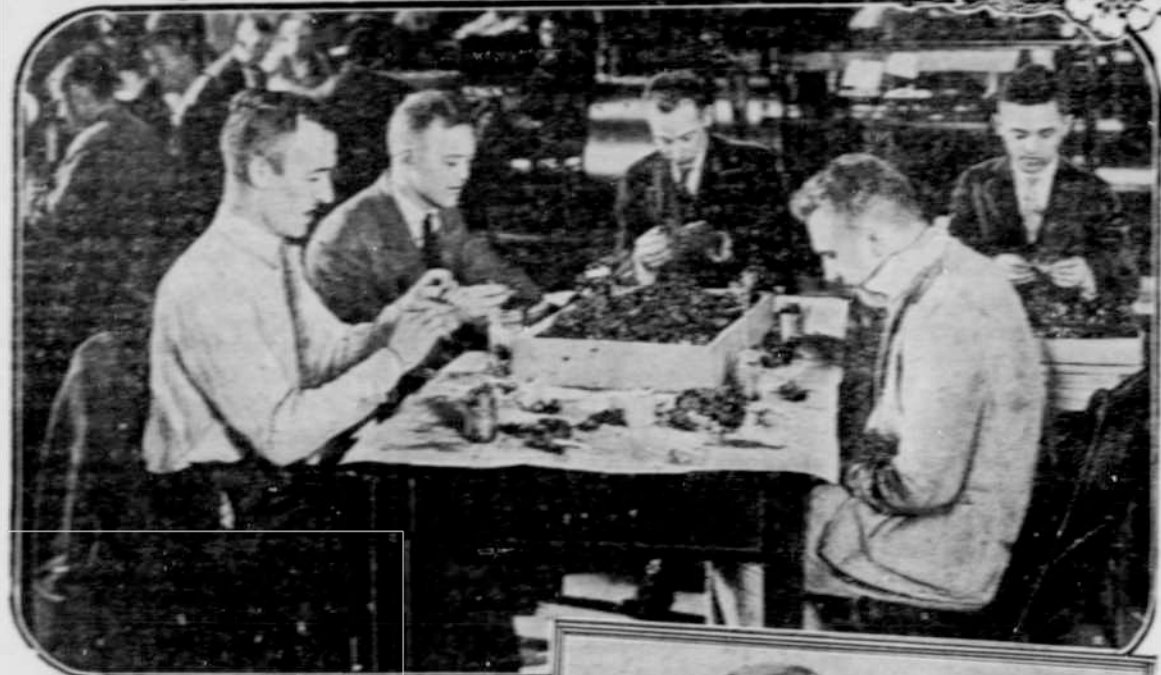


The Red Poppy-Symbol of Armistice Day



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WITH the coming of another Armistice day men and women all over the world will pin flaming red poppies over their hearts as symbols of the blood which was shed on the battlefields of the World War. For the red poppy has become the emblem of Armistice day and we wear it on November 11 as a memorial not only to the men who died during the war-torn years of 1914-18 but also to those who came back to their homes alive but bearing upon their bodies and in their minds the scars of that holocaust—the disabled veterans.

The story of how the red poppy became the emblem of Armistice day goes back to November, 1918—even before there was an Armistice to light the burden of a war-weary world. In it there is a curious parallelism between the establishment of this custom and another custom observed on another day when we honor our war dead. It was a group of southern women in Columbus, Ga., who in 1905 banded together to decorate the graves of soldiers, both Union and Confederate, thus originating a custom which is perpetuated in our Memorial day observance. And it was another southern woman, Miss Mollie Michael of Athens, Ga., who originated the idea of adopting the red poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices of the fighting men of the World War and whose efforts have resulted in this flower's being adopted as the Armistice day emblem.

The idea came to Miss Michael while she was serving on the staff of the Y. W. C. A. overseas headquarters at Hamilton Hall, Columbia university, in New York. On Saturday November 9, 1918, she was sitting in the headquarters office when a soldier came in and placed a copy of a month's magazine on her desk. In it she happened to read Colonel McCrae's now-famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." She was so stirred by the lines that she re-read it several times and then with a sudden inspiration she wrote this reply to it:

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders fields,
Sleep sweet—to rise above!
We caught the Torch you threw
And holding high the torch we fight
With all our might.
We cherish, too, the Poppy red
That grows in fields where valor led:
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy red
We'll wear in honor of our dead;
Fear not that you have died for naught;
We'll teach the lessons that you taught;
In Flanders fields.

