

A PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE

DUQUESNE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY¹

Memoranda of Trip of Party, Subsequently Called the Laconia Club, to Europe in 1924

MEMBERS OF PARTY:

Rev. Thos. F. Coakley, Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Pittsburgh.
Carlton Strong, Architect, Pittsburgh.
M. F. McNulty, Plastering Contractor, Pittsburgh
P. F. Gallagher, Building Contractor, Pittsburgh.
Rev. Dan. R. Sullivan, Pres. Seton Hill College, Greensburg.
Rev. Stephan A. Ward, pastor, Mother of Sorrows Church, Johnstown Pa.
Geo. W. Sotter, Painter, Designer and Worker in Stained Glass, Holicong, Pa.

- Pittsburgh members left Pittsburgh on Thursday P.M., **Oct. 2, 1924**, accompanied by Mr. John F. Casey.
- Party assembled at the Hotel Pennsylvania, N.Y. on **Friday, Oct. 3rd.**
- Had passports vized at the Consulate of the Irish Free State.
- **Saturday, Oct. 4th**, boarded the Cunard Steamship, Laconia, at noon. Mr. & Mrs. John F. Casey, Mr. Frank Keelan and the father, brother and three sisters of Father Ward were on hand to see the party off. About 1000 people saw boat off.

Boat moved out at 12:05 P.M. and was swung into position, by a half-dozen tugs, ready to start down the bay.

For a half hour the people on the dock and the passengers on the boat were waving farewells to each other. A very affecting scene to one first experiencing it.

We were quartered as follows: Coakley, Sotter, Cabin #39; Ward, Strong, Cabin #41; Sullivan, Gallagher, Cabin #43; McNulty, Cabin #?.

Accommodations were the equivalent of the Pennsylvania Hotel, more compact of course.

We found the Barber Shop on our Corridor, and the Smoke Room one deck above. All the conveniences of former times.

We remained at the rail whilst passing out, observing the receding city, the bay full of shipping, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Brooklyn Shore and the Narrows.

One hour out we were beyond the jurisdiction of Uncle Sam, and we immediately made the acquaintance of the Smoke Room steward, a very genial and hospitable chap. This was easily the most popular room on the ship. Here we had smoking, conversation, card games, lunches, wine tasting, betting on the run of the ship, etc.

The day's routine was ordinarily, breakfast from 7:00 on; deck promenade, deck lunch, 11:00; promenade, deck games, reading room, smoke room, lunch 1:00 on; more promenade or amusements; dress for dinner at 7:00; entertainment in Lounge or Smoke Room till 11:00 P.M.

We made our dinner a little more interesting by having the different members act as host on several evenings. Whilst the boat provided the dinner as varied as desired, it was the host who provided the cocktails, wines, cordials etc., not otherwise forthcoming.

- **October, 6th**, P. F. Gallagher, Host.
- **October, 7th**, T. F. Coakley, Host.
- **October, 8th**, M. F. McNulty, Host.



Source: Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives

¹ Original document is part of the P.F. Gallagher/Duquesne Construction Company Papers, Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives.

- **October, 9th**, Dinner given to Carlton Strong by the party in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of his wedding.

Dr. Coakley had prepared for the occasion an Ecclesiastical and Architectural bill of fare and also the Latin inscription [appearing at right].

- **Oct. 11th**. Sullivan, Sotter and Ward gave dinner Father Coakley and other members. On the whole, the trip was very delightful. We had very calm weather and water. One day only it was a little rough. We had a "Wall Sea", where the side of the wave some 20 ft. high had the aspect of a vertical wall. During that night some of the passengers were rolled from their beds. We had some fog when near the banks.

We met a number of pleasant people aboard. A large party of R. R. Traffic men, some of whom knew Dr. Coakley and his brother in Cleveland. Two young Southerners, Farnsworth and Snowden, delightful types of Southern Culture. Jerwood, a very entertaining British business man, and a party of Britishers (four or five) whose names are not recalled. Our party was large enough to be self-entertaining and it was so. Sotter, of course, got acquainted with everybody on the ship.

