap-

showed up in 1939 when the 50-foot-tall monument was dedicated. Homing pigeons flew and the eternal flame flickered.

Fixing the memorial would cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000, said Chris Neijndorff, project manager with Grunwell-Cashero Co. in Detroit, a restoration firm working with the veterans.

Please see MEMORIAL, Page 4B

(Continued from page 2)

have proved transitory.

The spire was completed Set. 9, 1939, on a site donated by the State Fair Board at the behest of the Allied Veterans Council. It was built of memorial stones sent by veterans groups throughout Michigan and Sept. 9 since has been designated as Veterans Day at the Fair.

Natural gas pumped up from the site was the original

"eternal" flame, but it burned out in a few years and until 1954 there was no light at all. Then the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. piped gas to feed the flame on days when the Fair was in progress.

Dark Last Year

After the close of the fair in 1956, Donald C. Shand, then public lighting commissioner and a VFW leader suggested a light which really would burn

perpetually.

"While this idea was being put through, the monument remained dark through 1957", said Michael Whalen, Allied Veterans Council secretary. "Veterans will be happy to see it lit Thursday night, to burn day and night from then on, we hope."

Prologue

There is a reason that the veterans and patriotic citizens who comprise the State Fair Veterans Memorial Committee (SFVMC) has come together at this time to undertake this project.

It is the spirit of the Veterans Memorial which inspired the same type of group back in 1939 to erect it in the first place; War Veterans should be remembered and honored.

The SFVMC has come together to restore this treasure which sits in the state's largest city. It is to my knowledge the only Memorial Dedicated to the memory of War Veterans in the City of Detroit. During this time of new construction and revitalization going on in downtown Detroit and elsewhere, nothing would be more appropriate than including the War Memorial.

We will be needing the same type of patriotic support from our city council members, the mayor, governor, Veteran Service Organizations and our citizens, that Clarence H. Dusenberry, director of Veterans'



activities for the Fair had in 1939. Our goal is to complete the restoration and relight the eternal flame on the Memorial by September 9, 2009. That would be the 70th year anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial.

I'm sure that our predecessors would be proud of us if we can succeed.



VETERANS IN 1939

STEPPED UP TO
PROVIDE THIS
TRIBUTE TO
VETERANS.

VETERANS IN 1957

STEPPED UP TO
RELIGHT THE
FLAME

VETERANS IN 2007

ARE STEPPING UP
TO RESTORE THE
MONUMENT FOR
THE PURPOSES IT
WAS INTENDED
VETERANS AFTER
US WILL CONTINUE
THE EFFORT.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 1939.

September 9, 1939 Kindle Flame for War Vets Fair to See Dedication of Memorial

Dedication of the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was the principal event at the Michigan State Fair today. The memorial was built from stones donated by most of the posts of veterans organizations in the state. It stands in the southwest corner of the Fair grounds. Natural gas drilled from the ground only a few feet away will furnish the fuel for the eternal flame which will burn at the top of the memorial. The principal speeches at the dedication were made by Secretary of State Harry F. Kelly and Attorney-General Thomas Read. A representative of the G.A.R. Lighted the eternal Flame. Following the dedication, a drum and bugle corps contest was held on the Mall.

Peace Flame Flares at Fair War Veterans Memorial Is Dedicated

With a prayer for peace, the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was unveiled at the Michigan State Fair Saturday in the presence of 5,000 persons, most of them veterans of the World War and their

families.

"This is a monument created to honor peace," said Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state, the principal



speaker at the dedicatory exercises. He expressed the wish it would be up to the veterans of the last war to make the next decision as

to when if ever, our country shall go to war. "We veterans here dedicate ourselves to the preservation, in war or peace, of the American theory of government," Kelly said in conclusion.

The peace motif also was stressed in the speech of Atty.-Gen. Thomas Read, who said: "Here today we can look overhead and see nothing more fearsome than clouds. We have nothing to fear from above except the gentle rains"

Bond Of Friendship

There exists between the United States and Canada, he said, "a bond of friendship that can never be erased."

The signal to remove the swathing from the monument was given by Augustus F. Chappell, commander of the Michigan department of the GAR. As the canvas dropped, a cloud of homing pigeons was released and the eternal flame on the top of the monument sprang into light.

