

**Last Salute:**

**GAR's 83rd National Encampment Is Final Meeting of Boys In Blue**

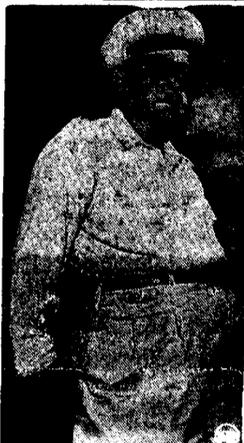
By MONTE M. KATTERJOHN (NEA Special Correspondent) INDIANAPOLIS—(NEA)—This year's national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be the 83rd—and the last. The organization of veterans of the Union Army of the Civil War is disbanding forever.

Their declining numbers is the reason for the decision to hold a final muster in Indianapolis. Of the 3,500,000 men who comprised the Union Army, there are believed to be only 23 still living. Of the 23, perhaps only five will be able to make the final encampment.

One of the five who promises he'll be there is the GAR's National Commander, Theodore A. Penland. A native of Indiana, 100-year-old Penland now lives in La Jolla, Calif. "I'll make it to Indianapolis," Penland says. "If only the national secretary and myself are present we will march in a great parade to the reunion hall where I will declare the Grand Army of the Republic has completed its mission."



**EARLY DRAW**—Archer Joe Driver shows two-year-old daughter how to handle long bow in Asheville, N.C. The Cherokee Indian participated in the Southeastern Archery Tournament at Rent Creek Ranch.



**COUP LEADER**—Col. Sami El-Hinnaoui, above, headed the group of Syrian army officers who seized control of the government and executed President Hossni Zaim and Premier Moushni El-Barazi. He is shown at a military court in Damascus immediately after the president and premier were sentenced to death.



**PENLAND:** "I will declare the Grand Army of the Republic has completed its mission."

Penland recalls the first national encampment, which was held in Indianapolis in 1866.

"Our comrades came by thousands in long special trains," he remembers. "It was a tremendous and tumultuous gathering—sort of like the Republic has completed its mission of today."

The GAR's last national commander was just under 16 when he left Goshen, Ind., to join the Union Army. He was sent to the Army of the Potomac a few months before the fall of Richmond, Va.

"I did guard duty," he says. "Nothing very heroic."

Penland hopes to meet an old comrade-in-arms from Indiana at the final gathering. Michael J. Thralls, 106, who was born in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, now lives in Nampa, Ida. He is going to try to attend and "smoke a few big black cigars with old comrades and sing the good old marching songs."

Mike Thralls recalls his outfit, Company C of the 57th Indiana Infantry Battalion, was "the toughest war outfit that ever shouldered muskets and cursed its food."

He believes veterans of later wars who griped about C-rations and the Spanish-American War's "bully-

beef" had it soft. He still thinks that the Union Army's "sowbelly and hardtack" was much worse.

Indiana's Lt. Gov. John A. Watkins is general chairman of the committee planning the GAR's final muster. Last Memorial Day—a holiday first sponsored by the GAR—the committee arranged tributes to the surviving "boys in blue" throughout the nation.

The encampment itself will, if Penland has his way, include a last parade. During the past few annual gatherings, the parades have dwindled as the number of able-bodied marchers declined. Most rode in cars, or were pushed in wheelchairs.

The Union Army's faded battle streamers of states and regiments will be on hand, with the few remaining men who carried them. Banners that survived the Bloody Angle at Gettysburg and were jarred in determined charges at Chickamauga will be unfurled for the first time before the eyes of the men who held them up.

The decision to disband this year was reached at the 82nd encampment, held last year in Grand Rapids, Mich. Six veterans of the 52 then alive, voted that their ranks were becoming too thin for more than one more solemn reunion.

Four of these six were in wheelchairs. All were attended by physicians and nurses. The combined age of the six was 611 years.

Although Penland, Thralls and the others will miss the spirit of the encampments in the years they have remaining, they are certain that the GAR's traditions are in good hands. Their last salute will be a thankful one.

"New heroes will carry on guarding our nationhood," says Penland.

the show's tour.

Ralph Bettinson, who will script "The Gainesville Circus," is motoring to Austin, Texas, where the show opens Sept. 2. He'll absorb color for the picture, which will be produced by Marshal Grant. John Derek will star. He will join the circus as soon as he finishes "Rogues of Sherwood Forest."

Red Skelton always keeps his sets lively. He arrived early for a street scene of "Yellow Cab Man" and re-arranged a sign on a theater marquee to read "Milton Berle in always leave them laughing." He says it almost got into the picture before someone noticed it.

Skelton likes to bedevil his director Jack Donohue with new ideas for screen plays. The comic's latest is an Australian saga. It concerns a young lad whose father gives him a new boomerang. The develops a psychosis trying to throw the old one away.

