THE 1915 CELEBRATION

THE PAGEANT

The pageant formed at the Broadway Approach shortly after two o'clock, with Glenn W. Tisdale, former grand marshal of the Institute, as chief marshal, leading the procession, followed by his assistants, D. H. Cameron, Glenn S. Reeves and John W. Howard, the present grand marshal. All were mounted, wore white trousers, shirts and hats, with red sashes.

Noller's Band was next in line, followed by the New York alumni, headed by the new president, E. B. Ashley, '86. After the New York men came several of the older graduates in automobiles, and several returning classes in grotesque costumes.

Conspicuous among the returning classes was that of 1914, billed as "the class that always comes back." There were about thirty members of the class in line, all attired in red and black clown suits. Class of 1912 also had a large delegation in line in multi-colored clown suits.

The class of 1905 had a unique turnout. Several members in white trousers, shirts and hats, with cherry sashes, hatbands and ties, rolled a large pushball that was later presented to the Institute for future contests.

William Jennings Bryan was the butt of the satire of the pageant, as depicted by individuals and expressed in signs carried by the students. Two graduates in comic costume carried a stretcher on which was a dummy bearing a sign that read: "William J. Bryan. Peace at Last." One of the students was attired in a frock coat with a large roll of manuscript protruding from a back pocket, a large black Stetson and carried a stuffed dove in one hand. Before him was a banner reading: "William J. Bryan — To Be Half-shot at Sunrise."

"Teddy" Roosevelt was also alluded to in the makeup of individuals. Students made-up as animals and wild men bore signs reading: "Captured by T. R. on the River of Doubt."

The graduates in their caps and gowns, headed by President Alfred C. Gallagher, carrying the class banner, were next in line with the Institute Band in their new uniforms. These were followed by the undergraduate body.

The uniforms of the undergraduates were original and funny. The juniors were dressed as foreign soldiers and carried banners reading: "On to Paris," and "On to Berlin." The Kaiser, Sultan and Czar were represented. The sophomores wore prison garb and were marshaled by guards carrying guns. They locked-stepped along the line of march. The freshmen were grouped to form battleships and submarines, all properly manned and captained.

The floats were a big feature. The members of the Scholarship Club carried a large airship of the Zeppelin type, while the Social Outcasts were mounted on their usual vehicle, a water wagon. The toads were there in green gowns aboard an automobile truck decked with bottles containing the toads' favorite brew.
When the column arrived at the campus, H. B. Lewis, ringmaster, assumed charge and the circus was on. As a preliminary to the circus, President Gallagher of the graduating class presented the class banner to W. H. Cravens, president of the Rensselaer Union which retains it.

The first "stunt" of the circus was a bear hunt, members of the Rifle Club chasing a student, dressed as a bear, all over the campus.

Next was a pushball contest, presumably between the classes of '05 and '07. Before the contest had progressed far, however, almost the entire student body and alumni was clamoring to get hold of the big inflated sphere. The class of 1913 then pulled off a "stunt," and there was a May-pole dance by members of the student body. The act was billed as "The Rushes, as the Institute authorities would have them."

The circus closed with a chariot-race between the toads and social outcasts. The wheels flew off the chariots a few times, but the charioteers had hammers and oil cans handy and repaired them sufficiently each time to finish the race that culminated in a general mixup at the finish.

At the conclusion of the circus, Director Palmer C. Ricketts awarded the silver loving cup presented by the Institute for the class making the best appearance in the pageant to the class of 1917, styled "Ricketts' Convicts." The class of 1914 was given honorable mention. The class of 1885 was awarded the silver loving cup for having the largest percentage of living members back. More than half the class took part in the exercises. The cups will remain in the possession of the Institute, but the names of the winning classes are inscribed on the cups, together with the date. The judges included Henry W. Hodge, '85; Edward S. Jarett, '89, and James H. Caldwell, '86.

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THE ALUMNI MEETING

The forty-fourth annual alumni meeting was opened by Louis E. Laflin, '82, who presided until the election of new officers.

