

COL. MORRILL HONORED ON 93rd BIRTHDAY

Pittsfield's Oldest Civil War Veteran Long Active In Racing Circles Col. Walter G. Morrill, Pittsfield's veteran horse race promoter, was the guest of honor on his 93rd birthday at a chicken dinner Monday afternoon at Ralph's Inn, in Canaan, attended by 30 persons. This is the 4th annual celebration of



Col. Morrill's birthday at the hotel of Ralph Burrill, a former race driver.

COL. WALTER G. MORRILL

A large birthday cake with greetings and "93" in the center was presented Col. Morrill, as were a few other tokens. Col. Morrill last year requested no presents be given.

George Wescott of Bangor, former president of the Bangor Fair was toastmaster. Most of those present spoke and Col. Morrill gave a very interesting account of his past life as a race promoter. He is the oldest Civil War veteran in Pittsfield.

With each milestone filled with outstanding accomplishments, it is virtually impossible to relate the career of this outstanding Maine man. He has owned some 50 race horses and he is today the oldest track devotee in the

in the state. He was the first man to offer a purse of \$1,000; first to stage a ladies' race; and the first man to pay out a grand total of \$100,000 in purses. He is the holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor for most distinguished gallantry in action, being the only man who left Maine as a private during the Civil War and came home in command of a regiment.

Col. Morrill was the first Maine man to put two horses into the 2.30 class, Surprise in 2.28 and Cammons in 2.25. The first race he staged was at Dexter on July 4, 1876. then sponsored races in Bangor, Dover-Foxcroft, Skowhegan, Fairfield, Gardiner, Pittsfield and Waterville as well as at Lewiston, Topsham, Springvale, Rochester, N. H., and Brockton, Mass.

His career as a soldier in the Civil War was filled with distinguished honor. He entered the service in April, 1861, and he was repeatedly recommended for promotion.

Dr. W. C. Atkinson of Newburyport, Mass., past commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of that city, past county commander and now on the county commander's staff, was delighted to come with James Butler of Lewiston, to honor the Civil War veteran. Beside the guest of honor those present included D. K. Maxim and H. E. Turner of Corinna; Ralph C. Dyer, A. E. Webber, John R. Dyer, Charles Murray, W. H. Webster, A. L. Bickford, F. W. Hill, L. R. Willey, George W. Prescott and Joseph Stewart of Bangor; J. P. Nutting, Fred C. Pooler, Damon Bearce and Charles W. Day of Skowhegan; G. M. Hatch of Farmington; George Roundy of Pittsfield; J. F. Butler of Lewiston; R. W. C. Atkinson of Newburyport, Nick Walton of Unity; Bard Palmer, Seldon Whitcomb, Frank Tibbetts, Robert Clark and Walter Reynolds of Waterville, and Miah W. Epstein of Bangor.

Col. Morrill has received many letters of congratulations, and cards from people who remembered him on his 93rd birthday.

Col. W. G. Morrill Is Honored On His 93rd Birthday

Pittsfield Race Promoter Is
Dinner Guest At Ca-
naan Hotel [1933]

Special Dispatch to the Press Herald
Canaan. Nov. 13--Col. Walter G.

Morrill. Pittsfield's veteran horse race promoter and Civil War veteran was the guest of honor on his 93rd birthday at a chicken dinner this afternoon at Ralph's Inn, in Canaan attended by 30. This is the fourth annual celebration of Col. Morrill's birthday at the hotel of Ralph Burrill, a former race driver. A large birthday cake with greetings and "93" in the center was presented Col. Morrill, as were a few other tokens. Col. Morrill last year requested no presents be given. George Wescott of Bangor, former president of the Bangor Fair was toastmaster. Most of those present spoke and Col. Morrill reminisced at length. Dr. W. C. Atkinson, of Newburyport, Mass., past commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of that city, past, county commander and now on the county commander's staff, was delighted to come with James Butler of Lewiston to honor the Civil War veteran. Beside the guest of honor those present included D. K. Maxim and H. E. Turner of Corinna, Ralph C. Dyer, A. E. Webber, John R. Dyer, Charles Murray, W. H. Webster, A. L. Bickford, F. W. Hill, L. R. Willey, George W. Prescott and Joseph Stewart of Bangor. J. P. Nutting, Fred C. Pooler, Damon Bearce and Charles W. Day of Skowhegan, G. M. Hatch of Farmington, George Roundy of Pittsfield, J. P. Butler of Lewiston, R. W. C. Atkinson of Newburyport, Nick Walton of Unity, Bard Palmer, Seldon Whitcomb, Frank Tibbetts, Robert Clark and Walter Reynolds of Waterville, and Miah W. Epstein of Bangor.

The following telegram was received from George M. Parks of Providence, R. I.—

Colonel Walter Morrill,
Pittsfield, Maine.

My Dear Colonel—

I am proud to pay my tribute to Pittsfield's most representative and beloved citizen. Your remarkable record in the Civil War and your thousands of known and unknown deeds of kindness have endeared you to all classes old and young alike. I salute you in memory of my departed brothers and sisters who in spirit join me in paying this well deserved tribute to you. Affectionately yours,
George M. Parks

Special Dispatch to the Press Herald

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