Van Johnson was shown a magazine spread of himself while I visited the "Big Hangover" set. "Gee, I must be famous again," he cracked.

Roy Rodgers voluntarily agreed to do six pictures yearly at Republic, instead of four. He tells why: "I talked to a lot of exhibitors all over the country and they told me four pictures a year wasn't enough for a wester star. They'd rather have one every two months." Another reason might be that Gene Autry makes six a year.

Lew Ayres is another to hit the western trail. After "Daybreak," he goes into "Sugarfoot" at Warners. It will be his first horse opus. Lew waited a year and a half for a film to follow "Johnny Belinda."

"I waited three and a half years once," he said. "It's worth it not to do bad pictures."

Danny Thomas, one of the finest comedians, finally gets a comedy role in his next film. His studio introduced him in character roles.

Margia Mae Jones, former child actress, is making a stab at grown-up roles under her real name, Marsha Jones. She's the mother of two but has had trouble convincing casting directors she has grown up. She's now playing the mother of triplets in "The Daughter of Rosy O'Grady."

"Capsule Review: 'I Was a Male War Bride' (TCF) is an amiable comedy that rambles through Europe and 105 minutes of film. It is never very close-knit, but provides a number of comic situations that are good for guffaws.

**Hollywood News**

**WHOLE TEXAS CITY SIGNED FOR CIRCUS PICTURE**

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 22—(AP)—Columbia Pictures announces signing the entire town of Gainesville, Tex., for a film based on its famed community circus.

Virtually the whole town (9,651 at last census) takes part in the circus, which has become well-known throughout Texas and the nation. All will take part in the picture, which will be filmed during

**Rheumatism - Arthritis NEURITIS—SCIATICA**

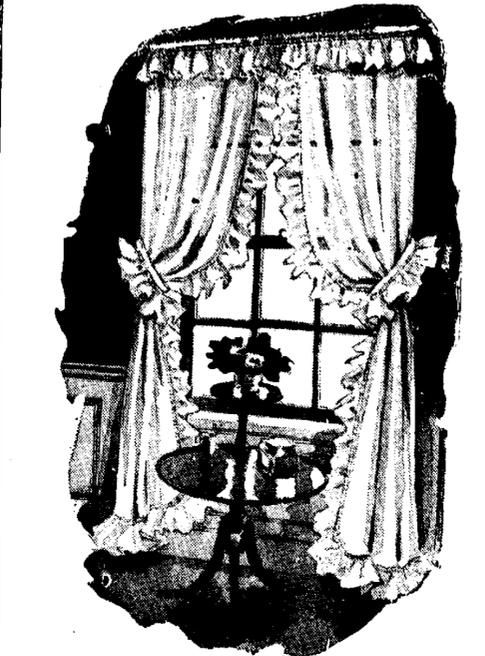
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Frank E. Groft, 623 Locust St., Indiana, is a candidate for Jury Commissioner on the Democratic ticket. He is a member of Indiana Subordinate Grange, No. 1656; Indiana County; Pomona Grange No. 58; State Grange; Indiana Camp No. 40, Woodmen of the World. The relic and antique business that Mr. Groft conducts is an interesting one, above are some of them with Mr. Groft in the center of the ring used on an old saw mill. Mr. Groft respectfully solicits the support and vote of all Indiana County Democratic voters. (Political adv.)

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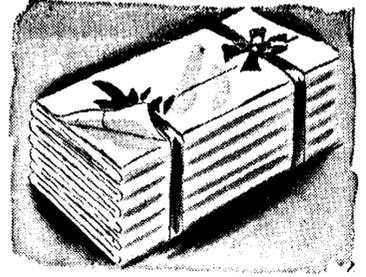
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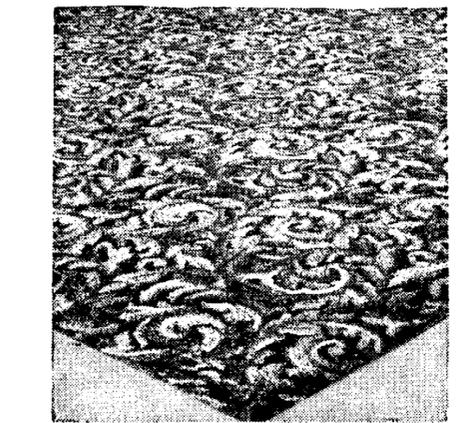
**TYPE 180 PERCALE SHEETS**

72"x108"	<b>1.99</b>
2.98 If Perfect	
81"x108"	<b>2.29</b>
3.19 If Perfect	

Second Floor

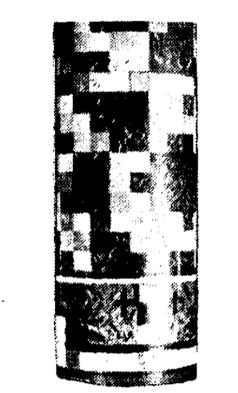
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