As she wrote, she decided that she would wear a poppy for remembrance and she would also ask others to do the same. While thinking about this three overseas Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. workers, who had been attending a conference at Columbia, came in to bring her a check for \$10 in appreciation of her efforts to make a model hostess house of their headquarters. She immediately told them that she would use the money with which to buy poppies and then explained her idea. They were so enthusiastic about it as she was and, returning to their conference, spread the news. As a result, all of the workers at the conference that afternoon were wearing poppies which Miss Michael had provided.

The next morning Miss Michael went to see her friend, Dean Talcott Williams of the Columbia school of Journalism, and confided to him her poppy thought. He was very much pleased and offered to pass the thought on that afternoon to a war workers' committee on which were Mrs. Preston, the former Mrs. Grover Cleveland, and Rodman Wamsamaker. He attended the meeting of the committee and brought back to Miss Michael enthusiastic reports of the manner in which her plan had been received.

Then came the armistice and Miss Michael turned all her energies to spreading the idea of the poppy as a national emblem. She presented the plan to other conferences and they



The pictures shown above are photographs taken in a disabled veterans' hospital where the patients make Buddy Poppies to be sold throughout the country by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the proceeds being devoted exclusively to welfare work among disabled veterans and ex-service men.

straightway adopted it. Home-coming programs were made and the poppy idea was introduced into them.

Miss Michael wrote her congressman, Charles H. Brand, and he replied on December 10, 1918: "I am writing today the War department in behalf of your suggestion that the poppy be adopted as the national emblem in commemoration of our soldiers who died in France."

Miss Michael wrote to many institutions of education, women's clubs and other organizations, explaining that as it was impossible to have triumphal arches or great memorials in all places from which came the heroes of the World War, she begged them to adopt the poppy as a tribute to the men who won the victory.

"Out of every great event of the world has come an emblem," she wrote, "Lest we forget." Into this war went many emblems: The flag of nations, the Red Cross, the Red Triangle, the service flag and pin. New out of this war should come some emblem perpetually to remind us and unfailingly to teach coming generations the value of the light of liberty and our debt to those who so valiantly saved it for us."

On the eve of the Georgia State convention of the American Legion, August 19 and 20, 1920, in Augusta, Miss Michael went to the Legion headquarters in Atlanta and turned over to them her arguments concerning the adoption of the poppy. Charles M. Galliene of Post No. 1, Atlanta, took charge of the material and presented the movement to the convention. It was adopted and the delegation to the national convention was instructed to present it at Cleveland, Ohio, and to support the resolutions. The resolutions were presented to the national convention in September, 1920, and the poppy became the National American Legion Memorial Flower.

The happy inspiration which this southern woman had has not been confined in its result to this country alone. For her idea has spread to other countries. Madam E. Guerin of Paris read Miss Michael's poem pledging to "Keep the Faith," and her plans for wearing poppies to memorialize the sacrifices of the war. She immediately organized the American and French Children's League and sold poppies for the benefit of the orphans in France.

In an official report, which she issued on February 5, 1922, from Canada on Poppy days, she announced: "The great war veterans have sold 1,000,000 small poppies and 200,000 large ones, clearing \$80,000 for their relief work, and for the French \$80,000 to go to the poor French children of the battlefields."

In England the poppy program flourished tremendously. Earl Haig's British Legion adopted the selling and wearing of poppies in 1921 and since that time more than \$11,000,000 has been cleared for ex-service men. In 1927 alone the British legionnaires sold 25,000,000 poppies and made a profit of \$2,522,000. In 1928 the sales reached the \$3,960,000 mark. In every British community, no matter how remote from the mother country, anniversary of the armistice is observed by the sale of poppies. The full list of overseas collections from poppies, as printed in the 1927 report of the British Legion, assumes the appearance of a gazetteer of the world. There are listed there the Azores, Egypt, the Grand Canary Islands, Morocco, Nigeria, the Sudan, the Orange Free State, Bermuda, British Guiana, Trinidad, Borneo, British Malaya and dozens and dozens of other countries.

