GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion

MAY 27, 1963

COVER: The New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion will consist of twenty-one small pavilions, representing the twenty-one counties of the State, arranged around a central theater and four gardens. The architect is Philip Sheridan Collins, designers are Peter Quay Yang Associates, and the landscape architect is Richard Cripps.

Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by New Jersey and World's Fair officials at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion, New York World's Fair, May 27, 1963.

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AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Governor Hughes, Mrs. Hughes, General Potter, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. We are here this morning to break ground for the important New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion. I am honored to present our first speaker, General William E. Potter, executive vice president of the New York World's Fair Corporation.

GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTER: Governor and Mrs. Hughes, Ambassador Patterson, Mr. Troast, friends. We are very glad to take part in this groundbreaking this afternoon. Mr. Moses, my boss, is on his way home from Europe where he had very successful meetings, in Italy with respect to the Italian and Vatican exhibits, and in Spain in regard to the Spanish Pavilion. He arrives home tomorrow. I'm sure he regrets missing this groundbreaking since it was he who sold New Jersey the idea of celebrating its 300th anniversary at the New York World's Fair. On his behalf, Governor Hughes and Mr. Troast, I would like to present the medallions which he would have given you were he here.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Ladies and gentlemen, the next speaker is Mr. Paul L. Troast, the chairman of the Tercentenary Commission of New Jersey.

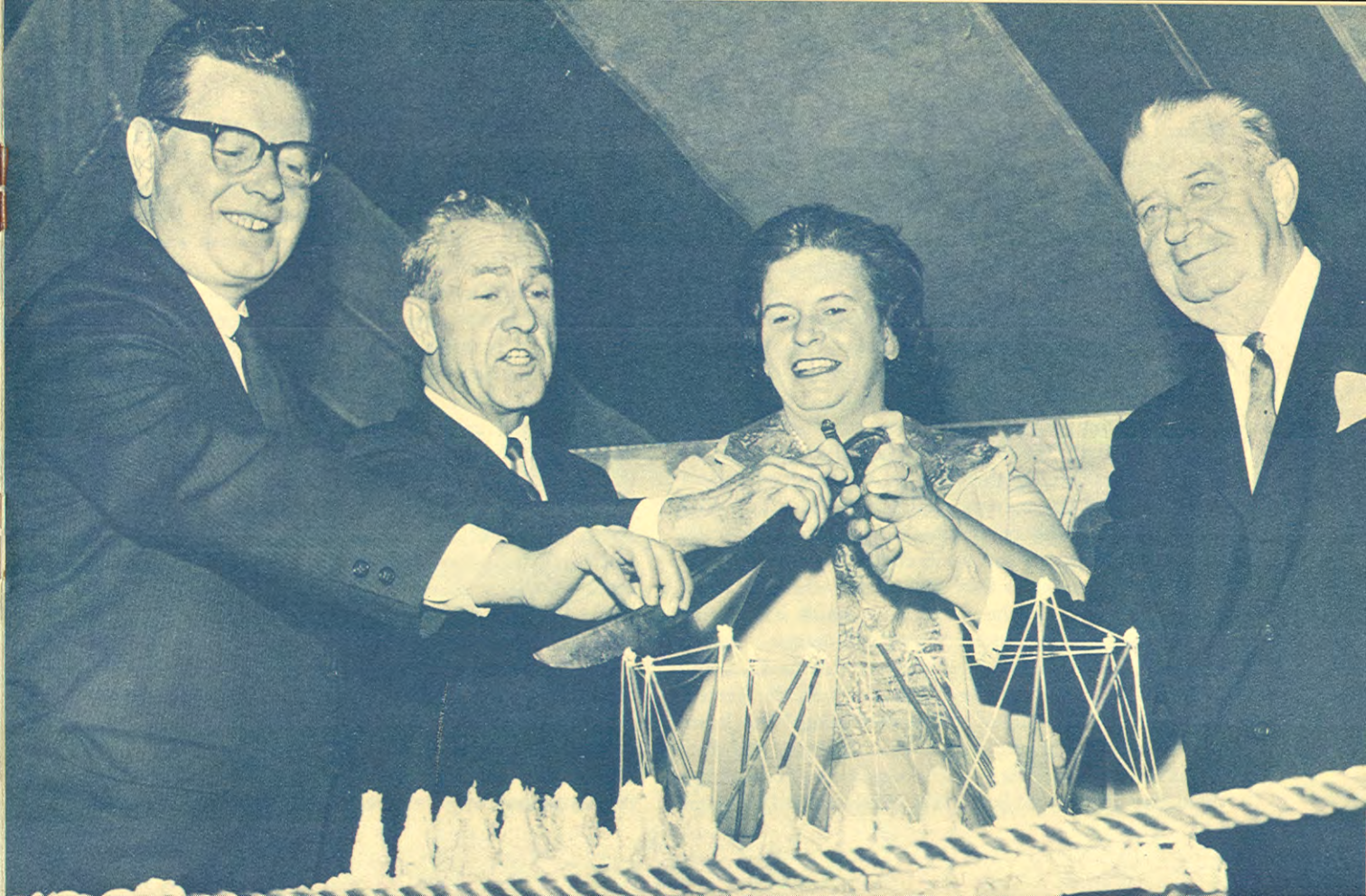
MR. PAUL L. TROAST: Mr. Chairman, General Potter, Governor and Mrs. Hughes, fellow members of the New Jersey Tercentenary Commission, officials of the World's Fair, ladies and gentlemen. General Potter, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Tercentenary Commission for this medallion. It will have a treasured place in our State's archives and we hope that when this pavilion is completed the World's Fair and its officials, as well as the City of New York, and the State of New York, will be very proud of the New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion. I am advised that work on our pavilion is proceeding on schedule, and on time. This is as it should be since New Jersey has never been late in anything. We were one of the first to obtain a site, and Governor, I think you will admit it is a good one. We stand between the Unisphere® and the New York State Pavilion and we should attract a lot of attention.