PAGE 2

Present at the exercises were representatives of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, United Spanish War Veterans, Grand Army of the Republic, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Polish Legion, Canadian Legion and South African War Veterans, Detroit, Mayor Reading and Dr. Linwood W. Snow, State Fair manager.

Veterans to Relight "Eternal Flame" at Fair-May 27, 1958

The flame that has only fitfully lighted the Veterans Monument on the State Fair grounds soon will burn with the "eternal light" originally intended.

On the eve of Memorial Day, at 8 p.m. Thursday, a new electric torch will be lighted over the spire at Woodward and State Fair in a ceremony to be attended by governmental, civic, patriotic and veteran leaders.

The new torch, constructed through co-operation of the Detroit Edison Co., Walker Sign Co. and the Public Lighting Commission, bears moving electric lights that realistically stimulate a flame. It has been proclaimed as the only such memorial light in the nation.

Other Lights Failed

Other lights for the spire, which is decorated from top to bottom with numerous carved memorial plaques,

(Continued on page 3)



Michigan War Veterans Memorial



DEDICATED TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS AND WHAT THEY DID

DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 10, 1939

Ground Is Broken for Vet Memorial —July 19, 1939



With representatives of a score of veterans' organizations participating, ground was broken today for the **Michigan War Veterans Memorial** at the State Fair Grounds.

The memorial is to be a stone tower, 35 feet high built of stones contributed by 700 posts of veterans groups throughout the State, with an ever-burning light fed by natural gas at the top. The site chosen is at the southwest corner of the Fair Grounds, close to Woodward avenue.

Councilman

Eugene I. Van Antwerp, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, turned the first ground for the tower, with a spade handed him by Paul W. Tara, president of the allied Veterans Council.

Also taking part in the ceremonies were Henry G. Smith, deputy marshal of the United Spanish War Veterans; W. B. Waldrip, state commander of The American Legion; Frank Holland, state commander of the Military Order of the Purple heart; Charles Jones, commander of Harmony Post of the Canadian Legion, and C.H. Dusenberry director of musical entertainment at the Michigan State Fair who conceived the idea for the Memorial.

August 2, 1939

The cornerstone of the Michigan War Veterans Memorial which when completed will

contain engraved stones bearing the names of more than 300 veterans organizations was laid Monday by Paul Tara president of the Allied Veterans Council, and Dr. Linwood W. Snow general manager of the Michigan State Fair.

Located in the southwestern corner of the fair grounds, the memorial has advanced to a stage of construction where it already contains the stones of more than a score of posts.

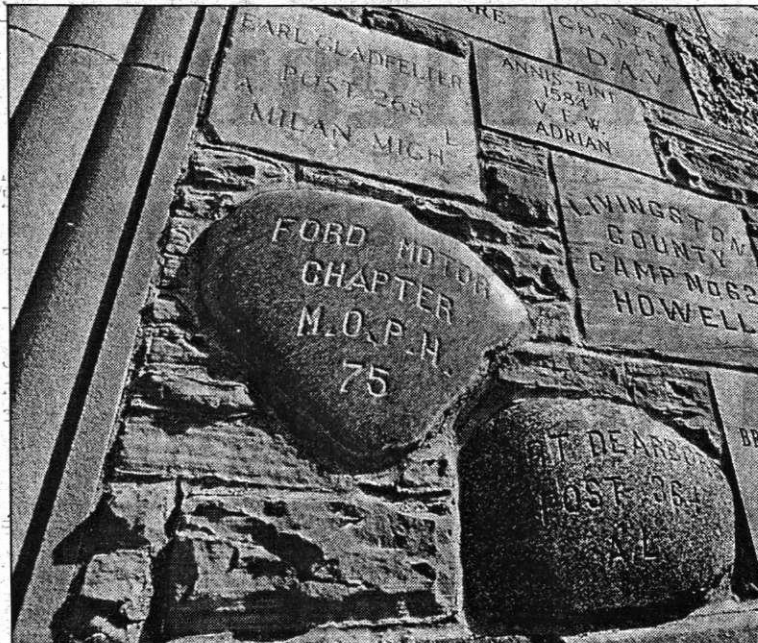
Clarance H. Dusenberry, director of veterans' activities for the fair, said the pillar is the first activity to unite all of Michigan's veterans organizations. It contains tribute to Michigan's war dead in every engagement since the Civil War, he said.

