

With Parade and Pretty Ceremony—Banquet at Night to the Distinguished Visitors.

Under the impressive funeral ceremonies of the Woodmen of the World and in the presence of at least 3,000 people the monumental tomb erected to the memory of deceased members at Metairie Cemetery was unveiled at 4:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Congressman Morris Sheppard, Sovereign Banker of the Order, delivered the oration of the day, which proved so intensely interesting that during the entire time he was speaking the slightest noise was not heard from the vast throng.

At 2:20 o'clock in the afternoon the procession, headed for the cemetery, left Camp and Canal on its long march. Owing to lateness on the part of a number of members the parade was twenty minutes late in leaving the starting point. The procession was headed by Grand Marshal Peter Clements and his aids. Then followed the Uniformed Rank, the military division of the Order. This was made up of camps from this city, Covington and Lockport. The members were dressed in the regulation military blue uniforms used in the United States Army by commissioned officers. Every man carried a bared sword. Following this came a detail

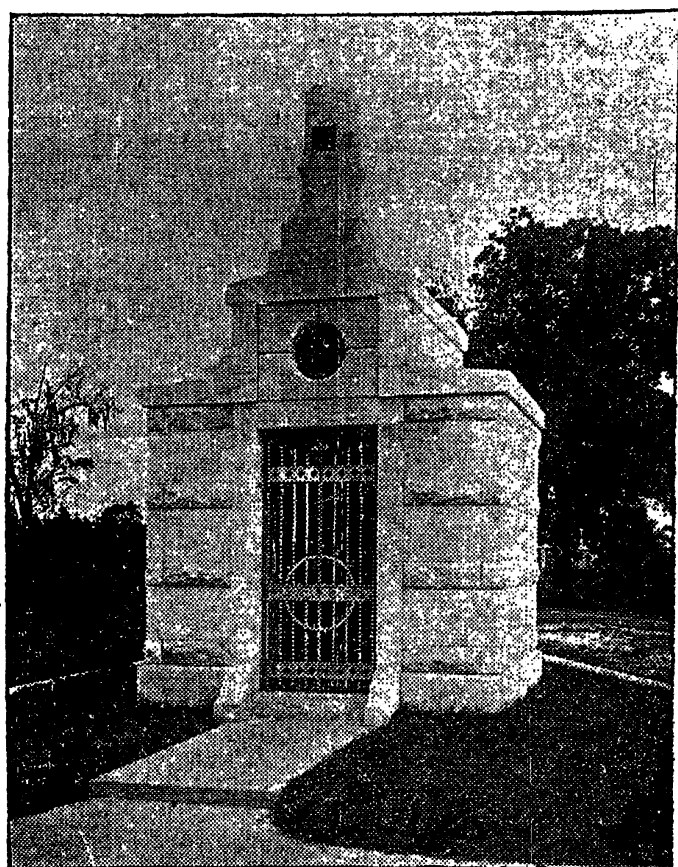
After singing "Rock of Ages" and the W. O. W. hymn and giving the camp honors to the dead the programme was concluded.

BANQUET TO VISITORS,

With a Souvenir to the Absent Sovereign Commander.

At 8 o'clock last evening the Sovereign officers of the order were tendered a banquet in the private dining-room of A. J. Fabacher, on St. Charles Street. There were fifty-six plates laid and a more enjoyable spread was never given in the local history of fraternal organizations. The guests assembled at the St. Charles Hotel, where all the Sovereign officers are stopping, and marched in a body to the restaurant.

As soon as everyone had entered the banquet hall General A. B. Booth, the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, appointed A. B. Harris to act as toastmaster. Repartee flew thick and fast after the speech-making began, it being the order of the evening to confuse as many speakers as possible, but all of them refused to be confused and



WOODMEN OF THE WORLD MONUMENT.

several hundred strong of Woodmen, carrying axes. Behind this were the Boys of Woodcraft, the junior division of the Order. The boys were dressed in khaki uniforms and carried axes. The cavalcade was concluded by several score of carriages carrying the local and visiting officers of the organization.

It took one hour and ten minutes for the parade to reach the cemetery. A large crowd had gathered in the meantime, and by the time the procession reached there was hardly standing room in the open space between the speakers' stand and the monument. Every monument in the vicinity was pressed into service as a grand stand, and at that many people who came to witness the ceremonies were unable to find room to look on.

The Woodmen Monument is composed of Georgia white marble and is built in the style of a vault, surmounted by a broken tree stump. The lot on which it is located is surrounded by a stone coping and is formed into the shape of a wedge, one of the emblems of the Order. The names of deceased members are inscribed on a marble slab just inside the iron gate, which extends across the doorway opening in front of the vault.

