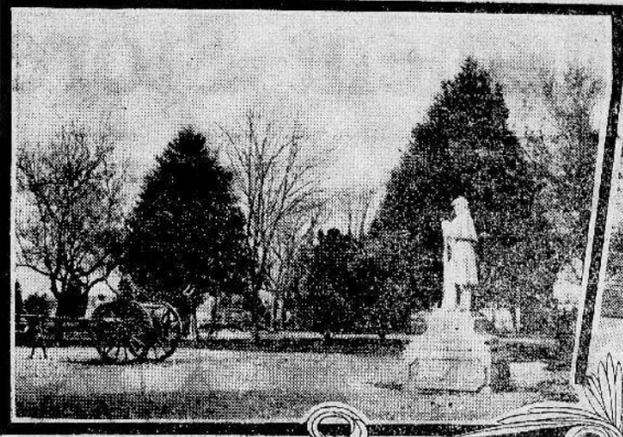


MISSOULA, MONTANA, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1909.

CARING for the NATION'S HEROES

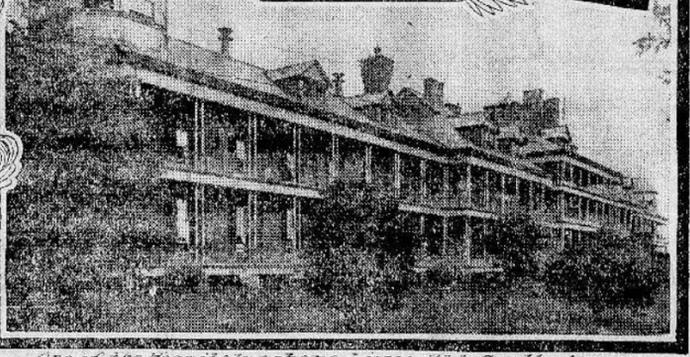
By George Harris



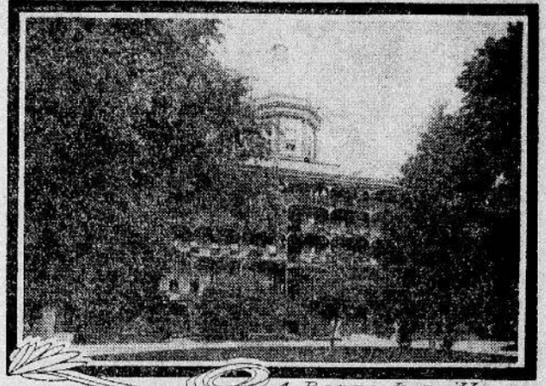
A Vista of Park-like Grounds



Care at the Close of Day



One of the Hospitals where Lives End Quietly Away



A Barracks with its Wide, Sun-lit Verandas

ON Decoration day thousands of men, women and children throughout the length and breadth of the land will gather in the various cemeteries and lay garlands upon the last resting places of the soldiers that have laid down their lives in defense of their country.

In practically every city hosts of veterans of the civil war will gather and hold reunions to speak of the past, the anger and passion kindled by the lapse of time while at 10 national homes more than 20,000 men will usher in the day thankful that the United States, of all nations, is a republic that is not ungrateful for services performed under its flag.

The veterans of the various wars, notably the civil and Spanish-American, who went through the conflicts unscathed are constantly in mind. There are the Grand Army of the Republic, Loyal Legion and Army and Navy union, splendid organizations to which many of the officers and men who fought in the civil war belong, while the veteran association of the Spanish-American war holds the members of many who went through that struggle.

In the national cemeteries here and there, and in other burial grounds, are stones that mark the spots where lie the remains of those who participated in the conflicts, and each succeeding Decoration day their memory is kept alive by the floral offerings strewn upon their graves.

But what about the veterans who returned from the front, torn by shot and shell, unable to resume their places in the ranks of the workers, without means of self-support and unwilling to thrust themselves upon their kith and kin?

At the close of the civil war, when

more than half a million men laid down their arms of war and, in a few months, were transformed from soldiers to citizens, the question of what to do with those who were incapacitated arose.

