

# NEBRASKAN OF 70 ASKS TO FIGHT HUNS

### Leander Herron of St. Paul Marked 100 Per Cent Perfect by Civil Service Commission.

Leander Herron, 70 years old, St. Paul, Neb., wants to get into the army and, if he can fight the Kaiser as bravely as he fought the Indians 50 years ago, he belongs in the front line trenches.

The civil service commission in Washington has investigated Mr. Herron's record and has marked him 100 per cent in experience and, probably, the old warrior will be given noncombatant work in the army.

He served through the Civil war in Company C, 83d Pennsylvania, and was awarded a medal by congress for valor in fighting the Indians during the early Indian wars of the west.

Half a century ago, when the great plains were the battleground for the redskins and white people, Mr. Herron, then a corporal of Company A, Third United States Infantry, rode through a band of "dog soldier" Indians and rescued a wagon train which was under attack. "Dog soldiers" is the term given to the lawless Indians who were drummed out of their own tribes for downright meanness.

**Scene of Big Fights.**

The famous Santa Fe trail was the stage for the most bitter Indian fights in history. They were at their worst in 1868, when 5,000 Indians banded together with the avowed purpose of running the whites out of the country.

After all stage lines had been put out of business by the Indians, a pony express service was established in western Kansas. The men rode through the "death zone" at night and every man knew that capture by the Indians meant death, either by bullet or at the stake.

Herron was one of the pony express riders, carrying the government mail and army orders. On the night of September 2, 1868, he was ordered to take one man and carry dispatches from Fort Dodge, Kan., to Fort Larned, 75 miles east.

He chose Paddy Boyle for his assistant.

**Start at Dark.**

The two men stole out of Dodge shortly after dark and traveled eastward for three hours, then, far in the distance, they heard a gunshot and knew that trouble was brewing. They rode on and soon they could see the flashes of guns and, as they neared the place, they saw that a wagon train was being attacked by Indians.

"We took a pistol in each hand and made for the wagon," said Mr. Herron in telling the story. "If the Indians saw us in the dim light they thought we were of their party. We guided our horses with our knees."

"Yelling and whooping just as loud as any Indians, Paddy and I went right through them, firing right and left. We got through their lines and into the wagons before the Indians realized what was up. And there were dead Indians because of our dash."

"There were only four soldiers in the train. They had been fighting the red men for an hour. The bucks made a desperate attack after we were in the wagon but we repulsed it."

The horses for the wagons had all been killed and there was no way for us to get away. So, after talking it over, it was determined that Paddy should attempt to break through and reach the fort for help, while I should stay and help fight back the Indians. Paddy shook hands all around, got on his horse and rode off.

**Paddy Disappears.**

"A few minutes later there were several shots and bloodthirsty yells. Then there was quiet. We knew Paddy was killed and it was up to us to fight to the last."

After several hours of fighting our ammunition got low. We decided that every man, as he reached his last bullet, should shoot himself, so that the Indians could not torture him. The Indians charged repeatedly, but we made every bullet count. Once they got within a few feet of our wagon but we drove them back.

"We were in bad shape. One of our men had been wounded seven times by arrows and bullets. Another had been hit on the head with a tomahawk during a hand-to-hand encounter. The third man had been twice wounded and the fourth had a bullet through his arm. I was uninjured."

"It was only by the most desperate efforts that we were able to keep the whooping devils back. One of the Indians had but 12 rounds of ammunition left and the Indians were preparing for another Hun-like drive. We knew it meant the last and we stood in silence ready to take toll of 11 Indian lives before we turned the last bullets on ourselves."

**Rush Did Not Come.**

"But the rush did not come. From what we could see the Indians had divided their forces into two parties. Streaks of gray in the east told of approaching daylight. We could see that one party of Indians were dressed in white and we wondered what it meant. We prepared to face both charges."

"Only one division charged and before we could fire we heard a call in English, 'Don't fire!'"

A man threw his carbine up in the air and yelled. It was Paddy Boyle. He had gone through the lines and reached the fort.

