

## Earl G. Griffith

### EARL GRIFFITH VETERAN OF OLD

Former Patrol Officer in War  
of 1898

By Special Correspondent

OLYMPIA, March 5.—“I guess my main claim to distinction is I'm the only Spanish-American war veteran in either branch of the legislature. There were three or four but I'm the only one who hung on,” Representative Earl G. Griffith (R-Usk) said.

“That gets me some kidding. One breezy young member said, ‘Say,

pop, how old were you when you enlisted?’ I told him I wouldn't dare divulge it—it's still a military secret.”

However, a close guess would be 17 or 18, since Griffith was born in Kansas in 1881. He worked on the Pennsylvania railroad as a fireman and engineer in Indiana before moving to eastern Washington in 1910.

Griffith joined the Washington state patrol when it was organized in 1921—“I was the 10th man appointed”—and retired on a disability in 1939. He lives with his wife in Newport, and “we have a four-acre place on the Pend Oreille, which is all the summer resort we need.” The couple have a son, a war veteran of the south Pacific, who is a geologist for a gas transmission company.



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“Raising my boy caused me to do the best piece of work in my life,” Griffith said. “When he was in a Boy Scout troop, I was on the scout committee five years. We had only one boy start down the wrong road. I helped fix it with a cooperative judge to give him another chance. Now he holds a responsible police position. They say they couldn't run the department without him.

“That's one reason why I take an interest in juvenile delinquency legislation. I feel it pays off if you save just one boy—make a citizen of him instead of a convict. I also watch school and highway laws, but do most of my work in committees. I haven't asked for the floor this session.”