My main duty here today is to introduce a very, very good friend, and an ardent coworker in the New Jersey Tercentenary effort. In the beginning we were fortunate in having this Tercentenary initiated by Governor Hughes' predecessor, Governor Meyner, who was very helpful. Since 1959 we've been planning the 300th birthday of the State of New Jersey. Since his election as successor to Governor Meyner, we have had no more important advocate of the New Jersey Tercentenary Commission and its participation here at the World's Fair than Governor Hughes. It gives me great pleasure to present to you

NEW JERSEY TERCENTENARY / 1664 - 1964

People, Purpose, Progress

Cutting New Jersey's 300th birthday cake are: Governor Richard J. Hughes, General William E. Potter, Mrs. Hughes and Paul Troast. The cake, a replica of the pavilion, was prepared by the New Jersey Board of Bakers Trade. The saber was carried at the Battle of Trenton in 1776.



Richard J. Hughes, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

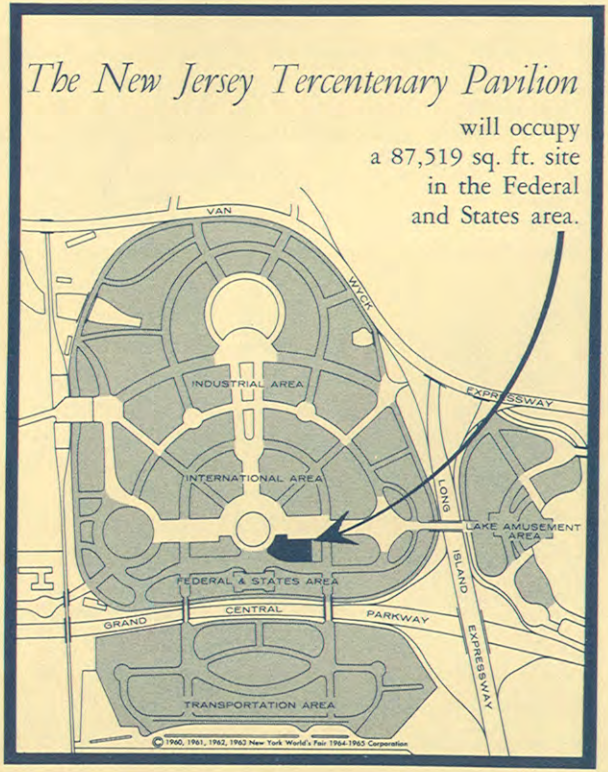
GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES: Thank you very much, Paul. Ambassador Patterson, General Potter, distinguished senators and other guests. I see some of our State legislators here, which is no more than fitting because of the significance they attach to this great exhibit that we'll have here.

This is not a groundbreaking because we are already pretty far advanced, and as Paul Troast very appropriately suggests, this is not the beginning — New Jersey was the first state to be connected with the Fair, to be assigned a site, which as you can see is a very good site — I consider it the best. We were the first to sign a lease, the first to begin planning, therefore we are very happy about being alert and on time and joining with New York City in its 300th birthday celebration. So, while it's not really a groundbreaking we can symbolize it as such.

Our construction, as Paul says, is on schedule, and I think this points up the cooperation which has existed between State and industry. We've had dramatic success in our fund-raising efforts to support this pavilion and all of our other activities in connection with the Tercentenary celebrations, all of which will bring New Jersey to the attention of the world. Paul Stillman and Paul Troast and Bob Meyner — you notice the bipartisan tinge there, two great Republican New Jerseymen and one great Democratic New Jerseyman — I was added as an ex-officio member to keep it in strict balance. We worked very hard as a team raising this money and we are going forward under a Tercentenary Commission — both federal and state commissions — with the fresh and novel ideas of our director, David S. Davies.

On these twenty-one platforms New Jersey will tell a twenty-one chapter story of our three centuries of people, purpose and progress. These are the key words in the symbol of the New Jersey Tercentenary: People, Purpose, Progress.

One of the exciting aspects of this pavilion is that many young New Jerseymen will staff the Tercentenary Pavilion. They will be bright, smart, young bi-lingual New Jersey high school and college students. This is very fitting because of all the states I think New Jersey can best be characterized as a melting pot for the whole three centuries of its existence. All Jerseymen have profited by the infusion from many lands of good men with character, brains and ability. And so, in saluting our heritage and as a service to visitors from nations all over the world, the very nations from which New Jersey has drawn its strength, we will have available at this pavilion persons who can speak the languages of the world. In that way, we will be speaking in many languages the theme of the Fair, 'Peace through Understanding.' We



in New Jersey understand this theme. We continue to benefit from a flow of people from throughout the nation and the world. We welcome these new Jerseymen; we want to tell them so in their own language when they visit the New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion at the Fair.

We have a birthday cake here symbolizing New Jersey's 300th birthday and also New York City's 300th birthday and I ask General Potter to join with me in cutting it with a saber that was carried at the Battle of Trenton in the Revolutionary War. This magnificent cake was prepared by the New Jersey Board of Bakers Trade under the supervision of Frank Verheul, chairman of the Board's Tercentenary Commission.

I would now like to introduce Robert A. Roe, our new Conservation Commissioner, Philip Alampi, our Secretary of Agriculture, and John A. Kervick, our State Treasurer. Thank you.

RICHARD J. HUGHES
Governor

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1664-1964/For Three Centuries People Purpose Progress

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