

# ADVENTURES

IN WESTERN NEW YORK HISTORY



## The Pan-American Exposition

BY

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*Electric Tower at night reflected in flooded  
grounds after downpour in July, 1901.*





## THE PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION

By

Isabel Vaughan James

**E**VERYBODY loves a fair! What fun it must have been for Buffalonians in the year 1901 to have an outstanding one right here in their own city. People could attend it nearly every day for over six months, from May 1 through November 2, 1901. Its name? The Pan-American Exposition.

The title is somewhat imposing, but when closely examined it is self-explanatory. "Pan" means a union or community of interests. Hence, "Pan-American" is a union of all the Americas: North America, Central America, and South America. An exposition is a public show or display. Add all these words together and we have one of Buffalo's most famous and exciting historical events.

Before we open wide the Exposition gates and take part in this event, let us first find out why an Exposition was held, and especially why it was held in Buffalo.

Early in the 1890's a committee was formed to tour the United States to find a site for a trade fair. However, interest dwindled and the plan was abandoned. When the Cotton States Exposition was held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1895, representatives of Central and South America proposed that a Pan-American Exposition should be held. In June 1897, the Pan-American Exposition Company was formed and in September the directors chose Cayuga Island near Niagara Falls as the place to hold the Exposition. Plans for this fair were put off when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898.

When plans for the Exposition were begun again, there was great rivalry between Buffalo and Niagara Falls over the location. Buffalo was finally chosen for several reasons. Her larger population—350,000 at that time—overshadowed the scenic attractions of Niagara Falls. Buffalo also had an extensive railroad system which placed the city within a day's journey of 40 million people. This area had ". . . the facilities for displaying the new electric age into which the world was entering."

In July 1898, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution which said, "a Pan-American Exposition will undoubtedly be of vast benefit to the commercial interests of the countries of North, South, and Central America." What were these commercial interests? A rapidly growing trade was uniting and developing the interests of two continents. Our best customers and outlets for products were Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina,

and Brazil. The greatest drawbacks to this increasing trade were a lack of acquaintance between the countries and an ignorance as to what things each country produced and needed to buy.

So Congress set aside \$500,000 for an Exposition to be held in Buffalo in 1901. The State Department then invited the governments of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere to take part.

Our local leaders were now faced with the problem of deciding where in the city the Exposition should be located. Twenty different sites were suggested. The site finally chosen was the Rumsey property, together with a portion of Delaware Park. The entire site consisted of 350 acres. East to west the area was one-half mile wide from Delaware Avenue to Elmwood Avenue. North to south the site was one mile long, extending from the New York Central Railroad belt line to Delaware Park. Delaware Lake was to be one of the main water features of the Exposition.

This choice of Exposition grounds was a good one. Trolley car lines extended along three sides of the grounds. For five cents one could ride to the Exposition from any point in the city. It was only 20 minutes away from downtown Buffalo. All trains could stop at the Exposition's northern boundary where a special railroad station and storage warehouses were set up for Exposition use.

On September 26, 1899, ground was broken and the tremendous job of erecting the Exposition was under way. There were buildings to construct; fences and gates to erect; sculpture to carve and install. The planners must create lakes, lagoons, canals, and fountains; gardens, lawns, walks, and roads. Work began immediately and was interrupted only by the worst of winter weather.

A look at the Exposition map on the back page will give an overall picture of the layout. The main buildings were surrounded by a broad and beautiful court in the form of an inverted "T". A large plaza with sunken gardens surrounding a bandstand and terrace for audiences was one of the chief beauty spots. Here, one could listen to two concerts daily given by such outstanding bands as John Philip Sousa's 50 musicians or the Mexican Government's Mounted Band of 62 men.

City funds erected a new casino and boat house which was to be a permanent addition to Delaware Park. It is familiar to all of us. In addition, the city built a three-arch bridge known as the Bridge of the Three Americas.

