La Grande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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THE FOUNTAIN OF PRAISE: O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give it. Psalm 51:15, 16.

Legion conventions are great things. They help a fellow familiarize himself with your war experiences so eventually he can relate them as his own.

If you get lost in La Grande, it may not be anything to be ashamed of. Business streets and residential streets are not laid out in parallel lines—and we can think of a lot of other good excuses if needed.

WELCOME TO THE LEGION OF OREGON!

The convention of the American Legion and its Auxiliary is the largest state convention held in Oregon, the most elaborate, the most successful. But just as the war wasn't won by second lieutenants, so the La Grande session, getting under way today, can't be credited too inclusively to citizens of this community.

Preparations have been going on for many months. The local post has planned and worked ceaselessly and tirelessly for these three days. Hundreds of citizens have cooperated and are continuing to do so. Every idea conceived for the comfort and pleasure of visitors has been carried out. Every effort has been made to assure the convention's success.

But up until today the "Battle of 1927" has been a battle on paper, a job for the S. O. S., a task for generals and second "looies" and field clerks. Today the armies take the field and La Grande welcomes the invading hordes from Eugene, from Marshfield, from Lakeview, from Astoria, from Bend, from Pendleton, from all Oregon. You, visiting Legionnaires and Heiresses, make your state convention the institution that it is. You, with your drum corps, your stunts, your energy, your comradeship, your youth. We are happy that you have made it possible, happy that you are here. The battle is on; the city is yours.

Even the best wars are never perfect. While you are fighting with utmost sincerity and devotion to make the world safe for something, there's always some lucky buck AWOL sleeping off the effects of intimacy with King Cognac. And when you've earned a good rest billet and have just settled down to enjoy the golden omelettes of a smiling Madame, there's always a sergeant's whistle to blow fatigue formations.

So it is even with conventions and the vacations they encompass. Guard details and passes sometimes get mixed in a most inappropriate fashion. We only hope that the calls to duty during this three-day fray will be wholly pleasant ones, that you will take every objective, that the only thing to mar your victory will be the necessity of returning home, that nothing will prevent the "Battle of 1927" being the brightest, happiest spot in your long and profitable career of Legion service.

La Grande special orders say that forced marches and post-armistice maneuvers are taboo. Every visitor is a cavalry colonel on furlough and all Eastern Oregon is a leave area. Ships are sailing for home only when you're ready to go. Fresh air, sunshine, and a smiling, appreciative populace are year-'round experiences here. There's no reveille, no retreat. Stay up as long as you wish; sleep if you can; leave us if you must. La Grande considers serving you a rare privilege. We hope that your stay will be darkened only by the thought of departing, that the leave-taking will be brightened by a firm resolve to return many times to La Grande and Eastern Oregon in future years.

A funeral should leave a fragrant, beautiful Memory in the minds of all who attend it

HUNTER & BOHNENKAMP
Funeral Directors
MAIN 42 Day and Night

PRESBYTERIANS SELECT LEADER

Elder J. A. Wilkinson, of North Bend, New Moderator of State Synod

EUGENE, Ore., July 21 (AP)—Elder J. A. Wilkinson, North Bend, was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Synod which opened at 2:30 p. m. yesterday in the Central Presbyterian church and will continue until July 27. The election of a ruling elder to this position is unprecedented in the annals of state Presbyterian Synods and is taken as a gesture of gratitude to the laymen for promoting the $15,000,000 pension fund for ministers, which was recently completed.

The only other time that an elder has been given any similar office was at the general assembly in San Francisco some time ago when J. Willis Beard was chosen moderator.

Active in Church Work

Elder Wilkinson has taken an active part in church and civic work. Two years ago he was sent to the general assembly as commissioner from the Coos Bay Presbytery. He represented Coos Bay in the Pension plan parley, and was one of the first to have his report completed and sent in, according to Rev. J. E. Snyder, pastor at North Bend, who nominated him. Elder Wilkinson also is connected with the Albany college, having served as a member of the board of regents to that institution for several years.

SIDESHOWS OF THE CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

looked like they had hiked all the way from their Central Oregon residences, anyway. They changed clothes and immediately were accorded a place among the most handsome visitors, even if one or two of them have had obvious difficulty raising Mexican moustaches.

* * *

The street activity and accompanying crowd last night is an indication of what can be expected now that the convention is actually under way. Incidentally, there's no snappier group on the street than La Grande's own auxiliary drill team.

* * *

No one can envy the police department and state traffic officers their job of regulating motorists. Between tourists who wonder what it's all about and convention people who don't care what it's all about, traffic handling isn't the softest soap in town.

