

# The American Legion

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## ONLY WOMAN COMMANDER OF AN AMERICAN LEGION POST



Mrs. Daisy Erd is the only woman commander of an American Legion post in the United States. Mrs. Erd was "snapped" in the act of planting a tree in the Charlestown (Mass.) navy yard during Legion services.

## DUTY OF EX-SERVICE BOYS

They Should Assist in Maintenance of Law and Order, Says National Adjutant.

For the benefit of the comparatively few isolated communities in which there is noticeable a tendency to give credence to misinformation emanating chiefly from the ranks of alien agitators and other enemies of 100 per cent Americanism, it is deemed advisable to refer to an editorial in the Chronicle, Cincinnati, O., official organ of the Ohio Central Labor Council and "Local voice of the American Federation of Labor."

In its issue of May 20, 1920, this publication quotes the preamble to the constitution of the American Legion, and adds:

"The above is the preamble to the constitution of the American Legion and to our minds it certainly sets forth a principle that every true American, whether he be a world war veteran or not, can consistently subscribe to."

"Recently an international officer, returning from a state conference to Cincinnati gave vent to the expression that the members of his international union would not be allowed to join the American Legion. This to our mind is baby play. The attitude of the American Legion toward organized labor in the state of Ohio, and locally as well, has been clearly defined and has been approved of by the Central Labor council. It is claimed that at least 40 per cent of the boys who went to France and across the water were trade unionists. If this is true, then the proper thing for them to do would be to join the American Legion, and if ever the occasion arose when there would be a criticism of the labor movement, they could be of service by explaining our real purposes, thereby eliminating some of the antagonism to us which comes from misunderstanding only. There need be no fear by trade unionists of the American Legion. We believe they are right and that they are fair, especially their leaders, and as we said above, we would recommend to every trade unionist who is eligible to membership that he can best protect his interest and the wage earner by getting in line, and place himself where he properly belongs."

In this connection, the following excerpts from a recent letter of Franklin D'Olier, the Legion's national commander, to Thomas Goldingay, state adjutant of New Jersey, appear appropriate:

"The American Legion has taken a very positive stand that, as an organization, it should never take any definite part in any dispute between the employer and the employee, or between capital and labor. This policy should be adhered to strictly by the national organization, state organizations and by the posts as well."

"In any such controversy, the interest of the Legion is confined to that of the maintenance of law and order and without taking part on either side, in case the situation should arise where life and property are endangered, it is the duty of a member of the American Legion to perform his full duty as a citizen, according to his own conscience and his own understanding. Because of his military service, the ex-service man has a very keen sense of his responsibility as a citizen, and I am quite confident that he will always be alive to this responsibility. Therefore, in case of a contingency as above outlined, it is his duty to assist in the maintenance of law and order by acting as an individual and offering his services to the duly constituted authority for the maintenance of law and order."

"There is nothing to prevent the individual members of the American Legion, as an individual, from taking either side in such a controversy, but the American Legion, as an organization, should not do so."

LEMUEL BOLLES, National Adjutant.

## SEEK NAMES OF NEXT OF KIN

Community Posts to Ascertain Addresses of Those Expecting Bodies to Be Sent Home.

While the American Legion is trying to perfect arrangements with the war department to assist in assuring relatives of prompt notification following the arrival of remains of America's soldier dead from overseas, word has reached national headquarters of the Legion that a body of one of these heroes recently lay unclaimed on a Hoboken pier for nearly a week with the next of kin totally ignorant of its arrival.

According to members of a Legion post in the fallen soldier's home community, no notification of the body's arrival was sent to relatives by the war department. The Legionnaires, it is said, learned of the case through indirect channels and telegraphed department headquarters of the Legion in New York city, which arranged for shipment of the body to its final resting place. The Legion post took charge of the funeral and the remains were interred with appropriate military honors.

