

AUXILIARY HAS ACTIVE RECORD

Avis White President This Year of Salem Chapter; Welfare Work Done

For the past eight years the Salem American Legion Auxiliary has taken an active part in civic and charitable work, particularly in the field of child welfare and hospital aid.

The auxiliary was first organized in 1921 but met with reverses and was re-organized in 1924, with Mrs. J. J. Rottle as president. Membership has increased steadily and the field of activity has greatly widened.

The present officers are: President, Avis White; first vice-president, Lucille Meyer; second vice-president, Fay Lieuallen; chaplain, Mrs. Albert Graag; sergeant at arms, Mrs. W. T. Watkins; historian, Alice Lockard.

The executive committee consists of Mrs. King Bartlett, Mrs. Walter Zosel, Mrs. W. E. Vincent, Harriet Wechter and Genevieve Tragle are standard bearers.

Welfare Work Done
The child welfare work has been under the direction of Beas Watkins as chairman while Mrs. Jesse George directs the work of the hospital committee. Mrs. George is also a member of the department hospital committee so the scope of her work is much wider than the Salem district.

The auxiliary has sponsored a girl scout troop as part of their work and the girls will act as pages for the coming convention.

On Memorial Day the auxiliary sponsors the sale of red poppies made by the disabled veterans. The funds from this sale are used for hospital work. This year, on Memorial day the local auxiliary presented a copy of the picture "In Flanders Field" to each school in Salem.

The ladies of the auxiliary gave one day each month to assisting in the work of the Marion County child health demonstration. This is in addition to the extensive child welfare work done by the auxiliary.

To Mark Graves
This year the local organization started a movement to get government markers for all the unmarked graves of war veterans in Salem cemeteries. Those government markers are of New England marble and the only expense to the local unit is that of setting them. A great deal of work is involved in getting the complete

Here's the Way Salem's Drum Corps Looked Way Down South



Photo made at San Antonio, Texas, in September, 1928, when the corps from here won second national honors against a field of corps entered from all sections of the United States.

war record of the deceased and the consent of surviving relatives to place the marker. This is all done by the local women.

Until recently a woman could gain membership in the auxiliary only if some near relative was a member of the American Legion. Now one may join the auxiliary on her own war record.

The present membership of the Salem auxiliary is 217.

LAGRANDE SENDING LARGE DELEGATION

LAGRANDE, August 5.—The American Legion Post of La Grande can well be recognized as the leading post in the eastern Oregon district. It has always maintained the largest membership in that section and its members have always taken an active part in legion affairs.

The total membership for the year 1929 has reached the 300 mark and under the leadership of Commander C. V. Talbot the post has had a very remarkable year.

Two things of which the La Grande post and its auxiliary are justly proud are the Legion drum corps and the auxiliary drill team.

Both organizations will be in attendance at the Salem convention and from the combined organization and the delegates and visitors from La Grande a total of 70 people from La Grande will be present. This is the largest representation from any single eastern Oregon town. The drum corps has a membership of 32 and the drill team 18.

Delegates to the convention from La Grande are C. V. Talbot, commander of the post, Otis Palmer, post adjutant, Harry Sandos, Ralph Huron and Hugh Brady.

More Hospitals Needed by Vets Who are Mentally Ill; Congress is Asked to Help

There are 10,656 more mentally ill patients in the state institutions of New York than there is capacity, an overcrowding of 30.9 per cent, according to Frederick W. Parsons, M. D., commissioner of the department of mental hygiene. There are 1,926 ex-service men in these state institutions, he said. Under the law these veterans are entitled to treatment and care in government hospitals. The government hospitals for the mentally sick are filled.

The statement of the overcrowded condition of New York State institutions was made to the American Legion which is endeavoring, nationally, in conjunction with state authorities and the Veterans' Bureau, to determine the acute need of providing additional government hospital construction to care for the increasing load of mentally ill war veterans.

According to Commissioner Parsons, whose figures are taken as of May 1, 514 of the 1,020 ex-service patients in the state institutions of New York are being cared for in the Kings Park hospital. The remaining 486 cases are under treatment in the other 13 civil state hospitals, the largest number in one institution being 120 at the Manhattan State hospital. There is no overcrowding in the Veterans Memorial Unit in the King Park State Hospital, according to Commissioner Parsons, who adds that "we believe the ex-service patients in the other state hospitals are all well cared for."

