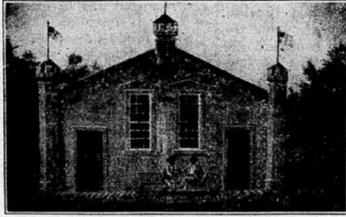


TURNER SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Pioneer among the German Societies of Minnesota was Fifty Years Old Last Sunday, November 11th.

THE EVENT CELEBRATED IN A BEFITTING AND ELABORATE STYLE.



The Turners' First Hall.

Members Who have been True to the National Organization for 50 Years and to the Society for 25 Years Rewarded.

MANY OUTSIDE VISITORS HELP TO MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS.

Sunday marked the end of fifty years of existence of the Turner society of this city and the event was fittingly observed by the members of the society in a three-days, celebration that has had all the characteristics incident to the organization, in fact it has been something that would have been next to impossible in any other city in the state. The anniversary not only marks the fifty years since the organization of the society in this city but in the state, as it was here that the Turners first set up their standard through the instrumentality of thirteen of the original settlers of this city. The celebration commenced on Friday though there was little to attract attention until late in the evening when the members of the society held a reception and banquet which was designed to be exclusively for the members of the local organization and a few of the members of other societies invited for the occasion.

pleasure to all of the members and to the committee which has had the matter in charge.

Saturday the day was spent largely in the entertainment of those who had come from abroad and were spending the day in the city. A committee appointed for that purpose met all of the trains and received those who were expected, and they were given a good time until evening when the theatre was crowded by the members of the society and others of the city to witness the presentation of the German play by members of the dramatic section of the Turnverein called "Der Bärenführer".

The play was presented in a very able manner and won the appreciation of the large audience, various parts of it being warmly applauded and eliciting flattering compliments. Those who took part in it acquitted themselves with credit and it is said by those who are capable of passing criticism on the play that it was the best that the local

patches from all parts of the country, and renditions of the Turner Hall Orchestra filled up a very pretty and instructive program. A dance followed, which lasted until the small hours of the morning.

A list of those to whom diplomas were awarded follows: Peter Mack, John Stamm, Leon. Haerberle, F. Burg Jr., Peter Herrian, Aug. Seiter, Jac. Pfenninger, Fr. Burg Sr., John C. Taberer, Weigand Hauenstein, John Hauenstein, Ernst Brandt, Henry Engel, Adolph G. Seiter, Henry Frenzel, Franz Grebe, Karl Schroeck, Jul. Berndt, Henry Keller, Gustav Fischer, Robert Nix, John Lind, Wm. Pfander Jr., Wm. Frank.

The New Ulm society is the oldest turner society in the state. It has a certain standing in the societies of the national organization that is unique and forceful. There are in the list of national officers three men who were at one time members of this society.

place, they were imbued with the same purpose—freedom from the tyranny of the city and the encroachments of society upon their liberal ideas and socialistic views. Believing that socialism in proper doses regulates the movements of humanity, adjusts the differences between right and wrong, steps in and arbitrates between labor and capital; defends the poor and holds checkrein upon the rich, the founders of the city were in that sense socialists from these two cities.

Among the first arrivals in 1855 was Adolph Seiter, who built a log cabin a little west of the present site of what is now New Ulm and established a primitive country store, having for his customers many of the Indians from what was known as the lower agency. Here it was, on Nov. 11, 1856, that the New Ulm Turnverein had its birth. The Seiter building was about 12x14 feet in size and barely high enough for a tall man to stand erect in.

and campers, who built fires about it until, in 1866, it passed away in smoke.

