

Stratford Veterans' Home, Sterling Memorial, to Be Open to Public Tomorrow

American Legion Bazaar to Be First Event to Take Place in New Building, Adjudged One of Finest of Its Kind — Structure a Home Product — To Be Used by All Ex-Service Men as Well as a Community House.

STRATFORD, Dec. 12.—(Special)

The Sterling Memorial building, new \$50,000 home of Anderson-Dunn-Kochiss post of the American Legion, stands completed today—just seven months to the day after work was started on the structure. The building, erected as a memorial to the high courage and patriotism of the young men of Stratford, with funds left by John Sterling, multi-millionaire, corporation lawyer of Stratford and New York, was one of several benefactions provided for in the will of the deceased philanthropist, the Sterling bequests to Yale university, aggregating 18 millions, being the largest of these gifts.

The new building will be opened to the public for the first time Thursday evening, December 14, when the local post of the American Legion will have its big bazaar.

The bazaar is to continue through Friday and Saturday afternoon and evening, with dancing and other entertainment, and the proceeds will be used to secure furnishings for the Legion club rooms in the building.

For Ex-Service Men.

In the Sterling will the sum of \$50,000 was set aside for the memorial, and the decision as to what form this memorial should take was left to the Sterling heirs. When waited upon by a committee from the local post of the American Legion they agreed that the -best way in which the memorial bequest could be used would be in providing a home, clubhouse and gymnasium for the ex-service men of Stratford, which they in turn could allow other organizations to use, making the building a community house. This the Legion plans to do, and arrangements have already been completed for the Stratford High school to use the gym for basketball games, dances, etc.

The Memorial building is largely a "home town" product. The funds were donated by a native of Stratford, the rough gray rubble stone used in the building was quarried on the land of Arson Dart in the north end of the town, and local artisans assisted in the building and equipment of the structure.

The architects who designed the building are Frank H. Holden and Clarence H. Stein, of New York, who have designed a number of other buildings of similar type in New York and vicinity. The Memorial building is unique in that it is the only building of its kind in this part of the state built of native stone. This fact is of particular interest to architects and builders, for it shows what results may be obtained with Connecticut stone.

The contracting firm of Marcello and Mezzulo of New York carried out the building work on the structure, with Stratford and Bridgeport concerns doing the lighting, heating, roofing, painting and similar work.

Installing Heating Plant.

The structural iron work in the building was furnished by the Atlas Iron Works of Bridgeport, and the Porcupine company of Fairfield. Charles Graham of Stratford did the painting work, Kilpatrick and Hotz of Bridgeport the electrical work, Fanton and Roberts of Bridgeport the slate roofing, and Gazzolo and Austin of Stratford the plumbing and heating work. The work of installing the heating plant is now in progress, and while it will not be completed in its entirety by Thursday night, temporary radiators will be installed so that the building will be heated for the big bazaar.

W. C. Fahringer, the superintendent in charge of the construction of the building, today recalled that it was exactly seven months ago today that he arrived in Stratford to break

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ground for the big clubhouse. He said that the erection of a building of this character in the comparatively short time of seven months established a record.

The building is located on Main street, between the public library and the residence of Suprem [sic] Court Justice Howard J. Curtis. It is one of the finest locations for a building of this kind in the town.

Has Ample Grounds.

Erected on a big lot several hundred feet deep, there is room back of the building- for tennis courts, and ample room in front for a fine lawn. A stone path built of flat blue stones leads from the sidewalk to the main entrance of the building.

The structure itself harmonizes architecturally with the adjoining public library building. It has a frontage of 78 feet and a depth of 90 feet.

An auditorium for basketball games, dances, etc., is 55 feet wide by 67 feet long. At the front end is a stage 24 feet deep, so constructed that it can be utilized as a meeting room. Accordion type doors can be folded back out of the way when it is desired to use the stage for plays, concerts, etc.

Opening off the stage in the Legion trophy and club room. A feature of this room is a great open fireplace constructed of rubber stone and with a front hearth of selected flat blue stones.

Metal lined casements give the building plenty of light. Electricity is provided, for lighting purposes at night.

There is a kitchen in the basement with all modern cooking equipment, and a dumb waiter leading to a serving room on the main floor. On the second floor are the ladies' rooms, billiard room, and balcony.

A shower room is provided in the basement, and the big steam heating plant is also located in the basement.

As it now stands, the Sterling Memorial building is conceded by persons who have inspected it and others to have the finest Veterans' clubhouse, in the state.