

Battleship Maine Sank 68 Years Ago

Just 68 years ago Tuesday, February 15, the U. S. Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor, Cuba. There were 26 officers and 328 men aboard; 252 died immediately and eight died of injuries afterward.

Two months and six days later, the United States was at war with Spain.

Compared with the two great wars in this century which saw nearly five million men under arms in 1918-19 and 16.5 million in World War II, the total of 392,000 participants in the Spanish-American War seems small indeed.

But a rough ratio shows that one-in-39 died in service in that comparatively small conflict compared to one-in-47 in World War I and one-in-41 in World War II.

What has become of the 381,000 survivors of the Spanish-American War? The Veterans Administration records reveal the following interesting figures, according to H. W. Johnson, Acting Manager of the North Carolina VA Regional Office.

On December 31, 1965, there were 13,982 veterans of '98 still living. Of these 12,808 were on the VA rolls drawing compensation for service-connected disabilities or pensions for disabilities from non-service-connected causes.

As of September 30, 1965, the most recent date for which dependents' statistics are available, there were 60,103 widows of Spanish-American War veterans receiving compensation or pension payments.

There were also 1,885 "children" of Spanish-American War veterans on the compensation or pension rolls.

Johnson said VA defines as "children" in this instance, those who before their 18th birthday became totally and permanently incapable of self support because of either mental or physical disabilities. Unless their condition improves or unless they marry, they continue to be legal "helpless children," eligible for VA payments.

The VA compensation rolls list one "parent" of a deceased Spanish-American War veteran. She is the stepmother of the veteran and was only five years older than her teen-age stepson when she married his father in the early 1890's. The veteran died in the Philippines in 1902.

Spanish-American War veterans are eligible also to medical treatment, hospital and outpatient care, care in VA domiciliaries and prosthetic appliances if needed.

They are also eligible for a number of burial benefits.

Lenoir Lawyer Writes Second Fiction Book

"A New Kind of Light," by Hal B. Adams of Lenoir, will be published in February by Dorrance & Company, Philadelphia, it was announced recently by A. J. Parrotto, Executive Vice President.

The author is a well-known North Carolina lawyer, whose first novel, "Last Mansion," was published in 1961. The legendary Farnsworth family appears again in "A New Kind of Light," a sequel to the first book and set in the present.

A graduate of Duke University, Mr. Adams is a member of one of North Carolina's oldest families.

Know The Weather

BY E. H. SIMS

Why does a weather change so often affect the sinuses or the ears?

When the weather changes, the pressure also changes, as a usual thing. When a clear spell comes to an end and rainy, low-pressure weather begins, those who experience ear or sinus trouble often experience discomfort.

This is because there are pockets of air in our head, or sinuses, which become blocked off. The pressure inside becomes greater than outside when the barometer falls (and a low-pressure system arrives overhead) and expands the pockets.

A doctor will open them up, or equalize the pressure. The eustachian tube in the ear is a natural safety valve to allow air in and out of the ear. If it is closed by a swelling or a bad cold, then you risk puncturing your ear drum if you fly at a high altitude.



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