"Pensions are well enough in their way, but pensions are not sufficient," declared congress. "We must do more," continued the members of both house and senate. "We must establish a home for those who have no homes" and this sentiment crystallized into what is now one of the most important features with which the nation deals.

The first national home for disabled volunteers was established at Torus, Me., in 1888, and is known as the Eastern. The following year three other homes were established—the Central, at Dayton, O.; the North-western, at Milwaukee, Wis., and the Southern, at Hampton, Va. In 1885 the Western at Leavenworth, Kan., was opened. In 1888 the Pacific, near Santa Monica, Cal., was opened. The Marion, near Marion, Ind., was opened in 1890. The Darville, near Danville, Ill., was opened in 1898. The Mountain, near Johnson City, Tenn., was opened in 1903. The last, the Battle Mountain sanitarium, at Hot Springs, South Dakota, was opened in 1907.

Some idea of the extent of these properties may be had from the last report of the board of managers, in which the average of the homes is set down as \$389, valued at \$483,474.87. On this land are buildings aggregating a value of \$10,513,648.42. To acquire this property, to maintain it and to care for the thousands of soldiers, the total outlay up to the close of 1908 has been in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000.

When the first home was estab-

lished, within the year, there were 910 veterans cared for. Then each succeeding year increased at the rate of almost 1,000 per year, until, in 1908, the greatest number, 34,949, were taken care of. At the same time the death rate among the veterans increased year by year, and from 1,999 per 1,000, in 1867, it has advanced to 85.00 per 1,000, in 1908.

Yet, when one takes into consideration the physical condition of soldiers when admitted to the homes, and that it has been 44 years since the civil war, the death rate is really low, for the average life of the old soldiers has been a trifle more than 70 years—a fine age for the majority of men. Indeed, this alone is a most noble tribute to the government for its excellent care of its wards.

To visit one of these national homes

is to have a treat, for nowhere will one find a more happy or contented set of men. Except for the difference in location and style of architecture of the buildings, all of the homes are similar, for they are operated on the plan of giving one and all the same. Some of the homes, like the one at Hampton, are situated upon the banks of a stream, but then there is one in the mountains, another in the land of continual sunshine and flowers, California, while each possesses some natural characteristic to differ it from the other.

Thus, however, is the immaterial side of the homes, for it is the comforts and conveniences afforded, the firmness that draws the attention of visitors and sends them away filled with thoughts of kindness and pride of being citizens of a nation that is

so lavish in its care of those who have upheld the honor of the flag in the face of the enemy.

Arid parklike surroundings are the buildings, flanked with broad porches, on which are the sofas, where, basking in the sun, may be found those old soldiers who are more content to repose with pipe and paper than to join their comrades beneath the trees or strolling around the grounds.

First, and all important, is the military side of the home. Each inmate is always in uniform and army discipline prevails. All able-bodied men on the grounds salute their superior officers as they pass, and there are stated times for doing so, things so that there must be absolute order.

At 5:30 in summer and 6:45 in winter the men turn out. After breakfast the men return to their barracks,

make up their beds and put their things in order. Then, unless assigned to duty as room orderly or on guard mount, at which all in the barracks have to take their turn, the soldier is at liberty until 10:30, when he must be on hand to retire when taps are sounded at 9.

While at liberty during the day the soldier may leave the grounds by applying for a pass. He may secure a pass to remain outside the grounds not only for a day, but even for 30 days, if he so desires and his behavior has been good. There is but little restraint upon the men and they are practically as free as though they lived in their own homes.

For those who prefer to remain within the grounds of the home there is much with which to drive away either discontent or ennui. Besides splendid libraries, where may be found not only books and magazines, but daily papers from different parts of the country, there is at each home an amusement hall where there are billiard and pool tables and many small tables for cards, checkers and dominoes.

Another diversion is the band concert each afternoon. Another amusement, and an important one, is the theater. Each of the homes is equipped with a hall large enough to seat practically every inmate, and at the end is a stage of generous size. The athletic companies playing in nearby cities are engaged to give a "one-night stand" at the hall and the performance usually proves a great treat.