Among the sponsoring groups are the United Spanish War Veterans, The VFW, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Canadian Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic. In his brief address Dr.

Snow dedicated the memorial "to the memory of those living or dead, who served their flag and country so unstintingly."

"We trust that this memorial when completed, will serve as a constant reminder to the youth of Michigan and the nation that this nation shall never perish from the face of the earth," he said.

Among those participating in the ceremony were John W. Gilmore, past department commander of the American Legion; Eugene I. Van Antwerp, commander-in-chief of the VFW; Frank Peterson representing the Great Lakes Command of the Canadian Legion; M.A. Whalen, department adjutant of the Disabled American Veteran; Andrew Johnson and George Tomlinson, members of the State Fair board of managers. The memorial will be completed before the fair opens, Dusenberry said. It will be unveiled officially on Veterans Day



PATRICIA BECK/Detroit Free Press

A group of veterans plans to restore the Michigan War Veterans Memorial at the State Fairgrounds, which has about 260 markers.

MEMORIAL | Veterans to help restore memorial

From Page 1B

itol in Lansing.

The dilemma with local monuments, Hess said, is that time passes and veterans die.

"Who's gonna take care of it?" he asked.

Army veteran Henry Sacha of Canton said he's ready to help.

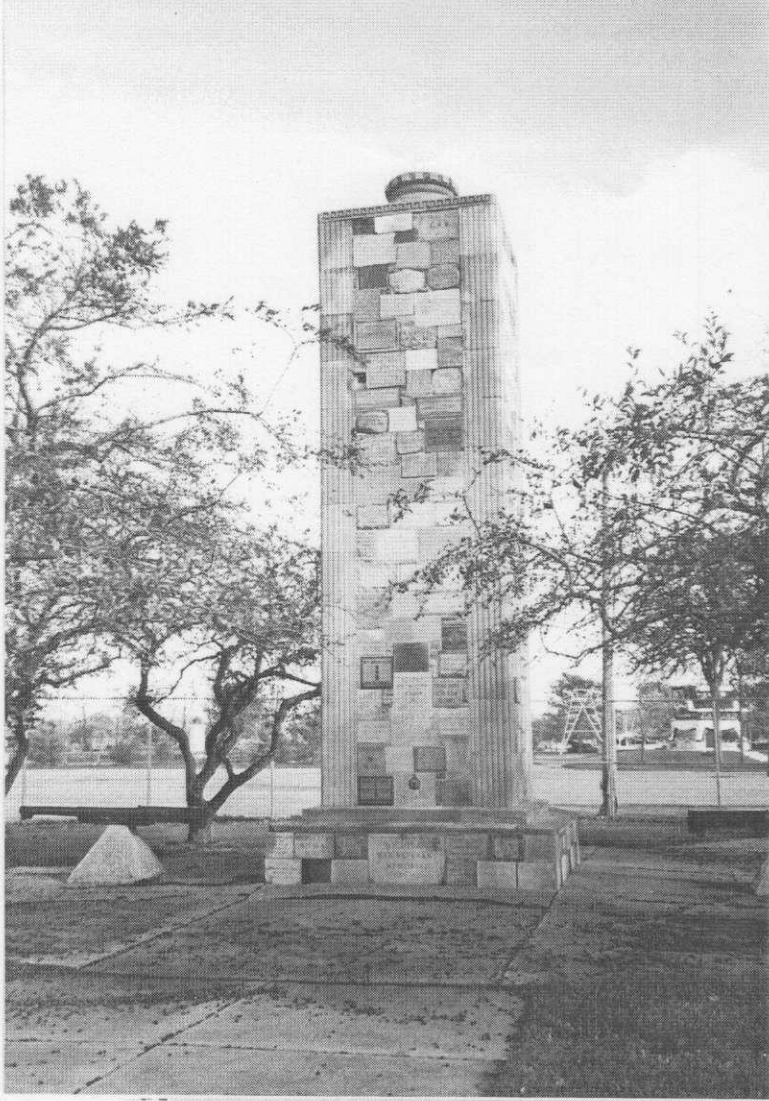
Sacha — a member of the American Legion National Executive Committee — contacted a variety of Michigan veterans organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to gather support.

