

The Legions Purpose



For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to include a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Organized March, 1919, in Paris—Incorporated September 16, 1919.

SALVAGE DUMP

Words and Music by
Bert G. Bates

(Special to the Oregon Statesman)

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., August 5.—As the old adage used to run, "It's an old Jane that has no yearning"—and fellers, though the passing years have tinged my auburn locks with silver I am yearning, gawd, how I'm yearning to be back up in ol' Salem town for that annual convention.

Just gather the ol' crew around the bathroom sink, reach down into the bathtub and lay a hank of ice at the head of the bed and remember today that I am with you in spirits.

But here's ol' Bertram down in turritul Hollywood where the wimmen emote like Sarah Bernhardt, neck like Clara Bow and bite like Rin Tin Tin.

Yep, it's said that the gels down in this neck of the pepper trees only draw the line with an eyebrow pencil—but feller heroes and bachelors, gimme an Oregon damsel with blushing cheeks, woolen socks, shiny nose and a cherry orchard—shush, shush, comrades—I'm not gittin' old—just cautious!

Now there's that sturdy ol' pioneer, Rufe White! Rufe has been dustin' license plates fer many a moon in the capitol city and does that lad know his figgers?

But poor ol' Rufe—they're holdin' the convention in his home town this year. It'll be many a Sunday before Rufe can return to his piccolo in the village choir.

But elect him ambassador to Hindustan by all means. His home town folks should aid in buyin' him a one-way ticket to one of them thar furrin countries.

'Wonder where the next legislature'll meet? They'll never git the bricks carted away in time to make room for a tent.

Goshamighty—I wish I was comin'!

Of course I'll be reclinin' down here in my Roman bath with some guys with Roman noses wavin' palm branches at me as a chorus of forty beautiful maidens, count 'em, 40—are gallopin' up and down the livin' room. Let's see, James, trot out the Mercedes today, the springs of the Rolls jolted my back somethin' fierce yestiddy.

Pardon me, while I hide in the closet a moment—here he comes the gas collector.

Ah yes, 'tis marvelous—yes marvelous—to go out in the backyard of your hacienda and pluck citrus. What a wunner! drink citrus makes when properly squeezed. Would that I had used that at Medford last year.

But wotta break that nifty beau brummel Carl Moser is gettin' this year. With me away from a convntion he'll hafta house his harem in the senate chamber—remember friends—I said the SENATE chamber.

And then of course Jerry Owen, that stalwart veteran of many convention floor battles, will be allowed to roam the corridors of the village hotel without competition—GOSH I WASHT I WAS COMIN'!

But Ben Fisher with face aglow can dwell upon my virtues—yep, even upon my vices. You hafta have a vice to git in the talkies these days.

The editor of the Oregon Statesman asked for a picture of my mug for this column but I look so haggard and worn after three months along Hollywood Boulevard and its sundry alleys that I'm afraid Frank Moore would cancel my loan on that Oregon shanty.

Never come down here without a tin bill. At that its pretty tough pickin' with the sparrows—especially since Tom Mix has taken his hosses with a circus.

We hope Carl Gabrielson has recovered from that epidemic of minstrel shows. At the last one Rufe White and yorn trooly fell off the end chairs and dern near cut our throats on the electric bulbs.

Vic MacKenzie moved away from Salem just long enough ago to come back and raisell fer the convention. That is, providin' Frieda takes an afternoon nap each day and goes to bed early in the eve—which Frieda won't do if she's smart—and which she is!

But honest to pesty gang, its breakin' my heart to handle this convention with remote control. Gosh I'm sobbin' tears in my beer now—and boy do I love salt in my beer! But fellers—here's a toast to the best aggregation that ever kicked down a hotel door. Hoist your elbows, mates, and drain the dregs—SUCCESS, HAPPINESS, BEST WISHES, TWINS, AND MAY THIS CONVENTION SEND YOU HOME TO YOUR SORROWFUL RELATIVES WITH YOUR BODY PROPERLY ICED AND THE EXPRESS CHARGES PAID!

Hortense, my powder puff please—my nose is shiny and my eyes bleary—
GAWD—I WISHT I WAS COMIN'!

5 JUDGES NAMED TO PICK CORPS WINNERS

Five judges have been selected by the drum corps competition committee to select the legion corps to take honors at the competition Friday night.

A division of responsibilities has been made among the judges and each will have a special part to give his opinion upon.

Hal Campbell of Silverton has been named to judge the music.

Major Van B. Cunningham of Vancouver, Wash., will judge on military maneuvers. The uniforms of the posts and the work of the drum majors is to be judged by Captain E. S. Russell of Portland.

Arthur D. Haynes of Vancouver, Wash., has been named as chief judge on music. He is bandmaster of the 7th Infantry band, for the competition to be staged Col. H. A. Allen of the Oregonian Salem Friday night.

National Guard of Portland will be a judge of the military drill of the corps.

Corps Members Give Much Time To Their Drill

To be a member of a drum corps means first of all consistency.