In the seating of the veterans there is system exercised, for the deaf and the dim-eyed are given the first rows, then follow those less afflicted, so that all are given equal advantages as far as it is possible to arrange.

In the vast amount of work to be done at the homes the inmates take

their part and thereby earn a little extra for themselves, for the government pays them according to what they can do. Some of the homes have farms attached on which the men do considerable of the work. At other homes the men look after grounds while at all of the homes there are those who act as guards or guides.

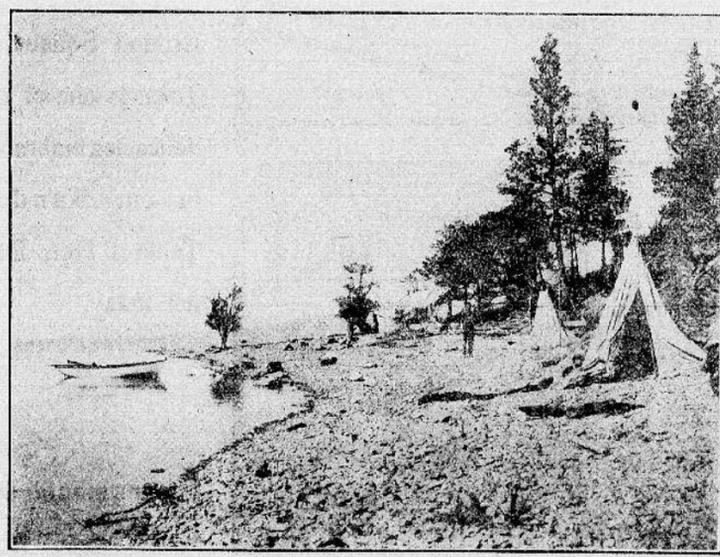
The money they receive for their work is all extra, for they receive their pensions just the same, and they are at liberty to either spend their funds for luxuries at the commissary or send checks to their relatives. One great trouble that the commandants of the various homes have had has been the control of the soldiers who persist in patronizing the saloons that are to be found just beyond the gates, but, by vigilance, the old men are kept from getting into any trouble.

When a soldier is stricken with illness he is sent to the hospital, where every possible attention is given him. His diet is specially prepared to suit his needs and there is nothing too good for him. It might be added that the hospital is always well occupied, for there are many who are falling in health and strength and are patiently awaiting the getting of the sun.

When the last day has come and the soldier has gone to join his comrades on the other side his body is borne to the chapel, a minister of his religion says the last rites over him and then, in a casket borne upon a caisson and escorted by a squad of men under arms, accompanied by a fife and drum corps playing a dirge, he is given full military honors, including the rattle of muskets over his grave.

The cemeteries by the homes are growing each year, but every stone is a monument to a brave heart who gave his best years in order that the nation might endure.

AN IDEAL SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE IN MONTANA'S HILLS



ON THE SHORES OF FLATHEAD LAKE.

The University of Montana Biological station was made possible through contributions from citizens of Missoula and others interested. It has been maintained by appropriation from the university, supplemented by an annual donation from Senator W. A. Clark. There have been no expenses incident to attendance other than necessary living expenses and the additional cost of side trips.

The laboratory was established in 1899. It is located at the mouth of Swan river, where it empties into Flathead lake at the northeast corner. A building was constructed suitable for outdoor use, on the bank of the river, in what was then a forest. Since the establishment of the station a town has grown up, so that now the building is in a town of more than 150 population, with electric light and other conveniences. Where now are stores and dwelling houses, streets and walks, formerly were collecting places where birds, insects and plants were collected. It has been a great transformation, and all in 10 years.

The station is possessed of a gasoline boat, purchased when the station was first established. It was one of the old style engines, and was the first gasoline engine and the first gasoline boat on Flathead lake. The

boat is still in service, but the old engine has been replaced by one of modern type, making it possible to get around from place to place with ease.

In addition to the gasoline boat the station has a rowboat, necessary dredges for lake work, tents, pack saddles for horses, pack harness for men, necessary material for botanical and other collecting, and all needed articles for camp life.

