

KINO MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

(DEAN FRANK C. LOCKWOOD)

Some weeks ago, in the course of a lecture delivered in the University Auditorium on *The Early Spanish Missionaries in Arizona* the lecturer made the following statement and suggestion:

“On May 28, 1700, Emanuel Gonzales, commenting on Kino’s belief that California could be entered by land, wrote: ‘If you accomplish this we must erect to you a rich and famous statue.’ I have longed to find some picture or statue of Kino; but I have been unable to find trace of any likeness of him. What would be a finer tribute to this greatest of all Arizona pioneers than the erection even at this late date of an idealized statue of him at San Xavier, which he founded, or in Tucson?”

Almost immediately the suggestion met with a hearty response from the newspapers, from prominent pioneers, and from men and women in all ranks of life, without respect to sect or nationality. Almost spontaneously a local committee came together to consider suitable steps for promoting the project. The members of the original group are Mrs. Sam Hughes, Mr. Mose Drachman, Mrs. George Kitt, Mr. Albert Steinfeld, Mr. Fred Ronstadt, Father Victor Stoner, Dean Frank C. Lockwood, and Mr. Ed. Vail. The local committee thought it wise to enlarge the committee so that it might include representative men and women from different parts of the state, and, indeed, from the whole southwest.

Accordingly letters were sent to about a score of leading citizens who were likely to be interested in such an undertaking, inviting them to become members of a Kino Memorial Committee. Up to this time the following people have res-

ponded favorably and enthusiastically: Mr. M. J. Riordan, of Flagstaff, Professor Herbert E. Bolton of Berkeley, California, Judge E. W. Wells, of Prescott, Mrs. Wm. H. Brophy, Major George Kelly and Colonel J. H. McClintock of Phoenix, Judge Frank Duffy of Nogales, Mrs. L. J. Tuttle of Douglas, Mr. Charles M. Reneaud of Pearce, Captain L. W. Mix of Nogales, President R. B. von KleinSmid of Los Angeles, Mr. F. C. Struckmeyer of Phoenix, Mrs. Katherine MacRae of Coolidge, and Mr. Frank Pinckley of Casa Grande. Several other acceptances will no doubt be received in the near future. The promptness and cordiality of the responses so far received, and the eminent fitness of the men and women on the committee to carry out the work in a suitable manner insure the realization of this worthy civic ideal.

The fact that such citizens, scholars, and religious leaders as Mr. M. J. Riordan, Professor Herbert E. Bolton, and Father Victor Stoner have shown an active interest in the plan is significant. Mr. M. J. Riordan in a letter to a member of the committee made the following suggestion:

“This work to be well done should come from the hearts and not merely from the pockets. To that end it should be an educative process, extending over a period of years and gathering momentum as it goes. I would much prefer having ten thousand contributions of fifty cents apiece, than ten contributions of five hundred dollars each, since the former would indicate love and the latter money, and if there is one thing that Kino did not have because he despised it, it was money. I hope that the movement you have begun will expand as all true works of art and love should expand with the maturity of time.

Just one thought more, “Kino’s delight was,” like his Master’s, “to be among the

children of men," and, conversely, the delight of the children of men should be to have Kino right in the whirl of them. With this in mind his bronze figure, standing stark on an Arizona boulder set in the intersection of the busiest street in Tucson, should be the place. Put him where all men can be under his benediction and they will learn to reverence him and even to swerve traffic a twelve-inch or so out of reverence for him."

Professor H. E. Bolton of the University of California, an eminent specialist on the Spanish Southwest, and author of *Kino's Memoirs of Pimeria Alta*, writes as follows:

"I am very much interested in what you say in your letter of November 28. I think that it is highly appropriate that Arizona citizens should erect a statue to their great pioneer, Father Kino. If I can be of any real service to you I shall be quite willing to accept membership on the committee which you propose to appoint. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a portrait of Father Kino, but I have not yet exhausted all possibilities and I am still on the hunt."

Other suggestions of like nature have already come into the hands of the committee.

At a well attended meeting of the committee, held at the rooms of the Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society in Tucson, December 13, it was unanimously voted that steps be taken to raise ten thousand dollars for a suitable monument; that the project be carried forward for some time as an educational process in order to acquaint young and old with the beauty, dignity, and greatness of Father Kino's character and with his service to mankind in Arizona; that the statue be erected

at some suitable central, historical spot in Tucson, and that the committee organize as the Kino Memorial Committee. Dean Frank C. Lockwood was elected chairman, Mrs. George Kitt, secretary, and Mr. Mose Drachman, treasurer. It was voted that this general statement be given to the press of the state, to be followed by other information from time to time; and it was further voted that Father Victor Stoner take steps to secure suitable publicity for the project throughout the southwest.

It is the plan during the spring to promote public meetings at various points in the state in order to arouse interest in the memorial, and convey information about Father Kino through interesting addresses by speakers qualified to speak about Father Kino and his service to Arizona and the southwest.