

# MANY SOCIAL, CIVIC, SERVICE, AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS HERE

## SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS

The Spanish-American War veterans were organized here on September 30, 1920, and have met the last time at the G. A. R. hall.

Each year it has participated in the Memorial day rites with the other veterans' organizations, and this year was given the chairmanship of the program. It also holds an annual picnic, usually on a farm belonging to a member. The members of this local are from all over the county, including Tomahawk and many farms.

A ladies' auxiliary to the organization is being formally organized this fall, although the wives and family of members have been assisting in their programs for some time already.

The charter members were:

- Sigwald C. Arneberg
- William Albert
- Alex Anderson
- Charles F. Bebeau
- Edward Carl
- Sidney I. Drew
- Arthur C. Ebert
- Frank Gremier
- Adolph Grob
- Irving Hamilt
- Harry A. Hanson
- Herman A. Hintz
- Gottlieb Karau
- E. A. Krembs
- Henry W. McCarthy
- Peter J. Mengel
- Charles Olson
- George Pavlik
- Otto Plautz
- Anton Ramek
- John H. Swope
- Arthur W. Stevenson
- Arthur Welty.

The first officers were:

- Commander: Sigwald C. Arneberg
- Vice Commander: Charles F. Bebeau
- Junior Vice Commander: Irving Hamilt
- Adjutant: H. A. Hanson (Mr. Hanson has been adjutant ever since).

The present officers are:  
 Commander: Charles Olson  
 Senior Vice Commander: R. C. Wilson  
 Junior Vice Commander: Otto Plautz

The commanding officers throughout the history of the organization have been:  
 Sigwald C. Arneberg, 1921  
 Irving Hamilt, 1922  
 E. A. Krembs, 1923  
 R. C. Wilson, 1924, '25, '26  
 Frank Gremier, 1927-'28  
 George Eggert, 1929-'30  
 Charles Olson, 1931-'32-'33-'34.

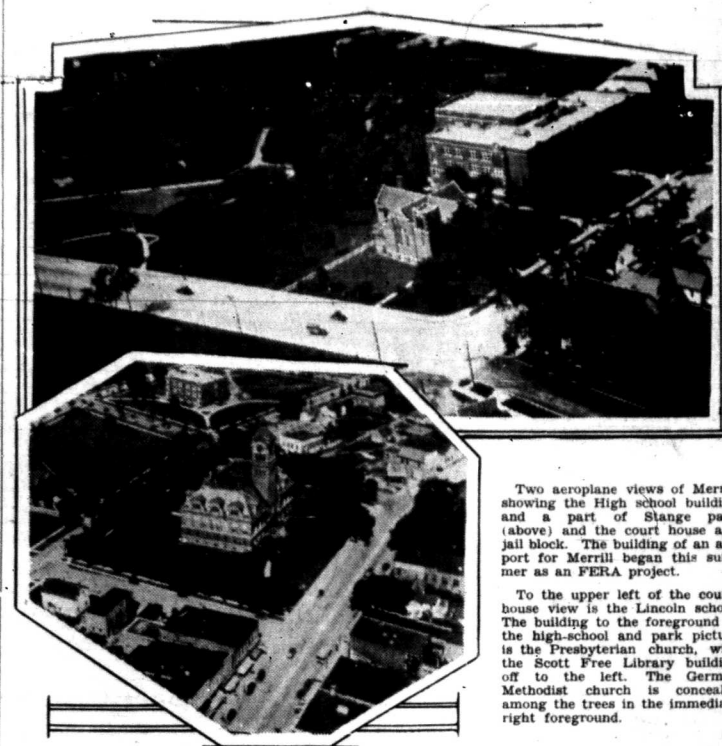
## AMERICAN LEGION

In 1920, only a short time after the soldiers had returned from overseas, the Merrill veterans organized Edward Burns Post No. 46 of the American Legion in this city.

They met at the G. A. R. hall for the organization meeting. When they were to choose the name of the post, they put the names of all the Merrill boys who died or were killed abroad into a hat. The name of Edward Burns, who went across with the 8th Division, Company M, 343rd Infantry, and was killed in action, was drawn.

There were 15 charter members in the post when it was first organized, with Edward Anderson as commander. They were:

- A. H. Smith
- R. G. Kraft
- Oscar Moe
- Julius Britt
- Rudolph Matthias
- Edmund H. Rueleau
- Joseph N. Schafer
- Carl M. Moe
- George C. Roemer
- Olaf Hanson
- Reid Hankwitz
- Leslie N. Crotteau
- Emmett A. Hassett
- Edward A. Anderson
- A. W. Kordick
- A. F. Lindquist.



Two aeroplane views of Merrill showing the High school building and a part of Stange park (above) and the court house and jail block. The building of an airport for Merrill began this summer as a FERA project.

To the upper left of the court-house view is the Lincoln school. The building to the foreground in the high-school and park picture is the Presbyterian church, with the Scott Free Library building off to the left. The German Methodist church is concealed among the trees in the immediate right foreground.

For a while the post met at the present Elks Club building then called Liberty club. Later they moved their meetings to the G. A. R. hall.