* * *

When A. T. Hill in his address this morning, invited the legionnaires to partake of La Grande's artesian water in great quantities, the applause was great—almost too great, in fact. Hot he got even more applause when he hoped that the "Battle of '27" would be the fiercest ever fought.

* * *

Mrs. Carl Moser has joined her debonair husband in La Grande. He was the advance guard of the convention, arriving here Monday in his official duties as state adjutant.

* * *

Work will start staking out ground preparatory to the construction of a new veterans hospital in Portland Saturday, Kenneth L. Cooper, of the United States Veterans Bureau, of Portland, who is attending the convention here, said this morning. He received a telegram this morning say that the work would start Saturday. The hospital will take the place of the one now leased by the government for the disabled veterans and will accommodate about 200 men.

* * *

Father Joseph Lonergan past national chaplin of the American Legion, is expected to arrive in the city this evening and will speak during the convention.

FIND IT HERE

Copy for this column must be in by 9 a. m.

Special meeting of Carpenters and Joiners Wednesday evening, 7:30, July 27, 1927. Regular meeting Tuesday evening as usual. To discuss plans for Labor Day celebration. 7-21-2t

ICE TEA SETS
For the hot summer days that are here. Attractive colored sets priced from $1.95 a set up at Richardson's Art and Gift Shop. 7-20-4t

Pictures of all Union and Wallowa counties in all sizes are on sale at Richardson's Art and Gift Shop. 7-20-4t

FARM LOANS: LOWEST RATES SCHOOL FUNDS also available. H. E. DIXON, Foley Building, LA GRANDE, ORE. 2-18-tf

IF YOU LIKE to swim and picnic come out to Pine Cone Camp, 2 miles west of La Grande. 6-21-1m

If you are suffering from la grippe or influenza we can sell you a new preparation that will give quick relief and generally a cure in 2 days, for $1.50 a bottle. Silverthorn-Wright's family drug store. 6-27-tf

SUMMER NORMAL
Normal school books and school supplies of all kinds on sale at Silverthorn-Wright's family drug store. 6-27-tf

Hemstitching, pleating, button holes, etc. Norton's Kiddy shop. 10-14-tf

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of Union County, Oregon.
In the Matter of the Estate of Ira A. Snyder, deceased.
The undersigned having been duly appointed by the County Court of Union County, Oregon, administratrix of the estate of Ira A. Snyder, deceased, and having qualified, notice is hereby given to the creditors to present them verified as required by law within six months after the publication of this notice to F. R. Biggs, attorney for said administratrix, at his office in the West-Jacobson Building, La Grande, Oregon.
Dated June 29th, 1927.
GRACE SNYDER
Administratrix of the estate of Ira A. Snyder, deceased.
June 30—July 7-14-21.

DANCES IN CABARET
LONDON—A godchild of Queen Mary is dancing in a cabaret. Elaine Lettors' father was superintendent of the king's wardrobe.

SAVAGE PLEASED WITH CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

gallon cowboy hats, presented them by legionnaires of the Round-Up city, and the national commander wore a beaded belt, given him by the members of post Peo, the only all-Indian American Legion post of the United States.

Both the national commander and Mr. Kowers were as proud of their gifts as a child would be of a new toy. "I have wanted one all my life," Mr. Savage said. "Most people look at me when I step off of the train at the station in Chicago." When asked whether or not he intended to wear it home he said, "I should say I do. I'm going to wear it to California convention and then to Tennessee."

The Trip to Paris

"In a little more than a month legionnaires from all over the United States will start on their pilgrimage to France. Between 15,000 and 18,000 ex-service men will make the trip," the national commander said. "They are going there to pay respect to their own, who gave all and are lying there. As a fitting tribute I will take with me half of a wreath, made by the ex-service men in the veterans hospital at Los Angeles, who are still paying for the World war, which will be placed on the tomb of the American unknown soldier in France. The movement to make the wreath was first started by the gold-star mothers of the American Legion auxiliary. The other half will be placed on the unknown soldiers tomb at Arlington cemetery, Washington, D. C., which I will visit just before going to France.

"Many believe the men are going to France for a good time, they are in part, but there is also a serious purpose."

This is Commander Savage's first trip west of Omaha, and he is much impressed with the western country. "It is wonderful," he said this morning, "and the city of La Grande is wonderful."