Many states erected their own buildings. Of special interest to us is the white marble New York State Building. It was copied after the style of a Greek Doric temple at a cost of \$150,000. The expense was shared by the State of New York, the City, and the Buffalo



*Grand Canal showing Triumphal Bridge in background.*

Historical Society with the understanding that the Historical Society would use the building at its permanent headquarters after the Exposition closed. It was designed by one of Buffalo's leading architects, George Cary.

The other countries in the Western Hemisphere were represented in one of two ways. Some had their own buildings—such as the Canada Building; while others displayed products in such places as the Ethnology or Agriculture Buildings. Puerto Rico had its own building displaying many interesting exhibits.

By far the most spectacular structure on the Exposition grounds was the Electric Tower. It was nearly 400 feet high, taller than Buffalo's City Hall. From the various floors one could see the Exposition grounds, the city, Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and Canada.

In the center of the Tower was a spiral stairway which led to a domed cupola. On top of the cupola was a gilded figure, the Goddess of Light. She overlooked and dominated the entire Exposition. Made of galvanized iron and zinc, she stood poised on the toes of her right foot. For all her grace, she weighed over 1½ tons.

In what style of architecture were these buildings constructed? It was Spanish Renaissance, chosen as a compliment to our Latin-American neighbors. Many of their prominent buildings were carefully studied before construction began. Another outstanding feature of the Exposition was the statuary. There were over 500 pieces of sculpture, 125 of which were originals made by leading American sculptors.

Color was a dominant feature of the buildings. Nearly every color imaginable was used with special emphasis on all shades of gray and yellow as well as blue, green, red, violet, orange, gold, and ivory. The color scheme was carefully worked out in advance with models.

The spectators either admired or criticized the color scheme. It is understandable why there was criticism when you know that the Temple of Music was violent red and salmon! On most of the buildings the bright colors were used around the doors, windows, and on the towers.

The larger areas of the building had subdued coloring. Most of the roofs were red tile.

Not far from these colorful exhibit buildings was The Midway. Filled with laughter, fun, and excitement, it was the headquarters for a Trip to the Moon, Dreamland, House-Upside-Down, Darkness and Dawn, Scenic Railroad, Merry-Go-Round, Colorado Gold Mine, Ostrich Farm, Wild Animal Arena, and villages occupied by Indians, Mexicans, Africans, Eskimos, and other groups. The Midway promoters spent over \$2,500,00 preparing this area for the spectators. Its popularity proved the money well spent.

Exhibition opening approached. On March 18 the paper stated: "The muddiest place in town is the exposition grounds. There's not a clean spot bigger than a penny to be found anywhere. Here, one finds a pool of thick, muddy water; there, in the shadow of a building where the sun's heat cannot be felt, a patch of slush, and further along, a stretch of pasty mud or clay that sticks to one's shoes like glue. And there's no escape from it all. Yet who cares?" Over 1600 people had passed through the ground the day before.

May 1, 1901. Opening Day at last! Everyone was determined that the Exposition opening should not be postponed even though many of the exhibits were still not in place and the grounds were in great disorder.

At noon the U.S. Government buildings were dedicated with informal exercises. Two hours later officials fired 45 aerial bombs from the Esplanade in an explosive salute. With a great blaring of bands all the flags were unfurled to the tune of "The Star Spangled Banner." At 3:00 p.m. pigeon fanciers released over 3,000 homing pigeons from their cages while the bands played "Home, Sweet Home." The birds, which were thoroughly frightened when the aerial bombs exploded, soared up and away toward their various homes.

The weather was almost perfect. A crowd of 20,000 people attended these opening ceremonies. The cost of admission was 50 cents a person. Sunday's fee was finally cut to 25 cents because The Midway was closed on Sundays under great pressure from religious groups.

*Esplanade and U. S. Government building.*





*A "Street" at the Exposition.*

Everything, however, was not ideal at the Exposition. In the early stages very unseasonable weather had delayed the workmen for days at a time. Labor disputes and strikes slowed down building construction schedules. Many out-of-town people postponed visiting the Exposition until after July 1 because of a rumor that the fair could not possibly be completed before June 15. However, these adverse conditions did not dull the enthusiasm and expectations of the crowds. On the contrary, excitement ran high. All who attended the Exposition were more than pleased with the results.