"The Indians broke up and fled and the white soldiers rode up to us."

"What kind of uniform do you call it?" I asked Paddy.

"Well, the boys were asleep when I reached the post," he answered, "They didn't take time to dress. They haven't got any on but their underclothes."

"It was a fact. The men didn't wait to dress and the five rescued men thanked God for the fact."

# Nebraskans Raising Belgian Hares to Help Do Away With Meatless Days



## Expert Gives Figures and Facts on the Hare Industry

Don't let the same litter run together after three months old. Separate them.

Don't lift the rabbits by the ears. When handling them take them by the scruff of the neck.

Don't neglect sick rabbits. They respond to nursing like persons and will readily submit to their noses being sprayed—just like humans.

Some Flemish giants weigh 20 pounds when mature.

Choice Angora rabbit furs are worth \$1.50 when properly stretched and cured.

Good bucks will cost from \$25 to \$50, according to breed. Don't raise common or scrubby stock, nor don't raise elephants in rabbit skins—select the happy medium.

In England the rabbit industry is considered so important the British government has already purchased in this country, the current season, 900 does and 100 bucks to replenish the industry that has been demoralized by the war.

In a few years rabbit hides, treated and pressed, will be manufactured into shoes.

Rabbit hides, pressed and treated, are already used for the making of stiff hats for men.

By JOHN H. KEARNES.

War conditions have given an added impetus to the raising of Belgian hares and other breeds of tame rabbits for meat purposes.

A mature doe of the meat breeds will produce 200 pounds of live weight in a year, and this is what is attracting many persons in Omaha and other parts of Nebraska to the industry.

Fifteen or 20 years ago there was a Belgian hare fad and large numbers of persons were induced to embark in the rabbit breeding game by get rich quick prospectuses sent out by various rabbiteries and fancy prices were paid for fine bucks and does.

Because the business degenerated into the raising of pets the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was never reached and persons with little or no experience gave up the fad in disgust.

Some stuck and the war came along to help vindicate their judgment. In Omaha at the present time over \$25,000 is invested by 150 persons in the industry and over 5,000 registered rabbits with blue-blooded ancestry are used to produce meat substitutes for beef and pork, which is sorely needed in Europe by the soldiers of Uncle Sam and the allies in the bloody task of winning the war.

**No More Meatless Days.**

When the breeding of rabbits for food conservation becomes more general it will not be necessary to observe meatless days and the butchers' bills of families, hospitals, soldiers' homes and public eleemosynary institutions will be cut in half.

One of the drawbacks against the success of the industry in the past is the fact that so many persons were ignorant of the delicate flavor and nutritive value, together with the small amount of fabric waste of rabbit meat.

In comparison with chicken the rabbit ranks very high. Rabbit flesh contains 83 per cent of digestible nutriment, against 50 of chicken, 55 of beef, 65 of mutton and 75 per cent of pork. The meat is all white and fine grained and free from the oily substance found in ducks and geese, and the meat is much sweeter and more tender than that of the wild cottontail or jack rabbit.

Rabbits are very dainty about their eating and they dine on nothing but the cleanest kinds of food. Leading physicians recommend rabbit meat for aged and rundown persons on account of its great nutritive value and the fact it is so easily digested.

In connection with the raising of rabbits for meat, they are also raised for their furs, and a new industry is being developed in America along these lines.

**Everybody Has a Hobby.**

Nearly everybody has a hobby—some for painting, some for music, some for mushroom raising, and some for the raising of pets. A hobby is a good thing for the tired business man for it relieves him and keeps him from getting completely tired. It serves to keep a mental equilibrium. The hobby of Sergt. E. R. Wilson, police court officer, is the raising of Belgian hares. He gets rid of the sordid police court atmosphere by going out to his rabbitry, at his home, 3302 Meredith avenue where he cares for the material comforts of the inmates of his colony.

"A rabbit," said he, "has as much sense as some human beings and each individual has his or her personality and are worthy of study. In their home life and personal relations with each other they are very

interesting and it is a pity that more people do not realize it.