McNulty, one night, was of a very retiring disposition, so much so that Dr. Sullivan accompanied by his Acolytes, made a sick call upon him about 1:00 A.M. The call was fruitful of results.

The last of America we had seen was Nantucket Lightship, towards midnight Oct. 4th, 215 miles from New York. We came in sight of Fastnet Light late in the evening of the 11th. These were the different points jutting out into the sea. The darkness hid all but the grayish banks. At 3:00 A.M. on the 12th we move into the beautiful outer harbor of Cobh. We transferred to a tender and were given a very hearty sendoff by the whole ship. 2728 Miles.

- **Oct. 12th**. Went through the Cobh Custom House where they collected on McNulty and Gallagher smokes. Coakley walked to Hotel. Balance of party used a jaunting car and a springless car. Sullivan preferred the latter in spite of its fresh coat of red paint. The red paint, the driver said, was merely some "Irish dew". Hotel crowded on account of two boats leaving the morning for America. Coakley, Sotter and McNulty got beds. The balance of us were given cots in the Billiard Room, but after looking the place over we decided to stay on our feet. We did so with the aid of some refreshments. It was then after 4:00 o'clock.

The State Hotel. (Rates 4 s. 6 d.)

At 6 o'clock we went to Mass at the Queenstown Cathedral. This is a very sturdy and costly building set on the hillside overlooking the bay. Much of its cost was collected in America. Denneby's cousin, Fr. Denneby, was very active in the raising of the funds.

We left Queenstown [Cobh] at 11:00 A.M. on train 12 miles to Cork along the river Lee. McNulty left his satchel at Cobh and had to motor back for it. Ward left his on the train and it went on to Dublin. He got it back a few days later.

Stopped at the Hotel Metropoli, Cork. (Rates 5 s. – No bath). Raining all day. Wandered the streets of Cork for some hours.

Trip to Blarney Castle in the afternoon. Very interesting but none of us tried to do it.

- **Monday, Oct. 13th**. Left Cork at 8:30 by auto (2) for Killarney – 69 miles. McNulty and Ward went off to their folks to meet us in Dublin. The morning foggy, but by noon beautifully clear and sun shining. Scenery on trip wonderful. Kerry mountains and furze covered valleys most attractive. Some mountains, 3000' high. Road generally followed valleys. Roads very good macadam. On the way stopped at Macroom, a typical Irish town. 'Twas pig market day and we saw the whole variety of the pig family of all ages. And the vehicles transporting them a delight. The typical Irish cart, donkey and driver. The drivers in all varieties of costume, plug hats, frock coats, coachmans' whip etc.

Arrived at Killarney about noon, stopped at the International Hotel (Rates 4 sh. No bath) and did the lakes in the afternoon. Saw the Cathedral, Ross Castle. The town very old and very interesting. Muckross Abbey (1340), the Meeting of the Waters, Colleen Bawn's Rock, monkey tail trees.

- Left Killarney. – **Tuesday Oct. 14th** – 10 A.M. Changed cars at Tralee, in sight of an arm of the Atlantic. Passed through a number of old places, peat fields etc. on way to Limerick. Many old ruins from the time of Cromwell and William and Mary. Two hours at Limerick, Shannon River, Cathedral, Treaty Stone. Funeral day, saw three of them. On the way to Dublin we passed through Thurles. Had table d'hote dinner on train. Reached Dublin at 8:00 o'clock – Shelbourne Hotel. In Ireland went through Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Queens, Kildare and Dublin. Trains much lighter than ours, equally comfortable and speedy.

