

Tiffin Statue Honors Noted Orator

Civil War General Later Attained Fame On Lecture Circuit

Special to The Blade

TIFFIN, O., Aug. 2.—In front of the Seneca County Court House at the corner of Market and Washington Streets here stands a granite statue with a history known to few Tiffin residents.

Known as the Gibson Monument, it represents one of the most famous military men ever

to reside in Seneca County, Gen. William H. Gibson.

Generally regarded as one of Seneca County's bravest soldiers, and known as "Ohio's Silver Tongued Orator," General Gibson was the organizer of the 49th Regiment of the Ohio National Guard which saw action in many battles of the Civil War.

A civilian, he obtained the rank of colonel on a direct commission from Washington, and later rose to the rank of general.

After General Gibson's death a group of citizens in Tiffin banded together to pay tribute to his memory and heard President McKinley describe him as the most sought after speaker on the American continent.

Organization Faltered

An organization was formed by prominent businessmen, but soon faltered. Meanwhile the Rev. David Bigger, one of General Gibson's admirers, had written a series of magazine articles with the old hero as the central figure.

Again an effort was made to erect a monument to the memory of the orator, this time by the G.A.R. This failed too, but later Dr. Bigger was made president of the Gibson Monument Association and progress soon began.

Contributions were received and two Democrats in the Ohio Legislature introduced a bill which was approved to appropriate \$10,000 for the association.

An old soldier, on a cot at the Soldier's and Sailor's Home in Sandusky, removed two silver half-dollars from an old worn pocketbook.

The soldier had carried them in his pocket all during the Civil War. When he donated them he said, "I know of no place that I can put them where I would rather have them to be than in Gibson's monument."

Monument Described

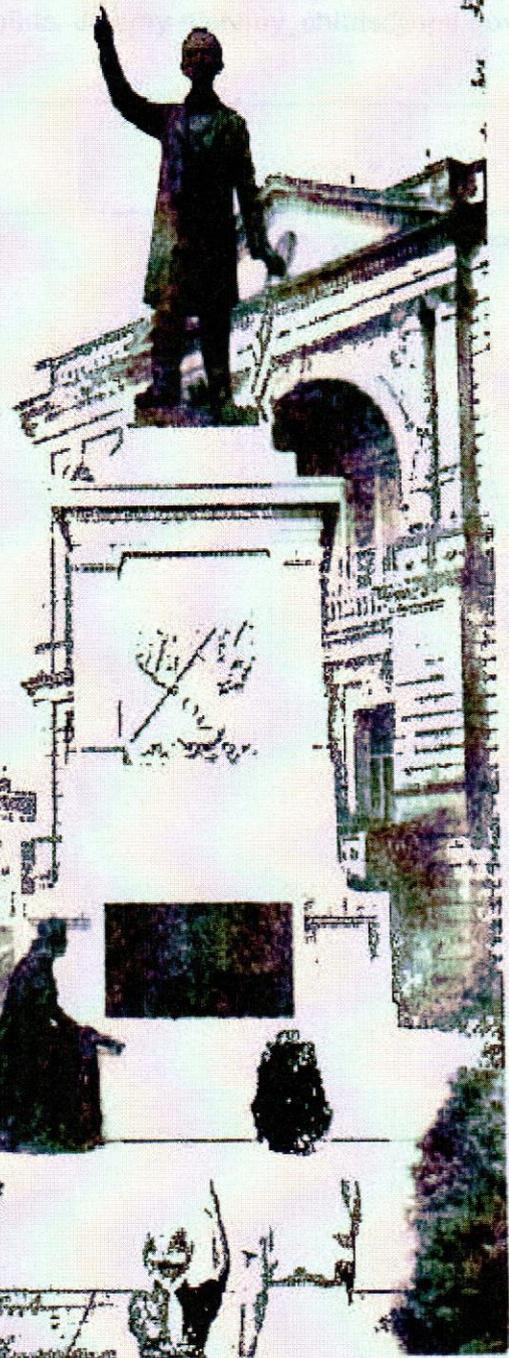
The Gibson monument is 27 feet, 8 inches high. On the tablet stone are four large bronze plaques, and in raised letters, an illustration of President McKinley's speech over General Gibson's casket.

On the four corners of the base are granite royal martlets. In the center of one of the panels is a scene from the battle of Stone River in December of 1862.

Engraved on three sides are expressions honoring Gibson culled from the remarks of a number of great Americans. "Could I speak like that man I would willingly forfeit my stars."—General Phillip Sheridan.

"I have heard many of the gifted orators of Europe and

Able In War And Peace



—Blade Staff Photo

SENECA COUNTY'S HERO STILL STANDS ERECT
General Gibson was one of the great orators

New Auto Club To Open Offices
Monroe Firm Wins Building Job At Port
Branch Established

Three Killed In Michigan, Ohio Traffic Accidents

Hillsdale Child Run Over While Playing;
8 Hurt In Mishap Fatal To Sylvania Woman

From The Blade Correspondent

Three persons, including a 17-month-old girl from Hillsdale, Mich., were killed in traffic accidents in northwestern Ohio and southern Michigan Tuesday and a former Toledo resident died in a Lima hospital of injuries received in a collision in July.

The three were killed in separate accidents and in one of the accidents eight persons also were injured.

In other accidents, a Wood County man was injured when his car went out of control and crashed into a ditch.

Seven Of Onsted, Mich. Family Are Injured

From The Blade Correspondent

WAUSEON, O., Aug. 2.—A Sylvania woman was killed and eight other persons were injured in a two-car collision at State Rts. 109 and 120 at 12:30 a.m. today. Seven of the injured were members of an Onsted, Mich. family.

Mrs. Lora Randall, 62, of 5453 South Main St., Sylvania, was killed. She was a passenger in a car driven by Joseph Newton, 61, of 4485 Monroe St., Toledo, who is in serious condition in Bixby Hospital, Adrian, from possible internal injuries.

Mr. Newton, traveling east on State Rt. 120, failed to make the required stop and drove in front of a northbound car driven by Richard Muhn, 29, Onsted, Mich., according to state highway patrol reports.

Mr. Muhn, his wife, Inez, 29, and five children, Susan, 3; David, 8; Pamela, 11; Renee, 9, and Debbie, 5, also were taken to Bixby Hospital where the parents, Susan and David were admitted. Mrs. Muhn has a fractured left wrist and the others suffered multiple cuts and bruises.

ing in the back yard, fell under the wheels of the truck.

Other survivors besides the child's parents are sisters, Martha, 5, and Nora Dee, 3, and brother, David, 4; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Erin Northrup, Jackson, and Mrs. Florence Slusher, Jonesville, and great-great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Slusher.

The body is in the Dutchess Mortuary.

Car Catches Fire After Hitting Truck

From The Blade Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN, O., Aug. 2.—A Detroit man died early today from injuries in a truck-automobile crash at U.S. 23 and U.S. 8. His brother was seriously injured when the car caught fire after the collision.

Kirby Green, 51, died in Wood County Hospital from burns and fractures of the skull and legs. He was thrown out of the blazing car from which his brother, Robert, 49, managed to crawl.

The brother is reported in fair condition at Wood County Hospital from multiple burns and lacerations.

The truck driver, Paul Bohler, 29, Lancaster, Pa., was uninjured. He told state highway patrolmen the Green car made a left turn into U.S. 8 directly in front of his truck. The fire was extinguished by members of the Pemberton-Freedom Township Volunteer fire department.

Mr. Green's body is at the