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February 6, 2013

THIS WEEK: Women's and Children's Building

BACKGROUND: 35TH IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Thirty-fifth General Assembly convened January 13 and adjourned April 19, 1913—a 97-day session. Edward Cunningham was Speaker of the House and William Harding was the Lieutenant Governor presiding over the Senate.

The Senate had 18 Democratic members and 32 Republican members. The House of Representatives had 66 Republican members and 42 Democratic members. There were a total of 158 members in the General Assembly.

Governor Beryl Carroll finished his term in January 1913 and Governor George Clarke was sworn in on January 16, 1913. He was 60 years old. The 1910 federal census showed Iowa's population at 2,224,771.

Women's and Children's Building

SF 212

By Senator Anthony McColl (By bequest)

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S BUILDING ON THE IOWA STATE FAIR AND EXPOSITION GROUNDS, AND TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION THEREFORE.



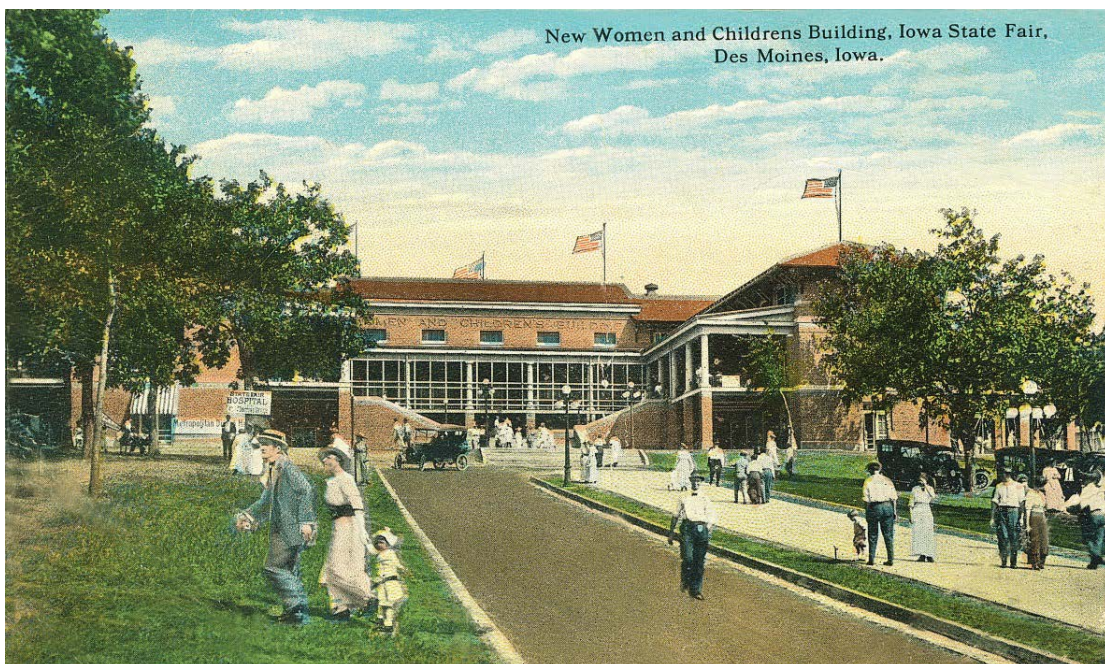
Senator Anthony McColl

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. The state board of agriculture is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to cause to be erected on the Iowa state fair and exposition grounds a women's and children's building at such location on said grounds as the said board of agriculture may select.

Sec. 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Iowa department of agriculture out of any money in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of erecting and furnishing said women's and children's building the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000). All moneys appropriated by this Act shall be drawn from the state treasury upon warrants issued by the state auditor upon the order of the state board of agriculture.

Sec. 3. This Act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and publication in the Register and Leader and Des Moines Capital, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.



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The Building

The Women's and Children's Building was completed in time for the 1914 Iowa State Fair. The building was designed by Oliver Smith. The building was constructed of red brick and cost \$75,000. Part of the building served as a place to relax for women, children, and the elderly. The building also housed a 700-seat auditorium. The auditorium presentations ranged from style shows to puppet shows. Dance recitals, plays, musical performances, and radio and television broadcasts took place in the Women's and Children's Building. The building was torn down in 1980. Unfortunately, it had deteriorated because of a leaky roof, and the damage was deemed too extensive to repair.



**Architect Oliver O. Smith
(b. 1868 – d. 1916)**