- **Wednesday Oct. 15th**. – Ran around Dublin, O'Connell St., Sackville St., the Four Courts, Cathedral, O'Connell's Tomb (Round Tower), Michael Collins' grave, the Cathedral, the Dail. Session on the Boundary Commission. Cosgrave, Higgins, Mulcahey speeches. Left Kings-

IX OCTOBRIS AN. MCMXXIV
 CARLTON STRONG
 XXX IAM ANNOS MARITUS
 DIVINAM BENIGNITATEM
 LAUDIBUS EXTOLLIT
 PRO DECURSU ADHUC SPATIO
 VITAE NUPTAE PROSPERAE
 AMICOSQUE ROGAT
 EANDEM SIBI RELIQUUM
 PRECIBUS CONCILIENT.

ton on boat for Holyhead. Met McNulty on boat. Very fast boat, Scotia, 25 miles per hr. Arrived at Holyhead at midnight. Customs house. Poor stogies taxed again. Sudden decision to go on to Chester. Boarded fast train arriving at Chester at 2:00 A.M. Oct. 16th.

- **Thursday Oct. 16th.** – Queen Hotel (Rates 7-6). Chester Cathedral, quaint town, city wall. Coakley, Sotter and McNulty left for Liverpool at 1:00 P.M. Strong, Sullivan, Gallagher leaving on 5:00 o'clock train. Met Ward on train. Under the Mersey to Liverpool, about 7:00 P.M. Whole party reunited at the Adelphi. A-1 hotel. (Rates 2-5 for three persons). Highest class.
Chester to Holyhead, across Wales 75 miles.
- **Friday, Oct 17th.** – Liverpool Cathedral in the morning.
2:30 P.M. train for Lincoln (5:45) through Manchester and Sheffield – 120 miles. Weather hitherto, except rain at Cork, has been very fine and sunny. Today or in this eastern side of England is very dull and raw. At the Great Northern Hotel we can only get warm in the Lounge. Coakley rounded the Cathedral in the dusk.
- **Sat. Oct. 18th.** – The Lincoln Cathedral. Round-Robin to Bishop Boyle, in re St. Hugh. Left at 11:00 A.M. for York. Changing cars at Retford, arriving at York 2:00 P.M. The York Minster, the five sisters are being renovated. The town and City wall. Rubber tired busses run with a trolley. Exceptionally clean town. Left York 6:20, arriving at Durham at 8:00 o'clock. – Rain all night.
- **Sunday, Oct. 19th.** – Clear and sunny. Hotel, called Royal County Hotel very fine. Not modern, 300 years old. Mass at St. Godric Church, some of party heard it at Saint Cuthberts. Viewed the Cathedral. Venerable Bede and St. Cuthbert buried in this Cathedral. Knocker on north door recalling the question of “Sanctuary”. On one of the towers or sanctuary walls is carved a cow recalling the legend of the dun cow leading the monks from Lindisfarne to Durham. Note – knob in center of doors to private rooms.
Most autos smaller than fords. Only 8 to 9 horsepower, presumably on account of tax. No power but good speed. Some of us made a side trip to a small town called Pittington. The church there was very old, a portion built in the seventh century, remnants of Saxon times. Even the Roman occupation has some remains. Note the leper holes for observation of the “Mass”.
From here to Derby. Trains run as high as 80 miles per hour. Very comfortable in first class. The class rates are about \$10.00 for third, \$15.00 for second and \$22.50 for first. Each class about 50% above the one below. The difference is an upholstered seat, a less upholstered one and a bare wood slat seat.
Dr. Sullivan said the cow on the Durham Cathedral was the prototype of the “Durham Bull”.
From Durham about 7:00 P.M. we entrained for Derby, arriving there about 1:00 A.M. Monday Oct. 20th.
- **Monday Oct. 20th.** – Visited St. Mary's Church, Derby, one of Pugin's works. Then 25 miles by auto to Lichfield. Looked over the Cathedral, very fine. Lead roof being recast. This town the birthplace of Sam Johnson. Sat in his chair at the Three Crowns Inn. The whole party did likewise, including Coakley, Strong and McNulty. Very slow in getting checks cashed. Caused party to lose about one hour. This of course annoyed us sensitive members of the party.
Left Lichfield near noon and stopped at Tamway for lunch, the only sample of real beef meal in England.
Arrived at Peterborough R.R. Hotel, some 90 miles away shortly after dusk. On the way we passed through several very wonderful towns. One particularly, called Weldon, was as fine as any we had seen.
- **Tuesday Oct. 21st.** – Observed Peterborough Cathedral. Scheduled to leave at 10:00 A.M. but owing to McNulty falling down on the job of getting the chauffers there we did not leave until 11:00 o'clock. At 10:30 Ward thought he should have a shave. He got the shave and escaped a call down. At 11:00 o'clock we boarded autos for Ely.
Arrived at Ely and had lunch in two sections. Saw the Ely Cathedral, about all there was in the town and then started in autos for the town of Cambridge. University Arms Hotel. Arrived there about 4:00 P.M. Raining all day. In the evening Gallagher threw a special dinner at the University Arms in honor of the 23rd anniversary of his marriage. Coakley distinguished himself here by his Latinity – viz: – [appearing at right].
- **Wednesday Oct. 22nd.** – Visited all the Cambridge College buildings including Kings Chapel. The chapel visit in spite of the embargo on account of repairs. Left Cambridge at 11:00 A.M. arriving at Oxford 3:00 P.M.