He said he hopes the groups can raise enough money to see the work done this year.

"I'm disappointed it was allowed to be neglected for so many years," Sacha said. "If it's a monument, it should be a place of pride."

► For more information, call Henry Sacha at 734-397-8929, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. any day.

Contact SALLY TATO at 248-586-2622 or tato@freepress.com.





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The monument is a tall, narrow structure made of light-colored stone blocks. It is covered in numerous plaques of various sizes and shapes, each dedicated to a different American Legion post or veteran organization. The plaques are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some featuring logos and others containing text. The monument is set against a clear blue sky.

Some of the visible plaques include:

- NEW DETROIT POST 155 AMER LEGION
- JAMES F. GORDON JR. POST 202 VFW DETROIT
- DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS OF THE WORLD WAR ONE COUNCIL OF DETROIT
- QUENTIN RODGERS VLT POST 1113 P.L.A.N.
- LAFAYETTE POST NO 2492 INLAY CITY
- WAYNE POST NO 11 AMERICAN LEGION WAYNE
- BUCK CROSBY NO 6 DVA V.W.W. WALAMAZOO MICH
- CUSTER POST 3249 V.F.W. GRAND RAPIDS
- V.F.W. 1075 HARRISON
- A.L. TOM PHILLIPS POST 184 DETROIT
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 73 STURGIS
- MUNICIPAL COUNCIL UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS DETROIT MICH.
- CHERRYLAND POST NO. 8780 V.F.W. TRAVERSE CITY
- GEORGE W. ROGERS POST 2650 V.F.W. JACKSON, MICH.
- FRUIT BELT POST NO 1137 V.F.W. BENTON HARBOR
- AMERICAN LEGION ATKINSON POST 177 VASSAR, MICH.
- WALLIS WAINWRIGHT HACK POST NO 314 AMERICAN LEGION RIVER ROUGE
- PAUL W. HORNADAY POST 1407 VFW FERRISDALE
- FEED-RAYMOND POST 2272 DURAND
- COL. FR. HAMTRAMCK POST 1818 L.A.V. HAMTRAMCK MICH.
- FAIRVIEW 398 VFW
- CENTURY NO. 23 LAST MAN POST DETROIT
- VALLEY CITY POST 358 THE AMERICAN LEGION
- LESLIE AMERICAN LEGION
- EWEN POST 41 EWEN
- GEN GEORGE POMUTZ POST 348 A.L. POLISH AMERICAN VETERANS DETROIT
- ROBERT KING
- POLAR BEAR

