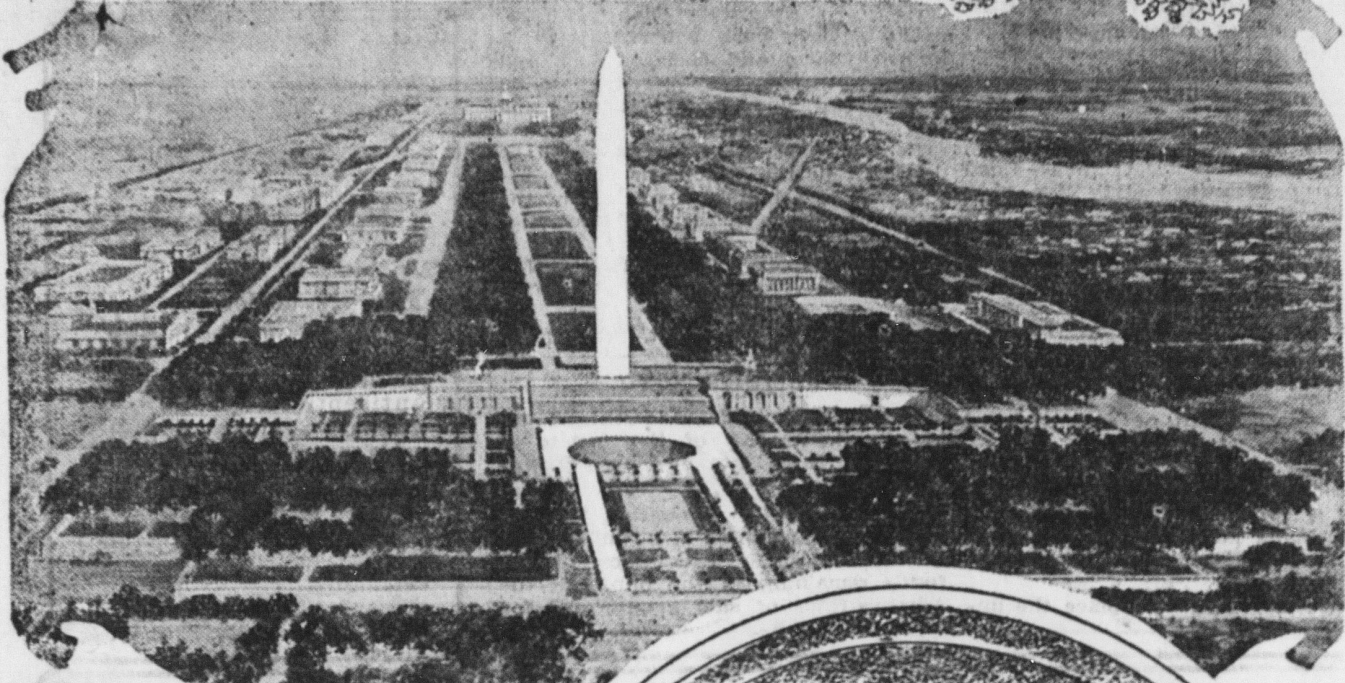


L'Enfant's Dream Nears Realization



ARCHITECT'S CONCEPTION OF THE MALL
©Underwood & Underwood

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WITH the federal building program for our national capital now under way at full speed and every indication that it will be carried forward uninterruptedly to completion in time for the great celebration in 1932 of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the century-old dream of Pierre L'Enfant, is nearing its realization. Few Americans know anything more about L'Enfant than a somewhat vague idea associating his name with the phrase "the founder of Washington." Yet had the advice of this young French engineer been followed, the United States of America would have now the most beautiful and impressive capital city in the world. Even though the nation allowed him to die a disappointed man, his goal unachieved, yet he dreamed and planned to such good purpose that not even a hundred years of blindness to beauty and neglect of the opportunity at hand have been sufficient to dim his vision splendid, and the United States may yet have the wonderful capital that he planned for it.

Pierre Charles L'Enfant was born August 2, 1754, somewhere in sunny France. He was a lieutenant in the French army in 1777 when he came to this country and offered his services to the Continental congress. By his ability he rose to the rank of captain and then to major. He planned and built Fort Mifflin and Fort Washington, fought through the remainder of the war, was wounded at the battle of Savannah, taken prisoner by Sir Henry Clinton in 1780 and paroled three years later. With the war at an end, L'Enfant decided to remain in this country and continue his career as an engineer and architect. The city of New York presented him with a testimonial for his services and his reputation was so high that President Washington selected him in 1791 to lay out the new capital which was planned on the banks of the Potomac, declaring that "Major L'Enfant is as well qualified for the work as any man living." To this Thomas Jefferson, secretary of state, added the indorsement, "I am happy the President has left the planning of the city in such good hands."