Rabbits can be raised on a city lot where chickens can't. A man with a small city lot can have on hand at one time as high as 300 rabbits. From the day the rabbit is born until it is ready for the oven at five months old, when it should weigh seven pounds, its board and keep will not be over 35 cents. At that time the meat value of the animal should be \$3.25. Contrast this with a Plymouth Rock chicken, which will only weigh about three pounds in the same period and worth \$1.20, while it has cost 80 cents to produce.

**Easy to Raise.**

"Rabbits are easy to raise. The average city dweller can raise as high as 300 rabbits in a season in a rabbitry 8x20, 8 feet in height at the back, 10 feet at the front and with a sloped roof. This will give space for 32 hutches, with nine feet of floor area for each animal. The hutches should be ventilated from above and below without any direct draft hitting the rabbits, for they are very susceptible to drafts and develop snuffles or pneumonia from this cause."

"Water should be kept in front of them all the time in summer and should be available once a day in winter. I have patented a feeder in which I keep alfalfa hay and this is in front of the rabbits all the time. This, with a light ration of oats daily in summer, and an occasional feed of corn in winter, to supply heat, constitutes the bulk of their feed. Green feed should only be given occasionally, and then but little at a time. I do not recommend the feeding of soft mash. Clover hay, with an occasional nip of carrot or mangel is good and dandelion given during the summer season has great medicinal value and the rabbits love it. Keep a little rock salt where the rabbits can get at it."

**Require Little Exercise.**

"Rabbits being raised for meat purposes do not require much exercise. I keep a hurdle in each hutch for the rabbits to jump over in going from one side of the pen to the other. This is to keep them from becoming pot-bellied."

"There is no great skill required in caring for rabbits. All is needed is the exercise of plain common sense, humane care and a zealous regard for sanitation. It is as essential that the rabbit hutch be kept clean and well ventilated as it is your own home. It is well to have shelves made of window screen in the pens so the rabbits can get cool air from above and below during the summer. All feeding and watering jugs should be sterilized with hot water at least once a week."

"Rabbits play and eat at night and are apt to seem sluggish during the day. They should be raised the same as chickens, sheep or hogs, and not as pets. Yet they are very cunning and intelligent. They get to know the names you give them and will come and go like dogs at call. They can be taught tricks and are a constant source of amusement. They produce from four to five litters in a year and raisers have to produce nurse rabbits of commoner breeds to rear them. These are plentiful and cheap and are worth the price for the service they perform."

**Litter Makes \$50.**

"The litters run from six to 12 and are easily raised. I had a litter of 10 come in the coldest weather of last winter and saved every one. They brought me \$50."

"There need be no worry about

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of their destructive propensities and must be guarded against.

Down in Oklahoma a big corporation is being organized to handle domestic rabbits as a commercial proposition. The corporation will conduct a mammoth rabbit farm, a rabbit factory and a big cannery where rabbit meat will be put up. It has a contract for a huge supply of meat for the British government to start business with.

Noted Nebraska rabbit breeders are: C. C. Wilson, P. Wiig, A. O. Watson, M. H. Fowler, V. E. Hall, T. N. Lanning, Charles R. Pinneo, Anton Piskal, W. E. Sharpe, Omaha; C. B. Barnes, C. B. Capron, Mrs. E. G. Clark, Charles K. Ott, Mrs. In. N. Stiles, S. A. Webb, Lincoln; Herman Roesch, S. R. Thompson, Grand Island; Jason B. Clark, Falls City; William B. Fuert, Battle Creek; Clyde Goble, Beaver City; E. W. Hendren, Morrill; Samuel H. Jones, Alma; Dr. J. L. Pennington, Republican City; E. C. Peterson, Dannebrog; H. Siemsen, Leigh; Carl Spillman, Sutton; B. D. Stephenson, Oshkosh.

"Get the habit and raise the rabbit."

**Echoes Heard in Local Lodge Rooms When Leader's Gavel Falls**

Fraternal Aid Union.