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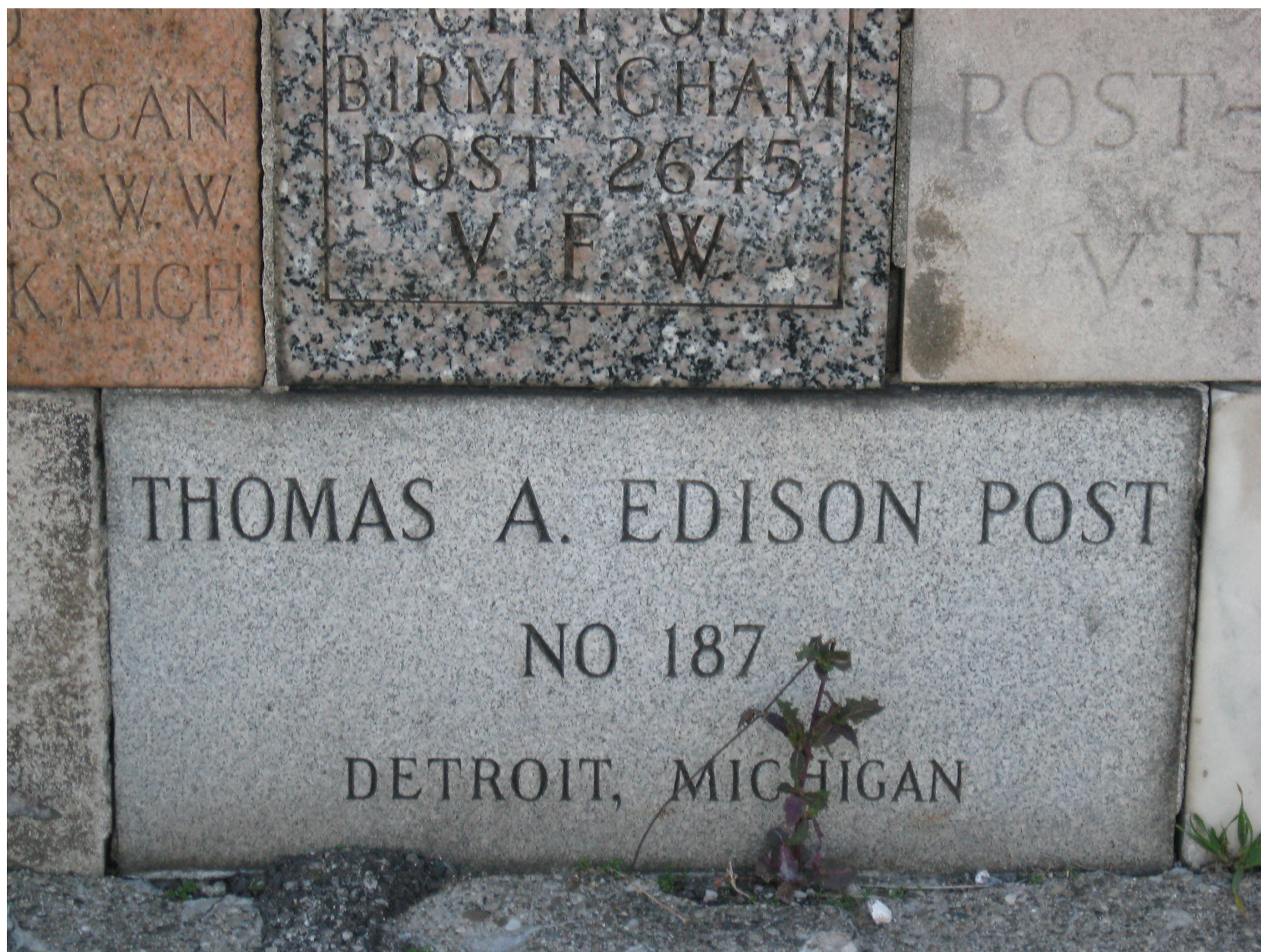
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DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
GRAND ARMY
OF THE
REPUBLIC
1861 — 1865



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MONS POST NO 79
 CANADIAN LEGION
 FLINT
 KOSCIUSKO
 POST 200 A.L.
 DETROIT
 POLY-LEGION
 OF AMERICAN
 VETERANS
 DEPT OF MICH
 FERDINAND C. DEBRICH
 U.S.W.V.
 CAMP NO. 46
 ALLICAN
 HARDING OLK
 CHADGE
 POST 18
 BAY CITY MICH.
 POST 2825
 V.F.W.
 WALTER MILLER
 POST NO. 220
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 PLAINWELL
 GROVES WALKER POST
 NO. 346
 FARMINGTON, MICH.
 ROSE CITY POST 324
 AMERICAN LEGION
 JACKSON, MICH.
 WM STOPPELS
 POST NO 323
 MUSKOGON
 GENESEE
 CHAPTER 9
 DAY OF V.W. 3
 FLINT
 SECOND DIVISION
 ASSOCIATION
 A.E.F.
 DETROIT BRANCH
 HAZEL PARK
 POST 3140
 V.F.W.
 HERMAN A STRIBER
 POST 2062
 ROMEO MICH
 CHAPTER NO. 11
 D.A.V.
 MUSKOGON
 CORP.
 JAMES W. JOHNSON
 POST 78 V.F.W.
 DETROIT
 CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
 POST 354 A.L.
 DETROIT
 A.L.
 LLOYD H. GREEN 147
 NORTHVILLE
 VERNOR POST
 NO 251 A.L.
 DETROIT
 V.F.W.
 POST 2408
 YPSILANTI
 A.L.
 REBEC-SWEET
 EAST JORDAN
 POST 227
 A.L.
 OF THE
 W.W.
 PORT HURON CHAPTER
 NO 12
 ERWIN PRIESKORN
 POST 46
 ANN ARBOR
 RED ARROW 32ND DIV.
 POST 361
 AMERICAN LEGION-DETROIT
 MERRITT LAMB
 POST NO 9
 MUSKOGON



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Michigan War Veterans Memorial

"We trust that this memorial, when completed, will serve as a constant reminder to the youth of Michigan and the nation that this nation shall never perish from the face of the earth!"