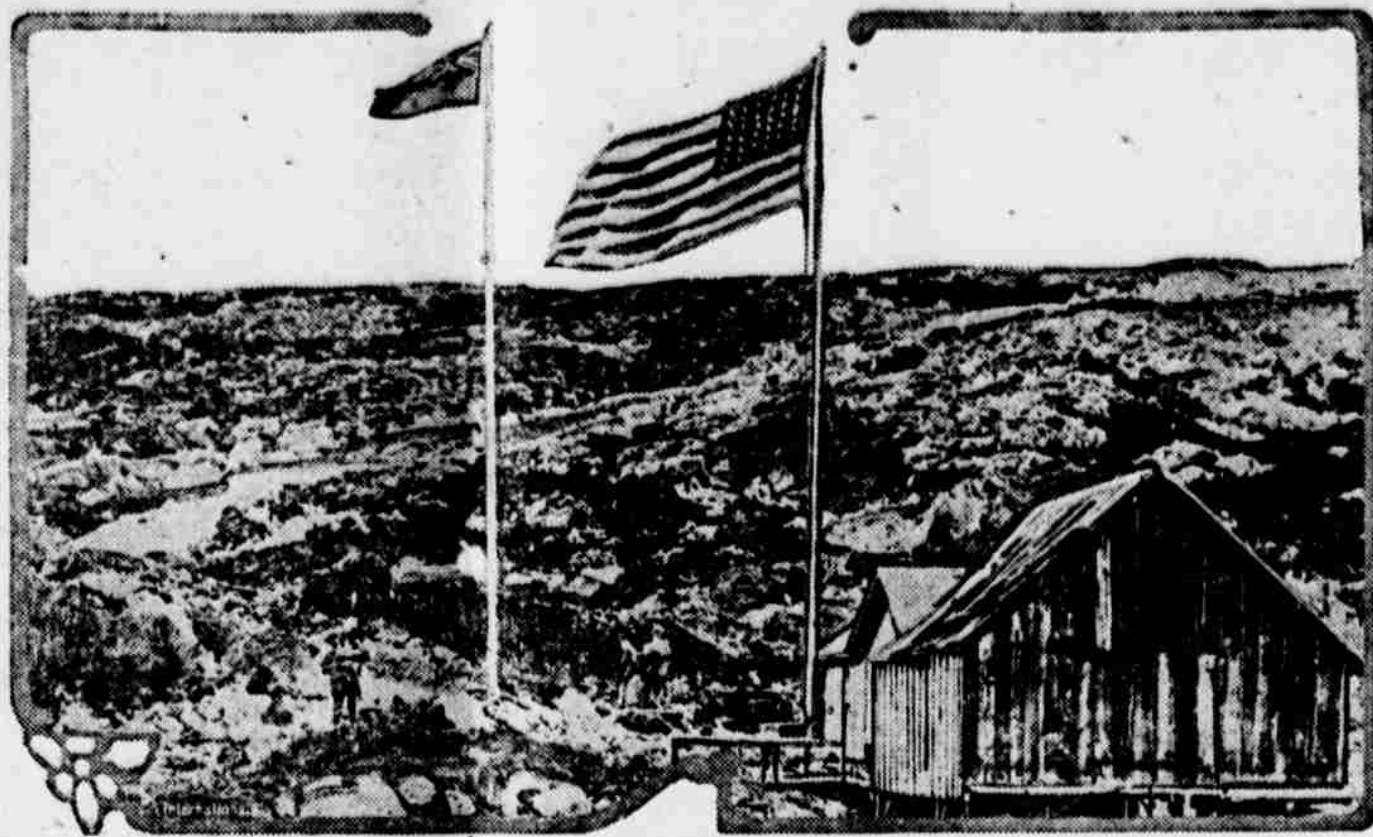
When the plan to return certain bodies from overseas was first announced, the American Legion endeavored to make arrangements with the war department to receive notification of shipment in order that national headquarters of the Legion might write direct to the next of kin and offer the services of the local posts in assisting with the funeral arrangements in case relatives desired this. But the government officials decided they could not give out this information and compromised with an offer to circularize the next of kin to the effect that the Legion would be glad to co-operate in extending honor to the memory of these heroes.

