

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## MEMORIAL 1923



### ALAMO IS RECALLED BY 50 VETS

Nine Veterans of the United States-Mexican War Live in West.

#### THREE ALIVE IN STATE OF OREGON

Robert Starkey, Marshfield; Enoch Conyers, Clatskanie, and John McFeeley, Lebanon, are Oregon Survivors.

(By Associated Press)  
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., May 30.—Nine veterans of the Mexican War of 1846-48 are alive in the west and today will celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the close of the war between the United States and Mexico, May 30, 1848. These nine veterans live in California, Oregon, Utah and Montana.

The Department of the Interior reports a total of fifty-two Mexican War veterans alive in the United States, all of whom are being carried on the pension rolls of the government, but since then two veterans of the west have died, leaving only fifty survivors.

All of the Mexican War veterans are past the ninety mark, the oldest in the United States being Urbain Chaudet of San Francisco. Mr. Chaudet will celebrate the century mark on June 18, next.

**Survivors Named.**  
The nine western survivors are: William V. Benson, 95, Los Angeles; private, Company G, second Illinois Infantry.

William J. Biggerstaff, 92, Lakeport, Calif., private, Company B, Santa Fe Battalion, Missouri Mounted Volunteers.

James S. Boyd, 96, Duba, Calif., private, Company E, Arkansas Mounted Infantry.

Urbain Chaudet, 99, San Francisco.

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#### FIVE CASES WILL BE TRIED DURING JUNE COURT TERM

With the June session of the circuit court opening in La Grande next week action day was held yesterday with Judge J. W. Knowles presiding. Five cases were set, three civil cases and two criminal cases.

The following cases will be tried: Monday morning at ten o'clock; J. C. Corbin vs. Wong Sing, a civil case.

Tuesday morning at nine o'clock; J. M. Stubblefield vs. J. A. Breachers, a civil case.

Wednesday morning at nine o'clock; State of Oregon vs. H. Laughlin, a criminal case.

Friday morning at nine o'clock; State of Oregon vs. H. Laughlin, a criminal case.

Monday, June 11, at nine o'clock; O. E. Halverson vs. White Pine Box and Lumber company, a civil case.

### Beautiful Spots In Which Repose America's Soldiers

There is no fairer spot on all the hard-fought battle line in France than that northern slope at Belleau wood where still rest the bodies of many brave Americans.

There are plenty of other spots in France that Americans will always visit and revere. The great cemeteries of Roubaix and Suresnes are poignant beyond words. The glory of Belleau wood is that here, by the side of one belated dead, stands a natural monument to American valor—a tall, stately tree and brush through which our troops grimly fought their way in one of their first and most critical engagements of the great war.

Our men fought as bravely, as doggedly, in the Argonne and at scores of points. There at Belleau wood lies a spot that can stand for all close by the highway from Paris to Chateau-Thierry, not far from the



**STILL MARCHING  
ON**  
By Benton Bailey

LAY wreaths upon their resting place and let the words be said  
In memory and honor of the gallant soldier dead:  
For these are ceremonies which we owe ourselves to give  
For those who died in battle that our liberties might live.  
To keep alive within our hearts the spirit that they knew  
We gather here about the graves to pay the dead their due!

BUT oh the happy souls of them, these valiant lads and brave,  
Are not beneath the wreaths we lay upon each grassy grave;  
I like to think they're out somewhere, beyond our utmost ken,  
Not clay beneath a monument, but first-class fighting men  
Who gather in the army blue or in the khaki brown  
To march along the milky way as through a conquered town.

I LIKE to think of these that died, as swinging through a street  
Somewhere up there in Paradise, with rhythmic tramping feet.  
With shrilling fifes and thudding drums to set the marching time  
For youthful brown-skinned veterans forever in their prime.

I THINK they'll be like other souls up there among the blest  
Where earthly tribulations never break their peace and rest.  
But—say on Decoration Day—I fancy that they come  
Together at a bivouac, and all the heavens hum

With soldier-talk and laughter, and the astral spaces ring  
With bugle calls these fighters knew, and songs they used to sing!

LAY flowers on their sacred graves—but think of them as Men  
Who flock together 'mid the stars to meet their pals again,  
Who smoke and laugh and reminisce with faces all aglow;  
Lay flowers on their sacred graves, but think of them as though  
They still are lads or grizzled vets who in true soldier-wise  
Are swapping jokes and stories round a campfire in the skies.

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### Stage is Set For Stampede

BAKER, May 30.—Everything is in readiness for the opening day of the Haines stampede Thursday which is Baker day. Bucking and racing horses are on the grounds and some of the wild steers are awaiting the attempts of the bulldozers.

Blanche Burton of Haines, slaughterer of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Burton, has been selected "Queen of the Haines Stampede."

The contest, which closed last night, was one of the most spirited ever held in Haines, and the rivalry between the contestants was exceedingly keen.