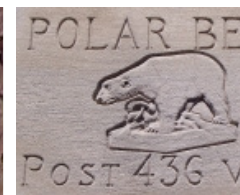
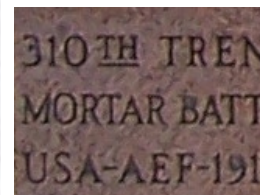
Dr. Linwood Snow, General Manager of the Michigan State Fair, August 2, 1939
at the laying of the cornerstone for the Michigan War Veterans Memorial



On September 10, 1939, nine days after Germany's invasion of Poland and the start of what would become World War II, the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was dedicated during a ceremony attended by 5,000 people, who were mostly veterans of the Great War and their families.

The Memorial was designed to honor Michigan's military veterans of all wars and conflicts and was dedicated *"to the memory of those living or dead, who served their flag and country so unstintingly"*. Its four sides contain about 250 stones identifying various veterans organizations from all across the state of Michigan. Represented were organizations consisting of veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Great War and the Allied intervention in North Russia of 1918-1919. A full list of the contributors of the stones [can be found here](#).

Michigan's Secretary of State, Harry F. Kelly, was the main speaker during the dedication ceremony and the eternal flame on top of the memorial was lit by Augustus F. Chappell, who was commander of the Michigan Department of the GAR.





The Michigan War Veterans Memorial
(June 2006 photo)

This unique Memorial is located at the northeast corner of Woodward and State Fair Avenues in Detroit, MI. For many years, the Memorial was the scene of the annual "Veteran's Day" activities of the Michigan State Fair. More information about the history of the Memorial [can be found here](#).

Over the years, the Memorial has been sadly neglected and is now in need of significant structural and cosmetic restoration. The eternal flame's gas supply has been shut off for decades. The foundation is settling and some of the stones have fallen off. It has been estimated that it will take about \$250,000 to restore the Memorial to all its former glory.



The "Relight the Flame" Fundraising Campaign has been established, whose objective is to raise the necessary funds so the Memorial can be restored and re-dedicated on Armed Forces Day at the 2009 Michigan State Fair - the 70th anniversary of its original dedication.



The Campaign is being conducted by the State Fair Michigan War Veterans Memorial Committee, under the leadership of Chairperson Steven R. Jenkins, Vice Chairperson Paul Palazzolo and Secretary/Treasurer Richard I. Chatman. More information about the "Relight the Flame" Fundraising Campaign [can be found here](#).

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Your financial help is greatly appreciated. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Friends of the Michigan State Fair
4180 Anthony Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

Please note on your check: "For Michigan War Veterans Memorial".
Friends of the Michigan State Fair is a 501c-3 organization.



A Patriot's Day ceremony will be held at the Memorial on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 10:30 AM.

101-DET-31, 42.439621, -83.119571

Committee Chairperson: Steven R. Jenkins

Committee Vice Chairperson: Paul Palazzolo

Committee Secretary/Treasurer: Richard I. Chatman

On September 10, 1939, with a prayer for peace, the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was dedicated at the Michigan State Fair. It was done in the presence of 5,000 persons most of them veterans of the World War and their Families.

Harry F. Kelly secretary of state, was the principal speaker and Augustus F. Chappell, commander of the Michigan Department of the GAR ignited the eternal flame located atop of the memorial, that was to burn 24 X 7 to honor the memories of Veterans of all wars and conflicts. 69years later, the State Fair Michigan War Veterans Memorial Committee & The Friends of The Michigan State Fair are asking all our Veterans and Patriotic citizens to help us in our goal of raising \$250,000.00 to renovate the Memorial and relight the flame.

