

1875~1975



*100th
Anniversary*

SOUVENIR PROGRAM



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Senate has learned of the one-hundredth anniversary of the Concordia Turners of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the Concordia Turners have been a leader among the Turner organizations of the United States in carrying out the Turner motto of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body"; and

WHEREAS, the Concordia Turners is a family organization which has enriched the lives of thousands of Missourians through its cultural and physical programs; and

WHEREAS, the Concordia Turners in fulfilling their own motto of "Work will Win" have succeeded in winning many district, circuit, national and international awards for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, the Concordia Turners have been instrumental in the inclusion of physical education in the curriculum of the public schools of the City of St. Louis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Missouri Senate, Seventy-seventh General Assembly convened in Extraordinary Session, extends its heartiest congratulations to the Concordia Turners on its one-hundredth anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislative body recognizes the significant contribution the Concordia Turners have made in its hundred years of service to the community, that we officially commemorate, by means of this resolution, the one-hundredth anniversary of the Concordia Turners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send a suitably inscribed copy of this resolution to the President of Concordia Turners, George Heckman, St. Louis, Missouri.

Offered by Senator Bild

STATE OF MISSOURI:
CITY OF JEFFERSON:
ss
SENATE CHAMBER :

I, Vinita E. Ramsey, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and complete copy of Senate Resolution No. 13, offered into and adopted by the Senate on December 4, 1974, as fully as the same appears of record in my office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Senate of the State of Missouri this 4th day of December, A. D. 1974.



Vinita E. Ramsey
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
77TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Notes from George

Fellow Turners:

On our Birthday it is only appropriate that we look back with pride at what we have accomplished. Perhaps it is more correct to say, what has been accomplished, by members who have had Concordia at heart, and who have worked hard to bring the Society this far.

I feel their job speaks for itself.

We who are here now should be concerned with doing what we can, so that our children, and theirs, can look back with pride, as we are doing. This means that we must put our shoulder to the wheel and work for this end. Almost any "old-timer" will tell you that what has kept Concordia alive, while others have passed by the wayside, is the fine athletic program we have always had. Being a member means participation in all of Concordia. This year we will host the National Turnfest and I hope each and everyone will do their part to make it the very best ever held. Help make Concordia the best Society in the U.S.A.

To everyone let me add my best wishes for a very Happy Birthday.

with Turner Greetings
GEORGE
Pres. of CONCORDIA

Concordia Gymnastic Society

Celebrating

A Century of Health by Furthering the Principle
of
Sound Mind and Sound Body.

1875



1975

St. Louis, Missouri

Concordia Gymnastic Society is a member of the American Turners and as such promote physical education in order to advance health, happiness, prosperity and the progress of mankind. As Turners the belief is in;

Liberty - as opposed to oppression,

Tolerance - as opposed to all fanaticism

Reason - against all superstition

Justice - against all exploitation

and the principles of the American Constitution.

The first meeting for the organization of Concordia Turnverein was held on Dec. 18, 1874, however, the first official meeting took place on Jan. 8, 1875 at which time 72 members were enrolled as charter members. At the time of the 50th Anniversary of the Society a book was issued covering all details of the moving of the society from 13th & Utah to 13th & Arsenal and the progress for that first 50 years. Basically the Society is the same with a few changes that had to be made as the years passed and the Society progressed, however, although we are now located at 6432 Gravois, we have all the classes as previously and the addition of a large swimming pool and parking lot.

The original Concordia Turnverein was

built at 13th & Arsenal with a membership of 400 members and 600 pupils, however, it was built in three stages, 1875, 1890 and 1907. In 1948 St. Louis was the city chosen for the 37th National Festival which was the Centennial celebration of the Turner Movement. Although Cincinnati and several other cities preceded St. Louis in the organization of Turner Societies, the St. Louis District has a dedicated history in furthering the Turner Movement.

In June 1961 Concordia was notified by the Ozark Highway Dept. that the new Highway 55 would require the space occupied by the Turner Hall and had made an offer of \$160,000 and an additional \$4,000.00 for salvage items. It was necessary, however, to get an appraisal of the property in order to decide whether the offer of the Highway Dept. was fair or not. At this same time plans were made for the purchase of the Black Forest or Thunderbird as it was also known at 6432 Gravois. Final decision was made in Aug. 8, 1961 to accept the \$160,000.00 and keep the salvage items. At this same time several types of buildings were considered for the new Gym with bowling alleys and swimming pool included. Concordia continued classes at 13th & Arsenal until July 1962. In Sept. 1962 some classes were held at

Schiller Turners and some at Swiss Hall. The new building was dedicated on Sept. 7 and 8, 1963 and gym classes started at 6432 Gravois in the new Concordia Building.

At this time it is appropriate to list the names and dates in office of all our Presidents as many will recognize third and fourth generations as active in Concordia affairs.