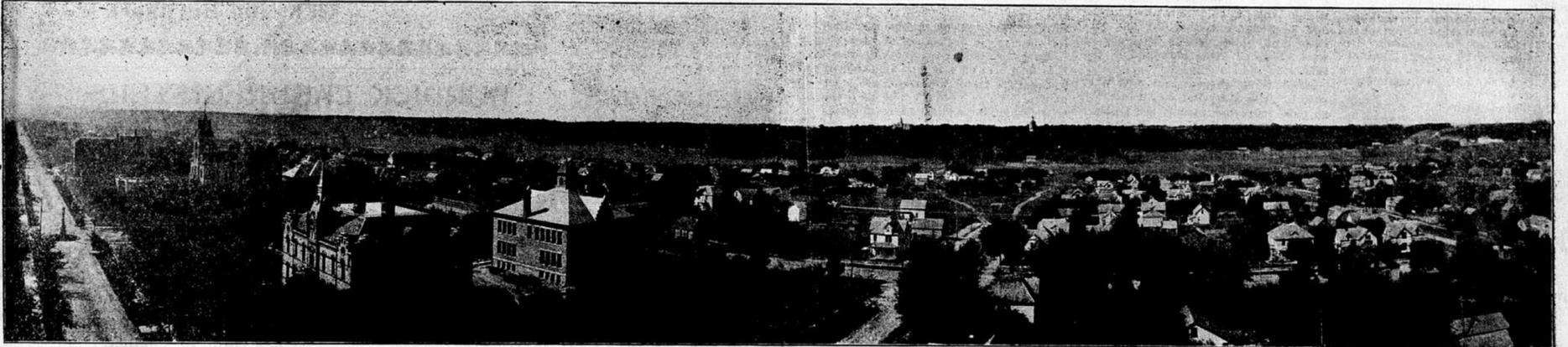
The first hall or meeting place was a frame structure built in 1858 on the site of the present building. It was constructed of lumber sawed on the banks of the river by a mill operated by the colony and was the first building for the holding of dances and public parties in the town. It stood until 1862, when it was destroyed by the Indians.

Although work was plenty in those days and the people had enough to eat and wear, yet the scarcity of money was a remarkable circumstance. Everybody who owed anyone gave orders on someone else in payment. A man did not expect any cash for his labor; it was an order on a store, saloon or hotel. In the building of Turner hall only a few dollars changed hands. The sawmills and carpenters took their little slips of paper and got what they needed in trade. All the money expended in its construction was for the

The place was dedicated on Jan. 26, 1901. People came from all over the state and a banquet was served. As the building stands today it has cost the society a little more than \$30,000. It contains a theater with a seating capacity of 800 and a stage accommodating as large troupes as ordinarily play in any of the cities of the state. It has a gymnasium in the basement, a large dining room and kitchen, several card rooms, a lecture hall and a small hall that is used by the militia company as an armory, and a saloon. A beautiful park belonging to the society adjoins the hall and in the rear is a pavilion where open air concerts and entertainments are provided.

The character of the Turnverein is essentially German, but in it are found many different nationalities. The superintendent of the Sunday school is a Scotchman and does not understand the German language.

The story of the origin of Turner societies is unique and lies at the foundation of the German empire.



Bird's Eye View of New Ulm in the Vicinity of Turner Hall.

The members were called together in the hall and listened to a reading of the names of all who belonged to the organization and then they adjourned to the dining room where they were served with an excellent meal that had been provided by the ladies of the society. The room was very prettily decorated the decorations including a variety of cut and potted flowers and flags and bunting.

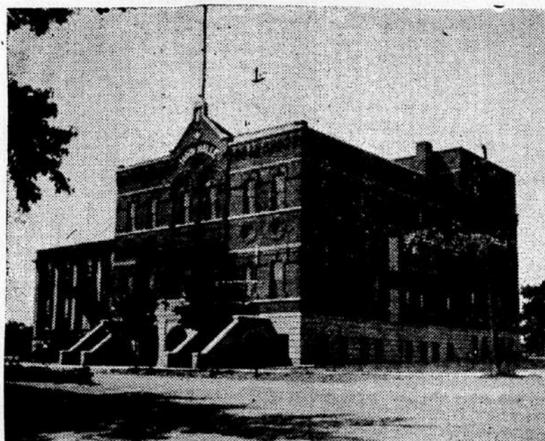
During the progress of the meal the orchestra played a number of selections, and at the conclusion Wm. E. Koch acting as toastmaster introduced a number of speakers. Mrs. Henry Engel on behalf of the ladies, society at the conclusion of her address presented to the president of the Turnverein a purse of \$500. Mr. Steinhauser thanked her and the ladies for their timely and thoughtful enterprise in a few well-chosen remarks.