Certainly it needed the hand of a genius to transform the "dismal hamlet on the Potomac" into a city befitting the dignity of the capital of a nation. For when President John Adams transferred the seat of government from the old-established and gay Philadelphia to this raw wilderness town, he found it a place of thirty or forty huts scattered around in the woods and swamps and the beginnings of the public buildings, described by a congressman in Adams' party as follows:

"One wing of the capitol only has been erected, which, with the President's house, a mile distant, both constructed with white sandstone, were shining objects in dismal contrast with the scene around them. Instead of recognizing the avenues and streets portrayed in the plan of the city, not one was visible, unless we except a road with two buildings on each side of it called the New Jersey avenue. The Pennsylvania avenue, leading, as laid down on paper, from the capitol to the President's Mansion, was then nearly the whole distance a deep morass, covered with alder bushes, which were cut through the width of the intended avenue during the then ensuing winter."

L'Enfant's plan called for connecting the President's House and the Con-



PIERRE L'ENFANT

gress House, as he called them, by a series of parks. But President-elect John Adams could not see the sense of having these two important buildings so far apart. He wanted the executive and legislative buildings huddled together. Convenience and not beauty was his idea. However, Washington stood steadfastly by L'Enfant and the buildings were so placed although L'Enfant's dream of the parks between was never realized. In fact, he was repeatedly frustrated in his planning; he was ridiculed by unimaginative and materialistic men who were high in office and from the time the seat of government was moved to Washington, he was constantly begging congress to pay him the money due him. Finally, that body in 1810 passed a bill for his relief, giving him \$668.66 with interest from March 18, 1792, amounting in all to \$1,394.20. This was done more because congress was becoming weary of his impertinence than for any other reason and it was typical of the tardy justice with which the new republic rewarded many of the men, including Revolutionary war heroes, to whom it owed so much.

L'Enfant died in 1825, a heart-broken man. During his last years he lived with a man named Dudley Digges and he was buried in the Digges family graveyard outside the city of Washington. There his body lay in an unmarked grave for nearly a hundred years. Then through the efforts of the American Institute of Architects it was removed to Arlington cemetery. He was given a military funeral and tributes were paid to him by high government officials, both American and French. A monument, with his plan carved on the marble slab, overlooks the city for which he had dreamed on such a grand scale and which during the years while he lay in the unmarked grave had sprawled haphazard over the landscape.

For "backwoods-ruled congresses" saw no utility in beauty. Homespun and jack-booted soldiers knew no more about architecture than they did about poetry and thought both the comical diversions of "dudes," or "mame-ron" still the word, or "dandy T." So writes Charles Willis Thompson in an article in the New York Herald-Tribune a year or so ago, telling of the plans for preserving the beauty of the capital as L'Enfant had conceived it. He writes:

"So it is wonderful that the idea persisted through a century of Hannibal Chollups and Elfish Programs. For it did. The shades of L'Enfant brooded over the city, and still broods over it. Essentially, it is still his city. Nothing that ignorant politicians and greedy speculators could do to it has effaced his indelible impression. The worst that has happened to Washington hap-

idealized portrait of L'Enfant on the medallion made by Leon Chatelain, in the Chevy Chase Savings bank, Washington.

pened outside the boundaries he set for it. He could not foresee that it would grow so big. L'Enfant's city was to be only two and a half miles wide and three and a half miles long. His plan for that city is today as he made it, needing only beautification.

The city did not grow much bigger until the War of Secession, when it underwent a sudden and scintillating expansion. Then the speculators began to get in their work. Washington immediately grew beyond the limits known to L'Enfant and President Washington, and in building up the outer sections nothing was thought of but money returns. Yet so meticulous had L'Enfant laid out the plan it was not possible to turn it into confusion even when greed and ignorance had done their worst. The new city, the greater Washington, had to grow generally along L'Enfant's lines in spite of itself.

But it was cursed and degraded by defacements impertinent buildings interjected themselves into the plan; streets ambled off into the Land of Nod and disappeared. L'Enfant's pet fantasy, the Mall, in fact, though he had planned so wisely that nothing can prevent its flowering into consummation whenever congress so wills. The distortion of the original idea had become such an eyesore by 1901 that a congressional commission, headed by Senator James McMillan, of Michigan, set about restoring the L'Enfant plan wherever it had been departed from, and embodied its praise-worthy attempt in legislation which still rules.

