

1964 – Symbolic Gate

The inspiration for the wide entrance gate leading into the International Peace Garden came from Mrs. Stella Pollock of Fargo, ND a Canadian born woman, married to an American.

Stella was present at the original opening of the Garden in 1932. She confesses, she dreamed of a grander entrance than the stone cairn and the American and Canadian flags present that day.

“But of course, such an undertaking would have to be sponsored by an organization of international scope in order to raise the necessary funds for such a project. The most logical, that came to mind was the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. I attended their meeting in Chicago, and voiced the idea of a symbolic gate, that would span the cairn and truly unite the American and Canadian entrances into the Garden.”

The Fraternal Order was intrigued, and immediately started a campaign to raise funds. The dedication of the gate took place, July 15, 1964. With the twin plaques on the main walls with identical inscriptions:

This gate was built and dedicated to the cause of Peace by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of the world.

The gate is built of native stones and eight oversized black laminated iron beams. This impressive arch cost over \$40,000.00 and was designed by a Winnipeg firm of architects.

This project was financed by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs around the world. Because of their interest and faith in young people, annually, they sponsor “Pilgrimage For Youth.” It was initiated in 1960. Recognized by both United States and Canada teachers, students are chosen to visit the United Nations building in New York. This gives them an opportunity to see first hand how this vital institution operates.