Now let us spend a day at the Exposition. We cannot possibly see everything, but we do not want to miss the highlights. Where shall we start?

Let us begin by entering the "front door" — the Lincoln Parkway Gate. It is the most beautiful but, unfortunately, the least-used entrance because there are no streetcar facilities along the southern side of the Exposition grounds. Those who do enter here park their carriages or bicycles outside the gates.

A visit to the Midway might be a good beginning for our tour. Over there is The Educated Horse, Bonner. He can add a column of eight numbers with three figures in each row. His trainer writes the figures on a blackboard as a spectator calls them. Bonner gives the answer by pushing, with one of his feet, blocks on the floor which have the correct numbers on them! In addition to adding he subtracts, multiplies, and divides. He can form words with letter blocks. When asked questions, Bonner nods his head once for "yes" and twice for "no." He can tell the number of people sitting in a row.

Have you heard of Esau; The Missing Link? He is the chimpanzee we see on a miniature stage. In four months he learned to wear clothes, dress and undress, eat with a knife, fork, and spoon, drink from a cup or glass, sleep in a bed, smoke a cigar and pipe, ride a bike, play a piano, and use a typewriter.



Many parts of the Midway are educational. Whole villages are set up with real natives living in them. They use the same implements and wear the same clothing which are characteristic of their native lands. Perhaps the Indian Congress, represented by the Iroquois, is of most interest to us. Also known as The Six Nations, the ancestors of these Indians were the primitive inhabitants of New York State.



*Alt Nurnberg — one of the Exposition Restaurants.*

Over 700 Indians representing 42 distinct tribes take an active part in the Exposition. Two of them, Crazy Snake and Geronimo, are famous prisoners of the Federal Government. They have come to Buffalo well-guarded by U.S. soldiers. Geronimo was once the greatest and most feared war chief of his day. He has been a war prisoner of the United States for 14 years. Known as a human tiger, he is living on a 500 acre farm near Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

You may remember that last week an advertisement appeared in one of the Buffalo papers for 700 little whistles to be made out of twigs of trees. Chief Fifer, a Sioux, paid two cents apiece for them. At day-break, today, we discovered the reason. 700 Indians met on the Meadow under the direction of the oldest Indian, 95-year-old Chief Little Wound. The occasion was a Whistle Dance. Much to the dismay of the people in the neighborhood, the Indians formed a large circle in the pouring rain to dance and blow their whistles!

Before we go to the Beautiful Orient, let us join some of the other visitors for lunch. We see many with their own picnic baskets. These people can find any number of benches where they share their lunch-time with friends. Others prefer to eat in one of the many restaurants available on the grounds. Are you in the mood for a Mexican or Italian meal? If so, there are restaurants which specialize in these types of food. Others may prefer the New England Kitchen or a German restaurant. We choose the latter and go into Alt Nürnberg which is becoming famous for its food.

Now we go on to one of the most elaborate and costly of The Midway shows, the Beautiful Orient. It cost over \$100,000 to create it, and it is managed by the famous Gaston Akoun. It consists of a huge centralized plaza with eight streets radiating from it. Each street represents a different Oriental nation or some great Eastern city.

All of us want to see the famous Chiquita, a perfectly formed Cuban





*A Glimpse at the Midway.*

midget who weighs 18 pounds and is only 26 inches tall. She speaks several languages, plays a tiny piano, sings, and is one of the most attractive and entertaining performers at the Exposition.

Chiquita is a well-educated world traveler. She has received gifts of diamonds and other pieces of jewelry from prominent people throughout the world. Her favorite is a gold watch from the late Queen Victoria of England. The back, sides, and stem of the watch are so completely covered with diamonds that one cannot see the gold casing.