Comes From Fargo Meet

The last convention attended before the one in La Grande was at Fargo, North Dakota, day before yesterday. From here the national commander will go to Portland and Seattle, which is to be an unofficial trip—"just to see the country," he said. Then he will go to Spokane to attend the Washington state convention, from there to Weiser, Ida., to attend the Idaho convention, then Santa Barbara for the California convention. After that he will start east and will attend the Tennessee state convention.

"The rail-splitter of the department of Illinois" is the way Commander Savage is spoken of in his home state. The title comes from the immense amount of work he has accomplished for the legion and from a resemblance in many points to that other towering rail-splitter Illinois sent out to the nation.

Commander Savage is big and powerful physically. Although his hair is gray at 42 he looks as if he could still crack a football line wide open as he did in his college days. He has the appearance of having kept hard and fit through strenuous work. Men on the Chicago elevated lines, where he was general superintendent of maintenance of way, when elected national commander of the legion can tell a few things about that.

In the rugged features of the new legion leader there is something which makes men of every type recognize a friend. He can deal with equal facility with the bank president or the track laborer. Men who know him well declare he is a composite American, combining the qualities thought of as most characteristically American.

A person cannot be associated with Howard Savage long without discovering beneath his forcefulness and his plain, blunt speach a deep kindness. While Illinois department commander with headquarters at Bloomington, he frequently could be found at a soldiers orphans' home near there with his arms full of youngsters.

Born in Iowa

Commander Savage was born in Boone, Iowa, but when 14 years old his family moved to Chicago. His father was an engineer on the Northwestern railroad. There were seven other children in the family.

The record of Lewis Institute, the Chicago prep school which Howard attended, indicates no unusual brilliance in his studies but they show that he ran the fifty-yard high hurdles in seven seconds flat and could put a baseball across the plate like a bullet. He showed real ability as a leader in athletics as well as being an outstanding individual star. While at the school he was captain of the football team, the basketball team, the baseball team, the indoor baseball team and the track team.

After being graduated from Lewis Institute, Savage entered the University of Wisconsin. Here he again stood out in athletics. Conditions prevented him from completing his four years but before he left the university his athletic record had attracted the attention of professional baseball. He was signed as a pitcher by the Chicago Cubs one year, and also pitched in the Western League, the Iron Mountain League and with Chicago semi-professional teams.

Railroad Head

The Northwestern railroad, the road on which his father worked, gave Savage his first work in the engineering field. He started as rodman in a surveying gang. Later he became a junior engineer with the Chicago Rapid Transit company, the elevated lines. Step by step he moved upward to general superintendent of maintenance of way and his present position of assistant general manager of the North Shore Electric Lines of Chicago.

When the World war drew in the United States, Savage was married and three years beyond what the government decreed was the military age. He knew, however, that his engineering knowledge would be useful and entered the 15th Engineers. He was commissioned a first lieutenant and had a year of overseas service.

Special Prices
FOR CONVENTION WEEK

Colored Half Sox	25c
Straw Hats	19c and 49c
Voile Dresses, age 2 to 6	98c
Boys' Wash Suits, age 2 to 8	98c
Infants' Sweaters	98c
Silk Step-Ins	98c
Silk Scarfs, $3.25 value for	$1.98
Cretonne Parasols, $3.00 value for	98c
Broadcloth Parasols, $6.00 value for	$1.98

Several Other Items at Special Reduced Prices

NORTON'S KIDDY SHOP
Better Merchandise— —Lower Prices

La Grande's Leading Store Welcomes Auxiliary Members and Men of The Legion

"Buddies O' Mine"

(From the "Stars and Stripes," Official Newspaper of A. E. F. in France, Feb. 21, 1919)

You were right, Mister William T. Sherman,
When you uttered that message divine,
For only today I have laid them away—
Those two little buddies of mine.

We had crossed in a transport from Gotham
To the land that the papers call France,
We had buddied together in any old weather,
Together we'd taken our chance.

And many a time in our hiking
When I was unable to crawl,
They carried the pack that was slung on my back—
With never a kick at all.

Rugged, they were, tough and sturdy—
Though maybe they never would shine
In a high-brow cafe on the rue de Broadway,
They were genuine buddies of mine.

And now that their duty is finished
The thought that is left to console
Is: though they were rough, they were made of real stuff
And each of them harbored a sole.

So thus, when the snow fell this morning
And keen as a whip was the air,
My buddies checked in—to a fat sergeant's grin,
Who issued me then a new pair.
—Pvt. John P. E. Briggs, A. P. O. 795.

The facilities of this entire store are at your service throughout the convention. May your entertainment and pleasure far exceed every expectation.

N. K. West & Co., Inc.
La Grande's Leading Store for 25 Years