Owing to the tremendous crowd at the monument General A. B. Booth, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, decided to curtail the programme, which was opened by the band playing "Nearer, My God, To Thee." Immediately following this Miss Eva Gish recited the poem: "Oh, Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?" She is an excellent elocutionist, and her words were easily heard by the entire audience. Applause followed the conclusion of the recitation.

Walking to the front of the platform with bared head and uplifted arm, General Bell said: "Remove the veil and let God's sunshine fall on this monument to our departed sovereigns." As he said these words Master of Ceremonies Joseph A. Vulliet removed the white curtain revealing the beautiful masonry. The Woodmen Quartette sang: "In the Sweet By and By."

General Bell then introduced Congressman Sheppard to the audience. He said in part:

"Once more the living meet to consecrate the memory of the dead. Once more to gather around the dust that has returned to dust and ashes to ashes. Once more we stand in front of the invisible sea in which every soul is lost. Once more the soul is torn with unbounded woe. But what object is more familiar to us than the grave. We are taught from childhood that we must die. On every side we see the tomb. Every moment has witnessed the flight of mortal lives. Death is the thing of all things best known to man. Death is the most universal fact in human history. Yet we are unable to greet it with serenity. The distress for the loss of others, with us is not more absolute than the fear with which we meet our own demise. How universal is the dread of death and so delightful the thought of physical existence. So horrifying is the thought of the grave it is doubtful if we shall ever get to a stage where we will not shrink from dissolution.

"Socrates was the greatest figure in history. He felt that the grave was just a stepping stone to the future existence of the soul. Four hundred years after this pagan died Christ came to give the world these same teachings. And 1,900 years after the death of this pagan, after all the lessons and warnings of death, some men and women still doubt that future existence.

"Is it possible to show by human argument that the grave is not the end? I think it is. Socrates speaks through his philosophy through all ages. Napoleon has fought more battles after his death than before. Washington has guided this government for a hundred years, and his individuality is still seen. Robert Lee, an Alexander without arrogance, a Cicero without an assassin, still lives. Death did not take him from the South. He sits by every Southern fireside to prompt the spirit of love for home and country. Even though their names had been forgotten the individuality of these men would have somewhere been felt. The Woodmen of the World recognize that there is something more than death in the life of every man. How indestructible is man."

responded to witty questions with humorous answers.

Sovereign Advisor W. A. Frazer was first called for a speech, and said in part:

"Gentlemen, I come from a place named Texas, doubtless but few of you gentlemen from Algiers and suburbs have ever heard of this place, but by way of introduction, I will say that in Texas there are only two classes of people, Democrats and Woodmen."

He then continued on the financial condition of the order, showing how well it was equipped to meet any demands which might be made on the treasury. He said that although the money market in New York was in a very unsteady condition the finances of the Woodmen were in the best of circumstances. At the conclusion he was presented with a beautiful badge, emblematic of the order, to be given to Sovereign Commander Joseph Cullen Root upon his return to Omaha. The badge was a present from Hickory Camp No. 28 and the presentation speech was made by Sovereign H. W. Grover of that camp.

Sovereign Banker Morris Sheppard, of Texarkana, Tex., responded in one of his usual brilliant speeches which captivated the audience, and it was fully five minutes after he had finished speaking before the applause subsided.

Others who responded to toasts were: Sovereign Manager N. B. Maxey, Indian Territory; Sovereign Escort H. F. Simrall, Columbus, Miss.; Sovereign Watchman B. Wood Jewell, Manchester, Iowa; Sovereign Managers C. C. Farmer, Mt. Carroll, Ill.; J. E. Fitzgould, Kansas City, Mo.; L. Q. Rawson, Cleveland, Ohio; T. E. Patterson, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and E. B. Lewis, Kingston, N. C.; Head Clerk Newell C. Butler, Shreveport, La., and General A. B. Booth. Sovereign B. J. McKee responded to the "Boys of Woodcraft," Sovereign H. A. Cronan, to the "Uniform Rank," and E. H. Bradshaw on "The Duties As Sovereign Delegate From Mississippi, Jurisdiction M."

The Banquet Committee consisted of the following persons: J. P. Backes, Otto Levy, W. H. Trackwell, H. W. Grover and A. B. Harris.

An open meeting will be held tonight by the Woodmen at Odd Fellows' Hall to which all members of the order, as well as the public, are invited.