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

THE

West Virginia Pavilion

APRIL 29, 1963

Excerpts from remarks by World's Fair and West Virginia officials, and special guests at the State of West Virginia Pavilion groundbreaking ceremonies, New York World's Fair, Monday, April 29, 1963.

GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTER [Executive Vice President, New York World's Fair Corporation]: Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to introduce the Right Reverend Wilburn C. Campbell, Bishop of the Episcopalian Church of the Diocese of West Virginia.

RIGHT REVEREND WILBURN C. CAMPBELL [Bishop, Episcopalian Church, Diocese of West Virginia]: Now, may we lift up our hearts and our voices in prayer to Almighty God for the many benefits which he has bestowed upon West Virginia and upon this fair nation of ours.

Almighty God, in the times of prosperity suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. In times of crisis, may our courage be equal to the occasion.

Keep us ever mindful of our own motto in West Virginia, that mountaineers are always free. In the spirit of freedom, in the spirit of unity, in the spirit of national being, we ask Thy divine blessing upon the undertaking in this international Fair, and especially to the West Virginia Pavilion. To those who find rest and relaxation, those who find fellowship and inspiration, may they be lifted up into a new sense of the brotherhood of man. And that all the conceptions which have gone into making this Fair may play its part in establishing upon this earth which Thou hast given us, a true, a lasting, a vivid and a strenuous brotherhood of man, under Thy Fatherhood. Amen.

GENERAL POTTER: Early in the history of our Fair, we came in contact with a group called International Fair Consultants. The leader of that group is Dr. Leonard Stavisky, who not only in the West Virginia exhibit but in other places including the Hall of Education, has shown that he has a great appreciation of World's Fairs.

DR. LEONARD P. STAVISKY [Executive Vice President, International Fair Consultants, Inc.]: West Virginia has been fortunate in the site assigned to it by the World's Fair. Opposite the seventeen million dollar Federal Pavilion, which will be a focal area of attraction, stands the West Virginia Pavilion, occupying a plot of

Cover: Artist's rendering of the West Virginia Pavilion. This exhibit will incorporate the myriad attractions which have made this State famous. A Radio Astronomy Sky exhibit will illustrate Green Bank's contributions to research in outer space. Architects and engineers are Irving Bowman and Associates and Frederic P. Wiedersum Associates in cooperation with International Fair Consultants, Inc.

© 1963 New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation

34,409 sq. ft.

From the moment of entry into the pavilion, the visitor will feel himself transmitted to the environment of the State. Through guides, audio-visual aids, films, television, dioramas and life-like displays, the visitor will be carried to the very heart of the State, to Hawk's Nest, Blackwater Falls, Oglebay Park, Harpers Ferry, the State University, the museums, the industrial sites and the hundred-and-one major attractions for which this State is richly famous.

Speaking for my associates, I would like to express our appreciation to Governor Barron, Commissioner Smith, the Board of Public Works, the State Legislature, the civic leaders, as well as the newspaper, radio and television executives who have given this program their wholehearted support and endorsement. This project is truly a West Virginia project, planned in West Virginia, by and for West Virginians.

A special word of thanks should go to E. L. Montgomery who has handled so many of the arrangements for this project and who will be the pavilion director. My colleagues, Irving Bowman & Associates and Frederic P. Wiedersum Associates, should be congratulated for their fine architectural design. Finally, I want to thank the New York World's Fair Corporation for this splendid preview of West Virginia Day.

GENERAL POTTER: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce the Commissioner of Commerce, Hulett C. Smith.

Governor William Wallace Barron (left) and Commissioner of Commerce Hulett C. Smith officiate at the West Virginia groundbreaking ceremonies.

HULETT C. SMITH [Commissioner of Commerce, State of West Virginia]: Nine days ago, on April 20th,

1963, the State of West Virginia observed a landmark of history— the 100th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation admitting West Virginia into the Union. This afternoon we observe another dramatic moment in the future of West Virginia, ushering in a new era of dynamic growth and greatness that is limited only by the imagination, the earnestness and the ingenuity of our people.

This building, conceived as a dynamic showcase of industry, relaxation, art, science, government, education and the professions, is a source of family entertainment, a subject of State pride, a fountainhead for new ideas and a glimpse into the 21st century.