If we want to visit the House-Upside-Down we enter through the roof. All the rooms seem upside down, leaving us in a topsy-turvy state! Mirrors show us in startling positions. The visitor “. . . ascends stairs which seem down, and descends stairs which seem up until he reaches the first floor at the top of the building.”

It may come as a surprise to you to know that we may take a Trip to the Moon. In a large waiting room we learn the secrets of anti-gravitation and aerial flight. Waiting at the immense landing dock is a green and white cigar-shaped ship, the size of a small lake steamer. A great cabin in the center accommodates 250 passengers.

In due time our ship arrives at the moon. The Man in the Moon welcomes us to his home. We stroll among the palaces, streets, and shops. Far off in the distance we see the earth. After visiting the castle of the Man in the Moon we return to our own planet.

We go now to the heart of the fair—the buildings which were erected to house exhibits from all over the Western Hemisphere. Once again we cannot see everything because of the vastness of the Pan-American Exposition.

There is one building we should not miss. That is the Ethnology and Archaeology Building. In it we see a large model of the old Niagara Frontier. Indian camp fires are represented by red lights, while the Niagara River model has real water in it. Nearby are Indian language maps, manuscripts, and books.

In another section of this building San Salvador is exhibiting coins, knives, and pottery. From this same country there is a collection of human heads! The heads have shrunk to about one-third of their original size because the bones have been removed.

The three U. S. Government Buildings are connected by curved arcades which form a semi-circular court. Two hundred and fifty feet above the main floor of the central building is a cathedral-like dome on top of which is a 20 foot high figure of "Victory." Several hundred carloads of government exhibits are displayed in these three buildings.

The Navy and War Departments exhibit models of men-of-war and artillery. We pay special attention to a 12" gun which weighs 120,000 pounds. It can sink a man-of-war nearly 20 miles away. So soon after the Spanish-American War these displays excite particular attention.

In the Department of Agriculture building we watch employees of the Weather Bureau make weather maps. The Bureau of Animal Industry, Divisions of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Botany and Horticulture are but a few of the sections which helped to make the Department of Agriculture's exhibits some of the largest on display. As an example, we find a house of corn cobs being shown.

When we reach the U. S. Treasury Department's exhibit we see a complete series of U. S. currency ranging from a 10 cent piece to a \$10,000 gold note. A collection of the coins of all nations is also on display. Nearby we watch employees of the Treasury Department operate a coin press which turns out 90,000 souvenir coins per hour.

The Treasury Department is exhibiting many items which we frequently forget are under its control. A fully-equipped light house, 45 feet high, is in full operation. Later, on Delaware Lake we may see the Department's life-saving station where ten demonstrations are given daily.

When we arrive at the Grand Canal we find electric launches and gondolas waiting to transport us along the one-mile water route. As we pass under the romantic bridges we discover that the water gardens at the Exposition are outstanding. One water area is specially heated to insure rapid plant growth. There are elegant water plant displays in many of the lagoons and inlets. These winding lagoons and inlets branch off in all directions from the Grand Canal.

After we leave the canal we look briefly at some additional architectural sights. Here is the Stadium with its  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile track. This track, as well as the entire athletic field, is used frequently for sporting events and special exhibitions. Over 20 of the city's home baseball games are to be played at the Stadium during the summer.

As we walk over to the Temple of Music, we find that it is a more



formal place of entertainment. The auditorium seats 2,200 people on the main floor plus additional balcony seating. The main feature of this building is the great church organ. One of the largest in the United States, it was built right here in Buffalo.

Let us take a final brief look at a few of the other educational buildings before observing the Exposition at night. We notice that the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts Building devotes 20% of its exhibition space to food. This section is one of the most popular at the fair. The food booths which give free advertising samples are the most popular of all. A favorite slogan in the pork section is, "Nothing Lost But the Squeal"!

