

# Flowers for Memorial Day

IT is difficult to imagine America's annual Memorial day without flowers. Indeed, Decoration day, the other name by which this spring commemorative festival is so often designated, carries an intimation of how dependent this day of sad memories is upon the bright-eyed blossoms that serve as the most appropriate of all tokens of remembrance. To be sure, flags are also made use of extensively on Memorial day—not only in the ornamentation of dwellings and places of business, but in marking the graves of fallen heroes whom it is desired to honor on this occasion. After all, however, it is flowers which are most extensively relied upon to express the sentiment of the occasion. And in the broad term "flowers" are included the flowering plants, the ivy and other of nature's products that are employed to form the wreaths which are so popular on Memorial day.

All told there are infinitely more flowers used on Memorial day than are employed at Easter and yet the general public does not hear so much of the Memorial day "flower trade," nor have its magnitude so conspicuously brought home. The explanation is found, of course, in the circumstance that the Easter flower trade is almost wholly in the hands of the professional florists



TRANSPORTING FLOWERS BY AUTO



GROWING FLOWERS FOR MEMORIAL DAY



PREPARING WREATHS AND FLOREAL DEVICES

to whose interest it is to make their activities occupy as large a place as possible in the public eye. At Memorial day, on the other hand, the regular flower marts, although they have a "rush season" in consequence of the holiday, supply but a fraction of the flowers that are placed on the graves of the nation's warriors.

The vast preponderance of the flowers that are used to express the love and gratitude of the people of the republic on the yearly-recurring Memorial day are home-grown posies whose cultivation with a view to such ultimate use is as much a labor of love as is the strewing of the blossoms on the graves. Or, at least the flowers are for the most part garden blooms rather than the frail products of the hot houses. Indeed the selection of May 30 as Memorial day in a large proportion of the states of the union was made primarily because it was an occasion when spring was presumed to be in her most attractive garb and when the spring floral harvest is at its height. Similarly the southern states, being assured an abundance of flowers at yet earlier dates, have, as much for this reason as for any other, chosen as Memorial day dates that seemed to mark the culmination of the floral food in their respective states rather than strict conformity with the date at the end of May, which is so universally observed in the eastern, northern and western states and in the more northerly of the commonwealths of Dixie. This will explain why certain of the states, notably those of the Gulf of Mexico, observe Memorial day days or weeks in advance of the remainder of the sisterhood of states.

The use of flowers on Memorial day is varied and appears to be growing more so as time goes on. At first suggestion of the occasion the reader is apt to think only of the custom of placing bouquets and wreaths in garlands on the grassy mounds beneath which repose in their last dreamless sleep the boys in blue and gray who gave up their lives in defense of their flag. But as a matter of fact it is a long-established custom for the American people generally to choose this occasion to place specially elaborate decorations upon the graves of loved ones, even though those whose memory is thus honored had naught to do with the stress and strife, the sacrifices of which Memorial day is primarily intended to commemorate.

One of the comparatively new uses of flowers on Memorial day, which has grown greatly in recent years, is the custom of placing wreaths of floral festoons or other similar tributes upon the statues which have been erected in the various American cities to our war-time heroes. At the national capital, where there are more than two dozen such statues, the pedestals are also draped with American flags. This decoration of the statues in parks and public buildings throughout the land is, of course, quite aside from the usual placing of tributes at the graves of these self-same heroes. Another interesting and beautiful new use of flowers on Memorial

day is found in the practice of setting afloat huge baskets of miniature ships laden with flowers as a tribute to the American sailors who have given up their lives for the Stars and Stripes. These flowers are quickly borne out of sight by the waves, and mayhap float out to sea, but the sentiment of the occasion is served.