Tuesday night, July 30, Mondamin Lodge, No. 111, will entertain its members and friends at an informal open meeting at the hall, Nineteenth and Farnam streets.

**Woodmen of the World.**

The card party given by the Omaha Seymour Camp, No. 16, was followed by refreshments. A series of entertainments have been planned to be given into the hands of Consul Commander Vincent Haskell.

**Druid Camp, No. 24,** is the proud possessor of two fishermen, who returned last week from Lake Okoboji, and it will be a long time before they get over telling of the sport enjoyed.

**American Camp, No. 104,** is very active this summer. Deputy Joe Leis is making the claim to more new members for the coming banquet at the Blackstone hotel than any other deputy in Omaha.

**Benson Camp, No. 288,** added several new members to the camp since June 1.

The Omaha Central committee will meet with Seymour Camp, Tuesday evening, July 30.

**Woodmen Circle.**

W. A. Fraser Grove, No. 1, will make the August social meeting a combination reunion, Dutch treat picnic. In the meantime all efforts are being concentrated on the securing of new members under the Thrift Stamp campaign.

The young women of Alpha Grove, No. 2, invite all Woodmen circle members and their friends to a free dancing party to be given for the entertainment of "our soldier boys" in Lyric hall, Tuesday night.

**Welcome Grove, No. 54,** members are urged to make an extra effort to increase the class of new members being secured during the Thrift Stamp campaign, and to attend the August 5 meeting when the service flag will be dedicated.

**John T. Yates Grove, No. 57,** has abandoned its annual banquet and is investing in Liberty bonds and Thrift Stamps.

**Elwood Grove, No. 85,** Benson, contemplates giving a card party in the near future.

**Members of Emma B. Manchester Grove, No. 156,** are urged to be present Thursday night in the interest of the Thrift Stamp campaign.

**Miss Dora Alexander,** supreme clerk, is arranging a Woodmen Circle encampment at Y. W. C. A. Camp Brewster, beginning July 27.

**Mystic Workers Social.**

Alpha lodge No. 893, Mystic Workers of the World, will give a lawn social at the residence of Mrs. Strawn, 1113 South Fifth street, Tuesday evening. Ice cream and cake will be served.

**Disloyalty Charges Must Be Cut from Newspapers**

Bismarck, N. D., July 20.—The North Dakota Council of Defense, which recently issued an order prohibiting the publication of charges of disloyalty or pro-Germanism which have not been based on authoritative information, announced today that this order will apply to all newspapers entering the state.

**Too Fat in New Zealand.**

The New Zealand rabbit is about the laziest animal alive. All it will do is lazily lie from morning to night and night to morning developing fat. It is too lazy to protect its young or to get out of the way of danger. Cats and dogs are the menace to the industry because

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Upper pair are Sunlight and Quaker Maid. On right is Sergeant Willson with Sam Joe, No. 4867; Maggie R., No. 4869. Lower panel are five Dutch rabbits used for nurse purposes. Below is little girl with cavy and rabbit pets.

of their destructive propensities and must be guarded against.

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# WAR MEANS MUCH TO BRITISH OLD FOLK

### Burden is Hardened on the Older Generations Than on the Younger, Says London Writer.

We realize, most of us, what the war has meant, and still means, to youth and to middle age. Its tragedy and its sorrows have become part of our every-day life. We know how splendidly and how gallantly the young manhood of the empire has answered the great call; how, bidding a tender goodbye to the dear ties of home, it has gone with undaunted heart and head erect to fling itself fearlessly into the fury of the fray, writes George R. Sims in London Chronicle.

We know how willingly and wholeheartedly our young womanhood has volunteered for sisterly service in the hospitals and in the camps, and how bravely it has dared the perils the new methods of warfare carry far behind the battle front. We have seen our young womanhood lay aside the feminine arts and crafts and employments of peace to take up without a murmur the sterner tasks of war. We have seen it carry on not only the work of war, but fill the places of men in our commercial undertakings and our industries, on the land and on the railways. We have seen it reinforcing the police, assuring the continuance of the passenger traffic of the streets, and saving the postal system from confusion and delay.

