

# Answering Columbia's Call



**SEATTLE'S WAR RELIEF BAZAAR OF 1917**



Seattle Girls are Not Afraid of Big Responsibilities. Their Record is \$120,000 Net From a Six-Day Bazaar

## "The biggest thing that ever happened to Seattle."

That bold claim was published in response to the success of the Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar, organized to raise the funds to outfit Base Hospital 50. The authorization by the Red Cross, in October 1917, included the proviso Seattle raise the necessary funds to fully outfit the hospital itself.

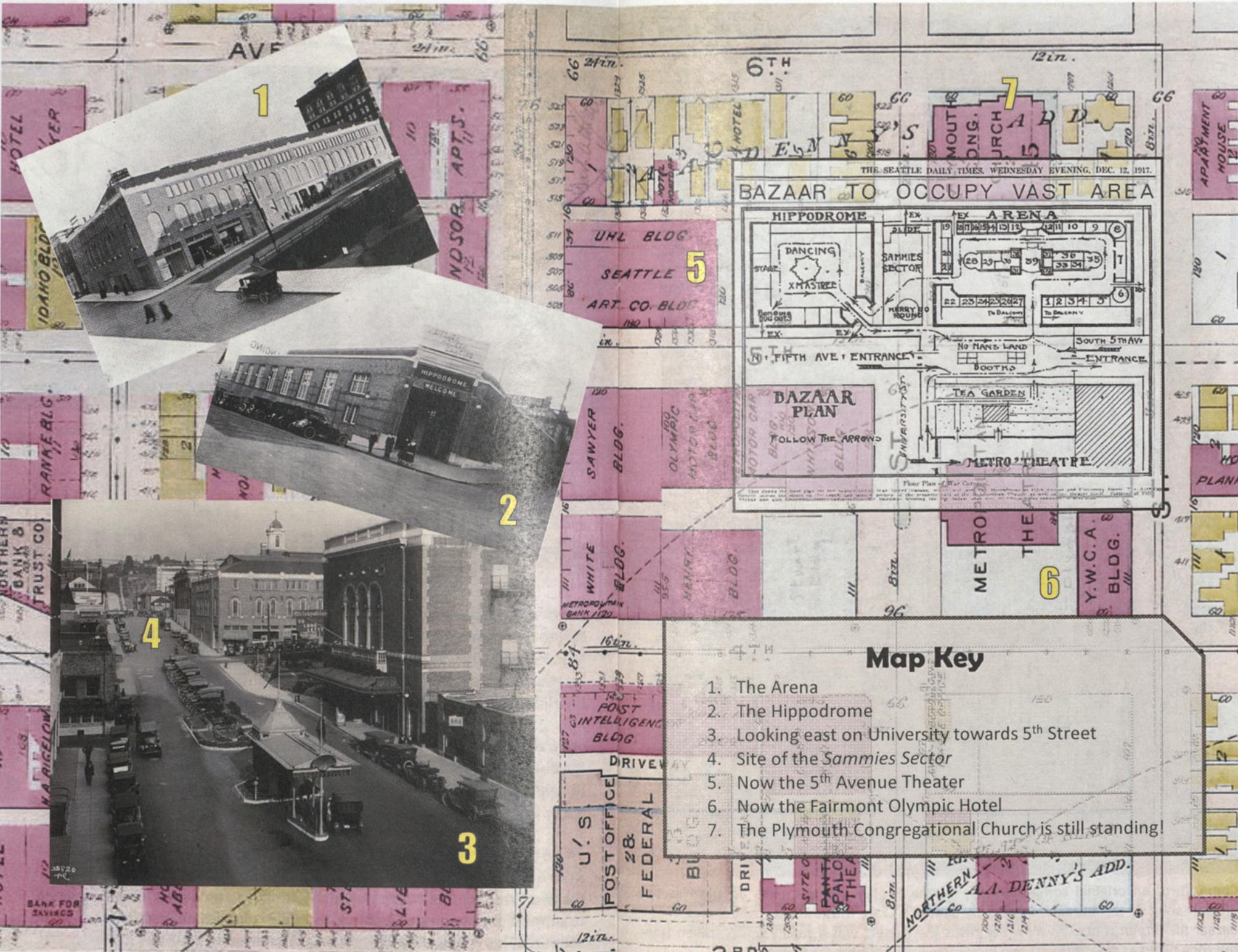
"Society maids and self-supporting office workers and clerks" worked together to plan the bazaar, which was the brainchild of Seattle shipping magnate Frank Waterhouse. Held the week before Christmas, the Seattle Girls' War Work Association, chaired by Miss Gladys Waterhouse and Miss Katherine Kittinger, organized the bazaar.

Volunteers solicited goods and services from Seattle leaders and businesses — everything from cigars to Ford cars — to sell at the bazaar. More than 12,500 volunteers — from University of Washington sorority sisters, to Dames of the Daughters of the American Revolution — worked together to arrange all the details for the event, which would attract over 10,000 a day.

The bazaar was designed and constructed by venerable Seattle architect Carl F. Gould and described as "cleverly conceived and well executed." Miss Irene Ewing was credited with arrangements deserving of "particular attention." The bazaar was held at the Seattle Arena and the Hippodrome Dance Hall. Neither are still standing.

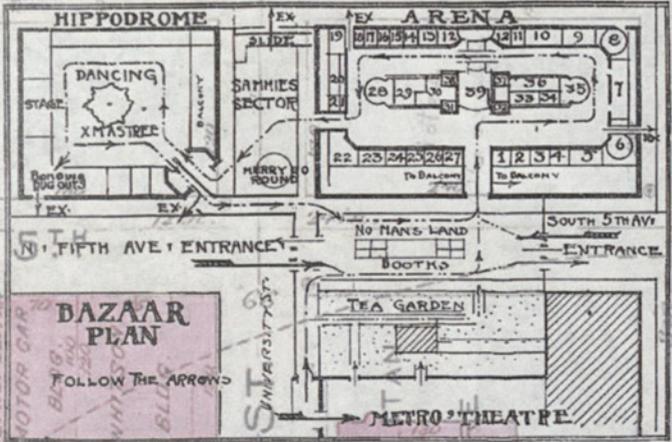
A jewelry drive was also held and "debutantes and working girls united in the bonds of Sammie's Sisterhood" donated their gold and silver to be sold to help fund the war effort. The Moran Brothers, local shipbuilders, made a major donation of \$16,000, and Waterhouse donated \$10,000.

When all the proceeds had been tallied, the bazaar had raised over \$120,000. Fifty thousand dollars was turned over to the Seattle Chapter of the Red Cross to equip Base Hospital 50 and the remainder was designated to support dependents of soldiers and sailors from King and Kitsap counties. This resounding success was organized in just three months!



THE SEATTLE DAILY TIMES, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 12, 1917.

### BAZAAR TO OCCUPY VAST AREA



### Map Key

1. The Arena
2. The Hippodrome
3. Looking east on University towards 5th Street
4. Site of the Sammie's Sector
5. Now the 5th Avenue Theater
6. Now the Fairmont Olympic Hotel
7. The Plymouth Congregational Church is still standing!

Society

The Bazaar opened each day with a parade of fair organizers on horseback, despite the fact Seattle experienced the severest rain they had seen that winter the week of the Bazaar.



Emile Swanson  
Aide-de-Camp

Photos by  
Robert & Stevens  
3107 Photographers

COMETHRU

by  
BERTHA SOPHIE TREMPER

Published by CRAIG MUSIC PRESS

Come Thru, an original composition by Bertha Sophie Tremper, was adopted as the official song of the bazaar. Printed by Seattle's Craig Music Press, copies sold at the bazaar for fifteen cents. "Every miser helps the Kaiser" was a catchy refrain taken from the song billed as great for fairs and bazaars because of its melodious rhythm.



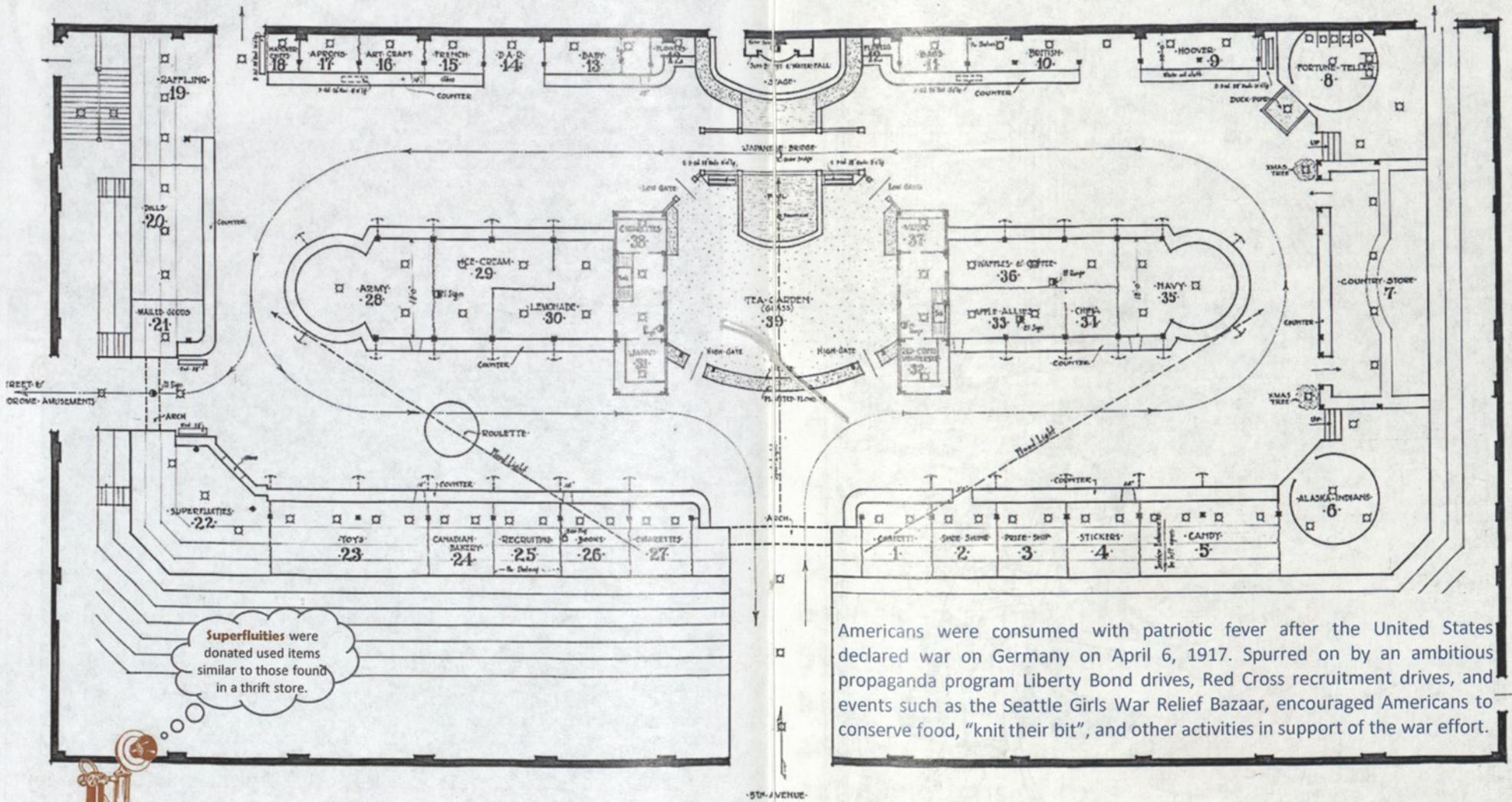
Anita Miller was the winner of a contest held to design a poster for advertising the Bazaar. An artist for the McDougal-Southwick department store in Seattle, Anita studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts. After moving to Seattle she studied at the University of Washington with Edgar Forkner. Her future husband, Ford Elvidge, served with the base hospital the bazaar was raising funds for.

#### POSTER HELPS TO WIN BIG FUND FOR RED CROSS

*The poster reproduced in monochrome above was designed by Miss Anita Miller, of Seattle, and was given first place in a contest for the best poster to advertise the War Relief Bazaar, the proceeds of which—\$110,000—went to the Red Cross for the establishment of a base hospital in France.*

# Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar

DECEMBER 17 TO 22 INCLUSIVE



- PLAN FOR WAR-RELIEF-BAZAAR IN ARENA -

1/8" INCH SCALE

CHARLES H. DEBB & CARL F. GOULD ARCHTS



# AT THE GIRLS' WAR BAZAAR

**SEASON TICKET**  
**GENERAL ADMISSION**  
**SEATTLE GIRLS**  
**WAR RELIEF BAZAAR**  
FOR SEATTLE RED CROSS BASE HOSPITAL  
AND RED CROSS CIVILIAN RELIEF FUND.  
December 17 to 22, Inclusive  
**ADMIT ONE** Tickets \$1.00  
No. 217



# PREPARING FOR BIG WAR BAZAAR



The War Relief Bazaar was such a success, the organizers held the **Seattle Girls Victory Carnival** just six months later. A topic for a future zine, perhaps?



## Artists to Transform Arena Into Fairyland For Huge War Bazaar

Seattle Art Students Will Paint Gigantic Frieze to Cover Walls—Several New Stalls Added and Attractions Prepared.

—Photographs by Webster & Brown, Vines Staff Photographers.

Arranging Articles for Carnival.

These photographs show girls preparing articles to be displayed and sold at Seattle's great War Relief Bazaar. Upper right to right: Susan Wade, Mary Weststrom, Violet Westling, Lenora Wolf, Mary, to right: Marjorie Smith, Margaret Stewart, Catherine Skistvedt. Lower right (left to right): Gladys Weststrom, Edna Collins.

Before the doors had even opened, over half of the \$100,000 goal had already been reached through advance ticket sales, raffles and donations of toys, knitted clothing, household items, food and more.

### Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar

DECEMBER 17 TO 22 INCLUSIVE  
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM DAILY  
SEATTLE

December 2, 1917.

Dr. T. J. Ames,  
Fogel Hill Co., City

Dear Sir:

Our Executive Committee has authorized me to ask the members of the Institute, Friends and Gentlemen of like mind if they will be good enough to provide the necessary interest, signs and signatures to sell at our Bazaar next December. In appreciation thereof, I am requesting you to donate a box of cigars for this purpose. It will be a great help to the cause if you will do this.

May I ask you to let me have your reply at an early date so we may know what we can depend upon.

Sincerely,  
The Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar

One 1918 Six Cylinder BUICK AUTOMOBILE  
The Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar  
No. 1453 Tickets \$1.00

GENTLEMEN'S R-FILED BAG  
The Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar  
Tickets 25c

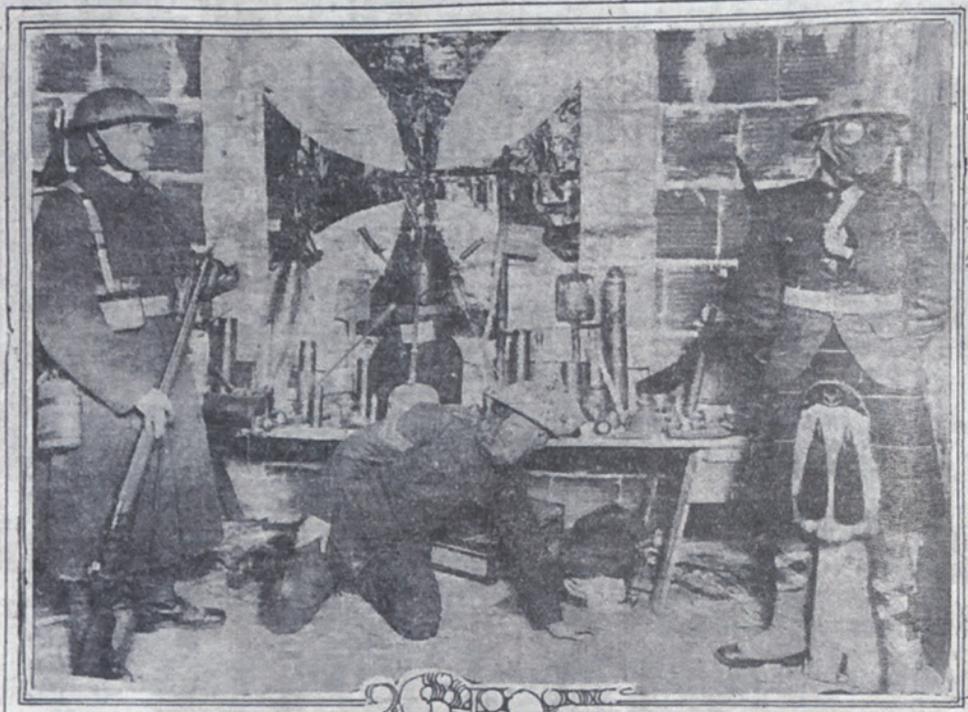
1918 9 Cylinder Scripps Book Automobile  
The Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar  
No. 261 Tickets \$1.00

*John*

In addition to the myriad of booths in the Arena, an outdoor amusement area known as the Sammies Sector offered numerous carnival games including the highly popular *Kill the Kaiser* shooting gallery. Bazaar organizers claimed the entertainment in the Sammies Sector rivaled that of the Paystreak at Seattle's famed Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909.



## "No Man's Land" at Girls' War Relief Bazaar



—Post-Intelligencer Staff Photographer.

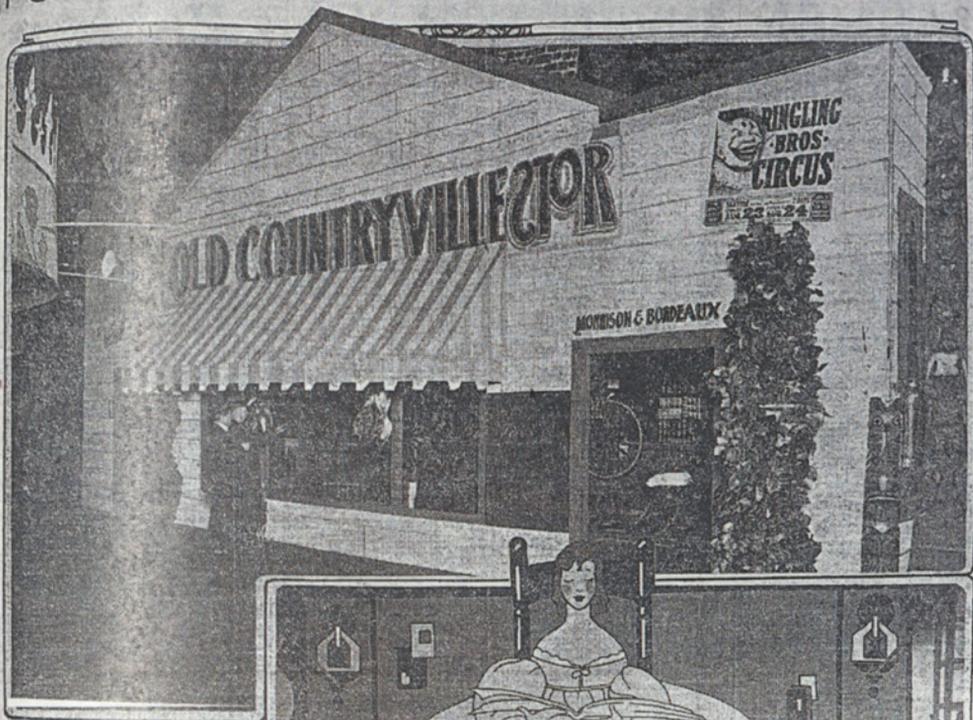
**W**AR relics and fighting men are a feature of "No Man's Land" at the Girls' War Relief Bazaar. Some remarkable curios from the fighting fronts have