As death has year by year remorselessly thinned the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Confederate Veterans and other organizations of one-time soldiers there has necessarily been a change in the plan of bearing flowers to the cemeteries and decorating the graves of those who have answered to the call of "taps." The approved plan was to have in each community on the significant day a procession to the cemetery in which the principal participants were little girls dressed in white, each carrying a huge bouquet or basket of flowers and, marching beside or behind these flower bearers, an equal number of veterans, each with a wreath of evergreen or holly or ivy on his arm. When the procession arrived at the cemetery the participants distributed themselves throughout the burying ground until a little girl with flowers and a veteran with a wreath stood beside each grave marked with a tiny American flag. Then at a prearranged signal all the flowers and wreaths were placed simultaneously upon the graves of the comrades whom death has "mustered out."

This impressive ceremony, and there could be nothing more appropriate, is yet followed in countless communities, but there have had to be many modifications. For one thing the graves to be decorated have become much more numerous, whereas the number of surviving veterans who are able to march to the cemetery with their wreaths has dwindled appreciably. A solution has been found, in many places, by drafting for this task members of the Sons of Veterans or other organizations made up of children of old soldiers and also veterans of the Spanish-American war, many of whom are comparatively young men and who are sufficiently numerous to decorate the graves of their own fallen comrades and also the resting places of the heroes of the earlier wars.

Another factor that has operated to influence a change in the use of flowers on Memorial day is the growth in the size of many of our cities. In towns and small cities it is still practicable for the Decoration day host to march to the cemetery, but in all the larger cities it has become very much of a problem. In many instances cemeteries are so remote from the central part of the city that it is unwise to ask aged veterans to attempt to march and out of the question to allow flower girls of tender years to trudge through the streets for hours at a stretch. Consequently it has become customary under such circumstances to convey the flowers in quantities to the cemeteries and there distribute them to those who are to participate in the decorating program. For this delivery of flowers the modern motor car has proven a most convenient vehicle and in all our large cities on the morning of Memorial day one may now see the heavily laden "flower cars" splashing along on their way to the cemeteries. The speedy horseless vehicles have also proven a boon in the collecting of the flowers for

Memorial day, always heretofore a serious problem to the public-spirited citizens who have charge of this work and who could only plead with the people of the community to get their donations of flowers to the town hall early, but usually found that their most emphatic appeals were insufficient to get the posies to the rendezvous in time to permit of their proper arrangement in time for the starting of the parade at the scheduled hour. The bringing of flowers to the larger cities on Memorial day has been further simplified by the fact that in many localities special flower trains are operated by the steam railroads and the interurban tra-

most every known variety of flowers that bloom in the spring is employed to a greater or less extent on Decoration day, but naturally the wild flowers of the season are especially popular for this purpose. In the sections where the season is sufficiently advanced the roses and peonies are great favorites on this occasion and in the cooler climes violets and the hardy "pinks" are used extensively. In the more southerly states the yellow jasmine and the honeysuckle make admirable Decoration day festoons and at Arlington and other great national cemeteries it seems as though Memorial day has been timed to find the gorgeous purple wistaria at the climax of its glory. The mountain laurel is another floral favorite that lends itself to the purposes of the holiday, but of course it is not obtainable in all sections of the country.

In recent years the use of natural flowers on Memorial day has been supplemented by the extensive use of artificial flowers, particularly in the form of wreaths or designs emblematic of war-time badges or flags. However, the "art flower designs" of the present day are indeed a revelation as compared with the crude attempts of some years ago. Some of the Decoration day designs are executed in metal, tinted to counterfeit nature, and this form is of course very permanent, but most artistic effects of lasting character are being obtained by means of fine waxed crepe paper flowers. Such designs are being employed to an increasing extent under all circumstances where it is necessary to send Memorial day designs long distances. However, the White House at Washington, which sends such remembrances to various parts of the country, always employs natural flowers from the president's conservatories.

## WAS HE SARCASTIC?

"John, we have been married for nearly twenty years; I want you to tell me something."  
"Oh, yes, Mary, you look just as young and as girlish as you did the first time I ever saw you; I have learned to love you more and more as the years have drifted by; I wouldn't be free again if I had a chance; if you were to die I shouldn't think of marrying any other woman, but I'd spend the rest of my life pining for you; I admit that your family is much superior to mine; I realize that I never should have amounted to anything if it had not been for your influence; you are the best manager I ever saw; your new spring hat is very becoming; you look fifteen years younger than Mrs. Bransthwaite; yes, I like very much the way you are wearing your hair; I think of you steadily all day; I am sure that any young woman who would look at me twice would do so only because she wished to make a fool of me, and I acknowledge that you make a much better showing than any other woman could make on our income. Now is there anything else? I'm in a good deal of a hurry this morning."—Chicago Record-Herald.