Among those called upon to make remarks were Ernst Brandt and J. C. Toberer, the two charter members of the society living in this city, the

talent has ever produced.

The real celebration and that which marks the day and the time of the organization of the society was Sunday and on that day there was an excursion from the Twin cities that brought in a crowd of some 150 people, many of whom stayed over until Monday morning, attending the anniversary exercises in the evening and the dance later on.

The celebration on Sunday was a public affair and well befitting the importance of the occasion. The festival oration was delivered by Capt. Albert Steinhauser, president of the society. He dwelt at length upon the purpose and aim of the Turner societies in general and upon the trials the local society was forced to pass through under the stress of circumstances until it now, upon its fiftieth birthday anniversary, can pass its days in peace in a magnificent new hall, dedicated to the purposes of the society and to the advancement of the community in general.



The New Turner Hall.

glass and the nails that went into it, and this item was a small one of its actual cost.

Out of the thirteen original members the officers chosen were, president, C. Koehne; vice-president, Aug. Schell; rec. secretary, E. Gerstenhauer; corr. secretary, William Pfander; instructor, William Hummel, treasurer, H. Haub. Of these officers there are living today, Gerstenhauer in Winona, Koehne in Indianapolis, Haub in St. Paul, Hummel in Spokane. Besides these there are only two others of the original charter members alive, J. C. Toberer and Ernst Brandt of this city.

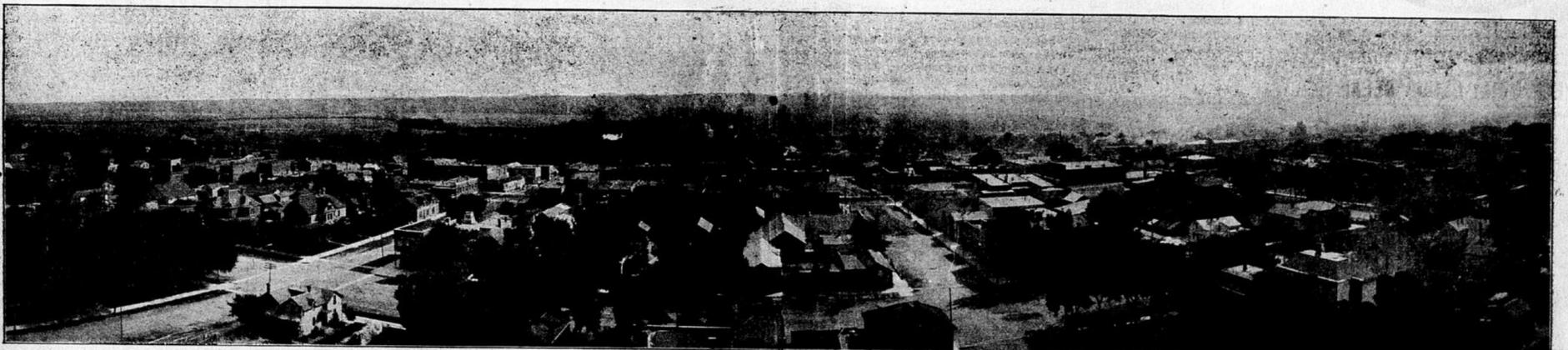
After the Indians had destroyed the hall and about two hundred other buildings, there was a period of three years when the society was without a home. Most of the men of the city were in the army in the south and business was at a standstill, but upon their return at the close of the war, preparations were made for the rebuilding of the hall. On July 4, 1865, the cornerstone of a brick building was laid and

There was a time in the history of the German people when they were physically weak and unable to cope with foreign invaders. At the time Napoleon invaded Prussia and dominated the country the Germans were powerless to resist the oppression and Frederick L. Jahn conceived the idea of physical culture; as a means of developing his countrymen into a stronger and more enduring race.

