

Community Buildings As Permanent War Memorials

(From the World's Work)

There are no sadder memorials to our past wars than the monuments which a mistaken patriotism has erected in thousands of American communities. Most of these marble shafts were the product of twenty-five years succeeding the Civil war—a need famous in our history for coarse and corrupt politics and a degradation in the popular taste that was almost abysmal. It was a period that produced Mansard roofs in architecture, whiskey rings in politics, "lumberjacks" and "razz" flowers in interior decoration and battles in domestic affairs—a period which an inclusive wit once described as "chronic civilization." Most of all these reminders of our recent past have found a final resting place in garrets or basements; yet the thousands of "soldier monuments" which were erected in the same era, and which, for the most part, represented the same grade of artistic taste, still rear their forbidding heads, their drabness made still more desolating by the fact that a pious generation invariably selected the most conspicuous spots in town and city as sites. The motive that led to their erection was patriotic and

worthy; yet that is all that can be said in their favor.

There are more than twenty-five hundred places in this country with a population ranging from 2,500 to 7,500. Practically all these communities have sent a son or daughter to France, practically all of them will wish to express in some visible fashion their gratitude to these soldiers of democracy, and scores of them have already organized committees to erect lasting memorials. Naturally the artistic conscience of the nation is alarmed at this possibility. America has sculptors and architects who might provide monuments worthy of the occasion, but our decorations in courthouses, postoffices, and other public buildings arouse suspicion that perhaps the commissions will go to the best qualified. Certainly the United States has no need of another crop of "soldier monuments" of the less familiar kind.

The war has developed a new kind of institution, the community houses which have served as social centers for the soldiers in camps, and which have performed a great work in keeping them wholesomely entertained and in thus strengthening their morale. This community

house has developed in response to a need which is pronounced in peace as in war. With the development of the social sense, the most enlightening cities have had the necessity of providing some substitute for the street and alley and bar-room as direct influences with the young. Municipal dance halls, municipal concert halls, municipal beaches, and municipal picture houses have become the forerunners of that War Community House which has reached such perfection in the last two years. The American City Magazine now has costs that, instead of erecting hideous marble shafts as memorials to the soldier, "dead, beautiful and convenient buildings to carry on the work of the community houses be substituted. Such a community house would be a great municipal center, a place for games, concerts, celebrations, lectures, dramatic performances, and the like. It would provide permanent headquarters for the Boy Scouts, the Red Cross, perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations. It should be beautiful as well as useful, and not only keep alive the memories of the men who have given their lives and health overseas, but perform a service in making life for the masses pleasanter and more contented; and this is, after all, a high form of patriotism.

Name of the Memorial
To quote from the magazine: "Liberty, more than any other word, expresses the principle for which the war has been fought, and which is to be perpetuated by the proposed memorial. Therefore the name Liberty should distinguish the proposed memorial. Liberty Hall, Liberty House, Liberty Lyceum, or some other such name would be appropriate.

Use of the Building
"The building should be open to the whole community. It should be dedicated by this war. Every non-sectarian and non-partisan movement to promote community progress, welfare and happiness should find sanctuary within its doors.

Cost of the Building
"For the building alone it is recommended that a minimum sum equivalent to \$3.00 per capita is provided. An additional minimum sum of \$1.00 per capita ought to be provided for furnishings and equipment. In small communities we believe that minimum of \$30,000 for the building and \$7,500 for furnishings and equipment would be appropriate. Rapidly growing communities ought to take into consideration the probable increase in population for the next ten years and build accordingly.

Raising the Money
"The entire cost of the building and equipment should be raised by popular subscription in a campaign conducted along the lines of a Red Cross or United War Work drive. To exact the funds by taxation would rob the building of its true nature as a thank offering. In some cities a public spirited citizen can be found who will donate a suitable site for the building. The memorial should be erected without encumbrances on either building or site.

"In some cases it will be possible to secure large gifts from relatives of men who have given their lives in the war. Such a gift could, if desired, be used to provide a gymnasium, or a library, or some other special feature for which the funds might not otherwise be available and might bear the name of the donor.

Lodges or societies which are to have rooms in the building might be invited to provide the furnishings for such rooms at their own expense.

Maintenance
"The nature of this building and its uses place it in the class of all other public buildings and, naturally, should exempt it from taxation of all kinds. Three methods have been suggested for the financing and maintenance of the building:

"(a) An annual municipal appropriation to cover the cost of upkeep and of heat, light and janitor service; such appropriation to be made in consideration of the free use of the building by the public generally and its dedication to the welfare of the entire community.

"(b) The building could be made self-supporting by charging adequate rental to organizations occupying offices in the building and a reasonable charge for the use of the auditorium and the club facilities.

"(c) An endowment fund to be raised by popular subscription and to be supplemented by bequests from time to time.

Should Act Now
"While the sacrifices and achievements of the war and the conditions of permanent peace are still the main topics of discussion, is the time of action. The project should be launched at once, therefore, and the funds pledged by the time the peace treaty is signed.

A community meeting, called by the Chamber of Commerce might, well start the movement. Every community now has its organization of war workers for Liberty Loan, Red Cross, United War Work and other campaigns. These organizations can with practically no difficulty secure funds necessary for the project.

The article goes on to state that the work on the memorial can give employment to many soldiers, and to show how enthusiastically the returned and returning men, who have benefited greatly by the facilities afforded them by the Y. M. C. A., the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies, will cooperate in the project.

A special reason for the haste of action is that the American people are the first of the world to have a memorial to the war which will be a living memorial.