Almost immediately the Post began accumulating funds for its own building. The Legionnaires presented a series of home-talent plays and several pageants. Through these, and by other means, they raised three-quarters or more of the \$15,000 or so that the Legion Memorial has cost. Mrs. C. D. Clark, who directed plays for several years without charge, was of great help in building up this fund. What was lacking in the treasury was made up by popular subscription throughout the city, and the building was dedicated ceremoniously on October 9, 1929. The State Commander, Marshall C. Graf, headed the list of speakers at the banquet attended by 172 persons.

In the meantime the Legion Auxiliary, which equipped the hall, had been organized in 1921, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Don J. Tracy, who was its first president and who has since served as chairman of the rehabilitation committee.

As a community service organization the Legion has been as active as any in the city. It sponsored a Homecoming in Merrill July 1 to 5, 1921 and has put on most of the community Fourth of July celebrations since its inception. Since 1929 it has sponsored a juvenile baseball team, and these Merrill teams won three district championships in a row, went into the state semi-finals in 1931, and was runner-up for the state championship in 1932. For the past ten years it has sponsored a Boy Scout troop, and this fall it contributed toward the 4-H Free Fair. Besides its plays and pageants, it sponsored a number of wrestling matches several years ago, until private promotion took them over.

In 1929 the local post won the state membership campaign contest, and in several years it has been given special recognition for the value of its civic work by the state commandery. It has always sent delegates to the state convention every year since its organization.

The post's commanders to date have been:  
 W. J. Cotey

- Dr. E. O. Ravn
- Gordon B. Cotter
- Anton Kordick
- David Rajek
- Bernard Hull
- Edward Kluetz
- Edward Anderson
- Walter Howard
- H. K. Henrich
- Mark Sigurd—1935.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Schmitt-Manecke-Donner Post No. 1638 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in Merrill at a meeting on February 10, 1929, with E. A. Anderson acting as temporary chairman. The post was named after three Merrill boys who were killed in action overseas.

Its charter members were William Schielke, Arthur Rathke, Charles W. Martens, Arthur Ackert, Wallace W. Siske, Edward A. Neunast, Harold S. Plass, Edward A. Anderson, Donald S. Ament, Otto S. Braatz, John L. Slesonop, George Torrey, Leslie L. Crotteau, E. O. Ravn, T. E. Middlestead, Alfred Litke, William C. Walters, Carl M. Moe, Arnold Trantow, Louis Heiser, William Kalafice, Alex G. Anderson, Irwin G. Foster, George S. Geiss, J. M. Finucan, Ed. Riebe, Erwin F. Tholl, Carl M. Moe, and A. W. Kordick.

The first commander of the organization was Harold Plass; the first adjutant was John Slesonop, and the senior and junior vice commanders were J. M. Finucan and Ed Neunast respectively. Since then Plass was re-elected commander in 1930; Neunast served for two years as commander in 1931 and 1932; Ambrose Haase was commander in 1933, and Henry J. Brassard is present commander.

The organization's most pretentious civic activity was the great Homecoming Festival it staged July 4 to 8, 1931, in connection with the dedication of the bridge and viaduct on Highway 51 at the foot of Center avenue. It has charge of the Memorial Day celebration in the city each year, and participates in Poppy Day sales.

G. A. R.—W. E. C.  
 The Grand Army of the Republic is still represented in Merrill by

three members: Lloyd Breck, George Langley, and John Secard. They no longer meet regularly.

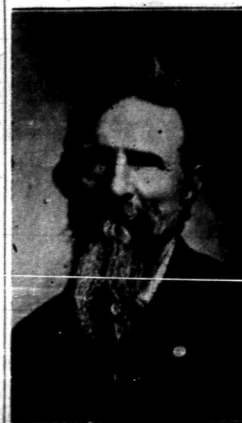
Besides these three, William Hinckley, who lives with his son on the Pier street road, is also a Civil War veteran, though he is not a G. A. R. member.

The Women's Relief Corps holds its meetings in G. A. R. hall. At present Anna Babbitt is president, Mrs. Israel Putnam having resigned only a few weeks ago. Mrs. Babbitt was senior vice-president and that position is now vacant. The junior vice-president is Mary Tracy.

The other officers are:  
 Florence Pinkerton, secretary  
 Lillian Leavitt, treasurer  
 Emily Millsbaugh, conductor  
 Augusta Wendick, guard  
 Alice Beattie, assistant conductor  
 Lillian Beranek, assistant guard  
 Mrs. Nita Close, chaplain.



The late George Curtis, Jr., in a musing mood, at his favorite haunt amid the towering trees of nature's most lavish temple, on the banks of the Wisconsin river, at the western city limits, by reason of which this 300 acre tract was at the time unofficially called "Curtis Park," but later was purchased by the City, and christened "Wildwood Park." It was Attorney Curtis' custom, when in a mood for relaxation, to tie himself to this native haunt and commune with nature; and it is known that through his earnest endeavors, this valuable tract was preserved to the city from the woodman's axe.



R. S. DREW, Lincoln county pioneer, whose activities helped to develop the fertile acres of the north country to produce other than the tall timber. Mr. Drew is now deceased, but his works live after him.