The station staff, as well as those

attending, live in tents. When out in the woods or on the lake they take care of themselves, as there are few places where conveniences are to be found, especially in the collecting region. As a consequence, life at the station serves a double purpose of affording a place for study and recreation. It is possible to do a day's work, have ample time for boating, swimming or walking, and still secure abundant sleep in the most healthful manner, out of doors.

The establishment of this place for outdoor study was to accomplish the double purpose of affording opportunity for study and for the collection of material on the part of teachers of the state, as well as for others who might be interested, and to afford the university professors the privilege of doing original work and study of the life and geological history of the state. It has accomplished both purposes. Many have attended from the state, many from without the state. The publications that have been prepared as the result of study at the station have given the university much credit both at home and abroad.

By act of congress a quarter section of land was given to the university for the biological station. This land has been selected. Three sites were chosen, either one of which will make an ideal place for study and recreation. Each site has a waterfront, a good harbor, and is in close proximity to good collecting fields. It is the intention to erect, as soon as funds will permit, a building suitable for station needs, which shall be a permanent home for the station. This will necessitate a change of base from present quarters. The particular site to be chosen for permanent buildings will be determined as soon as it is known where a railroad will be constructed. Naturally it is very desirable to be in close proximity to the railroad, so access to the station will be facilitated. Transportation on the lake is as easy from one site as from another. Present methods of travel make it possible to reach the lake and the station with comparative ease, but a railroad will be still easier and much quicker.

Flathead lake is now a pleasure resort for those living nearby. In a few years it will be a still more desirable place. Its expanse of nearly 400 square miles of water, with a length of 20 and width of 25 miles, gives ample scope for boats of any size or capacity. Dozens of gasoline boats for pleasure, a half dozen or more large boats for traffic, and hundreds of row-boats are daily in use on its waters.



ON McDONALD LAKE.

It has numerous coves, bays and inlets which afford harbors. The beautiful Mission mountains come abruptly to the water's edge along the eastern shore, while the Cabinets slope away more gently from the west. The eastern and western shores are wooded, the two ends of the lake meeting prairie land. The water is clear and cold, reaching a maximum depth of 300 feet.

The fields for study adjacent to the station, whether it remain in its present location or be moved to one of the other sites chosen, are as follows: The Mission, Swan and Cabinet ranges of mountains give ample scope for study of alpine life, for study of glaciers and for erosion; Flathead lake offers an inviting field for the study of limnology, while dozens of smaller lakes are scattered among the mountain ranges; great stretches of unbroken and pathless forest in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark national forests await the students of botany and forestry; rivers, swamps and land-locked lakes are as yet unexplored; the region has had extensive glaciation, much of which is as yet untraced by the geologist; the flora is unique, possessing Arctic, tropical, Great Basin and Pacific coast forms; the same is true of the smaller animal life.

The station will be opened as usual the coming summer, and for five

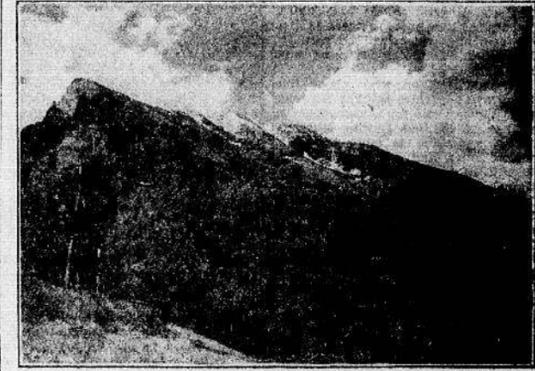
weeks, beginning July 15, students and visitors are invited to attend. Every facility which can be offered will be given for gathering material, for carrying on investigations, and for preparing both mind and body for the work of the coming year, whether in the schoolroom, shop or office. The

work of the station is entirely with the individual, based upon the idea that change of work, not cessation from labor, is rest. Correspondence is invited.

MORTON J. ELROD, Director,  
University of Montana, Missoula.



THE LAUNCH.



IN THE MISSION MOUNTAINS.