

Unabridged text of the May 17, 1937 *Hartford Courant* front page story about the dedication of the Stone Pavilion on May 16, 1937.

Note: As of November, 2022, this is the only known original document describing the event or the pavilion by an eyewitness, in this case an anonymous reporter. This text, transcribed by Robert M. Thorson, includes original punctuation, marks, and one error, identified by [sic]. Page 2 included a boxed photo with a separate title and caption, transcribed below. The original text is 1374 words long, including figure title, credit, and caption.

The original newsprint used regular paragraph indenting. This version uses an extra line to indicate a new paragraph.

Shelter has stone from every state

Tabor dedicates novel gift of the Grange to college at Storrs, and Doctor Jorgensen accepts.

Storrs. May 16th. -- (Special.) --

Stones from the soil of every state in the country were dedicated Sunday by the special patrons of Connecticut's soil in commemoration of the part this state has played in the agricultural advancement of the nation.

Silver bearing ore from Montana, petrified honeycomb from Iowa, a piece of petrified tree from Arizona, had their place between pink granite from Texas and dark Barre granite from Vermont in the construction of a stone shelter on the Connecticut State Campus, formerly presented Sunday by the Connecticut State Grange to the uses of the college. The dedication was by the master of the National Grange, Louis J. Tabor of Columbus, OH, and the pavilion was accepted on behalf of the college by President Albert N. Jorgensen.

Lauds Work of Farmer.

"The part of the farmer in the past has been outstanding," said Mr. Taber, "yet his contribution to the present and the future must be equally great. It is fitting that we gather stones from every state in the Union, and here erect an enduring tribute to agriculture and to the tillers of the soil. It is especially appropriate that this marker be placed on the campus of a great agricultural college. And it is doubly fitting that we dedicate it on Grange Sunday when the farmers and the patrons of your state gather on the campus for religious worship, fellowship, and encouragement."

Adding, "I bring you word of the need for a program for richer rural living, a program of greater education, of legislative and economic justice for those who toil in the country, of cooperation and collective bargaining; of a great patriotism and. Of the need for organization." The speaker urged a defense of "the principles in government which have made our country great."

He said that he meant "a preservation of Federal judicial integrity, a maintenance -- of the proper relations between the three great branches of government, legislative, executive and judicicia: " [sic, judicial].

As he spoke of the great part which education and research must play in the furthering of progress on the farm, Mr. Taber said that "any state funds which may be appropriated for this great institution should never be looked upon as a tax, but rather as an investment which will pay better dividends to the state than the stocks and bonds."

As he closed his talk, he declared

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Shelter Has Stone from Every State

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" In the name of the Connecticut State Grange, with the authority of the National Grange, I dedicate yonder structure, representing in a tangible form, every one of the 48 states in our American Union, to commemorate the service of Connecticut's agriculture to the state and nation."

Might Have Been a Stone Wall.

In speaking of the stone building which was being dedicated and presented to the college, Master Frank H. Peet of the State Grange remarked that the stones of the 48 states which are included in the interior rear wall, were originally intended by the collector. A. P Marsh, of New Britain, to be part of a retaining wall at his home. After Mr. Marsh had patiently collected the stones over a period of several years, he thought them too fine for a wall and turned them over to the Grange of which he has long been a prominent member, said Mr. Peet. He said that the stones, with others from every town in Connecticut, were cemented together to furnish a single building, symbolic of the fact which should be borne in mind by every member of the Grange upon viewing the structure, that cooperation spells success.

Dr. Jorgensen Accepts.

"This building is being dedicated," replied Dr. Jorgensen in accepting the structure, "not only as a tribute to Connecticut agriculture but to Connecticut Youth. I hope this building will be used by the good sons and daughters of good Grangers."

Thanking the Grange for its cooperation in the college's legislative program, he expressed a fear that the college's current proposals before the General Assembly might not fare very well, "nor agriculture either, with this session," but he pledged his support to the preparation of an adequate agricultural program during the next two years so that better results might be had in 1939 than seem likely for 1937.

The college president then said that the stone structure has not been completed but eventually will have a bench, a bronze protective grill to save the collected stones incorporated in one wall, and two

bronze tablets, one noting the positions of the stones from the various states and the other stating the fact that the building is a tribute to Connecticut agriculture.

Dr. Jorgensen Accepts.

Throughout the day between 2500 and 3000 Grangers assembled at the college for the ninth annual Grange Sunday at the institution. The program opened at 10:45 with a service in the church on the campus and Professor William Lyon Phelps of Yale University preached a sermon on "Seventy Times Seven." While the Grangers then gathered in groups about the campus to enjoy basket luncheons, a concert on the church carillon, and later the Plymouth Grange Band provided an outdoor concert.

The morning religious service at which Dr. Phelps spoke was so well attended that several hundred had to stand outside and participate in the service by means of a loudspeaking system which was installed.

Following the afternoon dedication, the feature event of the day, there was a varied musicale in the church with Mrs. Sarah L. Curt's state lecturer presiding. The program included songs by the Grange Chorus under Earl S. Spaulding as director, vocal solos by Edward Nordstrom with a violin obligato by Howard Tenner, by Ruth Reynolds, Timothy Nolan. Louis Raymond and Clement Ball; instrumental solos by Mrs. E. M. Halladay and Robert Case, accordionist. The music was broadcast over the campus.

Charles A. Wheeler of the college was general chairman in charge of arrangements for the day's program and his handling of details won much praise from the state officers.

Connecticut Stone from Mine

The pavilion dedicated as the Grange's "Tribute to Agriculture." was the center of attraction throughout the day. There, a visitor could stand and with a sweep of his hand touch a very solid part of every state, a light gray rock from a Kentucky ranch, a stone from the State of Washington's new \$17,000,000 tunnel, a block of pale granite from Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Whether or not any of the ore-bearing stones from the West contain gold could not be determined, but several contained other valuable minerals, and several others are of volcanic origin. In the wall of varied rock were eight or 10 varieties of marble, in many beautiful shades from pure white to mottled dark, and a choice selection of granites, from the largest piece, a beautiful polished slab from deep in a Vermont hill, to other blocks nearly white. Maine's contribution showed the greatest ingenuity, for it was a granite block on which had been carved a potato bearing the carved word "Aroostook."

Connecticut's contribution to the wall, representing all states, was one of the most beautiful stones, showing many colors in a single block less than a foot square. The stone was taken from a pit 200 feet below the surface, nearly beneath the present Cheshire Reformatory, a spot where many decades ago there was a barite mine. Scattered through the structure were stones gathered from every town in Connecticut.

Grange Presents Stone Shelter to Connecticut State College



Courant Photos.

Storrs., May 16. -- Above is shown the stone shelter which was built by the Connecticut State Grange as "a tribute to agriculture" and presented to the Connecticut State College Sunday afternoon as a feature of the ninth annual Grange Sunday. It contains a stone from every state in the union and from every town in Connecticut, collected by A. P. Marsh of New Britain. Standing in front of the shelter are Frank H. Peet of Kent, master of the Connecticut Grange, and Louis J. Taber of Columbus, Ohio, master of the National Grange.