Instead of the poppy becoming a national emblem, as the Poppy Lady first dreamed, it has become an international emblem. In Europe, besides the British Isles and France, 19 countries wear the blood-colored blossoms in their lapels: Italy, Holland, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Greece, Rumania, etc. almost every corner of the globe. Poppies are even worn in Japan, China, Mexico, Asia Minor and in every country of North and South America.

The poppies are made by disabled veterans in hospitals in the East, at place-work east and the state departments of the Veterans of Foreign Wars all taken certain quotas. A small amount is deducted for national and state relief and the rest goes to the posts that sell the poppies to be used as their relief needs arise. The veterans are paid one and one-quarter cents for every poppy they make and some of them are skillful enough to turn out from 800 to 400 poppies in a day, thereby earning about \$5.00.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

The memorial cabin that is being built at Champoug by the Daughters of the American Revolution will be completed in a few days.

Total value of taxable property in Jackson county exclusive of public service corporations is \$28,354,550, a decrease of \$68,219 from last year.

Fruit raised within a six-mile radius of Ashland this year had an approximate value of \$111,500, according to the estimate of County Agent Wilson.

Plans for the establishment of rabbit meat markets at Ashland and Medford are being considered by the Jackson County Rabbit & Fur Breeders association.

Airway beacons adjacent to The Dalles will be lighted within two weeks. The government will install its own power plants for the beacons and field lights.

Elmer Hoke, 19, Heppner high school football player, died in a hospital at The Dalles from injuries suffered in a game Friday between Heppner and Hermiston.

War on rats soon will be waged by the city of Seaside under the direction of Dr. Ray Logan, health officer, and H. S. Spear, rat extermination expert of the federal government.

J. H. Wheeler, well known bulb grower of Hood River county, is now harvesting his gladiolus bulbs. He expects to have at least 500,000 bulbs of choice varieties when he is through the season.

A contract for the laying of track on the Oregon Electric railway's 10-mile extension from Lebanon through Sweet Home has been awarded to the Hamner Construction company, it has been announced.

Klamath county dairymen have culled 129 head of cows from herds in the Klamath Cow Testing association since January 1. This represents 16 per cent of the entire enrollment in the association.

Sheridan's taxes will be reduced approximately 25 per cent, according to members of the budget committee. During the last 4½ years Sheridan has reduced its bonded indebtedness from \$47,461.54 to \$41,713.11.

Action looking to the protection of game birds, livestock, crops, fences, etc., on the premises of farmers in the Shelburne and Minkers districts in the vicinity of Seilo has been taken by a large number of farmers.

The financial campaign in Albany to raise \$100,000 to finance the Albany door factory continues to make steady progress. The committee having the matter in charge reports that there remains but \$7500 to raise.

Cocoe county has a large potato crop. It is learned from reports coming from all sections. Prices are good, running between 1 and 2½ cents a pound. Marketing is in progress and farmers will reap satisfactory returns.

W. Frank Crawford of Sunrise ranch at Lena raised the largest squash grown in northern Polk county this season. The squash is of the banana variety and measures 42 inches in length and is 10 inches in diameter.

The new \$40,000 Alsea school which was completed early in the fall was officially dedicated. C. A. Howard, state superintendent of schools, was the speaker. The new building replaces a school destroyed by fire last spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Herman are boasting of raising the first lemon that is known to have been grown at Rainier in a house. The tree had many blossoms this year, but only one lemon developed. The fruit is the size of an orange.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, 8½¢; soft white, western white, 7½¢; hard winter, northern spring, western red, 7½¢.

Hay—Baying price, f. o. b. Portland: Alfalfa, \$14@15.50; valley timothy \$14.50; eastern Oregon timothy \$13.50; clover, \$14; oat hay, \$14; oats and vetch, \$14.

Butterfat—\$2@3.40.
Eggs—Branch, 19@25c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.25@7.75.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.25@10.50.
Lamb—Good to choice, \$4.50@7.50.

