FIRST PRESIDENTIAL CONVENTION HELD IN 1812— DE WITT CLINTON NOMINATED BY FEDERALIST PARTY

New York Had First Honor, Baltimore Becoming Popular Later, Losing Out When Railroads Tapped What Now Is Middle West.

New Yorkers who remember their history are recalling that the first convention for the nomination of a Presidential candidate was held in that city. It was convened by the old Federalist party, in 1812, and nominated De Witt Clinton, then Lieutenant-Governor of the State, to head the party ticket. Clinton received 89 electoral votes to 219 for James Madison.

Previous to this Federalist convention, unpretentious forerunner of the great gathering of the Democratic party which takes place here in June, the methods of appraising Presidential timber were comparatively simple. Indeed, until the election of 1800 there were no nominations.

In 1789 Washington was the choice of the electors provided by the machinery of the new Constitution, and "the Father of His Country" was again selected in 1792. After John Adams had served his term, however, party divisions began to be manifest, and in 1800 the first Congressional caucuses for the selection of the Chief executive and Vice-President were held, with the result that Jefferson became President after the House of Representatives had been called upon to break the tie between him and Aaron Burr. The Congressional caucus method prevailed in 1804 and 1808, although there had as yet been no platform and no convention.

However, the Federalist convention of 1812 did not serve to commit the parties to that system of making nominations, and it was not until the election of 1832 that all the Presidential candidates were named in this manner.

The anti-Masonic party, first in the field, met at Baltimore in September 1830, adjourning until September 26, 1831, on which date the delegates re-assembled in the same city, nominating William Wirt, of Virginia, for the Presidency.

Both the Whig and Democratic parties also held their conventions for the 1832 election at Baltimore, the former meeting on December 12, 1831, the latter on May 21, 1832, naming respectively Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson.

In those days Baltimore was most easily accessible of any city of the country; in fact it remained the favorite convention city until the development of the railways through what is now the Middle West.

CIVILIZATION IN NEW MEXICO.

Four stages of civilization have existed in New Mexico; The present or American; back of this the Spanish, which came with the Spaniards in 1540. When they came they found the civilization of the Pueblo Indian with at least seventy villages, cultivated fields and extensive irrigation. Coexistent with them were the nomadic Indians not so highly civilized. And before them were a prehistoric race, living in well-built cities with houses of stone, some of them four stories high, and they were cultivating irrigated fields. Their ditches and irrigation works were as well laid out as if run by modern engineers. They have entirely disappeared, and we know only that they were here for an unknown period, beginning at least one thousand years ago.

All that remains are the mighty ruins, some in cities down on the plains and others are cliff dwellings, where houses are built on the cliffs, and some were cave dwellings. One building at Pueblo Bonito, which is one of the earliest apartment houses, had four stories and covered a greater area than the Capitol at Washington.

Today the traveler can see at one time the nomadic Indian, the pueblo dweller, the Spanish occupation and the present Anglo-American development.

DURANGO—WHERE THE STREETS WERE LINED WITH SILVER.

Three hundred and fifty years ago the place where the city now stands was a ranch, and at the present corners of the streets Principal and Teresas was a large tree under which an altar was built and the first masses said. Afterward a little church was built at the corner of the streets Constitution and Mayor; this has been rebuilt, but many of the original timbers remain.

The ranchero who owned the land on which the city is built gave away many lots to settlers who would remain and defend the city against the Indians. Later a mine was discovered on his land, he became wealthy, and a percentage of the output was levied toward building the cathedral. After he built the house now used as the governor's palace and a theatre, both of stone, the theatre being the second one built in Mexico.

He sent to the King of Spain a present of $2,000,000, asking permission to build galleries and portals of silver around his house. This was refused as being a privilege pertaining only to royalty. He then put up porches of wood; but on the occasion of a christening in his family he paved the street from his house to the church with bricks of silver. The descendants of this man live in Durango to this day, but they do not use silver as paving blocks.

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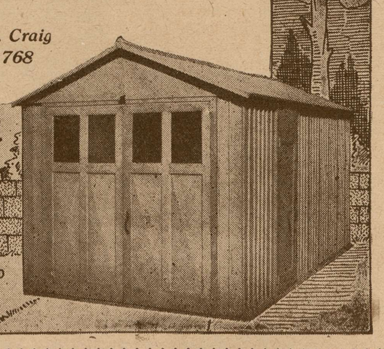
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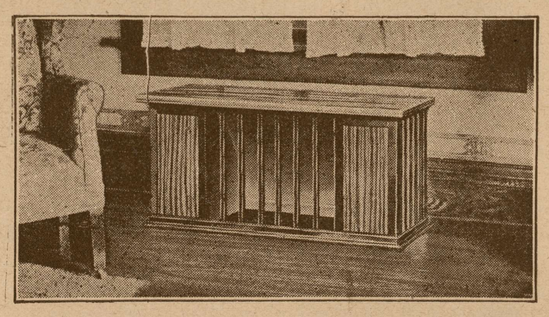
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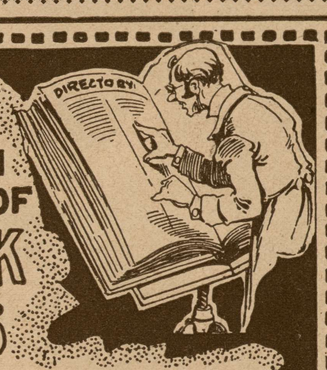

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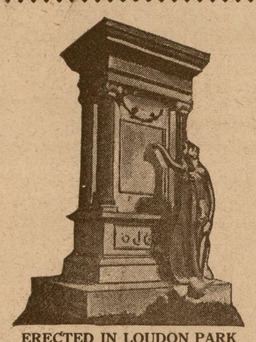
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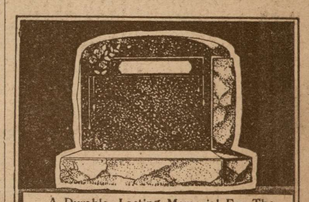
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