The nominating committee, composed of Messrs. Caldwell, '86; Holman, '87, and Turner, '91, proposed the following list of officers for the coming year, who were elected unanimously and given rousing cheers: President, Alfred T. White, '65; first vice-president, William P. Denegre, '77; second vice-president, W. H. Hasinger, '85; third vice-president, E. S. Ficks, '94; secretary, Edward F. Chilman, '86; treasurer, Charles W. Crockett, '84; necrological secretary, Dwinel F. Thompson, '69; Board of Directors, George S. Skelton, '68; Albert J. Seligman, '78; D. W. McNaugher, '85; Samuel K. Hine, '92; Paul Beer, '00, and Allen Breed, '10. The meeting opened with a brief talk by Mr. Laflin, who then introduced Director Palmer C. Ricketts. Amid cheers the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" as the Director took his place. He referred briefly to the gifts for the new dormitories that have been received during the year, acknowledging the gift of Alfred T. White, '65, the newly-elected president of the Alumni Association, of $50,000; the gift of Mrs. Russell Sage of $100,000 for the new dining hall, given in honor of Russell Sage, 2d, who was a graduate of the class of '59, and the gift of Captain Robert W. Hunt, a trustee of the Institute, of one of the sections of the dormitory. The Director announced that the construction of the new buildings would start this August.

The gift of the graduating class of a gate which will be at the entrance to the new dormitory was acknowledged.

Dr. W. L. Robb then gave a brief talk to the alumni upon the growth of the student activities, and announced that over $18,000 was expended by the Rensselaer Union annually, $10,000 of which was due to the book committee.

Dr. William Pitt Mason, '74, gave a short talk to the alumni in his customary witty manner, and Prof. Gordon Saxton Thompson, '05, gave a brief outline of a new reunion system. The new president gave a brief address and urged the support of the alumni in the matter of the dormitories.
The necrological list of the year, read by Prof. Dwinel F. Thompson, '69, was as follows: Robert Escobar, '57; H. C. Lay, '75; A. L. Northrup, '00; C. E. Illsley, '67; Horace Crosby, '62; Byron V. Herden, '09; George F. Kirby, '57; Alberto de la Torre, '97; D. A. Tompkins, '73; A. M. Black, '69; Henry M. Rood, '85; Wilson McClelland, '86; Philip H. Parthesius, '04; A. W. Bower, '71; Joseph H. Campbell, '68; Calvin Ackley, '66; William P. Harris, '66; A. L. Hopkins, '92, and C. W. Campbell, '79.

A telegram was sent to Mrs. Russell Sage thanking her for her generous gift, and telegrams of regret for absence were read from S. L. Kneass, '80, the retiring president of the association, and C. J. Schuman, '02.

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THE NEW YORK ALUMNI MEETING

Prior to the general alumni meeting, the New York Alumni Association had a meeting at the Rensselaer Hotel and elected officers as follows: President, E. B. Ashley, '86; vice-president, A. J. Seligman, '78; director, Julius W. Pfau, '03. George Gallico, '10, was presented a silver loving cup as a mark of appreciation for his work in getting so many members of the association together for the commencement week exercises.

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REUNIONS

The graduation festivities ran high at the Rensselaer Inn when the former graduates of the "Tute" assembled there for the annual reunion banquets, which were enlivened by college yells and songs.

"'85."

The most interesting of the many dinners served was that of the class of '83, at which about ninety were assembled, along with their wives. The toastmaster was Edgar Marburg, Dean of the Engineering School of the University of Pennsylvania. Responses were given by Captain Robert W. Hunt, Professor W. P. Mason, Professor C. W. Crockett, Professor D. F. Thompson and others. This was the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary.

"'94."

The class of '94 had a corner in the merriment over which J. W. Rickey presided. Talks were given by Flynn, Wheeler and Garland. The guests at the table were J. H. Myers, '93; G. Horton, '93; F. A. Bagg, '93; Paul Schultze, '91.

"'05."

The class of '05 was also represented. Frank R. Lanagan, city engineer of Albany, was the toastmaster and responses were given by Wade H. Danke, John P. Krauss, H. D. Schermerhorn, W. J. Williams and George C. See.

"'10."


"'12."

The class of 1912 was assembled for its first reunion banquet, at which "Pop" Williams presided as toastmaster. The following toasts were given: "The Class," E. H. Dion; "The Married Ones," C. P. Rumpf; "Why We Are Single," Fred Graue; "1912, Jr.," W. Carney; "When We Were Students," G. Earl May; "1912 as Engineers," G. L. Gray. The committee of arrangements was E. H. Dion, chairman; B. K. Garvin, D. S. Snyder.
1917 — THE PRIZE WINNER
(Best Appearance)

1885 — ANOTHER CUP WINNER
(Largest percentage of living members back)
SCHOLARSHIP CLUB

THE GOLD DUST TWINS

“BUMP,” THE RINGMASTER

1917, “RICKETTS’ CONVICTS”
WE ALWAYS COME BACK.
"TOADS"

BANK PRESIDENTS VACATION CLASS 1907

1907
"THE MOURNERS"

1913

"The Rushes, as the Institute Authorities would have them"

1895
SCENE FROM THE BLUFFS

CHAPLIN AND HOGAN

RIFLE CLUB