Friday, the second day of the stampede, is Union county day and many are planning on attending from La Grande, Union, Elgin, Cove, Imbler and other points.

#### Memorial Day

Memorial days will come and with the passing of years history will narrate their observances. But far above and beyond the pageantry of these glorious days are the scrolls of eternal truth; the history which men's ideals write, the spiritual architecture which makes a nation great. Therein lies the deeper meaning of the day. And the fairest beauty of Old Glory can only be surpassed by the response to the echoes of the far-sounding prophecies which it awakens.

### RANKS OF VETERANS THINNING

National G. A. R. Commander Willett Finds More Gaps in the Line.

#### THOUSANDS STILL KEEP RANKS FULL

With Deaths at Rate of 2,000 a Month, It Is Estimated Eight Years Will See the End.

By NEA Service  
DES MOINES, Ia., May 30.—Slowly the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic are thinning. Familiar faces drop out, and none take their places.

Exactly how many still survive is unknown. Last year some 130,000 remained. This year that figure is shortened by approximately 24,000—at the rate of 2000 a month.

Judge J. W. Willett, of Tama, Ia., continues to rule the diminishing ranks. He is commander in chief, and the only naval veteran to hold this office.

A native of Illinois, he enlisted at Cleveland, O., in the volunteer navy in 1863. For a while he served on the receiving ship Clara Dolson at Mound City, Ill. Then he was transferred to the submarine U. S. S. Springfield, Mississippi squadron, where he served until the war's end.

It is estimated that in about eight years this thin line of veterans will have vanished altogether.

#### Cupid Knocks 30 For A Row of Wedding Bells

Dan Cupid has had quite a little struggle for the past month in his official position of "hitching" loving young couples together.

Despite the hard struggle and the moonlight nights in his favor, Cupid has only succeeded in tying his score of the previous month of April by a mark of fifteen hits, according to the records of the County Clerk. But 15 hits means 30 persons tied for life—or one a day, if a person can look at it from that angle.

Cupid is expecting to better his average next month—that month of June when roses and brides predominate.

#### ASHLAND EDITOR WEDS

ASHLAND, Ore., May 30.—Without giving any notice of their intentions, C. K. Loren, editor of the Ashland Tidings, and Miss Ann Forberg were married by Rev. W. Judson Oldfield Saturday afternoon and left immediately for the northern part of the state.

### Battles of Long Ago Seen by Old General



GEN. BYRON R. PIERCE

#### 1000 TO WORK ON LINE

LONGVIEW, Wash., May 30.—Two-hundred Brothers, who have the contract for the grading of the Longview, Portland & Northern Railway company's railway from Longview to a point six miles west of Vader, are rapidly getting their work organized under the supervision of Philip Two-hy. They are now operating three steam shovels and employing 250 men. Within a month three more shovels will be on the project and at least 1000 men will be employed. Three of these shovels will be used near Okeana where an immense cut is being made alongside the Northern Pacific railway track which is paralleled for several miles. One of these will be on a sub-contract by Hauser Brothers. Two sub-contractors are working west of Vader in the Cougar Flat country. They are J. H. Powell and L. M. Clark. Two-hy Brothers have a large steam shovel working on cuts west of the Toutle river.

The work will be completed by January 1, according to present plans. Fills wherever possible will be made by the Long-Bell Lumber company dredges.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 30.—The life of a nation is at stake—Cannons roar and muskets crackle.

Blue and gray armies are in battle.

Peterburg passes into rebel hands again. More fierce fighting, and the Stars and Stripes again was proudly over the field as the smoke of battle clears away.

Come word from General Hancock of a promotion to brigadier general—an acknowledgment of gallantry in action. And the answer:

"Can't better do it quick. There's no telling how long I'll last with the Johnnies as good shots as they are."

General Byron R. Pierce, oldest surviving Union general, puffing contentedly on his after-dinner cigar, lives again through all the "fury of the battle hell."

Lines Past Again.  
Through swirls of smoke, he sees the glorious charge. Then the more sorrowful—yet more glorious things—wounded men suffering gladly for their cause. And dead men dotting the trampled battlefields.

Tears for his fallen comrades come welling up in the old general's eyes.

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### ALL NATION UNITED IN MEMORIAL

La Grande Observing Memorial Day With Fitting Exercises.

#### PARADE TO FORM AT TEN O'CLOCK

Decoration of Graves at the Masonic Cemetery Following Parade; Services in Afternoon.

No concern in the entire business section of La Grande with the exception of the drug stores which are observing Sunday hours, and the city police and fire departments, is stirring today—Memorial Day. Hardly a laborer in the entire city is lifting a trowel, wielding a shovel, mounting a plane or attending to his business, whatever it be. The entire city is paused—paused for a day in honor of those matchless heroes who gave their lives that American people might still live and breathe—free as the birds that sit from tree to tree.

