

LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: **JEFF STOFFER**
 ART: **GARY MARTIN**
 COLOR: **MARCHS ESKOW**

A COMMITTEE IS FORMED AT THE MAY 1919 ST. LOUIS CAUCHS. ITS PURPOSE: DESIGN AN AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM OR BUTTON OF "UNNAMED METAL." THE COMMITTEE PLANS TO OFFER CASH PRIZES OF \$50, \$25, \$15 AND \$10 "IN ORDER OF MERIT" FOR THE TOP SUBMISSIONS.

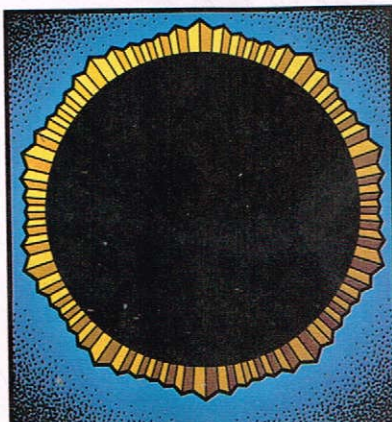
IN JUNE 1919, AS THE AMERICAN LEGION IS ROARING TO LIFE ACROSS THE LAND, FOUNDING SECRETARY ERIC FISHER WOOD DESIGNS A TEMPORARY EMBLEM UNTIL THE CONTEST CAN BE COMPLETED. IT INCLUDES A STAR, A LAUREL WREATH AND THE INITIALS U.S.

SUBMISSIONS DON'T STACK UP TO FISHER WOOD'S DESIGN. AT THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS, THE FOUNDER'S DESIGN IS MADE PERMANENT. ON DEC. 9, 1919, HIS EMBLEM DESIGN IS PATENTED AND TURNED OVER TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

THE MEANING OF THE EMBLEM'S PARTS WERE SUMMARIZED IN THE 1921 AMERICAN LEGION MANUAL OF CEREMONIES.

"THERE SHINES THE EMBLEM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. IT IS YOUR BADGE OF DISTINCTION AND HONOR. IT STANDS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY AND THE HIGHEST RIGHTS OF MAN."

EACH PART OF THE EMBLEM HAS A MEANING.



THE RAYS OF THE SUN STAND FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, LOYALTY AND OPPOSITION TO THE DARKNESS OF EVIL.



THE WREATH HONORS THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE, THAT LIBERTY MIGHT ENDURE.



THE STAR, THE VICTORY SYMBOL OF WORLD WAR I, STANDS FOR HONOR, GLORY AND CONSTANCY.



TWO LARGE RINGS REPRESENT REHABILITATION FOR SICK AND DISABLED VETERANS (OUTER) AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN (INNER).



TWO SMALL RINGS PLACED OVER THE STAR STAND FOR LOYALTY, AMERICANISM AND SERVICE.



THE WORDS "AMERICAN LEGION" TIE THE PARTS TOGETHER "FOR TRUTH, REMEMBRANCE, CONSTANCY, HONOR, SERVICE, REHABILITATION, CHILD WELFARE, LOYALTY AND AMERICANISM."