

CHESTER TIMES – June 13, 1913 – CROZER GIFT TO UPLAND – Formal Opening of Handsome New Home of Borough Athletic Association

The handsome new club house of the Upland Athletic Association was opened last evening before a brilliant assemblage of people which included five hundred members of the Association and one hundred and fifty guests of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Crozer many of whom are prominent social leaders. An entertaining program was rendered after which a tour of inspection was made, led by Mr. Crozer.

George Crozer, uncle of the donor, was master of ceremonies and opened the exercises with a witty speech, in which he outlined the purpose of the building and the opportunities it afforded. The presentation speech was made by Dr. Milton G. Evans, president of the Crozer Theological Seminary who in one of his interesting addresses held the close attention of the audience. Dr. Evans presented the keys of the building to state Senator William C. Sproul, who accepted them in behalf of the association. Senator Sproul kept his hearers enlivened with tales of his experience as a boy with Uplanders and the inconveniences with which boys formerly secured athletic training. He thanked the donor on behalf of the Association for the magnificent gift and paid a glowing tribute to John P. Crozer.

GOOD MUSICAL NUMBERS – Miss Cecile Ayers, daughter of Dr. Eugene E. Ayers of the Crozer Seminary, a pianist of world-wide fame, rendered a number of selections which were received with great applause. Miss Ayers was presented with a basket of flowers.

When the donor, John P. Crozer, was introduced he was greeted with thunderous applause and was unable to proceed for several moments. That he was deeply affected was apparent. He told of his motive in erecting the building, how he had cherished the idea for years, and what he expected of the members. He implored them ever to uphold the principal as clean athletic endeavor and to use the building to that purpose. Mr. Crozer stated that the happiest moment of his life was when he was helping others to be happy and it was with this idea in mind that the building was erected.

During the evening an orchestra from Philadelphia supplied by Mrs. Crozer rendered music, and refreshments were served under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Crozer. Fifteen young ladies of the borough acted as ushers.

On motion of a member of the association a rising vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Crozer for his magnificent gift. In all it was an epoch-making night for Upland.

The new building is without doubt one of the most complete of its kind that can be found anywhere and should be the means of doing much toward accomplishing that which Mr. Crozer had in mind when he determined to erect it, that being the uplift of humanity by affording a means of keeping the young men away from places of questionable amusement and places where intoxicants are sold. In the line of amusement of a clean nature everything will be found in the building.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING – First, in the basement is arranged the heating plant, consisting of two mammoth hot air heaters of the latest design and supplying ample heat, through asbestos covered flues, to every section of the building.

On the ground floor are the game rooms, kitchen, bathrooms and lavatory. The kitchen is supplied with every modern appliance to properly carry out any culinary event that might be undertaken while in large cabinets along the wall is arranged a complete lot of dishes and silverware. The bathrooms and lavatories are finished in pure white marble

walls with white tile ceiling and floor and are equipped with white porcelain washstands each supporting a liquid soap cup of the most sanitary nature. In fact, sanitation has been one of the strong points in every part of the work about the new building.

In the larger room is to be found three up-to-date pool tables, one of the convertible type that can be used as a billiard table, two of the latest improved Brunswick-Balke-Collender bowling alleys divided from the main part of the room by a heavy brass rail, to avoid crowding. Arranged throughout the center of the room are six tables finished in mission style to be used as reading tables, while in another part of the room are found six card tables of the same nature, except that they are round while the reading tables are square.

Throughout this room are many comfortable chairs, all finished in Flenish oak and of mission style, while a number of deep, comfortable settees and chairs are upholstered in brown Spanish leather, these to be given to the use of the older members of the Association, who come to rest, rather than enter into the games. This room, like all others, is lighted throughout with combination fixtures for gas and electricity, there being a total of one hundred lights in the room, each individual cluster of four being controlled by a separate switch so that a direct light may be thrown on any table while over the bowling alleys, reflector lights have been placed. A large red brick open fire place lends a cozy effect to the game room. Dominoes, checkers and cards in ample quantities are supplied.

Next comes the main auditorium entrance to which is by a magnificent marble stairway, the full width of the building and supplemented on either side by ornamental iron rails. Over the entrance is the name "Upland Athletic Association" cut in marble and finished in gold. Three double doors, each with an oval glass and covered with leather studded with heavy brass nails and made to swing both ways, open into the auditorium which is supplied with sectional seats of the folding type so that the floor may be cleared in a short time for dances or other social affairs of a like nature. Across the rear of the room is built the stage, having an ample floor space to stage any performance that might be brought to the borough. ON either side of the stage are two dressing rooms, one of the stage level and one above while across the front is arranged forty footlights of the combination type. From floor to ceiling on either side, is a row of lights that are hidden from the view of the audience. Each of the dressing rooms is equipped with stationary wash stands. At the front of the balcony, so arranged that those seated therein can see every part of the building and stage, and with space enough as to make every seat comfortable.

This room is lighted by three great clouded domes arranged in the ceiling, while cluster lights are placed between every window on the sides. While ample precaution has been taken to empty the room in case of an emergency, added steps were taken on all of the double doors, these being provided with patent spring bar locks, which when pushed upon throw both doors open outward. At one side of the entrance is the ticket office, so arranged that any number of people can be handled in the shortest possible time. To one side of the balcony has been built a smaller room, arranged that by having it lined to comply with some legal technicality, it can be equipped with lanterns and films for moving picture entertainments. The seating capacity of the main floor and balcony is six hundred and one, making it by far the largest building for public gatherings in the borough.

The first individual gift to the Association is one that is worthy of mention, it being a beautiful gavel block of two-color marble, made by George Smith, one of the enthusiastic members. On the base, which is of white marble, is cut the letters "U. A. A."

in raised capitals, while across the front is the date, "June 12, 1913." The tone piece of blue marble, contains crossed baseball bats and baseballs, cleverly executed. This piece is to be given the place of honor on the president's desk.

Tonight the building will be opened to the people of Upland when admission will again be by ticket. These may be occurred at the Mission rooms, corner of Sixth and Main Streets, between the hours of 5 and 8 o'clock.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION