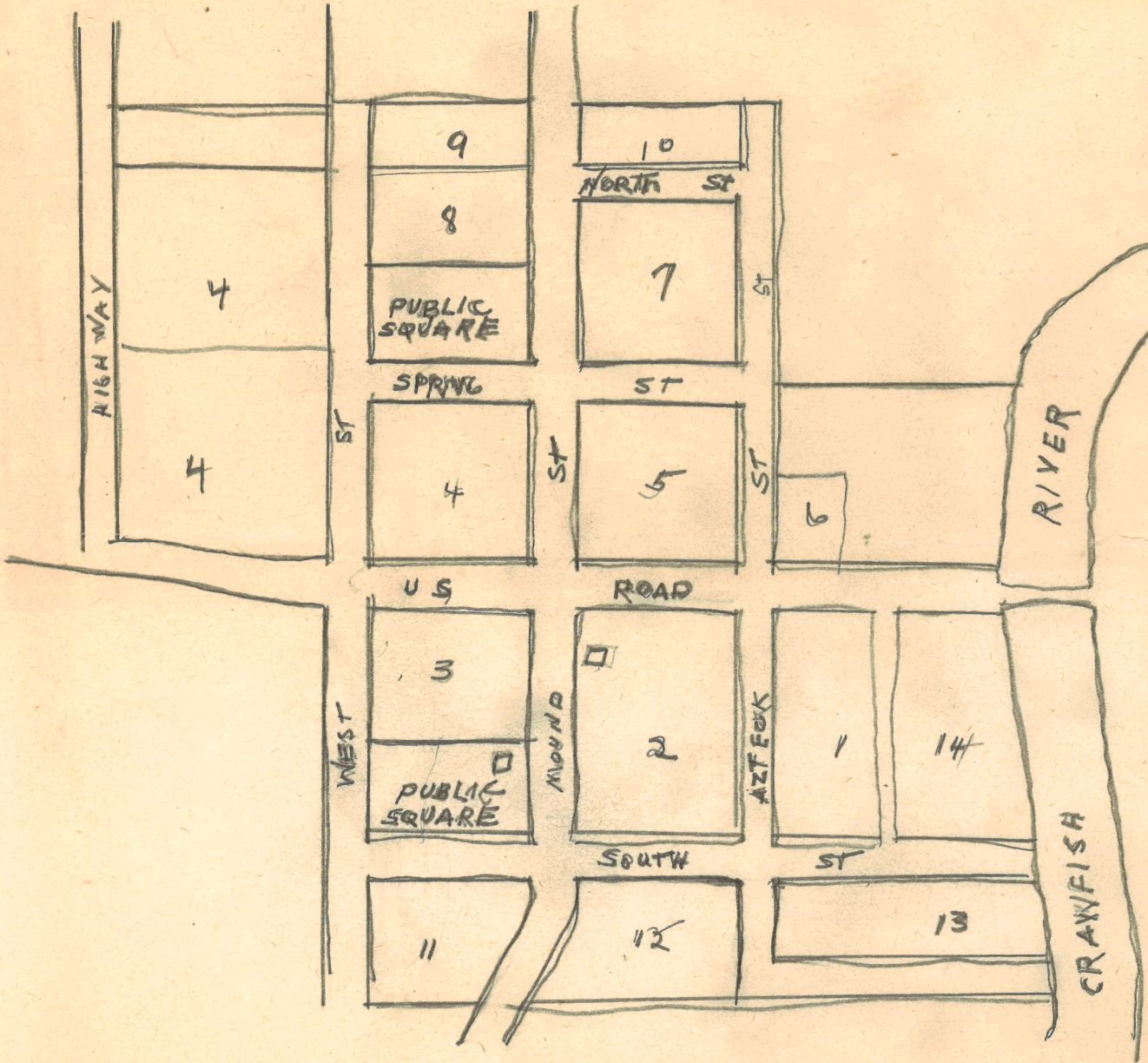


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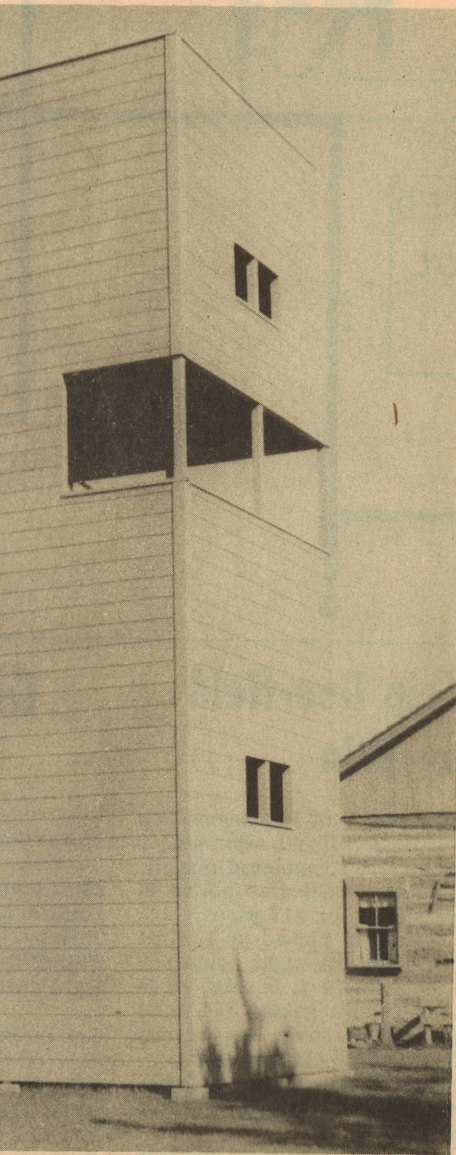
THURS., SEPT. 16, 1971

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12 PAGES THIS WEEK

Observation Tower . . .

At The Dedication Program . . .



Observation tower at the rear of the Aztalan Museum dedicated last Saturday morning. It was designed by



Relatives and friends of Albert Kracht were among those present when the new tower at Aztalan was named in his honor Saturday at the opening event of the district historical convention. Mr. Kracht is shown to the left of center with his hands on a youngster's shoulders.

Dedicate Albert Kracht Observation Tower Sept. 11

Dedication and opening of the new "Albert Kracht Observation Tower" at the Aztalan Museum grounds took place last Saturday morning as a morning feature of the south central convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History here. The tower was dedicated by

state 94 at the Lake Mills exit. He said that financing for the

Aztalan State Park was inadequate in comparison to other state parks, and suggested

tion of this tower--which will give future museum visitors a splendid view of the Crawfish river valley and the reconstructed stockade and pyramidal mounds of Aztalan State Park."

The speaker recounted Mr. Kracht's long service as treasurer and president of the historical society and curator of the museum, terming him "an inspiring and devoted leader and a fine gentleman." A plaque is to be installed on the tower bearing the Kracht name. Plans for the structure were drawn by Craig Beecher, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Kube.

After the dedication, Mr. Kracht led the large group on a tour of the state park. Representatives of most of the 15 local historical societies in the south central region were here for the convention.

A noon luncheon was held in the Moravian fellowship hall, attended by 50 persons, and reports of the member groups' activities during the past year were given. A council certificate was presented to Mrs. Donald Schultz, regional chairman, who was ill and unable to attend, and it was accepted by Mrs. William Wolff, who presided. Presenting the award was Delbert DuMez, chairman of the Wisconsin Council. After the reports were given, an open discussion was led by William J. Schereck, executive secretary of the WCLH.

Main speaker at the afternoon session was Al Ehly, southern district director of the Department of Natural Resources, who discussed "The Future of Aztalan State Park."

Restoration of two primitive-type houses in the park, one round and one rectangular, acquisition of more land on the east side of the river and construction of two foot bridges across the river are among the next development projects planned, Mr. Ehly said. A new gang-mower will be purchased to speed up maintenance, and an exhibition and visitors center is also being planned.

Pointing out that Aztalan Park had attracted 60,000 visitors last year and will draw even more in 1971, Mr. Ehly said that Lake Mills ought to give more thought to promoting the state park instead of Rock lake as a tourist attraction. He recommended adoption of an official sign pointing visitors to the park, and said that many complaints had been received that tourists were unable to find the park after getting off Inter-