Drum corps members must march and drill and play and keep after it day and night for weeks and months if they are to appear as a corps which can enter the strenuous competition of a statewide contest.

Hence post members who are also members of the drum corps of the post have an important position. The personnel given in this paper represents men who have been faithful to their posts for months and in some instances for years, in making ready for the competition to be staged Col. H. A. Allen of the Oregonian Salem Friday night.

History of Salem Legion Shows Continous Record of Marked Achievements

Peak Reached in Membership this Year Comes After Years of Steady Pushing; Champion Drum Corps Wins National Honors

BY L. A. HAMILTON
Historian for 1929

The history of Capital Post No. 9 dates back to seven months before the first national convention of the American Legion, held in Minneapolis, November 10, 1919.

A meeting of the Salem World War Veterans' Association took place on April 15, 1919, presided over by Governor Ben Olcott, and it was this meeting that provided the nucleus around which was built after nearly ten years of effort, the thriving organization now known as Capital Post No. 9, host this year to the largest gathering of Legionnaires ever held in the state of Oregon.

From 16 charter members on July 28, 1919, Capital Post No. 9 has expanded consistently until at the present time nearly 1200 members answer the roll call.

Smith First Commander
To Dr. W. Carlton Smith goes the honor of being the first post commander. Elected to office as "president" on August 19, 1919, Dr. Smith called the first meeting of Capital Post No. 9 on September 2, and from that time forward activities have seldom waned.

Dr. Smith, re-elected commander during 1920, devoted his efforts to establishing the local post of the American Legion on a solid foundation. During his administration two Italian cypress trees were planted on the court house lawn as memorial trees, and were dedicated by him on Memorial Day, 1920. Various and sundry legislative measures were approved and endorsed by the post during the year, and in November the new state constitution was adopted. The next month the Boy Scout movement first came under the scrutiny of the post and the principles of the movement heartily endorsed.

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Dr. B. F. Pound took over the reins of administration in 1921, and one of his first objectives was the placing of two memorial stones to mark the two memorial trees previously planted by Dr. Smith. These stones support bronze inscription plates, one reading: "In Memory of Soldiers" and the other, "In Memory of Sailors and Marines." Dr. Pound expended commendable effort on behalf of the ex-service men in connection with the Oregon State Aid measure, and its successful adoption is due in no small measure to his efforts. The National Commander MacNider sent a personal letter of commendation and appreciation to Dr. Pound for his efforts in this direction.

Joe Minton, as commander for the year 1922, succeeded in abolishing the custom of turning Memorial Day into a day of celebration, reverting instead to a proper observance of the spirit of reverence and respect due in tribute to those who have died in the service of their country.

George Griffith Once Leader
Passing on into 1923, finds the late George P. Griffith commander for the year. Commander Griffith at the commencement of his administration adopted the ritualistic procedure for the order of business at Legion meetings. Senate Bill No. 20, providing for instruction in the constitution of the United States in all schools and colleges of the state, commanded marked attention under this administration, receiving the unanimous endorsement of the post. It is the ambition of every post to own its own

and his wise selection of co-workers. The first attempt at "ladies night" practically marks the inauguration of the American Legion auxiliary in Salem.

The American Legion enacted a prominent part both in the financing and the dedication of the memorial statue "Over the Top," sponsored by the National American War Mothers of Salem. Commander Gabrielson presided at the unveiling ceremony on Armistice Day, and the post completed the raising of funds for the statue by presenting the War Mothers with a check for \$1,320.

Clifford Brown Active

The late Clifford W. Brown, already prominently and efficiently active on behalf of the drum corps, was elected to hold sway as commander during the year 1925. Clifford Brown was always an enthusiastic booster for the community and a firm believer in the influence of the Legion for the good of the community. His ideas were generous, but practical; his theories became accomplished facts, always for the betterment of the community. Under his administration a law enforcement program was introduced and enacted whereby the local Legion pledged unblinded cooperation and unreserved support to the city officials of the "membership." Intensive campaigns brought the membership up to 850. Incidentally, the individual state record for membership went to a member of Capital post. R. H. Bassett was awarded the Pacific Legion Membership Trophy at the Coos Bay convention for obtaining the record number of 235 members.

Band Concerts Backed

During this term Capital post

tendered the Salem common council its financial support to the extent of \$2,400—such support to provide for the continuance of the civic band concerts held in Willson park each summer, and for uninterrupted maintenance of the public comfort stations.

A prominent member of the post, and a man with considerable personality, was chosen to succeed Commander McKenzie.

Lyle Dunsmoor, always to be depended upon for assistance and a lion's share of work, undertook to control the destiny of the post during 1927.

For the first time in the history of the post, the total membership climbed over the 1,000 mark. This record was achieved only after considerable hard work. Teams were selected, the losing teams to provide entertainment for the winning side. Thus

was brought into existence a minstrel troupe whose performances were later viewed with admiration and pleasure in all the larger valley towns.

The Mississippi flood disaster provided an opportunity to extend relief on a large scale. The sum of \$1,700 was raised by the post as its contribution to the Mississippi flood relief fund.

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and
Auxiliary
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