

BANQUET

In Honor of Colonel Conrad H. Mann

Commemorating his twenty-five years of civic service to Kansas City, and his sixty-eighth birthday.

MUEHLEBACH HOTEL, DECEMBER 14, 1938, 7:30 P. M.

CONRAD H. MANN

Conrad H. Mann

CIVIC LEADER 1913-1938

JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Conrad H. Mann came to Kansas City in 1907. It did not take him long to become an active part of the city's civic and commercial life. He joined the old Commercial Club in 1910 and while he participated in trade trips and other activities for two or three years, he did not become a member of the Club's official body until 1913.

At that time, twenty-five years ago, there was no organized group in Kansas City seeking to increase the city's convention business. Mr. Mann's energetic activities in this connection brought about his appointment as chairman of the Convention Committee of the old Commercial Club in 1913 and from that time on he has maintained a close connection with that particular phase of civic development. However, that was just the beginning of twenty-five years of active civic effort.

In his first year he was the guiding star and dominating influence of the 24th Annual Trade Extension Trip of the Commercial Club which covered some 1,600 miles through Kansas and Colorado, visiting 86 towns and lasting for seven days.

Then he became a member of the Manufacturers' Division and was on a committee representing the entire community in Washington at a hearing on "Anti-Trust Bills." During the same year he secured the Fraternal Order of Eagles' convention for Kansas City for 1914. In 1914 he was again appointed Chairman of the Convention and Publicity Division. At the same time he served as a member of a group known as "Volunteer Workers" which assisted the Membership Committee in building up the membership of the Commercial Club. Also as a member of the finance committee that raised the necessary funds to celebrate the opening of the new Union Ration and as chairman of an "East Bottoms" district group designed to help improve conditions in that section.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Commercial Club for the first time in 1915 and became Treasurer that same year. For many years he served on such committees as State and National Legislation, Public Affairs, New Quarters and numerous others. He was re-elected Treasurer in 1916 and was appointed to represent the Club at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. In the same year he served on a sub-committee to finance a convention of The American Bankers' Association.

His present interest in music is not new. In 1916 he was a member of a group that obtained the underwriting for the financing of the old Kansas City Grand Opera Company which gave a season of opera in the Spring of 1917. In the same year he was re-elected a member of the Club's Board and again selected to serve as Treasurer, and was one of a group that filed a petition in the Circuit Court for Articles of Incorporation covering "The Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City."

In 1917 he led the Chamber of Commerce team of workers in Liberty Loan Campaigns. In

1918 he was Chairman of the Farm Congress Committee which staged the outstanding agricultural exposition of those days. In the same year he again represented the Chamber at the Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and was selected to represent the Employers of Missouri on the State Advisory Board of the United States Employment Service. As a result of that activity he also served as Chairman of the Employment Committee of the Industrial Department of the Chamber.

In 1920 when the Committee of One Hundred selected a sub-committee on "Service and Fares" in connection with local transportation problems, he was appointed Chairman and a little later was made a member of the City Transportation Committee.

When the Charity Campaign was staged in 1920 he was a member of the Executive Committee, a position he occupies again in 1938 and which he has filled several times between those two years. In 1922 he served again on the National Affairs Committee, as well as on The New Postoffice Committee and was on the General Exposition Advisory Committee of the famous Kansas City Industrial Exposition which opened the American Royal Building.

He was a delegate from Kansas City to the first meeting of the Southern Central Division of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, held in New Orleans in 1924, and that same year became a member of the Committee of One Hundred on Crime. He was a member of the so-called Emergency Committee at the same time, being re-elected to that committee in 1925. Also in 1925 he served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce "Get It Done" Committee, out of which came many ideas that were used later in the Ten-Year Plan.

In 1926 he was again elected to the Board of Directors of The Chamber and during that year and the one following was the leading spirit in the accomplishment of the 5-year industrial plan through which an annual budget of \$450,000 was sought for increased Chamber of Commerce activities. It was largely due to his untiring efforts that for this period of five years, 1927-32, the income of the Chamber averaged better than \$400,000 annually.

In 1927 he served as a member of the Committee of One Hundred to obtain the National Republican Convention and headed the delegation to Washington to secure that meeting. When it was obtained he was appointed General Chairman. He found time during the same year to serve on a committee appointed by the Board of Directors to select a Fall attraction for Kansas City and gave a lot of his time in making speeches and addresses not only in Kansas City but throughout the trade territory, seeking to develop a greater interest in Kansas City and in the territory it served.

In 1928 he was a member of the Executive Committee, composed of sixty men and women, of the Citizens Bond Committee and was a member of the Advisory Committee of the same organization. He was re-elected a member of the Industrial Committee of the Chamber of Commerce in 1928 and a month later was elected President of the Chamber of Commerce for the fiscal year 1928-29. He was re-elected President the following year and during that period brought to Kansas City Chief August Vollmer, who directed the Kansas City police survey.

In the same year he was active in connection with the demand for a program of public improvements that would be based on Kansas City's actual needs and was appointed General Chairman of the Civic Improvement Committee selected by Mayor Bryce B. Smith, who stated, "I don't believe it would have been possible to have selected a man better suited in every way for the place."

He served as Director of the Committee of Five in combatting a wave of kidnapping and

gangsterism that took place in Kansas City that year. In that same year he called in 400 representative citizens for a conference, thus forestalling failure in the Charity Drive, and was re-elected for his third term as President of the Chamber of Commerce.