IN FELICEM MEMORIAM
DIEI LAETI
XXI OCTOBRIS – MCMXXIV
CAUTABRIGIA IN ANGLIA

IN VITA NUPTIALI
VICESIMUM TERTIUM ANNIVERSARIUM
CUM AMICIS SUIS CELEBRAVIT.
PATRICIUS FRANCISCUS GALLAGHER.

ADSUNT.

Daniel R. Sullivan
Stephen A. Ward
M. F. McNulty

T. F. Coakley
Carlton Strong
George W. Sotter

- **Thursday Oct. 23rd.** – Made the round of the Oxford buildings. Big Tom, the spot of martyrdom of Ridley, Latimer and ? Left Oxford at 11:00 A.M. by auto. Stopped at Blenheim Castle owned by the Duke of Marlboro, Chipping Norton – Broadway (lunch), and Chipping Campden. All very wonderful English villages. Many of the finest examples of English type. Then on to Stratford on Avon. The home of Shakespeare, Anne Hathaway and John Harvard, the founder of our own Harvard University. From Stratford on to Worcester. Saw the Cathedral here, and then on to Gloucester, seeing Tewkesbury Abbey in the moonlight on the way. We are traveling in a Napier car, very comfortably. The ride very fine, no traffic except bicycles which are very numerous.

Arrived at Gloucester 6:30 P.M. at the Bell Hotel – 300 years old. Sotter got the King’s Room, a very wonderful one at that.

- **Friday Oct. 24th.** – Saw the Gloucester Cathedral. Largest window in the world, cloister fan ceilings most wonderful. On to Bristol – St. Mary Redcliffe. Then to Bath for lunch at the Pump House. On to Downside Abbey where Frs. Coakley and Ward bought some vestments. Then on to Wells Cathedral. From there by auto to Shepton-Mallet where we entrained for Salisbury. Arrived at Salisbury late at night at a typical English Hotel. Ward and McNulty left us here for London.
- **Saturday Oct. 25th.** – Salisbury Cathedral and the Old Sarum. By auto we went towards Winchester seeing Romsey Abbey on the way. At Winchester we had lunch at the “God Begot House” whose mistress tried to trim Strong, who looked easy to her as to most of the party. Saw the Cathedral and then entrained for London, arriving there in London’s most typical fog. With care we found our way across the Waterloo Bridge and secured most luxurious quarters in the Savoy.

We stay in London from Saturday until Wednesday night, seeing many points of interest, including a trip to the Wembley Exposition. The Lucullus dining room there presents a very fine table as Strong can attest. We spent four days seeing London.

- On **Wednesday morning Oct. 29th** we went to Canterbury, one of the most interesting towns of England. Sotter stayed here to study the glass. Ward remained in London and we five took the boat at Harwich for the Hook of Holland. Sailed at 10:00 P.M. and arrived at 6:00 A.M. Trip very rough and uncomfortable. Boat crowded. Train from the Hook through Schiedam, The Hague, Haarlem to Amsterdam. Typical Holland, canal boats, windmills, quaint buildings and people.