The American Legion national survey shows the over-crowded conditions of New York institutions to be similar to the conditions in most other states, in many of which, however, the veterans are not receiving the proper care to which they are entitled under the law.

"The World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended, in Section 202, Paragraph 19, provides that all veterans mentally ill, as well as a few other classes of disabled, are eligible to treatment and care in government hospitals, regardless of whether they can trace their illness to war service, but no beds are available for such veterans, many of whom carried on without complaint for several years after the war.

According to a statement made June 3 by the service director of the Legion department of New York, there was one "service connected" mental case awaiting hospitalization by the government; three non-service connected; 18 service connected now in hospitals awaiting transfers; 22 non-service connected hospitalized awaiting transfer, besides a roster of hundreds of cases in state institutions where no contact by the bureau was had due to the fact that they are non-service connected and no requests had been made of the bureau for treatment.

Members of Los Angeles Lodge of Elks, No. 95, have organized an aviation club to encourage interest in aeronautics. The club members are chartering planes for visits to Elks' lodges within a radius of 1,000 miles of Los Angeles.

COMMISSION WORKS IN HARMONY-M'KAY

Commander of Salem Post Says Task of Putting on Meet No Worry

About as smooth a functioning piece of mechanism as there is in the world is a Chevrolet car in the eyes of Douglas McKay, commander of the Salem post. When "Doug" appointed his convention commission, however, and saw it get to working, he decided that the commission was even a smoother piece of mechanism in its functioning than the well-known car which provides the McKay family with funds for rent and food.

Doug's idea has been one of delegating work to responsible men and letting them go ahead to work out the details. His idea has succeeded beautifully.

In complete harmony, the convention commission has gone ahead with plans for publicity, housing, entertainment, transportation and the other problems which confront any legion convention commission.

"Lots of people have asked me how I can get any of my own business done with the convention on my hands this year," commented McKay this week. "Real-

ly, the convention plans have not worried me. The commission has done such consistently good work that the conclave has never bothered me."

Hospital Now Ready for Use In Emergency

An emergency hospital station, under the direction of Dr. W. V. Carlton Smith, will be maintained at the courthouse grounds all during the legion convention. A tent 18x50 will be the official headquarters and the Golden Ambulance company has given the services of one ambulance to be on duty all the time.

The Marion county court gave the use of the ground free of charge. Oscar Bower, county sheriff, donated the electricity, and an extension light line will be run from his office to the tent. The telephone will be secured in the same way from the office of the county treasurer.

Red Cross Flag Shown
The red cross flag which will designate the tent is the gift of the Salem legion auxiliary. Cots for emergency cases will be provided.

Medical supplies will not be kept at the tent but some one will always be in attendance and doctors will always be subject to call.

CONFINED VETS ARE SEEN OFTEN

Salem Legion Auxiliary Has Its Members go to Portland to Call

Veterans who are in the hospital and their families have been one of the chief concerns of the American Legion auxiliary since its organization and Capital Unit of Salem has been very active in this field during the past year.

Mrs. Jesse George is chairman of the hospital committee for the Salem unit as well as a member of the state hospital committee. Mrs. George or a member of her committee calls at least once each month upon those veterans who are in the tuberculosis hospital.

Gifts of fruit, flowers, or anything that the patient desires are always taken on these visits. All Salem veterans who are confined to hospitals are called upon and cheered in every way possible.

Frequent visits are made to the veterans hospital in Portland and

at each visit cigarettes or tobacco is given to every man in the hospital. At Christmas time \$25 was given to provide gifts for the men. Whenever a veteran dies this committee sends flowers in the name of the auxiliary.

One very important feature of the work is the attention given to the wives and families of veterans who are ill. In case the wife wants work the committee sees that suitable employment is found. If the family is in need the necessary food and clothing is provided and the wife and children cared for until the father is again able to work.

War mothers also come in for their share of attention. One case in Salem has attracted a great deal of interest from the women. This woman has been confined to a local hospital for some time. A wheel chair was purchased for her use and a needed sweater was provided.

Much of the work of the hospital committee, like that of the child welfare section, is done so quietly that few people know anything about it. Funds are secured by contributions and by the tea which the auxiliary sponsors each year. This is given at the Elks club and the proceeds are divided between the hospital and child welfare work.



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