In a bulletin forwarded to each of the more than 9,000 Legion posts throughout the United States, Lemuel Bolles, national adjutant, asks these community posts to ascertain the names of men of their respective localities who died overseas and whose bodies are being returned, and notify Legion national headquarters of the names and addresses of the next of kin, in order that it may take steps to prevent, if possible, a recurrence of an incident such as that recently reported from New York.

News dispatches say that in certain cases it has been impossible to locate the next of kin after a body has arrived, and the government has interred such remains in one of the national cemeteries. The Legion has offered all its resources to the war department to assist in preventing blunders of this kind.

"Star Spangled Banner" is Official. The adjutant of a post in Santa Barbara, Cal., recently received a letter advertising what is claimed to be "the official march of the American Legion" which "has just been made available for player pianos." The post official forwarded the letter to Legion national headquarters, saying he understood "The Star Spangled Banner" was the only existing musical composition recognized by the Legion. National officers of the Legion say the Santa Barbara Legionnaire's point is well taken and warn members against being deceived by such circulars. It also is probable that the player roll corporation will be asked to explain why it sent out such a letter.

## Where Wet and Dry Meet



Where the flag poles of Canada and Alaska meet, showing the United States custom house, made necessary to enforce the prohibition laws, and to prevent the smuggling of anything over 2.75 per cent.

## Two Million Dollar Fire in Brooklyn



A fire that started in the W. A. Starr lumber yards at Twenty-seventh street and Third avenue, Brooklyn, swept the entire block, burning up eleven dwellings, several warehouses, a factory, and the lumber yard. Five alarms were turned in, and the firemen from all parts of Brooklyn responded. It was only after a hard battle that the flames were kept from spreading to nearby shipyards. Volunteers joined the firemen in fighting the blaze. The loss is estimated at more than two million dollars.

## "CHEROKEE BILL"



"Cherokee Bill," an Indian-negro, who is reputed to be worth \$80,000, and has been twice listed in the census as the oldest man in America, has just celebrated his 123d birthday on his farm in Grand Junction, Colo., according to telegraphic reports. He served in the war of 1812 and later settled down in Colorado, where he had a claim. In 1911 at the age of 114, "Bill" announced to the world that he was retiring. It was rumored at the time that there was 300 pounds of gold, worth between \$75,000 and \$80,000, secreted about the shack he calls home.

## NEW VICTORY MEDAL



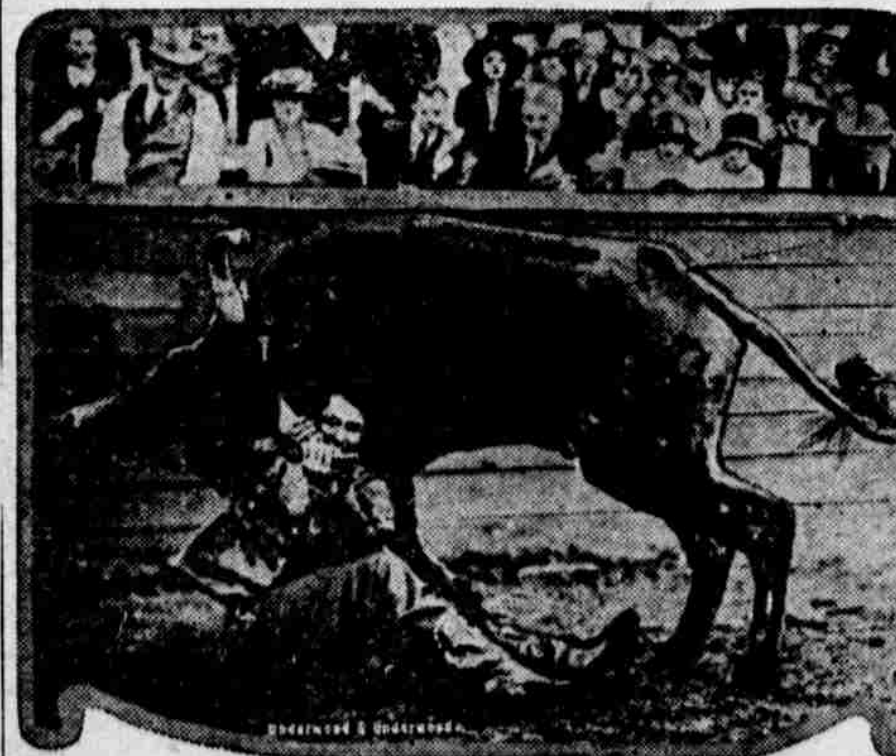
View of the obverse of the new victory medal, designed by James Earl Fraser, and of which nearly 5,000,000 will be distributed to soldiers, sailors and marines, nurses and doctors, who served in the world war. Photographed from the original plaster cast of clay model.

