

History

The Following was taken by translating an article from "Danske I California" also from Local Newspaper of the time.

The Convention for 1906 was to be held in San Francisco, hosted by both Danmark #2 and Helga #3. In conjunction with the convention Bien was celebrating its 25th anniversary. All the preparation had been complete in a grand way. Tuesday April 17 was a reception party. On Wednesday morning the meetings were to begin and that evening there was a planned great festivity in the Saratoga Hall, at 814 Geary Street between Larkin and Hyde, to which Bien had invited not only the Grand Officers and Representatives, but all Danes in the State. Thursday evening banquet was planned, along with a Friday cruise of the bay with a landing on Yerba Buena Island. Saturday's evening banquet with plans including dancing to the bright morning. There were special programs for the Families and Friends of the Grand Officers and Representatives to visit Coffee Companies and other points on interest.

The "Bien" had the week before, on 13 April, issued an addition with 28 pages. There were a lot of pictures and articles in which Dania and all other Danish associations, Danish churches and

everything else Danish were mentioned. In a pointed article, the magazine concludes with the following remark: "Let us make the Convention 1906 To The most successful in Dania's history."

Wednesday April 18th at 5.15 a.m. The terrible earthquake, which with the ensuing great fire over three days, turned the proud San Francisco into a area of smoking ruins. Bien, which had its printing operations in San Francisco, was destroyed, but did not burned. After all that could be salvaged was moved to Oakland the small newspaper was already on 6. May-three weeks after the disaster. This addition included the following remarks: "Otto Willweber, the owner of Saratoga Hall, had already started to set up tables and chairs for the party table on Tuesdays. We learned that Danish associations and personal friends had ordered flower bouquets for decoration. Around the area bakeries, delicatessen and the merchants, there were many good things to be covered in the tables, - Part was already delivered To Saratoga Hall. Willweber had commissioned an appropriate supply of Anchor Steam Beer And his brother, Henry, had painted a large sign, which read "Welkommen Danske". All of the decorations and prepared food was lost to the fire and earthquake with the

exception of some large dishes with herring salad, which remind in the Hardwick's Home on Hampshire Street and was to be sent to Saratoga Hall on Wednesday morning. Many of the homeless Danes, who in the next day's came to Hardwick's home, were the really good herring salad was now well received by them.

While San Francisco was still burning a couple Grand Officers and twenty of Dania Representatives gathered at Hans Hermansen's Kulforætning in East Oakland. The two Grand Officers were Grand President Robert Nelson, he was 38 years old and was born in Odense, Funen, Danmark, the other was Grand Vice President P C Krogh. There was a Meeting; However, as the meeting was not a decision-maker due to the lack of a Quorum, the Assembly only adopted resolutions that were subsequently approved by Grand Lodge. The resolutions consisted of retaining the board as it was composed, except for Grand Secretary M. P. Christensen, who did not want to be re-elected.

In San Francisco, almost all accounting books were burned. However, the book of members was saved. Just before Convention Grand President Robert Nelson had been in Los Angeles, where he on 15 April, opened a new Branch "Vitus Behring" No. 18.

Then one of the major Branches within Dania. A few weeks before, Robert Nelson had been in Lovelock, Nevada, where he also opened a new Branch; Three years later, however, it was dissolved.

During the months after the Earthquake many ads showed up in newspaper requiring all members of Danmark #2 and Helga #3 to come a certain location in San Francisco to be accounted for, and find out if they were in need of any assistance. There were several meeting location changes as well. Although this was a very difficult time and most upsetting to those that live through the earthquake and fire, it was reported that in August Hayward, Livermore and San Jose Dania Lodges held an annual Picnic in the Park where it said that between 200 and 300 were in attendance. Things were getting back to normal.