H.M.S. Laconia (launched 1921), showing Garden Lounge, Dining Saloon, Smoking Room, and The Lounge

Source: Wikipedia

- **Thursday Oct. 30th.** – In Amsterdam for three hours. Auto trip with a Cook’s Guide. The picture gallery and other points of interest. Fine ham at the R.R. Station and good beer at a “silver’ bar. Took train at 1:49 for Antwerp. Rotterdam, Rosendall and the Rhine on the way. Saw our first sidewalk cafes here. All crowded in the early evening.
- **Friday Oct. 31st.** – Out at 6:00 A.M. A mania for cleanliness. Scrubbing sidewalks on hands and knees throughout city. Odd little shrine to Blessed Mother. Visit to Cathedral. Rembrandt’s “Descent from the Cross” under cover. Wonderful wood carving. Full size figures at the confessionals, pulpit etc. Picture of the Christ face. The R.R. porters at Antwerp are very agreeable and not afraid of effort. One of them placed our grips over his back and trudged several blocks to the hotel. Our rates at the Hotel covered everything but soap. The floor maid was very much concerned about her few cents for this item. Left Antwerp at noon for Brussels, arriving there about 3:00 o’clock. Quartered at the Palace Hotel, equally as good as the Savoy at London, but costing less than one half as much. (Savoy–9.50, Palace 3.85). In an auto we had a birds eye view of Brussels that afternoon.
- **Saturday Nov. 1st.** – Toussaint. After Mass by auto to Waterloo and Louvain. This latter almost a new town to replace the German destruction. Coakley called at the American College. He also sent a card to Peter Guilday. Saw auto collision on way back to Brussels. *Plus de vitesse* was my way of checking the driver’s speed.
- **Sunday, Nov. 2nd.** – Mass. Party then took train to Ghent and Bruges, famous old Flemish towns. Coakley sick. Brussels to Ghent by