been assembled, and there is a realistic touch to the display by the presence of men wearing the uniforms of the allied armies.

## Sammies' Sisters Go Over the Top For the Dimes and the Dollars



# POPULAR CORNER AT WAR BAZAAR



One of the most popular attractions was **No Man's Land** a replica of trenches in France.



**Sammy** was a nickname for U.S. soldiers; short for Uncle Sam!

## Efforts of 12,500 Girls for Soldiers To Be Crowned This Week



# MARMON GIVEN FOR WAR BAZAAR



Handsome Machine Donated to Seattle Girls to Aid Raising Funds.

One of the magnificent gifts announced for the Seattle Girls' War Relief Bazaar to be held next month was that of a completely-equipped Marmon 34 by the automobile department of Frank Waterhouse & Company.  
 The car in addition to the standard equipment includes a combination Victoria top and tonneau windshield, together with plush robe given by Chancellor & Lyon; spare cord tire by the B. F. Goodrich Rubber Company, and seat covers by Melboag Brothers.  
 The Victoria top is so designed as to cover the occupants of the tonneau or can be extended over the driver's seat as well. In the tonneau windshield is likewise extendable, and may be pulled as far back in the tonneau as desired to protect the passengers from the wind.

## MARMON 34 Touring CAR

Not every story at the Bazaar had happy ending. Seattle Fireman Frank Rusnick was the winner of the Marmon 34 Touring car donated by Frank Waterhouse and valued at over \$4000. Several weeks after the Bazaar, his wife Viola sued for divorce, claiming non-support and asking \$50 a month for child support for their young son... **and the car!**

**Fireman Who Won Auto Drives Into the Divorce Court**  
 Frank Rusnick, city fireman, who won the \$4,000 Marmon car put up by Frank Waterhouse at the Seattle Girls' War Relief Bazaar just before Christmas, has driven right into the divorce court in less than a month after he got the car.  
 At any rate, Viola Rusnick has filed suit for divorce from Frank Rusnick, on the ground of non-support, claiming "she has had to live on the fruits of her own labor and upon the charity of her father and friends."  
 She asks \$50 per month for the support of their child, and the

**BAZAAR MARMON FOR SALE.**  
 Best deal takes it. New car; Victoria top, tonneau windshield, best corded seat covers, extra tire complete; most beautiful car in Seattle.  
 Will consider car in trade with cash or torque difference.  
 Best deal takes it—cash or trade.  
 See Seattle fireman and not in position to keep this fine car; want the money out of it.  
 Please, don't dawdle unless you mean business.  
 Address 35-14, The Times.

# Answering Columbia's Call

by Lisa Oberg

## Sources:

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## About the Author:

Lisa Oberg fancies herself an amateur historian and this is her first zine! A librarian by day, she revels in the never-ending opportunity to learn new things, such as discovering the story of the Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar while researching the University of Washington's Base Hospital 50. Since then, her head has been permanently stuck in 1917. Learn more about Base Hospital 50's World War I activities on her blog:

**[basehospital50.blogspot.com](http://basehospital50.blogspot.com)**



DEEP BLUE CLOTH  
BACKGROUND

BAND SAWED-  
COVERED WITH SILVER  
AND TINFOIL

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Columbia** is the feminine personification of America; dear old Uncle Sam is the better-known masculine version.



Lisa Oberg

★ 2017 ★

FIG. 10 LIGHT  
SMITH-ELEC. PAT.