The Machinery and Transportation Building is one of the largest buildings in the Exposition. Here are steam and gas engines, boilers, and condensers. In the transportation section we find the first great automobile exhibit in the Western Hemisphere. The Motorette, manufactured here in Buffalo at the Pierce-Arrow plant, is of special interest to us. In 1901, we do not know that 60 years later it will be displayed as an antique by the Buffalo Historical Society. Today this new "horseless carriage" is excitingly modern.

We have spent so many hours at the Exposition that it has become dark. Once again we must pay special honor to electricity, for the night time fairyland would not be possible without it. Many men



*A night view of the Triumphal Bridge.*

worked long hours to make the lighting effects so fabulous. We watch over 200,000 electric lights being gradually turned on. By concealing many of the lights and by using only 8-watt bulbs, there are no shadows and no glaring, dazzling lights. Lights are used in the decorative pools and in every fountain. The basin of the Court of Fountains has a special design of floating lights with further designs in jets of water. The great electrical power plants at Niagara Falls and the generator plants on the Exposition grounds make this display possible.

The Electric Tower, which can be seen over 20 miles away, is the centerpiece at night as it is during the day. There are thousands of electric lights on this building alone! At the base of the Tower is an arcade 60 feet high. In its center, out of a green niche “. . . gushes forth in a huge turmoil of foam, snow-white by day, illumined at night by scores of iridescent lights, an endless volume of water which falls in glorious cascades over the terraces that lead downward to the basin.”

There were many special days at the Pan-American Exposition. One of the greatest was Dedication Day on May 20. On this day schools were closed. In the morning there was a civic parade from the City Hall. General Louis L. Babcock, the grand marshal, led this parade of 104 carriages, troops, and bands over a four-mile route. Honored guests who rode in these carriages included such notables as Theodore Roosevelt, Vice-President of the United States; John G. Milburn, President of the Exposition; Senator Henry Cabot Lodge; Conrad Diehl, Mayor of Buffalo; State Governors; and directors of the Exposition. They rode triumphantly through a throng of people lined four deep on both sides of the street, past people who had climbed trees to see better, past little boys sitting impatiently on the road's edge to see the “Big Parade.”

Dignity and splendor marked the day. Guest speakers gave their talks in the Temple of Music — the same building where President William McKinley was to hold a tragic reception less than four months later. A crowd of 101,687 attended. In addition to the parades and speeches there were fireworks, band concerts, prayers, choral singing, and cheers. The hour and fifteen minutes of fireworks were the most brilliant and elaborate ever seen in Buffalo.

July 4th was another special day with an attendance of 71,000, the largest crowd since Dedication Day. Again there was a big parade downtown. That night the Delaware Park Lake area was ablaze with hundreds of Japanese lanterns.

Completely unplanned was another unusual day only 24 hours later. It was not special in the manner of these other days we have been mentioning, but special in terms of weather. Early in the evening there was a drenching rain and astounding electrical storm which several





*Distant view of Pan-American Exposition at night.*

witnesses claim has never since been equalled in Buffalo. Nearly one inch of water fell in the early hours of the evening.

Officials postponed a reception at the New York State Building because the dining room was flooded. Lightning shattered the flagpole on the Women's Building. Many exhibits at the Exposition suffered severe water damage.

The entire city was without electricity. Water rose above the floors of the stranded trolley cars and forced the passengers to stand on the seats to keep dry. Many pedestrians floated to their homes on drifting plank sidewalks. Boys swam in the streets. An abandoned laundry wagon was captured and used as a ferry. Cellars were flooded to a depth of four and five feet, and water in East Ferry Street was three feet deep.

President McKinley had planned to visit the fair on Flag Day, but the illness of his wife forced a postponement of his trip. Later, President's Day was scheduled for September 5. It was hoped that McKinley's visit would draw larger crowds to the Exposition.

President and Mrs. McKinley arrived on a special train early in the evening of September 4. As the train passed the Terrace in downtown Buffalo there was a scheduled 21-gun salute. However, the obviously nervous soldier in charge boomed the salute before the train had passed the cannons. The cannons, in turn, were too close to the track. So vehement was the salute under these conditions that the shock smashed all the windows on one side of the train's front car. In addition, windows in nearby buildings were broken.