## WHERE FESSENDEN WAS BORN

Patriotic Citizens Set Up Huge Boulder in Memory of Great Statesman.

Boscawen, N. H.—Boscawen, an interesting little post village in Merrimac county, N. H., and on the Merrimac, is the birthplace of William Pitt Fessenden who, early in life, engaged in the political affairs of Maine. The house where he was born was taken down many years ago and a more modern one erected on the site, which was in the main street of the village.

Notwithstanding that Mr. Fessenden's entire public life was spent in Maine the patriotic citizens of Bos-



The Fessenden Tablet.

cawen set up a huge granite boulder near the place of the old house in memory of the great statesman. On one of the sides of this big boulder is a bronze tablet which makes known that William Pitt Fessenden was born October 6, 1805; that he was United States senator from Maine for 13 years and secretary of the United States treasury from 1864 to 1865.

William Pitt Fessenden was graduated from Bowdoin college in 1823. He was admitted to the bar in 1827, and was a member of the Maine legislature two terms. He was elected to congress in 1841, and from 1854 until the time of his death, September 8, 1869, he was United States senator, except when secretary of the treasury, 1864-1865. He was one of the founders of the Republican party in 1856 and throughout the Civil war he did eminent service as chairman of the finance committee of the senate.

## HOUSES BUILT OF BOULDERS

Parts of Oklahoma Have a Model Building Material—Found in Large Quantities.

Cache, Okla.—In the Wichita mountain region, notably in the Wichita National forest reserve, the ground is covered with untold numbers of smooth boulders, both spherical and elliptical in form, ranging in size from a few inches to more than a foot in diameter. In many places these boulders are so close together as to form a substantial pavement, giving a strange and unusual appearance to the landscape. Their form and their eroded surfaces suggest that they may have dropped from melting glaciers in prehistoric times—if the glacial drift reached this far south. The deposit seems to reach only a short distance below the surface of the ground.

These stones lend themselves in many ways to ornamental uses in building and have been employed by residents of Lawton in the construction of summer homes in the Wichitas.



An Oklahoma Cottage Built of Boulders.

They are reddish in color and contrast prettily with the green vines that clamber over them.

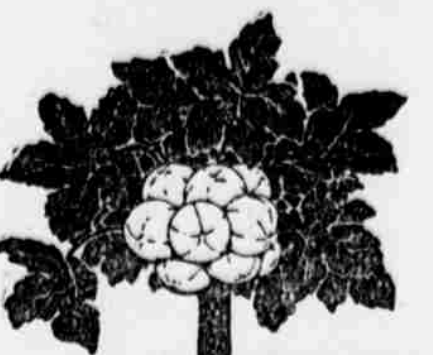
Occasionally, similar formations of much greater size are found. One of the most unique lies in the Wichita reserve north of this place. The diameter of this boulder is far greater than the height of a man. Its peculiarity is its smooth, spherical form and the fact that through the formation of sandstone projects a core of the hardest granite, from which wind and weather have worn away the softer sandstone. It could have served as the warclub of some monstrous giant in the stone age.

## His Game Is Freezeout.

New York.—Fourth Deputy Police Commissioner Reynolds of Brooklyn and 15 men went radding and were starting off with four prisoners from an alleged gambling place in a bowling alley under the saloon at 382 Fifth avenue, when they heard a groan. They hunted for its source and in an ice box, between two big cakes of ice, they found Albert Spellman of 398 Eighth avenue.

"What are you doing here?" demanded Reynolds.  
"Freezing to death," was the reply. Spellman was so cold he had to be thawed out before he could be taken to police headquarters.

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