His efforts were rewarded and gradually his system was embraced until the whole empire had adopted it after a fashion. In 1811 at Berlin the first gymnasium was established and eventually systematic training and exercise were made a compulsory part of the instruction of the youth of the land. The result manifested itself in the character of the later generations of the German race, who have demonstrated that they are physically and mentally capable of coping with any of the powers of the world.

The membership of the New Ulm society is something over one hundred. At one time it was the dominating influence of the city, dictating its government and electing whomever it pleased. Nor was its power confined to the city, for New Ulm for years controlled the county elections.

Turner hall has ever been and is now



Bird's Eye View of the Lower Town.

third one of the original thirteen members, E. Gerstenhauer, being unable to be present; others were John Hauenstein, Prof. Richard Fischer, Henry Heimerdinger and Carl Baehr, editor of the Freie Presse-Herold of Minneapolis.

The leading address of the evening was that of Capt. Albert Steinhauser, who presented to all of those who have been members of the society for the past twenty-five years, diplomas significant of that fact. These diplomas were delivered to each of those so honored by Miss Marie Neumann and Miss Ida Roskopf.

There were about two hundred and fifty people present at the banquet, and the evening was one of unalloyed

Two of the surviving founders of the Turnverein, John C. Toberer and Ernst Brandt, were presented with diplomas for 50 years' membership in the North-American Gymnastic Union. In absence of the national officers Carl Baehr, editor of the Minneapolis Freie Presse-Herold, presented the diplomas in the name of the Union.

A new flag was presented to the Turnverein by its ladies' society, and this occasion developed into a very pretty and befitting act, during the course of which Mrs. L. G. Bell recited "The Star-Spangled Banners" in German and the orchestra played the German and American national airs.

A tableau, songs by the Männerchor, reading of congratulatory dis-

The president, or first speaker, as he is called, of the national organization, is Herman Lieber, one of the first members of this society; the second speaker, Robert Nix was born in this city and for several years was superintendent of the schools here, and one member of the executive committee, Hugo Fischer, was also born in this city; all are now residents of Indianapolis, where the headquarters of the national organization is located.

The society's golden jubilee revives all the memories of the first settlement of this city, for the history of the organization is the history of the city. When the two German colonization companies, one from Cincinnati and the other from Chicago, met in this

On Sunday afternoon, either at Seiter's or at Fred Behnke's, also a public resort, the settlers would come together and the topics of the day would be debated.

Old settlers distinctly remember the large cottonwood tree which stood high above its fellows, welcoming the breezes of summer among its leaves and baring its unprotected limbs to the blasts of the winter. It was under the branches of this tree on a beautiful November day that tables and seats were arranged in the open air and thirteen young men organized the Turner society.

The tree was eight feet in diameter and, surviving the Indian raid, finally yielded to the ravages of bee hunters

the following winter the block was dedicated.

In 1872 what was known as the east wing was added to the structure and this, as well as the main part of the building, was used for a long time as a school. The society continued to grow until it became too large for its new home and began to look about for larger quarters.

It was decided in 1899 to build and plans were asked for and finally adopted calling for a structure 60x112 feet with a gymnasium 40x60 feet. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 9, 1900, amid imposing ceremonies. Colonel William Pfander, the founder of the society, delivered the German address and A. J. Alwin the address in English.

practically the only place of general entertainment in the city. The Bohemian character of the people who resort there of an evening, the freedom that is tolerated, the provision for amusement and the courtesy of the bar to those who like to drink, combined to make the place one of great attraction.

The charter members of the society were William Pfander, Charles Koehne, Adolph Seiter, George Guetlich, Henry Knieff, Henry Haub, Eugene Gerstenhauer, William Hummel, Ernst Brandt, J. C. Toberer, George Fein, August Schell, Xavier Stoffer and William Peterman. Only seven of these are living. Pfander, so long the society's president, died in the past year. He was state treasurer four years and was the last of the Lincoln presidential electors from this state. He won distinction on the battlefield of Shiloh.