

American Legion News Items

William T McCoy Post # 92

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Presidential Visit to Honor Drs. Mayo Stands Out in Notable Career of McCoy Post

ROCHESTER UNIT FORMED AFTER PARIS MEETING

G. P. Gentling Issued First Call for Session - Furlow, War Ace, Secretary

INITIAL CONCLAVE CONDUCTED IN 1919

Many Charter Members Still Active in Organization - Armory First Quarters

Back in April, 1919 only about a month after the first caucus of the American Legion in Paris, action incidental to the organization of the William T. McCoy post in Rochester was taken by a group of veterans who had already returned from the World War.

The call for the first meeting of veterans for the purpose of organizing a post was issued by Gregory Gentling. Previously a group conferred at the office of Dr. L. B. Wilson, holder of the Distinguished Service Medal, when the physician urged that post activities be directed along unselfish lines and pointed to errors made by other post-war organizations in the early years of their history.

At the first meeting conducted in the armory, Mr. Gentling was named temporary chairman, and G. W. Furlow, Minnesota's leading World War ace, was appointed temporary secretary.

Permanent Organization Planned

World war veterans were represented in the Memorial day exercises here that year for the first time at services in charge of a citizen's committee. In the line of march was Paul McDermott, acting officer in the Sixth Marines who was seriously wounded at Soissons. Here on indefinite leave, Mr. McDermott marched on crutches. He was one of the group active in forming the temporary post.

Plans for forming a permanent organization were advanced when all former service men were invited to attend a dinner at the high school late in the summer. As temporary chairman, Mr. Gentling presided.

Among the speakers were Dr. William J. Mayo, Dr. L. B. Wilson and Jack Sullivan of Seattle, then temporary first vice commander of the young national organization.

At that meeting delegates were named to attend the first department convention in St. Paul in August, when action taken by groups in various cities was ratified and the Legion in its present form came into being.

Charter Sought

On August 18, 1919, formal application for a post charter was made to national headquarters. Many signatures were affixed to the application on the counter of what then was Kelly's cigar store.