TROPHY TRAIN WILL BE HERE

INTERESTING WAR EXHIBIT IS ARRANGED FOR

Tour of All Points in State Will Be Made to Help Boost Interest in Victory Loan.

A train laden with all kinds of relics and souvenirs of the war is to visit La Grande at an early date, according to announcement of Victory Liberty loan officials. The train is to be officially designated as "the trophy special," and is to make a complete tour of the state, making stops at all points reached by railroad.

The object is to give the people of Oregon an opportunity to see war instruments and implements of which they have often read, but have never seen. At the places visited the train will be open to all visitors and the exhibits will be explained by competent attendants accompanying the train.

The tour of the train will be made under the auspices of the Victory Liberty loan, which will be the fifth and last loan. The loan drive opens on April 21.

The exhibits will be furnished by the war department. Word has been received at the Portland headquarters of the loan committee that the relics have already been shipped, but owing to the uncertainty of their arrival the committee is unable at this time to set a definite schedule for the train. This will be arranged as soon as possible and due announcement will be made.

The train will consist of two flat cars, bearing the bigger relics, such as guns and equipment, and one exhibit car carrying the smaller relics and souvenirs.

A list of some of the exhibits is as follows: French baby tank, German minewarrior and howitzer, German Albatross motor, German field guns, trench mortars, gun limbers, airplane motors and parts, parts of Zeppelins, barbed wire used at Verdun, machine guns, uniforms of all nations, noise bombs, and star shells.

For that reason the war should be commemorated by "living memorials." The articles concludes:

"To raise these funds the veterans of all the wartime campaigns should unite into one body and put into this final effort all the zeal and enthusiasm that is justified by the great victory our boys have won. The appeal can be made irresistible from a patriotic standpoint. It is also strong from a selfish standpoint, for the reason that the money can be spent at home with local contractors and dealers, for home labor, and to provide a structure for the enjoyment of home people and home boys.

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Professional Directory

ATTORNEYS

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R. J. GRIEN, Attorney at Law—Practice in all state and federal courts. Office La Grande National Bank Building.

CRAWFORD & EAKIN—T. H. Crawford and Robert S. Eakin, Attorneys at Law. Practice in all the courts of the state and the United States. Office, West-Jacobson Bldg., rooms 2-10-17, La Grande, Oregon.

ARCHITECTS

G. E. MILLER—Architect, room 27, New Foley Bldg. Phone Red 1871.

MECHANOTHERAPY

DR. A. N. MAYVILLE—Mechanotherapy Physician. Chronic diseases my specialty. Physical and mental science, dietetics, hydrotherapy and French massage. Phone Black 2311. Rooms 1, 2, 3, Coolidge building, opposite Star theatre.

PIANO TUNER.

JAS. M. DALY—Piano Tuner. References, Mrs. G. S. Rennie, Mrs. R. J. Green, Miss Miller. Phone Mrs. R. J. Kitchen for appointment. Will be in La Grande in May. 2-4-mp.

OSTEOPATHIC.

DR. MARGARET INGLE, Osteopathic Physician—Specializing in disease of women and children. Hours 10 to 12 a. m., 1 to 6 p. m., and by appointment. Phone—Office Red 1761, residence, Black 1231. 37 New Foley building.

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Fraternal Directory

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—La Grande Camp No. 109 meets every first and third Tuesday at Eagles Hall. All visiting neighbors welcome. Dues payable at the office of the clerk, New Foley Bldg., 9 a. m., 1919 p. m.

J. J. MURCHISON, C. G. J. J. KITCHEN, Clerk

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

—La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month in the K. of P. Hall. Visiting neighbors welcome.

J. L. GHARST, V. C. JAKE ROSTOCK, Clerk

REBEKAHS—Crystal Lodge No. 50 meets every Tuesday evening in the L. O. O. F. Hall. All visiting members are invited to attend.

LETTIE McGOVERN, N. G. LUCIA HALEY, Rec. Sec.

K. of L. of Security—Mt. Emily Council, No. 246, meets the second and fourth Monday evening at 8 o'clock at Eagle hall. Visiting members are welcome.

JOYAL NEIGHBORS—Iris Camp meets every second Friday afternoon and every fourth Friday evening, every month in K. P. hall. All visiting members cordially welcome.

HENRIETTA GHARST, Oracle J. L. ROBERTSON, C. C. DEILEE GREEN, K. of E. & S. MARY L. WEST, Recorder.

F. O. EAGLES, AERIE NO. 259—Meet every Friday night, at Eagles Hall. Visiting members welcome.

Z. LILLY, W. P. A. J. LARM, Sec.

D. E. S.—Hope Chapter No. 13, O. E. S. holds stated communications the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Visiting members cordially welcomed.

FLORENCE BACON, W. M. MARY A. WARRICK, Sec.

L. O. O. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 850, Loyal Order of Moose holds regular meetings every Wednesday night at 8 p. m. in Eagle hall next to Elks' Bldg. on Washington Ave. Visitors always welcome. Dues payable at Young's Sweets.

W. C. HANSEN, Dic. HARRY SWART, Sec.

B. P. O. E. ELKS, La Grande Lodge No. 423, Lodge meets each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Home and club privileges cheerfully extended to all Brother Elks.

R. J. GREEN, Exalted Ruler, A. B. CHERRY, Secretary.

A. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Saturday at 7:30 p. m. Cordial welcome to all Masons.

C. M. HUMPHREYS, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—Red Cross Lodge No. 27 meets every Monday night in Castle Hall (K. of P. hall) A Pythian welcome to all visiting Knights

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