The train roared on to the fair's railroad gate. President McKinley, all in black and wearing a frock coat and high hat, entered a carriage owned by Mr. Harry Hamlin. Mr. Hamlin's four superb horses drove the President non-stop through the Exposition grounds amongst thousands of cheering people.

September 5, President's Day, was another civic holiday. It was the biggest day of the fair with an attendance of 116,660. In the Esplanade

a crowd of 50,000 heard McKinley's speech.

On the following day, September 6, McKinley had planned a more leisurely and relaxing day. In the morning he visited Niagara Falls and lunched with the local political leaders. It is interesting to note that when he walked onto the International Bridge to get a better view of the American Falls, he did not go quite to the middle of the bridge. Up to this time no U. S. President had ever left the United States while holding this office.

McKinley returned to Buffalo by 4:00 p.m. to attend his last public function, a public reception. Grand Marshall Louis L. Babcock was responsible for preparing the Temple of Music for the reception. The only persons allowed in the building before it was opened to the public were President McKinley, Mr. Milburn, General Babcock, Mr. Cortelyou — McKinley's secretary — and those assigned to protect the President.

President McKinley loved to greet the general public. "As the line approached from the left, he seized each extended hand . . . gave it a quick downward jerk . . . then a hard pull sideways, sending the astonished greeter spinning off to the right." Two additional doors were opened to admit more people, thus increasing the number of handshakes to 45 per minute.

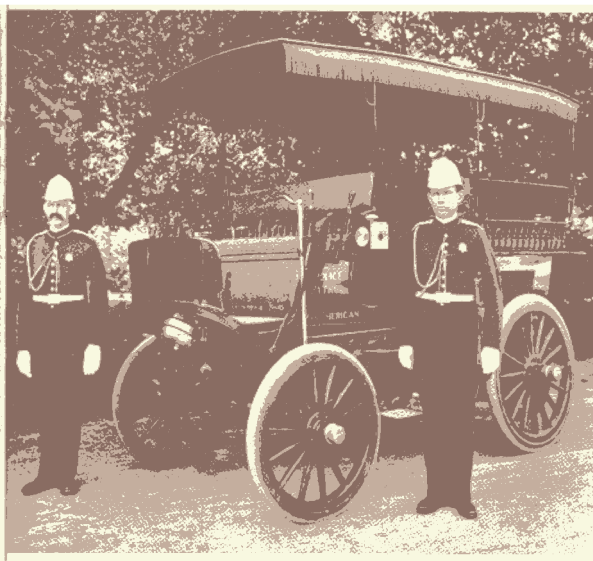
One of the guests was a little girl. McKinley patted her on the head as a man replaced her for a handshake. McKinley turned towards him with a smile of welcome and with his hand extended. The stranger wore a dark gray suit, flannel shirt, and string tie. His blue eyes were expressionless; his round, boyish face was innocent. His right hand was wrapped in a white handkerchief. Handkerchiefs aroused no suspicion of danger because the weather was warm and humid. The man held his hand against his side as if it had been injured. Still no suspicion from the guards because another man, who had already passed through the line, had a bandaged right hand.

McKinley reached for the stranger's left hand but never grasped it. The man brushed the President's arm aside and pressed a gun against McKinley's vest. At 4:07 p.m. there were two muffled shots.

Several of the President's guards pounced upon the assailant immediately. He offered no resistance.

Who was this stranger who so easily attacked the President of the United States? His name—Leon Czolgosz. Why did he shoot McKinley? The answer lies in the only written statement which Czolgosz made: "I killed President McKinley because I done my duty. I didn't believe one man should have so much service and another man should have none."





*Electric Patrol Wagon at Exposition.*

The details of this dramatic incident are fascinating, but they are another story. As for the President, he was operated on at the Exposition emergency hospital almost immediately. After the wound was closed, McKinley was taken to his host's home, the Milburn house on Delaware Avenue. As we all know, McKinley died there several days later, on September 14, 1901. For his crime, the assassin Czolgosz, was electrocuted 45 days after McKinley's death.