## Tiger of France Is Honored



A monument to the beloved tiger of France, former Premier Clemenceau will be unveiled at Vende, the "home town" of the great patriot. It is the work of Sicard, noted sculptor, and shows Clemenceau in the trenches surrounded by his pollus.

## "Bulldogging" a Steer



"Oklahoma Curry" "bulldogging" a steer during the Wichita Falls roundup. This is a favorite stunt among cowboys. It consists of leaping from their horse and grabbing the steer by the horns, wrestling with him until he falls.

## POLICE CHIEF'S COW INTRUDES

Breaks Up Rehearsal of Masque of Seasons on College Campus.

## REFUSES TO BE LED

Chief Hitches Bossy to Front of Flivver and in Six Hours They Negotiate Distance of Three Miles.

Chicago.—In River Forest, where nature is wonderful, the Sabbath calm was most pervasive.

At the police station, Chief F. W. Lantz, donning dignity for shirtsleeves comfort, was ministering to the all-military wear of his pet guinea pigs. Viola Lorenzen, only woman desk sergeant in the United States, was petting the Belgian hare that the station spaniel had just mistaken for Sergeant Lorenzen's maitresse cat.

The telephone bell rang. The sergeant dropped the hare, seized the receiver, and heard:

"The chief's cow is out. She's causing a panic."

"Where?" asked the sergeant, always notably composed in crises.

Just a Smattering of Ciew.

"On the campus—O, please hurry—"

That was all. The connection ceased abruptly. There was nothing to guide the chief.

Suddenly his police instinct functioned. There was Rosary college, the Catholic institution for girls. Being a college it had a campus. Cranking his flivver he leaped in, coaxed the accelerator, and was off.

Before he arrives, let us explain that his deduction was correct. The Rosary girls were rehearsing for their annual masque of seasons. Garlanded in dandelions, daisies, violets and other flowers, they were skipping daintily about the greensward when the chief's cow—a Hereford—obtruded.

She began lurching on the garlands. The girls screamed. Some of the braver cried "Shoo," it is alleged. She was loping after a couple of dancers whose costumes had not been denuded when the chief appeared.

"Soo, Lucy! Soo, Lucy!" he cried coaxingly, maneuvering the flivver alongside her. She stopped. The chief extracted a sturdy rope from his tool kit, tied it about her neck, and attached the other end to the rear axle of the flivver. Lucy wagged her tail contentedly.

Lucy Sat Down. Then he cranked the flivver, leaped in, coaxed the accelerator, and was off—for a few feet only. Lucy had sat down.

The chief eased into low speed and moved forward with an imperceptible but twenty-two horse-power motion. Lucy declined to second the motion.



Lucy Had Sat Down.

The chief wiped his brow, stopped the engine, and got out.

He cut a switch from a campus maple. He flicked Lucy lightly on the withers. She arose. Another flick. She walked in front of the car. The chief transferred the rope from the rear to the front axle. He shortened it just sufficiently for Lucy's rear feet to clear the car.

Then, without starting the engine, he climbed aboard, flicked Lucy snappily and commanded:

"Hi, boss! Hi!"

Their progress was slow but sure. From the campus to the station is three miles. They started at noon and got there at 6—six hours flat.

## KILLED BY DASH ON LIGHT

Hundreds of Birds, Bewildered by Glare of Lighthouse, Perish at Racine.

Racine, Wis.—Hundreds of birds, embracing every species known in this climate, were killed by flying against the Wind Point light north of the city.

The bright glare through the fog apparently bewildered the birds, causing them to dart against it.

The lighthouse grounds were literally covered with the brilliant colored little corpses.