Our goal is to complete the project for a rededication ceremony to be held, in September,

2009 on Armed Forces Day at the State Fair, which would mark the 70th anniversary of the War Memorial. Presently there are over 241 stones in the Memorial dedicated to Veteran organizations from across the great state of Michigan.

When complete the practice of having stones placed on the memorial by veterans

groups will resume. Please help us reach our goal by donating to our "Relight The Flame" campaign. Tax deductible donations can be sent to:

State Fair Michigan

War Veterans Memorial Committee

101-DET-31, 42.439621, -83.119571

Friends of Michigan State Fair

4180 Anthony Drive

Sterling Heights, Mi. 48310

FOMSF is a 501c-3 organization

****Please Note on the donation _ For**

Michigan War Veterans Memorial.**

For Further Information Contact:

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Business Name

Michigan War Veterans Memorial



DEDICATED TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS AND WHAT THEY DID

DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 10, 1939



Ground Is Broken for Vet Memorial —July 19, 1939

Eugene I. Van Antwerp, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, turned the first ground for the tower, with a spade handed him by Paul W. Tara, president of the allied Veterans Council.

contain engraved stones bearing the names of more than 300 veterans organizations was laid Monday by Paul Tara president of the Allied Veterans Council, and Dr. Linwood W. Snow general manager of the Michigan State Fair.

Located in the southwestern corner of the fair grounds, the memorial has advanced to a stage of construction where it already contains the stones of more than a score of posts.

Clarence H. Dusenberry, director of veterans' activities for the fair, said the pillar is the first activity to unite all of Michigan's veterans organizations. It contains tribute to Michigan's war dead in every engagement since the Civil War, he said.

Among the sponsoring groups are the United Spanish War Veterans, The VFW, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Canadian Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic. In his brief address Dr.

Snow dedicated the memorial "to the memory of those living or dead, who served their flag and country so unstintingly."

"We trust that this memorial when completed, will serve as a constant reminder to the youth of Michigan and the nation that this nation shall never perish from the face of the earth," he said.

Among those participating in the ceremony were John W. Gilmore, past department commander of the American Legion; Eugene I. Van Antwerp, commander-in-chief of the VFW; Frank Peterson representing the Great Lakes Command of the Canadian Legion; M.A. Whalen, department adjutant of the Disabled American Veteran; Andrew Johnson and George Tomlinson, members of the State Fair board of managers. The memorial will be completed before the fair opens, Dusenberry said. It will be unveiled officially on Veterans Day

With representatives of a score of veterans' organizations participating, ground was broken today for the **Michigan War Veterans Memorial** at the State Fair Grounds.

The memorial is to be a stone tower, 35 feet high built of stones contributed by 700 posts of veterans groups throughout the State, with an ever-burning light fed by natural gas at the top. The site chosen is at the southwest corner of the Fair Grounds, close to Woodward avenue.

Councilman

Also taking part in the ceremonies were Henry G. Smith, deputy marshal of the United Spanish War Veterans; W. B. Waldrip, state commander of The American Legion; Frank Holland, state commander of the Military Order of the Purple heart; Charles Jones, commander of Harmony Post of the Canadian Legion, and C.H. Dusenberry director of musical entertainment at the Michigan State Fair who conceived the idea for the Memorial.

August 2, 1939

The cornerstone of the Michigan War Veterans Memorial which when completed will

Saturday, Sept. 9, 1939.

September 9, 1939

Kindle Flame for War Vets

Fair to See Dedication of Memorial

Dedication of the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was the principal event at the Michigan State Fair today. The memorial was built from stones donated by most of the posts of veterans organizations in the state. It stands in the southwest corner of the Fair grounds. Natural gas drilled from the ground only a few feet away will furnish the fuel for the eternal flame which will burn at the top of the memorial. The principal speeches at the dedication were made by Secretary of State Harry F. Kelly and Attorney-General Thomas Read. A representative of the G.A.R. Lighted the eternal Flame. Following the dedication, a drum and bugle corps contest was held on the Mall.