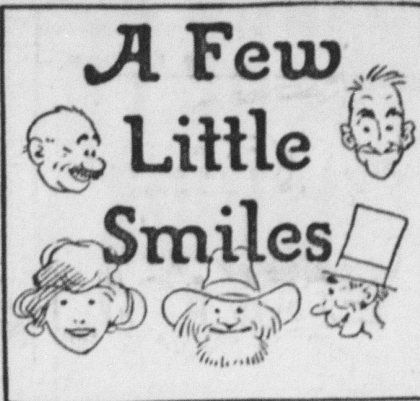
Ever since then the task of unifying and greening Washington has been carried indefatigably on, and succeeding congresses have been more and more friendly and attentive.

The present plan, put into operation some two years ago by the public buildings commission, headed by Senator Smoot of Utah and having an initial fund of \$5,000,000 at its disposal, follows closely the plan of L'Enfant. The outstanding feature in it is the Mall or Monument Gardens, extending from the Washington monument to the capitol and flanked by new federal buildings. And if this plan is completed, as it is hoped it will be, in time for the George Washington celebration in 1932, some of the honor paid that great American then will be shared by the young French engineer whom he backed in his effort to give this country a capital city beautiful.

The Old Rocking Chair
Some one becomes sad and despondent over the passing of the family rocking chair. It has no place in modern life. One now demands something that he can easily jump out of, for the automobile or airplane may be waiting at the door. For a quick exit, the old family rocker is a hazard.—Hartford City News.

Hospitality
The few who treat a courteous caller harshly are mostly those who revel in their own misery and want every one around to be miserable, too.—Farm and Fireside.

First Paved Road
Russia is said to be the first country where wood blocks were used for paving roads. The first blocks consisted of short uniform lengths round in shape, as cut from the tree trunk. Later the shape was altered to hexagon to secure a closer joint, and finally



A Few Little Smiles

POST-MARITAL SENTIMENT
"What are you rummaging for?"
"Some old love letters I used to write to my wife before we were married."
"That bit of sentiment does you credit. Want to peruse them again, eh?"
"Aw, g'wan! She's away now. I promised to write her often and I want to hand those old letters to my stenographer to use as models."—New Zealand Leader.

That Makes It All Right
The Boss—What's this I hear about burglars breaking in last night and robbing the cash box?
The Efficient Office Manager—It's all right, sir; I have just checked up the cash and find they ran up the amount they took on the cash register.

GOOD AT PETTING
He—Sally is a good girl.
She—Yes, good at petting, maybe.

Easily Pleased
I'm glad when holidays come round and glad when they are done; Enjoyment makes a man so tired That working seems like fun.

A Good Reason, Too
The Straphanger—I'm glad to see a man who has some regard for public health. I see you put your handkerchief to your mouth whenever you cough.

The Seated Passenger—Public health! My false teeth are loose and I'm afraid of coughing 'em out.

A Practical Gift
Maiden—My wife is so fond of pets I just paid a dollar apiece for half a dozen goldfish for her birthday present.

Old Man—Goldfish? Your wife won't want to take care of the pests.

Maiden—Then we can fry 'em. As food they're cheap at the price.

FOOT OF THE HILLS
Visitor—A better corn is raised in this hilly country than anywhere else? Just where is it grown?
Farmer—On the foot of the hills.

All Through the Night
No longer does the student toil And study, burning midnight oil With glee he sits up half the night And listens to the latest fight.

Pertinent Question
Mrs. A.—I take care that my husband gets no cause for fault-finding.
Mrs. B.—Does that help any?

Not With the Landlord
Rakeman—I hear you purchased a saxophone recently. Has it made you popular with your neighbors?
Rakeman—I should say so. The landlord has had to reduce the rents 25 per cent in order to keep the apartments filled.—Pathfinder Magazine

It's All in the Game
"On what grounds is she suing him for breach of promise?"
"Tennis grounds. She swears he said 'Love' to her over and over."

Misjudged
Judge—You are accused of being a receiver of stolen goods—did you know they were stolen?
Accused—I gave \$2.50 for them—if I had known they were stolen I should not have given more than 50 cent.—Faun, Vienna.