**Strain is Terrible.**

We know with what brave hearts the young wives of the empire have borne the pangs of parting and the ceaseless anxiety of the long years of war. We know how terrible has been the strain upon the mothers and fathers of the empire, whose sons are at bay with a raging and ruthless foe on land and sea.

But few of us have quite realized the extent to which the world tragedy has affected the aged men and women who are nearing the journey's end, and who, as the war drags on, begin to fear that their eyes may never again see the land they love at peace. They have bravely endured the long years of alternate hope and fear, and now they are straining their eyes through the darkness watching for the first faint glimmer of light which will herald the dawn.

Youth that survives the toil of battle can find comfort in the knowledge that the happy days will come at last, and that in all those happy days will mean it will have its share.

**Still Have Chance.**

The middle-aged have still a fair chance of knowing again the calm joys and peaceful pleasures of the pre-war days. They have had to endure the long hours of darkness, but for them the sun will shine again. Victory may be delayed, but it will come at last and bring balm for all their wounds. They will know at least that the dear ones they have lost have not made the great sacrifice in vain.

But the old folks are oppressed with the haunting fear that they will have to pass into the great silence with the fate of their beloved land and all they hold dear in it still trembling in the balance. They, too, have endured bravely. They have borne uncomplainingly the stress and privations that the conditions of war have brought upon us. They have been sustained by their faith in the justice of their country's cause and in the might and valor of the proud race to which they belong. But their eyes grow dimmer and their limbs more feeble, and their last days are disturbed and saddened by the thought that they may die and never know.

**No Fear of Death.**

Death would have had no terrors for them if they could have died with the Song of Simeon on their lips: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." It is the salvation of the Lord's cause, the cause of justice and freedom, it is the glory of the people of the free lands and of the people of their own race and blood that these patriarchs long to see ere they go hence.

It is not of themselves they are thinking as the shadows gather. It is of the imperial race to which they belong, of the great empire that they know is now fighting for its very existence, and of the free and happy land in which their long and useful lives had been spent so peacefully.

In the evening of their days, with their life's work done, their task accomplished, the rest and peace that should have been theirs have been denied them. The cry of battle has resounded in their ears. Many of them have lived on to see the young of their blood—those who answered the call of king and country—pass to the tomb before them.

**Horrors of War.**

They have found themselves lingering in a world filled with the horrors of war, a war in which the hosts of tyranny, armed with every murderous device, seek to slay or enslave the free peoples. From a world at war with this tyranny they themselves must soon pass, but in that world they are leaving their children and their children's children.

They pray that they may be permitted to linger here until the victory of freedom over tyranny has been achieved. They pray that they may be spared until their eyes have seen the salvation of the world, and until their hearts have been eased of all fear for the future of their land and their loved ones.

This is what I hear from the lips of the old folks who talk to me of the war. "Will those I leave behind me ever know again the happy, peaceful England in which I had lived all my life until this terrible war came, and in which I once hoped and believed that I should die?"

The old folks whose summons comes now are not only passing into the unknown. They are leaving the unknown behind them. We cannot blame them for their haunting fear of the future. It is an unselfish fear, for they themselves have nothing to gain or lose by the fortunes of war. The suspense that harasses and embitters their last hold on life is not due to any lack of faith in their country's will to win or ability to win. It is the result of that hope deferred which tells even upon men and women in the full possession of their mental and physical powers.

# HOW ENGINEERS ARE INSTRUCTED FOR U. S. ARMY

### Camp Allen A. Humphreys, in Virginia, Will Soon Have a Capacity for Training 30,000 Men.

Washington, July 20.—Transformation of a forest into a great military camp in four months is one of the achievements of which the American Corps of Engineers boasts.

Early in February, Camp Allen A. Humphreys at Belvoir, Va., was virtually unknown. But American engineers were put on the job and today it is a thriving, pulsating camp a great city in itself, housing some 17,000 men, and growing day by day until by August it will accommodate 30,000.