Peace Flame Flares at Fair

War Veterans Memorial Is Dedicated

With a prayer for peace, the Michigan War Veterans Memorial was unveiled at the Michigan State Fair Saturday in the presence of 5,000 persons, most of them veterans of the World War and their

families.

"This is a monument created to honor peace," said Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state, the principal speaker at the dedicatory exercises. He expressed the wish it would be up to the veterans of the last war to make the next decision as

to when if ever, our country shall go to war. "We veterans here dedicate ourselves to the preservation, in war or peace, of the American theory of government," Kelly said in conclusion.

The peace motif also was stressed in the speech of Atty.-Gen. Thomas Read, who said: "Here today we can look overhead and see nothing more fearsome than clouds. We have nothing to fear from above except the gentle rains"

Bond Of Friendship

There exists between the United States and Canada, he said, "a bond of friendship that can never be erased."

The signal to remove the swathing from the monument was given by Augustus F. Chappell, commander of the Michigan department of the GAR. As the canvas dropped, a cloud of homing pigeons was released and the eternal flame on the top of the monument sprang into light.

PAGE 2

Present at the exercises were representatives of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, United Spanish War Veterans, Grand Army of the Republic, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Polish Legion, Canadian Legion and South African War Veterans, Detroit, Mayor Reading and Dr. Linwood W. Snow, State Fair manager.

Veterans to Relight "Eternal Flame" at Fair-May 27, 1958

The flame that has only fitfully lighted the Veterans Monument on the State Fair grounds soon will burn with the "eternal light" originally intended.

On the eve of Memorial Day, at 8 p.m. Thursday, a new electric torch will be lighted over the spire at Woodward and State Fair in a ceremony to be attended by governmental, civic, patriotic and veteran leaders.

The new torch, constructed through co-operation of the Detroit Edison Co., Walker Sign Co. and the Public Lighting Commission, bears moving electric lights that realistically stimulate a flame. It has been proclaimed as the only such memorial light in the nation.

Other Lights Failed

Other lights for the spire, which is decorated from top to bottom with numerous carved memorial plaques,

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

have proved transitory.

The spire was completed Set.9, 1939, on a site donated by the State Fair Board at the behest of the Allied Veterans Council. It was built of memorial stones sent by veterans groups throughout Michigan and Sept. 9 since has been designated as Veterans Day at the Fair.

Natural gas pumped up from the site was the original

"eternal" flame, but it burned out in a few years and until 1954 there was no light at all. Then the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. piped gas to feed the flame on days when the Fair was in progress.

Dark Last Year

After the close of the fair in 1956, Donald C. Shand, then public lighting commissioner and a VFW leader suggested a light which really would burn

perpetually.

"While this idea was being put through, the monument remained dark through 1957", said Michael Whalen, Allied Veterans Council secretary. "Veterans will be happy to see it lit Thursday night, to burn day and night from then on, we hope."

Prologue

There is a reason that the veterans and patriotic citizens who comprise the **State Fair Veterans Memorial Committee (SFVMC)** has come together at this time to undertake this project.

It is the spirit of the Veterans Memorial which inspired the same type of group back in 1939 to erect it in the first place; **War Veterans should be remembered and honored.**

The SFVMC has come together to restore this treasure which sits in the state's largest city. It is to my knowledge the only Memorial Dedicated to the memory of War Veterans in the City of Detroit. During this time of new construction and revitalization going on in downtown Detroit and elsewhere, nothing would be more appropriate than including the War Memorial.

We will be needing the same type of patriotic support from our city council members, the mayor, governor, Veteran Service Organizations and our citizens, that Clarence H. Dusenberry, director of Veterans'



activities for the Fair had in 1939.

Our goal is to complete the restoration and relight the eternal flame on the Memorial by September 9, 2009. That would be the 70th year anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial.

I'm sure that our predecessors would be proud of us if we can succeed.



VETERANS IN 1939

STEPPED UP TO
PROVIDE THIS
TRIBUTE TO
VETERANS.

VETERANS IN 1957

STEPPED UP TO
RELIGHT THE
FLAME

VETERANS IN 2007

ARE STEPPING UP
TO RESTORE THE
MONUMENT FOR
THE PURPOSES IT
WAS INTENDED
VETERANS AFTER
US WILL CONTINUE
THE EFFORT.