ITEMIZATION OF CARLTON STRONG'S ECCLESIASTICAL WORK ORGANIZED BY YEAR OF DEDICATION

- train. Ghent to Bruges by auto. Dinner at Bruges in a typical inn. Family parties playing native games. Train back to Brussels, arriving 8:00 P.M.
- **Monday Nov. 3rd**. – *En avant*, says Coakley. Up at 6:30 train at 8:30. Customs at Roubaix, France. No cost or trouble owing to Coakley's diplomacy. First stop at Lille, 11:30 lunch, tour of town and train at 1:40 to Amiens. Through the battlefields to Amiens at 3:40. The Cathedral. Dinner in the town. The American soldier guide – the French boy, at the station, with the Irish brogue. Sullivan will remember him. Train at 9:30 for Rouen. Rouen at 1:30. No porters. Our first experience. Heavy baggage, in the Consigne. About a mile walk to the Hotel de la Poste. Worth while at that. Good quarters, fine people.
 - **Tuesday Nov. 4th**. – Found Sotter at this hotel. Remember, we left him in Canterbury. Coakley and Sotter got an early start, saw the town and left for Beauvais. The slow members Strong, Sullivan, McNulty and Gallagher took three days to see the town, and absorbing a little comfort. The barber was very amusing. The "Butter Tower" made quite a hit with Strong. Visit to the Church on the Mount.
 - **Thursday Nov. 6th**. – Left Rouen by auto for Beauvais. The Cathedral here is merely the Apse, Choir and Transept. Ceiling height 165 ft., the highest in the world. Had lunch at a very typical French hotel, and then the train for Paris. Found Coakley and Sotter at the Continental and Ward at the R. R. Hotel – St. Lazare.
 - **Friday the 7th and Saturday the 8th**. we did the various parts of Paris.
 - **Sunday the 9th**, Mass at Notre Dame. Dinner with Therese Molyneux and Mary E. Keally. Visit to Cecile, a former student of Seton Hill.
 - **Monday, Nov. 10th**. – A trip to Chartres. Most wonderful glass. Saw St. Cyr and Versailles on the way. Also de Maintenou's place. Dinner at Prunieres by McNulty.
 - **Nov. 11th**. – Armistice Day. Trip to Soissons, Fismes and Rheims. Saw monument to 4th Division, in which Coakley served, at Fismes. Saw General Pau at Rheims and again on train back to Paris.
 - **Wed. Nov. 12th**. – Coakley and McNulty left at 8:00 A.M. for Lisieux. Strong and Gallagher at 3:00 P.M. Sotter stayed in Paris for the boat train on Saturday. Ward and Sullivan started for southern France and Italy.
Arrived at Lisieux at 7 :00 P.M. Stopped at an old hotel conducted by some of Strong's relatives.
 - **Thursday Nov. 13th**. – Visited Carmelite Chapel made famous by St. Therese. Old houses, the river laundry, etc. Left by auto at 11 o'clock, no about 11:10 for Caen. Very fine country trip. The Octroi Scare. Caen at Hotel D'Angleterre about 3:00 P.M.
 - **Friday Nov. 14th**. – L'Abbaye aux Hommes. L'Abbaye aux dames. William the Conqueror and Mathilda. Trip to Caen quarries. Investigation of the Eau de Vie. Ask McNulty.
 - **Saturday Nov. 15th**. – Left Caen by auto 9:15. Bayeux – Cathedral – Tapestry – table d'hote dinner. Train at 1:00 for Cherbourg.
Bayeux to Cherbourg chiefly swampy land, Cherbourg about 3:00 P.M. Customs, passport etc. very trying. Boat train in about 5:00 P.M. Boarded packet about 6:00 P.M. About 7:00 P.M. we started out for Berengaria which was about 10 miles out from the dock. Berengaria started on our homeward trip at 10:00 P.M. Intervening time taken up in the loading of mail etc.
 - Berengaria a large edition of the Laconia. Trip home very enjoyable. Met Monsignor Smith of the Cleveland Diocese. Gave him and Fr. Coakley a complementary dinner on **Thursday Nov. 20th**.
 - Arrived at the Narrows at 6:20 P.M. **Friday Nov. 21st**. Held there on account of fog etc. till 5:00 P.M. **Nov. 22nd**, when we were taken off by a ferry boat.
Dinner on Father Coakley at the Pennsylvania. – HOME –
- 1912 – St. Francis Chapel additions, St. James Church alterations
 - 1913 – St. James Rectory, St. Mary's Lyceum, Ursuline Academy Chapel
 - 1914 – St. Joseph School, St. Margaret Church, Toner Institute and Gymnasium
 - 1915 – Sacred Heart Hall (Vincentian Sisters of Charity)
 - 1916 – St. James School
 - 1917 – St. Francis Xavier Convent, St. Joseph Rectory
 - 1918 – St. Justin Combination School and Church
 - 1919 – Seton Hill College Maura Connector
 - 1920 – St. Barnabas Rectory, St. Titus Combination School and Church, Seton Hill College Lowe Hall
 - 1921 – St. James Guild Hall
 - 1923 – Holy Trinity School, St. Mary Greek Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Portable Classroom, Saint Vincent Seminary Dormitory/Aurelius Hall, Seton Hill College St. Joseph Hall
 - 1924 – Immaculate Conception Church, St. Joseph's Chapel & Chaplain's House, Our Mother of Sorrows, Sacred Heart Church [Jeannette], St. Joseph Church, Seton Hill College, Canevin Hall
 - 1925 – Nativity Church and School, St. Justin School Addition, St. Leonard School and Convent, Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God Motherhouse
 - 1926 – Sacred Heart Church Nave (Shadyside), St. George School and Auditorium, St. Paul's Cathedral Presbytery, St. Titus School Addition
 - 1927 – Mount Mercy Academy Dormitory and School Building, St. Lawrence O'Toole School Addition
 - 1928 – Holy Cross School
 - 1929 – Holy Ghost Catholic Church of the Greek Rite, Sacred Heart Church Sanctuary (Shadyside), St. Catherine of Sienna Convent Addition, St. Lawrence O'Toole Convent, Seton Hill College Sullivan Hall
 - 1930 – St. Michael the Archangel Church
 - 1931 – St. Basil School