Schreiner, Edmund	1875	
Ocker, H. W.	1876 1878	
Goedde, Clemens	1879	
Stamm, Herman	1880	
Berg, Nickolas	1881	
Hoeter, Oscar	1882	
Werner, Cuno	1883	
Leser, Fredrich	1884	
Gassmee, Otto	1885	
Bollinger, John	1886	
Walter, Jacob	1887	
Ungar, Carl	1888 1890	
Toeppen, Hugo Dr.	1891 1896	7
Pfeiffer, Carl	1897 1901	5
Machatschek, Joe Sr.	1902 1905	4
Pfeiffer, Carl	1906 1907	
Toeppen, Hugo Dr.	1908	
Schmidt, Theodore	1909 1911	
Klug, Emil	1912	
Boehl, Hugo	1913	
Schmoll, Carl	1914 1915	
Machatschek, Joe Jr.	1916 1918	
Sexauer, Herman	1919 1925	7
Litsch, Charles Dr.	1926 1927	
Trieseler, Louis	1928 1931	4
Thielemann, Fred	1932 1934	
Hofmeister, Rudolph Dr.	1935 1940	6
Zimmer, Edgar	1941 1945	5
Crook, Elmer	1946 1950	5
Leeker, Elmer	1951 1952	
Orchard, Aaron	1953 1956	4
Zimmer, Edgar	1957 1960	4
Meyer, Nickolas	1961 1962	
Litsch, Charles Dr.	1963 1968	6
Brune, Kenneth	1969 1970	
Gaughen, James	1971 1972	
Heckman, George	1973	

In preparation of a resume of the activities and achievements of any organization covering a period of 100 years, there is always the chance that some date, circumstance or name may be omitted. If this occurs, it will have to be charged to human error.

Originally the belief was that only men and boys should participate in gymnastic classes and all the classes were conducted in German. However, in 1878 Instructor Hanssen started a class for young women and girls and soon after the other Turnvereins followed suit.

The following is a list of dates and names of our past Instructors:

1875 - 1877	H. Kassing
1877 - 1890	Gustave Hanssen
1891 - 1892	J. Schmidt
1893	H. Ritter
1893 - 1896	L. Kittlaus
1896	R. Backhusen
1896 - 1914	Karl Heckrich
1914	Dr. David Osterheld
1915 - 1963	Otto Eckl
(1918 - 1919 - L. Kittlaus substituted for Eckl while he was in service)	
1963 - Present time	Arnold Trummer

The Senior "Baers" which originally were men over 35 years of age was organized in 1888 and Volley Ball was their main sport in addition to their gym classes. The main object of the Seniors is the promotion of sociability and good fellowship. They have participated in all Turnfests and competitive Volley Ball tournaments since their organization. Their first participation in a Turnfest was in 1893 when 17 members went to Milwaukee and placed third. At one time they played a game called "Cocked Hat" in which only three bowling pins were used. This was previous to bowling Ten Pins.

The Matrons (Third Ladies) organized in Nov. 1897 and in 1925 at the 50th Anniversary they had 73 members. Their gym class is every Thursday afternoon. Concordia was presented with a Banner which was made by the Matrons in 1900 in honor of the Society's 25th Anniversary. The Banner is being renewed again for this 100th Anniversary.

The First class for women was organized in 1878 by young ladies age 12 to 18. As more ladies joined the class it was necessary to separate the ages from 12 to 16 and all over 16 years of age. The 16 and older group became so large it was necessary to again divide the class into two groups, both held on the same evening - one following the other. In 1915 this class was organized as the First and Second Ladies Class. In 1921 they participated in the Chicago Turnfest with 17 ladies. All expenses were covered by a Euchre, Lotto and Pinochle given by this class. They also sponsored a circus and had one of the Actives act as Ringmaster - the ladies were all the animals. An All Ladies Minstrel was given by this class in Nov. 1923 and 1924. Since that time they have sponsored Style Shows, Wine tasting parties, etc.

A Junior Class consisting of boys 17 to 21 was organized in 1879, however, after a few years it disbanded. It was re-instated in 1913 through the efforts of Instructor Heckrich and has continued successfully since. When they

1875

Program

1975

Centennial Dinner

Friday, January 10, 1975

Master of Ceremonies	William Resetarits
Posting of the Colors	
Singing of the 'Star Spangled Banner'	led by Marie Leicht
Invocation	Royall Zani
Featured Speaker	Leonor K. Sullivan U. S. Congresswoman
Featured Speaker	Walter Schrader 1st V. P. American Turners
Remarks	George Heckman, Pres. Concordia Turners
Awarding 25 year cards	George Heckman
Awarding 40, 50 year H. M.	Walter Schrader 1st V. P. American Turners
Awarding of Past Pres. pins	William Meyer Past President American Turners
Unveiling of the Old Banner	
The Endowment Trust Fund	Elmer Crook Trustee
Closing remarks	
	TURNER SONG
	Everyone
Music afterwards by Joe Hrdlicka	

1875 Centennial Stiftungsfest 1975

Concordia Turners

6432 Gravois Ave.

Saturday, January 11, 1975

8:00 P.M.

Part I

1. Turnfest Team 1990 Tiny Tots
2. Saturday Morning at the Hall 4th Boys and Girls
3. Jumping Jacks 3rd Girls
4. Circuit Training on Bucks 3rd Boys
5. Picket Drill 2nd Boys
6. Beginning with Hope
7. Soft Shoe Dance 2nd Girls
8. Jr. & Actives Mass Drill Jr. & Actives

Part II

25 year Presentations

Max Hill, A. Elmer Leeker, Jr., Serafino Negri, Walter Walkenbach.