Since the establishment of the State Department of Commerce in 1961, we have been earnestly planning and building toward a future of West Virginia with new industry, new employment and new tourist attractions. The New York World's Fair provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to tell our story to the seventy million visitors who will come to the Fair.

Now, I would like to recognize those honored guests who came from West Virginia to be with us at this pavilion groundbreaking and to acknowledge the wonderful cooperation that we've had from International Fair Consultants, Dr. Stavisky and his group, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Wiedersum. Our thanks also to the New York World's Fair, to President Moses, General Potter, Mr. Pender, and the many others who are making West Virginia an integral part of the world and the World's Fair.

GENERAL POTTER: It is my great pleasure at this time to introduce Dr. Armand Spitz, who has designed and built over 300 planetariums. With Dr. Harlow Shapley, he is serving to develop the Radio Astronomy Sky exhibit within the West Virginia Pavilion.

DR. ARMAND SPITZ [Consultant, Radio Astronomy Sky Exhibit]: This is a rather interesting opportunity to tell the story of the work that West Virginia is doing and will do in the future to advance not only West Virginia, but the knowledge and the understanding of the world with relation to the universe in which we live.

I am speaking on behalf of Dr. Harlow Shapley, the former director of the Harvard Observatory. He has been working with us since the very beginning in the planning of a demonstration which will help to make this West Virginia Pavilion sparkle.

A great many states will tell their stories at the World's Fair. West Virginia is going to be talking about something that is increasingly significant in the eyes of the scientific world — the fact that it was selected as the site for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank.

The radio dishes at Green Bank represent one of the new tools of astronomy, one of the new implements which men have devised to reach out farther and farther into space, to penetrate the clouds which so frequently interfere with the optical astronomer. Developments in astron-

omy emanating from Green Bank are going to help us find the answers to still hidden secrets of the universe.

GENERAL POTTER: Dr. Spitz, my boss's great desire since this Fair was first thought of was a scientific exhibit that would show what you have just explained to us. I introduce to you Mr. Robert Moses, the president of the New York World's Fair.

MR. ROBERT MOSES: Some years ago we were trying to get a planetarium in New York, and there was a commission appointed by the governor to take various projects down to Washington to see if we could gouge some money out of the Reconstruction Finance Committee. We didn't have any money, but we did have great ambitions. I was very doubtful of my ability to accomplish anything down there, so I asked former Governor Smith if he would go along to Washington with me to talk with some of his friends on the RFC. I knew he was particularly friendly with Jesse Jones. So the Governor went down, and one of the projects we presented was the projected planetarium for New York. Governor Smith presented this issue very appealingly and by that time we had presented eleven projects — and by that time the RFC people were very tired. Later that day, Jesse Jones called the Governor to say that the planetarium project had been approved, and that's how we got our planetarium.

I'm delighted with the space and attention you are giving to this particular subject in your pavilion. I don't deprecate and I don't minimize the importance of the travel

Joining Governor Barron in directing the start of construction are members of the Board of Public Works: (left to right) Joe F. Burdett, Secretary of State; Denzil L. Gainer, Auditor; Rex M. Smith, Superintendent of Schools; John H. Kelly, Treasurer.

and scenery exhibits, but I think your Radio Astronomy Sky exhibit shows imagination, and that's what we need at the Fair. What you have here is a highly imaginative thing. Anyway, all I can add is that I'm delighted that you are here and that so many of you have shown your interest by coming here. Thank you.

GENERAL POTTER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. I should now like to introduce The Honorable William Wallace Barron, Governor of the State of West Virginia.

THE WEST VIRGINIA PAVILION

will occupy a 34,409 sq. ft. site in the Federal and States Area.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM WALLACE BARRON [Governor, State of West Virginia]: I am pleased and gratified to be here today. I want to congratulate Mr. Moses and General Potter and their staff for the planning and construction of the New York World's Fair. I want to congratulate the people of New York City, the citizens of the State of New York, and the federal government for making the World's Fair possible.

Mr. Moses, on behalf of my people and myself, I accept this medallion with dignity, because in a sense it reflects the initiative of our people and the tremendous potential of the great State of West Virginia. Our pavilion, this lovely luncheon attended by distinguished people honoring West Virginia, and the great things that all of you have done for our State have inspired me as an individual and as Governor of the State of West Virginia.