What effect did this dramatic episode have on the Pan-American Exposition? It brought gloom to the whole city and doubts as to whether or not the fair should continue. The directors finally decided that the Ex-

position should go on as planned, except that special days at the fair were postponed and the flags were ordered down.

The Exposition closed on September 14, the day McKinley died, and did not reopen until the 16th. It closed again on the 19th, the day of the President's funeral in Canton, Ohio.

We cannot have a complete picture of the Exposition without mentioning the attendance figures. Although many people came to the fair, there was always room for more. We know that during this six month period there were 1½ million more people on the railroads than normally. Many extra trains were in operation to accommodate the crowds.

Fair officials had estimated that to meet expenses the total paid attendance must reach eight million. To make a profit it must reach ten million. However, the total paid admissions were only 5,306,859. There were 2,813,189 free admissions given to bring the total of those who visited the Exposition to 8,120,048. The result was a large financial loss. The U. S. Congress helped considerably by appropriating \$500,000 to help pay a large share of the debts.

Now we come to the very last day of the Exposition. It was Saturday, November 2. There was a large crowd of nearly 125,000, even though most of the exhibition buildings had closed the previous day. At midnight ten buglers in the Electric Tower sounded taps. It was the signal for President Milburn to extinguish all of the decorative



*Examples of Statuary in the Exposition Grounds.*

lights. As the *Illustrated Buffalo Express* of the day summed it up: "All recall the beginning, the raw preceding days, the rainy succeeding days, the delays, the departure of labor, the day of dedication with its speeches and songs, its statesmen and poets and preachers, its music and rejoicings. Then followed the months of merry days, of State celebrations, of national ceremonies, of club and college and social days, of flag and Army and Navy and municipal days. . . . Then came the awful tragedy, the day of death, saddest of all days." And now it was Closing Day.

So we come to the end of the Pan-American Exposition. However, it is worth noting the results of the Exposition to Buffalo and to all the nations in the Western Hemisphere.

In Buffalo, business was never so prosperous. Labor had several years of full employment at high wages. Local stores made unusually high profits with sales going into the millions of dollars. Bank deposits increased noticeably. Not to be ignored was the national publicity which Buffalo received. It was a great stimulus to the industrial growth of the city.

Today we read constantly of plans and suggestions which once again will promote the growth of Buffalo. Let us note a remark made by the Chancellor of the University of Buffalo, Clifford C. Furnas, on September 26, 1960. In an address before the Boost Buffalo Advertising Council he warned Buffalonians that they have been "sitting on their laurels since the Pan-American Exposition of 1901." Here is present-day proof that the Exposition is still held in high esteem for its vigorous promotion of Buffalo's growth.

The people who attended the Exposition became far more familiar with the people, products, and living conditions in the whole Western Hemisphere. In addition, the fair pointed up the need for better trade relations between the Americans. McKinley's speech in Buffalo urged a reduction of high tariffs as a means of increasing trade in this hemisphere.



*Temple of Music on Dedication Day.  
Horticulture Building on left.*

An indirect outcome of the Exposition was the complete change in leadership of the U. S. Government. McKinley's death brought in an entirely new administration with the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt as the new President of the United States. Not to be forgotten is the fact that Roosevelt was sworn into office right here in Buffalo.

Reviewing the picture, we cannot but feel that the Exposition was a success. When the skies were sunny, Buffalonians forgot the bad weather and its effects. When satisfactory labor conditions prevailed, Buffalonians forgot the labor problems of the past. Even when the financial failure of the Exposition became a reality, Buffalonians accepted it in return for the goodwill, fun, and prosperity which the fair had brought to the city. We may look back with pride to an exciting event of great historical importance to the city of Buffalo, the Niagara Frontier, and the United States of America.





*New York State Building — now Buffalo and  
Erie County Historical Society.*

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