This is not the first dinner given in his honor, since one was given in 1928 because of his splendid handling of the Republican National Convention, and one was given in 1931 when thirty men got together and presented him a watch in which was engraved: "In affectionate appreciation of your great work for Kansas City." This was as a result of his leadership of the Ten-Year Plan Campaign.

He served that year as a member of the Committee that met in St. Louis to consider the development of the Ozarks; he was appointed by President Hoover as a member of the National Advisory Committee assisting Walter S. Gifford in unemployment relief; and served on a committee charged with the duty of devising ways and means by which the unemployed and needy of Kansas City could be provided for throughout the winter of 1931-32.

In 1931 he was re-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce for the fourth time. Also appointed to serve as Chairman of the Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, which continues to exercise under his leadership supervision over the \$40,000,000 worth of bonds voted as a result of the Ten-Year Plan. That same year he again showed his interest in cultural matters by underwriting personally the expenses of two experimental civic Symphony Concerts presented in Convention Hall. The fact that both were successful financially brought about the faith that resulted in the formation of the present Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra the following year, and which has had six most successful seasons. Mr. Mann is Chairman of the Executive Committee and is given full credit for its outstanding success.

1932 found him heading a conference between state business leaders and the representatives in both houses of Congress from Missouri; meeting in Washington with a national committee concerning various national industrial problems; serving as Chairman of a State Committee directing a campaign advocating a reduction in the cost of Government, and being re-elected for his fifth term as President of the Chamber of Commerce. At a banquet given by leading men and women in Kansas City that year his portrait was presented to the city.

Shortly afterwards he was named a knight of the French Legion of Honor, the award being made by the Government of France through the French Consul General of Chicago because of courtesies extended to Ambassador Paul Claudel of the French Government on the occasion of his visit to Kansas City.

In the same year he was General Chairman of what was known as the Five Special Groups on Business Problems, including Employment, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Agricultural Development and Commodity Distribution.

In 1933 he was elected President of the Chamber of Commerce for the sixth consecutive time and that same year gave a lot of attention to supervising the development of the new Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 1934 he was elected Honorary President of the Chamber of Commerce for life and a dinner was given on January 10, to which were invited those directors who had served with him in his six terms of office as President. There were more than one hundred former board members at this dinner.

In 1935 he served as Chairman of a committee to increase the membership and resources of the Chamber of Commerce and in 1936 served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of

the Kansas City Annual Festival Association which initiated the Jubilesta.

He also found time during the three years of 1934-35-36 to give even closer attention to aviation and its development in Kansas City, something which had interested him for many years previous.

We have not, of course, included in this factual presentation of Mr. Mann's twenty-five years of active effort within the Chamber of Commerce numerous other matters that have a civic or partially civic connection with the Salvation Army, he now being President of the Advisory Board of that institution; his intense interest in the greater development of Rockhurst College and the University of Kansas City, to both of which he gives his time as a member of the Board of Trustees; his active support of various religious groups and numerous cultural organizations, including service on the directorates of the Art Institute and the Conservatory of Music; his eight years as President of the Associated Industries of Missouri, and his keen interest in such institutions as the Mayor's Christmas Tree, the Boys' Hotel, the Liberty Memorial Association, and dozens of others.

It has been a busy twenty-five years. The marvel of it is that he found time to crowd it all in, and still attain such outstanding success in numerous personal fields of endeavor.

Program

Toastmaster Colonel Ruby D. Garrett

Invocation Rev. John W. Keyes

Communications Mr. Hugh J. Curran

Solo Mrs. T. J. Strickler

VERBAL CANDID CAMERA SHOTS OF MR. MANN (Three-Minute Exposures!!)

Music Lover Mr. Karl Krueger

Chamber of Commerce Champion Mr. Ralph J. DeMotte

Citizen at Large Rabbi Harry H. Mayer

He's a High Flier, Too Mr. Jack Frye

Promoter of Education Rev. D. H. Conway, S. J.

Servant of the Public Judge H. F. McElroy

With City Vision Mr. Henry J. Haskell

Friend of the Friendless Major P. L. DeBevoise

Mr. Mann and the Community Dr. Burris A. Jenkins

Remarks by Mr. Mann.

Remarks and Benediction Bishop Robert Nelson Spencer

Menu

APERITIFS PINEAPPLE EN SURPRISE

BOUILLON ROYALE

TOAST MELBA

HAUT SAUTERNE FILET OF SOLE EN PAPILOTTE

CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

MUMM'S EXTRA DRY BONELESS SQUAB CHICKEN, CHAMPIGNONS

POTATOES SARAH BERNHARDT CELERY TRIANON

ENDIVE AND GRAPEFRUIT

SWEDISH WAFER

GLACE MAROON, ILLUMINE GATEAU EN BOUCHE

COGNAC MOCHA
CIGARS
HOSTS
BARNEY ALLIS
A. E. BETTIS
HUGH J. CURRAN
RALPH J. DEMOTTE
W. N. DERAMUS
TOM L. EVANS
JACK FRYE
RUBY D. GARRETT
C J. GIBLIN
FRED AND GEORGE GOLDMAN
RALPH GRAY
POWELL C GRONER
A. L. GUSTIN
PORTER T. HALL
W. M. LIST
H. J. MASSMAN
JUDGE H. F. MCELROY
JOSEPH J. MCGEE
ROY ROBERTS
W. B. SCHNEIDER
HAROLD SMITH
T. J. STRICKLER
GODFREY SWENSON
J. W. WILSON
HERBERT M. WOOLF