On Her Metal
Policeman (slipping up)—Ah, Nora, ye are so quiet your thoughts must be golden.
Nora (blushing)—No, Tim, copper!

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BARE TO HAIR

If you want to grow hair on your bald head, save the hair you have, stop falling hair, dandruff, etc., write for literature and information.

W. H. FORST, Mfg. - Scottdale, Penna.

All Comforts of Home
Mr. Littlest—Can't you hurry and get through with the bathroom, I want a bath?
His Wife—I have four more waists and six pairs of stockings to wash. If you're in a hurry for a bath you'll have to go down to the laundry.

Mother and Baby Gain Health, Strength and Flesh
"I am so grateful for what Milks Emulsion has done for me that I am writing you this letter."
"I had a terrible cough and for four months was so weak that I had to rest on the bed several times while dressing. In fact, after putting on one stocking I would have to lie down and rest before putting the other on. People thought I had tuberculosis, but they don't think so now. I was so weak that I could not care for my baby, who was not getting sufficient nourishment to give him any strength. But after taking your Emulsion for a few months I regained my health and now I weigh 145 pounds. My baby is one year old and weighs 30 pounds. We are both in perfect health and we thank Milks Emulsion for it."
"You can publish this letter if you care to. I shall always praise Milks Emulsion." Yours truly, MRS. ED. ROUSE, Shelbyville, Ind., R. R. No. 9.
Sold by all druggists under a guarantee to give satisfaction or money refunded. The Milks Emulsion Co., Terre Haute, Ind.—Ad.

Last Resort
Homebody—So you must catch the 11:40 train west? Is it important?
Homeless—It's vital. My doctor says I must have my regular sleep, and a berth on that train is the only lodging I can find for tonight.

A grocer is one who trusts the family that has just moved into the neighborhood.

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Worms cause much distress to children and anxiety to parents. Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" removes the cause with a single dose. See All Druggists.
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Part Played by Table in Uplift of Mankind
There was a time when not a table existed in the whole wide world. But one day primitive man, weary of sprawling on the ground, rose and ate his first meal from a broad heave slab laid on bowlders, and from that day his upward climb to civilization began.
Today we do not stop to think how much we depend upon tables, but what a dull and inconvenient place a house would be without them. Not only are they at our elbow everywhere to keep things within reach, but how they delight the eye—their lovely designs and beautiful woods.
They minister to our comforts, and please our senses with their grace and charm. Each year they increase in variety and cleverness, and each year, because of them, our homes grow more attractive.
According to a leading London hatter, five times as many silk "stove-pipe hats" are being sold this year as in 1923.

SCHOOLGIRLS NEED HEALTH

Daughter of Mrs. Catherine Lamuth, Box 72, Mohawk, Michigan
"After my daughter grew into womanhood she began to feel rundown and weak and a friend asked me to get her your medicine. She took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Lydia E. Pinkham's Herb Medicine. Her nerves are better, her appetite is good, she is in good spirits and able to work every day. We recommend the Vegetable Compound to other girls and to their mothers."—Mrs. Catherine Lamuth.

Daughter of Mrs. Eva Wood Howe, 1006 South H. Street, Danville, Ill.
"I praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for what it has done for my fourteen-year-old daughter as well as for me. It has helped her growth and her nerves and she has a good appetite now and sleeps well. She has gone to school every day since beginning the medicine. I will continue to give it to her at regular intervals and will recommend it to other mothers who have daughters with similar troubles."—Mrs. Eva Wood Howe.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound
Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

Audacious French Thieves
Amazing audacity was displayed by criminals who raided the prison of Melun, near Paris. Despite the close watch maintained on the jail day and night, burglars succeeded in making way with the governor's safe, which weighed 500 pounds and contained \$3,000. They evidently climbed over the wall with the aid of a ladder, and then went to the governor's office, the windows of which were barred. They

sawed through the bars, entered and tried to open the safe, but finding the task too difficult, carried it off with them. How they did it remains a mystery.

First Paved Road
Russia is said to be the first country where wood blocks were used for paving roads. The first blocks consisted of short uniform lengths round in shape, as cut from the tree trunk. Later the shape was altered to hexagon to secure a closer joint, and finally

the blocks received their present rectangular form.
This method of paving was introduced into England about 1833, but some time elapsed before the value of a firm foundation, such as portland cement concrete, was fully appreciated.

Hospitality
The few who treat a courteous caller harshly are mostly those who revel in their own misery and want every one around to be miserable, too.—Farm and Fireside.