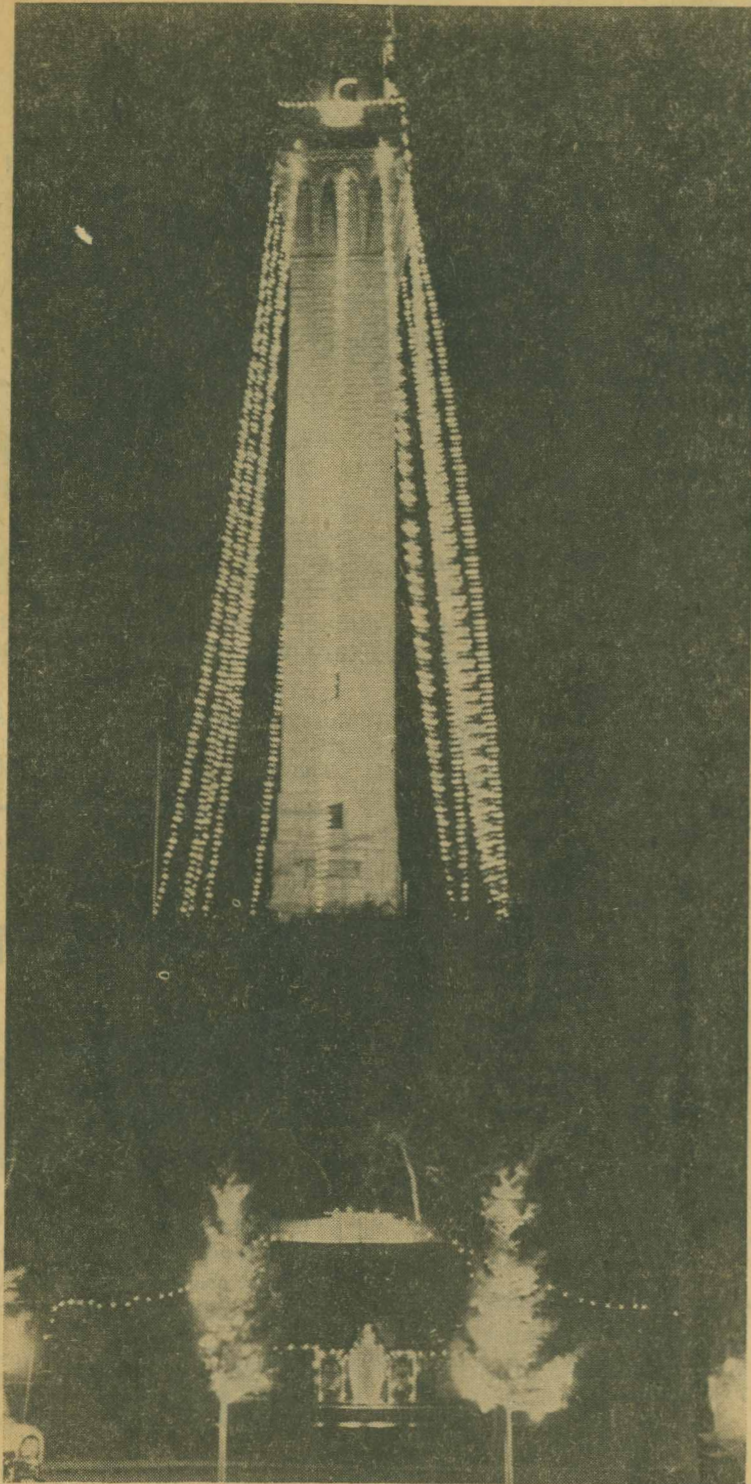


August Eventful In Monument's Story



John D. Bell Photo

Provincetown's lofty monument dominates the end of Cape Cod and can be seen many miles at sea, serving as marker of home and family to weary fishermen. The Pilgrims whom it honors might have rebelled last December when lines of colored light were hung from the summit to the base to make a Christmas display unique in the country with newspapers from coast to coast carrying pictures of it.

Provincetown's lofty Pilgrim Memorial Monument, ascended annually by so many thousands of visitors, is an August child, born under the sign of Leo when a very lion-like President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, laid the corner stone on August 20, 1907, and dedicated on the fifth day of August, 1910 by another President, William Howard Taft, on the anniversary of the day on which the Pilgrims set sail from Southampton for their voyage to these shores.