Camp Humphreys, named for the first chief of engineers of the United States army, is some 20 miles south of Washington, just below the town of Acotting, Va. Its confines cover the historic Loud Fairfax tract; to one side is Mount Vernon, home of George Washington, and in the other direction is Gunston Hall, plantation and typical old Southern home of George Mason, illustrious Virginian, author of the Bill of Rights, the famous document which Thomas Jefferson made the cornerstone of the American Declaration of Independence. Camp Humphreys is a peculiarly adapted for an engineer training school. In the hills and valleys America's citizen-soldiers are tunneling, mining, quarrying, excavating, fitting themselves for work on foreign battlefields.

**Big Capacity.**

The camp is the only engineer replacement camp in the country, and it is here the vast supply of engineers is to be kept, upon which General Pershing will call for men to expand and replace engineer units working with the American overseas army. Already replacement units have been sent across. Early in June 2,500 men trained in all branches of engineering work were sent to Pershing. The camp can train, equip and dispatch men to France at the rate of 5,000 a month, and by the first of the year the capacity will be raised to 6,000 a month.

Washington newspaper correspondents recently were guests of the corps of engineers on an inspection trip to the camp and its vicinity. Every detail of the work was explained to them by headquarters officers of the staff of Lt.-Col. Richard Park, U. S. A., an engineer of engineers, who has been placed in charge of the greatest replacement camp.

Seventeen thousand men are at the camp at present, most of them drafted camp, and new ones are arriving from civil life every day. There is a continual ebb and flow of troops, men being sent across the Atlantic as fast as they can be accommodated in France, and new ones arriving to take their places at the schools. Even after the war it is the government's intention to make Camp Humphreys a permanent training camp for engineers, and all work is being done with that scheme in mind.

**Combat Railway.**

One of the most interesting features of Camp Humphreys is the light, combat railway which has been constructed for the carrying of supplies through the reservation, as well as for training men in the construction, operation and maintenance of battle-line railroads. A 60-centimeter, narrow-gauge road 12 miles in length, similar to the French roads, covers the camp, and all day trains of flat cars and gondolas run back and forth with construction materials and supplies. The locomotives are built especially for foreign service, and the power is furnished by four-cylinder, 50-horsepower, gasoline motors. So well trained are the Humphreys engineers that the construction gang lay track at the rate of half a mile a day.

These railways will be taken to France with the broad engineers, and it will not be long before they will be running from the rear lines to the front, loaded with shot and shell and guns for American infantry and artillery. As rapidly as the battle line changes, the combat railway can be moved to conform with it.

All phases of engineering are taught at the camp. When the recruit arrives, he is put through the three principal schools, the sapper, gas defense and pontoon schools, in order that he may get the rudiments of the engineer's work. If he is found to possess special qualifications or technical ability he is sent through one or more of the following supplementary courses: Highway and trench construction, railroad construction and operation, water supply work, forestry, animal transportation, camouflage, surveying, map production, electric wiring, reclamation, gas and flame, gas offense, mining, quarrying, bridge building, trestle work, and others.

**Quick Work.**

On the correspondents' inspection trip, three regiments of half strength were marched in review—approximately 7,000 soldiers filing past the commandant, his staff and his guests, with healthy stride and military bearing, marching to lively music of the camp band. In the outfit was one regiment whose drilling was specially attractive. With snap and precision, the men of this regiment marched across the parade ground, heads high, eyes front—men who eight days before were engaged in civil pursuits. They were the latest arrivals, and eight days after they had answered the nation's call for men, these young Americans were, to the civilian eye, a trained outfit of American engineers, apparently ready to face the foe to do or die for the freedom of the world. Negro troops of the service battalion also commanded attention of the spectators.

When a man has been graduated from Camp Humphreys and is sent abroad, he is an engineer in the strictest sense of the word. He is more than an ordinary soldier—he is an expert in his line, the best engineer his officers can make him, and his officers are the nick of the engineer department—West Pointers and civilian engineers who have "joined up" so the country may have the benefit of their knowledge and practical experience.