40 year Presentations

Joseph E. Hahn, Edgar D. Kramer, Edward B. Lang, Louis A. Lang, Albert C. Peterson, George Schmid, Martin Vick, Tony Wolframsdorf.

50 year Presentation

Edwin G. Syberg, Lawrence Wilms.

Presentation of Past President's Pins

Elmer Crook, Aaron Orchard, Nick Meyer, Charles Litsch, Kenneth Brune, James Gaughen.

Part III

10. 1875 Statues of the Past.
11. 1885 There were Tumblers then, too!
12. 1895 It was always Discipline.
13. 1905 Aesthetic Dance in the Park.
14. 1915 Building Things.
15. 1925 Time of the Swingers.
16. 1935 Marching Drill & Mass Drill for Seniors.
17. 1945 Parallel Bars.
18. 1955 Uneven Bars & Beam.
19. 1965 Modern Gymnastics for Boys.
20. 1975 Turnfest Activities.

Director
Arnold Trummer

Accompanist
Ann Jenkins

become 21 years of age they are asked to become members of the Society and to join the Actives Class.

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized in Oct. 3, 1921 for the purpose of assisting the Society in every way possible. They have been a member of the American Turners Auxiliary since 1921 and make donations to the Scholarship Fund and lately to the Endowment Trust Fund as well as Concordia Endowment Trust Fund. In explanation of Concordia Endowment Trust Fund this is maintained through contributions from Memorials and donations by members and the interest is used at the discretion of the Trustees of the Fund and the Board of Directors to pay part of the instructors salary, buy new equipment, etc, which is always approved by the Trustees of the Fund.

At one time Board members acted as Managers of the Turnverein, however, in the late twenties the first manager was hired and we have had one ever since. We also had a Supt. of the School who supervised the Instructor and classes, but this has been discontinued.

At one time Sunday night dances were sponsored by the Society, there was a Singing Chorus, a Cadet Corp., Rowing Club, Dramatic Section, manual training for both boys and girls, Brass Band, Aeroplane Club, Hiking group and Ladies baseball league, however, public schools and colleges have taken over many of these activities.

Concordia has participated in National Turnfests held as follows:

YEAR	LOCATION	PLACED
1879	Philadelphia, Pa.	2 Individual Prizes
1881	St. Louis, Mo.	2 Individual Prizes
1885	Newark, N. J.	Did not participate
1889	Cincinnati, Ohio	Sixth Place
1893	Milwaukee, Wisc.	Sixth Place
1897	St. Louis, Mo.	Sixth place
1900	Philadelphia, Pa.	Thirteenth place
1905	Indianapolis, Ind.	Second place
1909	Cincinnati, Ohio	First place
1913	Denver, Colo.	Second place
1921	Chicago, Ill.	First place
1926	Louisville, Ky.	Second place
1930	Buffalo, N. Y.	First place
1936	Cleveland, Ohio	First place
1941	Springfield, Mass.	First place
1948	St. Louis, Mo.	First place
1951	Buffalo, N. Y.	Did not participate
1955	Milwaukee, Wisc.	First place
1959	Louisville, Ky.	First place
1963	Cleveland, Ohio	Questionable
1967	Moline, Ill.	Second place
1971	Milwaukee, Wisc.	Second place

At this time, Concordia is the largest Gymnastic School in the country.





In 1877, a dedicated group of members managed to erect this building at 13th and Arsenal Sts. This was quite a large building for its' time and purpose.

(Note delivery wagons & dirt streets.)



Old Concordia flourished for many years, with several additions and was finally sold to the Missouri State Highway dept. A short time later, on July 4, 1962, vandals set fire to this building. St. Louisians, many with tearful faces, watched and mourned the loss of this landmark.



After looking at some seventy pieces of property in two months time, Concordia bought out the restaurant and property at 6432 Gravois and the above picture is the result of three remodelings since then.

We now have one of the finer and more active Societies in the country. If we work hard, we can make it the finest.



FRIEDRICH LUDWIG JAHN MEMORIAL

This memorial in beautiful Forest Park was placed in dedication to the man who brought Physical Education to America, beginning with the first school in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1848. The memorial was presented to the City of St. Louis by the American Turners and dedicated in October, 1913.

A parade of all the Turners in the St. Louis area preceded the dedication ceremonies.

The only Turner monument in this country, it was re-dedicated during the American Turners Centennial in 1948.

Vandalized over the years, it was renewed and restored in 1972, in time for re-dedication during the National Convention, held at Concordia.



SINCE 1850

Old - Timer's Day

Sunday, May 4, 1975

from 2 till 5 P.M.

All Concordians, former Concordians and friends of Concordia are invited to a day of reminiscence and friendship at our Hall. There will be displays, pictures, entertainment, refreshments, and souvenirs.

If you know any old-timers, let them know about this great get-together. Let us know, too! If you have room in your car for anyone needing a ride, let us know.

Let's make this a Big Day!