J. Henry Sears, as first president of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, a position now held by Horace F. Hallett of Provincetown, made the opening address of welcome at the dedication, and his remarks give some of the history of the building of the lofty memorial:—

"On the first day of August, 1620, a little band of English exiles sailed from Delfthaven for Southampton on a small vessel named the Speedwell. They had left England some ten years before and had been residing in Holland, when, becoming discontented, they decided to seek a home in the New World. This little band of Pilgrims numbered about seventy persons, which number was considerably augmented by accessions from London and elsewhere in England who were awaiting the arrival of the Speedwell at Southampton, where the Mayflower lay awaiting the party. On the fifth of August, 1620, two hundred and ninety years ago today, both vessels started on their voyage across the Atlantic. But the Speedwell, leaking badly, they both put back to Dartmouth. On September 2 they again started, but the Speedwell still leaking they again put back, this time to Plymouth, where a portion of the passengers of the Speedwell were transferred to the Mayflower.

Compact Signing

"On the sixteenth of September the Mayflower, with her passengers, numbering 102, sailed for the northern coast of Virginia. On the 9th of November they sighted Cape Cod, and on the 11th they came to anchor in this harbor (Provincetown harbor). The same day, before coming ashore, they signed the Compact, a framework for civil self-government, the basis of the government of this great republic, and elected their governor. To commemorate the landing of the Pilgrims on

American soil and the signing of the Compact this monument has been erected.

"The Mayflower remained in this (Provincetown) harbor for 35 days. During that time parties were sent out to endeavor to find a suitable place for a settlement. After encircling Cape Cod Bay they reached Plymouth where they decided to fix their residence, and later the Mayflower with its company was taken there. The first landing on American soil was in this place; the first settlement was at Plymouth. In this harbor was born the first child of the Pilgrims; here was the first death among the colonists, Dorothy, wife of William Bradford.

"The erection of a monument to commemorate the landing of the Pilgrims had been in the minds of men for more than 50 years. The present association was formed in 1892 and incorporated at that time, but little was done until 1902, when it applied to the General Court for an appropriation of \$25,000. This was granted with a proviso that an equal amount should be provided from other sources. This amount was provided by public subscription, and in 1905 the sum of \$25,000 was paid from the treasury of the Commonwealth.

Congress Appropriates

"In the meantime a bill had been introduced into Congress appropriating the sum of \$40,000, provided an equal amount should be provided from other sources. This bill was before Congress for two terms, but in June, 1907, it was finally passed. The amount in the treasury of the association was now about \$90,000.

"By the terms of the act of Congress the monument must be built under the superintendence of the Secretary of War, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the president of the Pilgrim Memorial Association. These three met and organized by the election of the Secretary of War as president of the commission and the president of the association as its secretary. The commission authorized Lieut-Col. Edward Burr, of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to act as engineer and disbursing officer. Through the consulting architect, Williard T. Sears, advertisements were issued calling for designs for the proposed monument; but it was finally decided to adopt, with some slight modification, the design of a tower in Sienna, Italy. Contracts were made and the work was begun on the foundation in May, 1907.

"The corner stone was laid on

August 20 of that year in the presence of the President of the United States and other distinguished guests. The monument was completed in June of the present year. Placed in the interior of the monument are 180 memorial stones given by different towns and societies.


The monument is built as firmly and as strong as possible for human hands to build. Its summit stands 252 feet above the base and 345 above the sea. The work is now done, and here we, in the presence of our distinguished guests, dedicate it to the American people. It will stand here for generations to recall to the nation the event which was the corner stone of the Republic.

When the corner stone of this monument was laid three years ago, two men stood before our country as leaders of affairs—the

one in politics, the other in education and letters. The first we had with us upon that day of inception, the eyes of the people upon him, their ears strained to listen to his words. Today, at this time of the fruition of our hopes and of our labors, we are able to listen to the educator and scholar, whose name is familiar in two continents, President Emeritus, Charles W. Eliot of Harvard College."

He was the next speaker on the long program.

-August 9, 1956-



Pilgrim Monument

NOW OPEN For The Season

The ascent of the Monument is extremely easy, an inclined plane, after the manner of that in the famous Campanile San Marco in Venice, taking the place of the usual flight of stairs. Persons upward of ninety years and young children have ascended the Monument without fatigue.

Corner Stone laid August 20, 1907 by
President Theodore Roosevelt
Dedicated August 5, 1910 by
President William Howard Taft

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adults 50c Children under 12—25c