Graves are being decorated today not only by relatives of those called beyond, but by others who unite in paying homage to them. Graves of Civil War Veterans, of Spanish war veterans, of World War veterans, of Indian war veterans, and of veterans of every war in which the United States has participated since the Revolutionary war are blooming forth today throughout the nation in bright colors—in flowers that serve to decorate and consecrate these burial grounds that serve to keep alive that spirit of patriotism that will never cease to color while "Old Glory" waves aloft. And "Old Glory" waves today in the business section and the residential section of the city—at half mast until noon and then on to the peak of the flagpole.

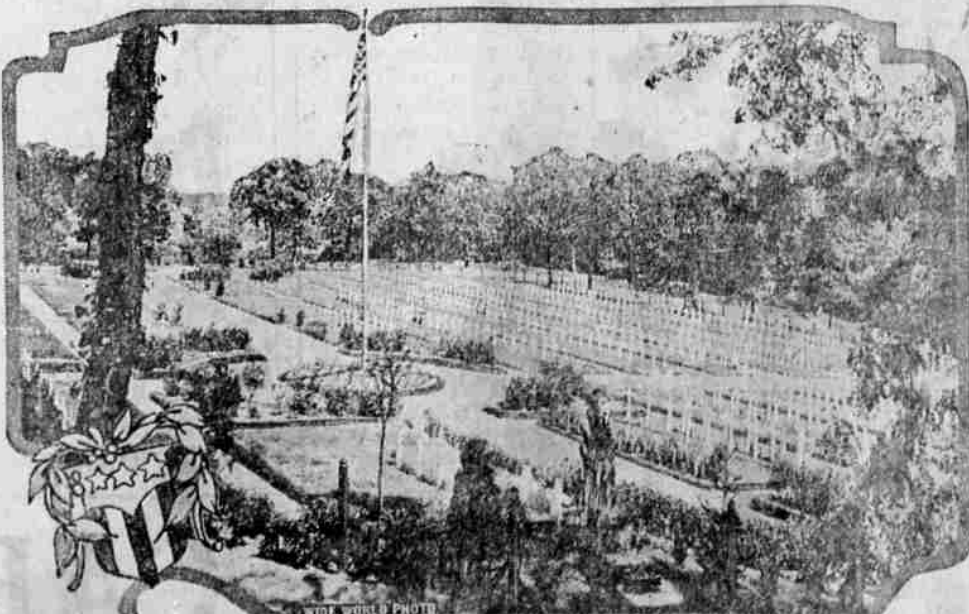
**Program To Begin Soon.**  
At 9:45 o'clock the Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion, the W. R. C., the American Legion, the G. A. R., and other similar organizations will gather at the Y. M. C. A. to form a parade which will move toward the Masonic cemetery.

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#### Traffic Officers Will Police Parade Grounds

SALEM, May 30.—The state traffic department has made arrangements to send a squad of traffic officers to eastern Oregon July 4 to assist in handling the thousands of motor vehicles that are expected to assemble there in connection with the formal dedication of the "Old Oregon Trail." The celebration will be held on the summit of the Blue mountains, and President Harding is expected to be in attendance.

#### AMERICAN DEAD AT REST IN FRANCE



A field of crosses marking the graves of American boys who fell while fighting in France. Memorial day will always be celebrated in the Belleau Wood cemetery—where the memory of the brave boys is kept green with flowers and flags.

### Day Recognized as Belonging To All Who Served Nation

Memorial day is generally observed throughout the world this year, due in large part to the efforts of the American Legion according to the following announcement made at Legion headquarters at Indianapolis: "Originally designated by the Union veterans of the Civil war as a particular decoration day for their fallen comrades, May 30 gradually has become a day set apart in memory of all Americans who died for their country. Although it has long been the custom of many southern states to observe a memorial holiday of their own on April 26, the tendency to a uniform observance has been apparent since the World war. The Legion, composed of both the North and the South, officially adopted May 30 as its Memorial day and parts of the World war men on both sides of the Mason-Dixie line have, for the last three years, simultaneously honored the dead of the Civil, Spanish-American and World wars."

**May 30 International Holiday.**  
"When the Inter-Allied Veterans' federation, made up of World war veterans of France, England and Canada, Italy and the others of the allied nations and of which the Legion is a member, adopted the Legion's date for the observance of this day, the May 30 became an international holiday comparable only in universal observance to Christmas. In the years to come it will be observed by Legion posts and allied veterans' organizations in the following countries other than the United States: Canada, Belgium, France, Poland, Turkey, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, British Isles, Chile, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Japan, Peru, Porto Rico, Portuguese West Africa, Santo Domingo, Spanish Honduras, India, Venezuela and the Canal Zone, Hawaii, Philippines, Iceland and the territory of Alaska."

**Huge Task Completed.**  
"The United States graves registration service has completed its huge task of locating and marking the graves of American and allied soldiers who are buried in the cemeteries of this country. Legion posts in France, Belgium, Poland and Turkey will visit old battlefields and adjacent cemeteries."

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