

Leaders Tell Of Columbus Shaft Work By Pioneers

Five Hundred at Banquet
Following Celebration
by 20,000

Early History Traced Quarter - century Move- ment of Italian-Ameri- cans Told by Speakers

Christopher Columbus in deathless bronze surveyed from atop the sculptured memorial to the Great Admiral today in St. Marys Circle the scene of yesterday's dedication concourse.

The crowds which massed the circle were not there, and for the first time Syracusans were privileged to observe in all its contour details, the memorial crowned by the heroic figure of the Discoverer.

The Columbus Day dedication ceremonies, wherein pageantry and parading converged into the ceremonial at the pediment of the memorial, were climaxed last night with a banquet in Hotel Syracuse participated in by officials, the clergy, visiting representatives of the Italian government and officials and members of the Columbus Monument Association.

There the history of the whole quarter-century movement by Syracuse Italian-Americans was retold at the hour of its success in bringing to the city the memorial complete.

Nearly 500 attended and heard Cavalier Pier Pasquale Spinelli, royal Italian consul of New York; Corrado Armeri, local consular agent; Joseph Pietrafesa, head of the monument association; Anthony Ota Russo, who recalled the achievements of Columbus, and others, amid a program of classical and popular Italian-American music.

Mr. Pietrafesa, who has shouldered for recent years the responsibility of the completion of the memorial, recalled to many of the donors to the fund which made it possible, the pioneer work of a man now dead, and unknown to some of the younger generation who first conceived the memorial. He was Prof. Torquato de Felice of Syracuse University, and he was first fired with the conception of the memorial more than 30 years ago.

"In those early days," recounted Mr. Pietrafesa, "Professor de Felice while on a visit to Italy, conferred with Professor V. Renzo Baldi, regarding the idea he cherished. Professor Baldi became very much interested and when de Felice left Italy he took with him a small model of a Columbus monument prepared by Baldi. From this embryo, aided by the real vision and idealism of de Felice, the movement began which ends with such beautiful success today."

Professor Baldi, here from his studios at Florence, Italy, especially for the dedication, sat near the speaker.

Mayor Holland B. Marvin, who aided in putting through the completion of the whole memorial project, and who has received full credit for this task from the thousands of Italian-Americans in the city whose contributions built the memorial, was the evening's first speaker.

"I am happy tonight," said the Mayor, whose little daughter Irene had pulled the strands which had released the drapery and unveiled the statue during the afternoon. "I'm happy, and also a little sad. I'm sad because I'm sorry that the monument campaign has come to an end. True, we've had our little difficulties, a few fights, while the campaign to build the monument was underway, but I have made many friends, friends who are true."

Seldom on a holiday has such a mass demonstration been seen in Syracuse since the city's post-war days as was Columbus Day here yesterday, more so by the memorial's completion and its dedication.

More than 20,000 persons massed yesterday, inside so by the memorial's stands. Nearly 3,000 of these took part in the long parade down Ballina Street, wherein floats depicted through tableaux and bits of pageantry episodes and historical scenes in the Great Admiral's career. Arriving at the circle, the paraders found the area literally packed with people.

After speeches by those concerned, officially and otherwise, in the memorial, and ringing address by the Most Rev. John A. Duffy, D.D., bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Syracuse, the memorial formally was turned over to the city and accepted by the Mayor.

When Dedication Stirred Great Crowds



Miss Irene Marvin, Mayor's daughter, shown upper left, at the moment she unveiled the heroic Columbus memorial statue. Right, Mayor Marvin, Italian Consul Cavalier Pier Pasquale Spinelli, Joseph Pietrafesa and Bishop John A. Duffy, as the Bishop congratulated citizens on memorial's completion. Below, a part of the great throng which witnessed the ceremonies at St. Marys Circle.