Seattle
Wheat—Soft white, western white, northern spring, hard winter, western red, 7½¢; bluestem, 9c.
Eggs—Branch, 18@25c.
Butterfat—25c.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$6.75@7.25.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.25@10.11.
Lamb—Choice, \$5.50@6.50.

Spokane
Cattle—Steers, good, \$4.50@7.25.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.25.
Lamb—Medium to good, \$4.50@6.50.

Picking and packing of Newtown apples is well under way in the Rogue River section. It is estimated that apple shipments will total 600 cars. They are shipped mostly to England and continental Europe, bringing \$1.50 per box.

The Klamath Packing company plant on the Midland road, near Klamath Falls, was destroyed by fire. The plant was a comparatively new structure of partial brick construction. The loss is estimated at between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

A marker for Battle Mountain park on the Ukiah highway southwest of Pendleton was erected by Pilot Rock business men. The marker was purchased by the state highway commission. Official dedication services will not be held until next spring.

A China pheasant flew in through an open window in a downtown cafe at Marshfield recently. As pheasants are not numerous in the immediate vicinity of Marshfield, it is believed to have escaped from a returning hunter who had taken it alive.

J. S. Peterson of Baker, range examiner of the Whitman forest preserve, and K. H. McCool, district ranger, are inspecting range conditions near Cove. McCool reported only four small fires in his district this season, none covering more than one-fourth of an acre.

Norman Hawk, 55, nearly blind to death from a bullet wound in his leg, received when his father, F. H. Hawk, 60, fired at him thinking he was shooting at a deer. The two were hunting in the Big Applegate district, and were in a deep canyon when the accident occurred.

Fifty-two Oregon towns are included in the list of "half million dollar deposits" as shown by the September call, according to a report prepared by A. A. Schramm, state superintendent of banks. Banks of the 52 towns hold deposits totaling \$171,694,237.54, the report shows.

A. G. Stevens, contractor, started actual work on the new cannery building near Oregon City, using a crew of 10 men. Due to the fact that so many have applied for work Stevens is splitting his crew into two shifts, one working from 8 until noon and the other from 1 until 5, giving twice as many men work.

The hills surrounding the McKenzie valley resounded to the roar of blasts as work was started on grading the new highway on the Deersboro grade. Workmen set off only small charges at a time in order not to block the existing highway, and traffic was halted only during the time the blasts were to be set off.

Since the sale of the Hood River Cooperative creamery to private interests, the city has been without an ice cream factory. The Blue Ribbon dairy, composed of several dairymen of the valley, is planning to install an ice cream manufacturing plant and will manufacture both ice cream and butter for local trade.

The historical curia of Astoria's past was raised recently when excavations uncovered part of what is believed to be the old Fort George stockade during their work in connection with the new St. Mary's hospital. This information was released by Judge A. B. Buchanan, secretary of the Clatsop County Historical association.

Eight hundred pounds of alfalfa seed has just been threshed from a four-acre tract of Grimm's alfalfa, on the Frank G. McKinnis farm, near Carlton. This is believed to be the first successful harvest of alfalfa seed in Yamhill county. Besides the crop of seed, a number of loads of hay were taken from the land early in the summer.

Many complaints are heard relative to the new non-skid pavement that is being laid on the highway through Hood River county to the effect that the constant vibration caused by the surface finish breaks the filaments in the headlights of the automobiles and leaves the driver in the dark. Several near accidents have occurred on the highway as the result of the sudden breaking of the headlights.

Pomona members from all granges in Coos and Curry counties at a recent meeting voted down a resolution forbidding the levying of a 1-cent tax per cow upon every dairyman to create a fund to advertise the dairy products of the Coos district.

An average of 1200 persons per day crossed Coos Bay via the ferry Oregon during the month of September, according to the log book of the carrier. Only one team made the crossing during the month, while 14,727 autos made the passage.

Preparations for marketing the Rogue valley turkey crop are being made by the farmers' co-operative exchange here. The crop is estimated at about 60,000 pounds. Plans are under way for shipping a large part of the crop east early in November.

Mrs. Emil Jorgensen of Youngs River Falls hooked a large steelhead salmon and after a 20-minute struggle her line broke. She jumped into the water and engaged a hand-to-hand combat with the silver fish. She returned to shore with a 12-pound prize.

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