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## OIL PAINTING BY OSHKOSH ARTIST GIVEN TO LEGION

Beautiful Marine Canvas, the  
Work of Gustave Behncke,  
is Presented to Atley  
H. Cook Post

Presentation of an oil painting entitled "The Return of the Mayflower" was made to Atley H. Cook post, No. 70, American Legion, at a meeting of the organization held Monday evening at the Memorial clubhouse.

It is the work of Gustave Behncke, Oshkosh artist, and father of Nile J. Behncke, director of the museum and an active member of the legion post.

The painting was presented by the son who spoke briefly of his father's life history and of his love for the sea. Gustave Behncke is now 80 years old. When the basement of the clubhouse was being decorated last summer, he wanted to help because of his interest in legion affairs.

### REASON FOR PAINTING.

This was given as his reason for making the painting. It is 3 by 4 feet in size and shows the American destroyers steaming into British waters to join the British grand fleet. There are gray clouds in the sky with a bit of blue breaking through. The sea is gray-green and the ships are in line, fading off into the distance. In the foreground is an English fishing smack. One can find many things of interest in the painting and members of the legion assured Mr. Behncke the gift will be a splendid addition to the clubhouse.

Mr. Behncke's birthplace was Hamburg, Germany, one of the greatest seaports of the world. Because of his great love for the sea, the artist ran away from school at the age of 14 years. He returned home and began the study of art, but the sea called again and Mr. Behncke listened. He finally landed in America and after traveling in various parts of the country settled in Oshkosh where he was married.

The sea called again, but Mr. Behncke could not answer it again. Instead he brought the sea to Oshkosh with his paintings, one of the best of which hangs in the Masonic temple here. Some of the finest pictures the artist has painted are said to be those of the sea.

### WILL BEAR INSCRIPTION.

The inscription which will accom-

pany the picture reads: "Between quarried Mount Batton, with its turret, in the harbor of Plymouth, England, and the Barbican pier dances the offing where the 'Mayflower' and the 'Speedwell' anchored before their voyage that mark an epoch in modern civilization. Thence, as a stone beside the cobbled road that leads to the pier records, on Sept. 6, 1620, the Pilgrim fathers, with prayers to God for safe deliverance from the perils confronting them, set sail.

"Almost 300 years later the pendulum swung back, and into the British waters, on their errand to help, slowly steamed the fine flotilla of the American destroyers destined to play their part side by side with the Grand Fleet of British in extinguishing the fires of war that threatened to destroy the world."

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