And now, Mr. Moses, it is my privilege to present to you with the best wishes of all the people of the State of West Virginia some glassware made in West Virginia.

Mr. Moses, because you have been the inspiration for the West Virginia Pavilion, and because you are a distinguished American as reflected by your years of dedication as a public servant, it is my privilege to bestow upon you the title of Honorary Mountaineer, with all the ranks and privileges pertaining thereto. Because of the dealings that you have had with Jesse Jones and others, I am going to add another provision — that you are entitled to Constitutional immunity from arrest while in the State

of West Virginia.

General Potter, as Governor of the State of West Virginia, it is my privilege because of your services as an outstanding American and all the things as heretofore have been said about Mr. Moses, to bestow upon you the title of Honorary Mountaineer, with all the ranks and privileges pertaining thereto.

GENERAL POTTER: These have been wonderful festivities, and to close them on the proper note, and as I promised, the last word goes to the Bishop.

BISHOP CAMPBELL: There are two other bishops in West Virginia, Bishop Fred Holloway of the Methodist Church, and Bishop Hodges of the Roman Catholic Church. I think at this particular point I'm substituting for the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Hodges, which indicates that it is in fact an international affair.

When I was a lad, I was forced to study all about Moses, and how he led his children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, and he said 'Let my people go.' And he built a highway across the Red Sea. I was a priest on Long Island when another Moses came to life, and said: 'I want to build an Interboro; I want to build a Grand Central Parkway; I want to build the Northern Parkway.' Mr. Moses, I bask in the sunlight of Jones Beach — and you built it. For years, I've admired you, and now I'm privileged to be close to you and to have you pay tribute to West Virginia.

Governor William Wallace Barron (right) presents West Virginia stemware to Robert Moses.

We, in West Virginia, may not be the richest, we may not be the biggest, but we are the freest — and we love it — every bit of our West Virginian mountains. So, let us ask God's blessing upon this.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit ourselves. May the Lord bless us and keep us, May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. May He pour into our lives His love, His light, and His peace. That in His love we may not be lonely; in His light we may not be lost. Amen.

West Virginia Pavilion

William Wallace Barron, Governor

Hulett C. Smith, Commissioner of Commerce

Board of Public Works

William Wallace Barron, Governor, Chairman

Joe F. Burdett, Secretary of State

Denzil L. Gainer, Auditor

Rex M. Smith, State Superintendent of Schools

John H. Kelly, State Treasurer

C. Donald Robertson, Attorney General

John T. Johnson, Commissioner of Agriculture

State Legislature

Howard W. Carson, President of the Senate

Julius W. Singleton, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates

E. Hans McCourt, Senate Finance Chairman

Ivor Boiarsky, House Finance Chairman

Department of Commerce Advisory Board

Don B. Potter, Chairman

Dr. Frank H. Fischer

Robert C. Hieronymus

Hugh Stillman

Albert S. Kemper, Jr.

Dr. Clyde L. Colson

David T. Kennedy

E. L. Montgomery, Pavilion Director

Curtis S. Wilson, Director of Purchases

International Fair Consultants, Inc.
Planning/Construction/Management

Irving Bowman & Associates — Frederic P. Wiedersum Associates
Architects/Engineers

Unisphere® presented by USS United States Steel

© 1961 New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 CORPORATION

Tel. 212-WF 4-1964 Flushing 52, N.Y.

ROBERT MOSES, *President*

THOMAS J. DEEGAN, JR., *Chairman of the Executive Committee*

WILLIAM E. POTTER, *Executive Vice President*

CHARLES POLETTI, *Vice President, International Affairs and Exhibits*

STUART CONSTABLE, *Vice President, Operations*

WILLIAM BERNS, *Vice President, Communications and Public Relations*

ERWIN WITT, *Comptroller*

MARTIN STONE, *Director of Industrial Section*

GUY F. TOZZOLI, *(Port of New York Authority) Transportation Section*

ERNESTINE R. HAIG, *Secretary of the Corporation and Assistant to the President*

WILLIAM WHIPPLE, JR., *Chief Engineer*