

CARSON-WILSON POST NEWS

VOL 13

TULSA, OKLAHOMA



MARCH 18, 1949

No. 27

Lustron Home Draws Crowd

The Lustron Home, being shown by the Post to raise Home School funds is drawing hundreds of spectators who are interested in a low cost, durable, easy to clean home.

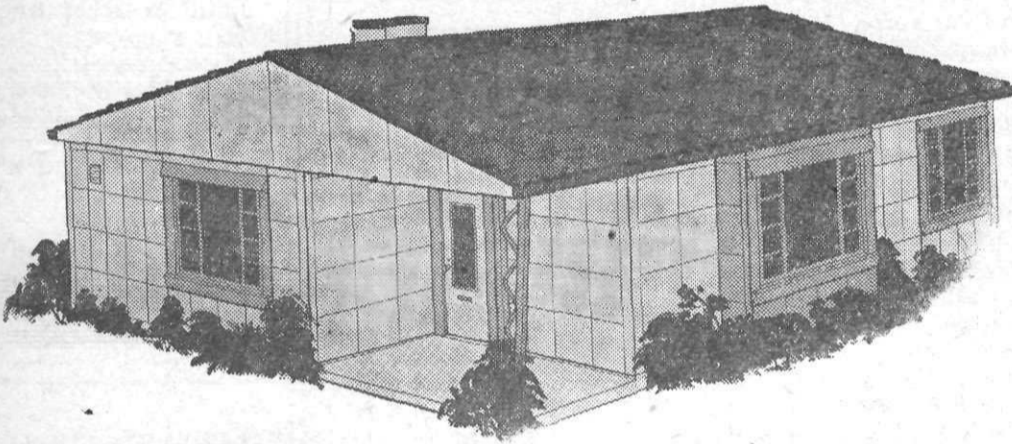
Most people who have visited the home this past week are very much impressed with the many outstanding features which this home has to offer those with a limited income.

This new innovation in house construction is all metal from top to bottom. The walls are also metal, coated with a heavy pastel colored porcelain enamel. They will not stain and can be cleaned in a few minutes with plain soap and water. The house is constructed to provide utmost convenience with its many built in features. Another important feature in its favor is that it can be built in about three days after the foundation has been laid.

The Lustron Home is being

shown by John Hubbell of Pawhuska, who is donating proceeds from the 20-cent admission to Carson-Wilson Post. It was decided that the money would be applied toward our quota for the Home School at Ponca City.

Guy Belford, Post Commander, is asking that as many legionnaires as possible help in showing people through the home. He estimates that more than 2,000 spectators have seen the home since it was opened. It will be on display until April 9th.



LEGION SPONSORED—1715 NORTH HARVARD

Membership Totals 2757 at End of Campaign

With the end of the second phase of the membership campaign March 15, the total membership of the Post stands at 2757. This still leaves 1243 members to go to reach the 4,000 member goal. The Jet Fighters team led by Captain Bob Howe came out victor in the contest by capturing 152 members while the Hot Shots headed by Captain Roger Lavery trailed behind with 95 members to their credit.

According to office records, individual memberships signed up to March 15th is as follows:

JET FIGHTERS

Captain Bob Howe—13
Lt. J. E. Simpson—31
Lt. Floyd Long—4
Lt. Paul O. Neal—
Lt. N. H. Davis—3
Dick Arnell—2
W. H. Bassett—2
M. S. Bernard—1
Robert B. Brown—5
Glenn H. Coddington—8
C. C. Cain, Jr.—1
Charles Clark—1
Hershel Chism, Jr.—1
Bob Elliott—1
Oscar Erickson—3
Brant I. Eckman—1
Jack Farrington—2
Irene Gaddis—1
Eddit Gambill—3
Guss Gunn—2
Joe Herman—3
Harry L. S. Halley—11
Denny Howe—2
Jim Hunt—10

Jimmy King, Sr.—5
H. V. Kay—2
Dexter Moss, Jr.—5
E. J. Taylor—4
Chick Woodard—1
Linus Walker—3
Ed Wienecke—4
George Williams—4
O. D. Waters—4
Dewitt Anderson—1
A. A. Wilson—3
W. H. Wilson—4

HOT SHOTS

Captain Roger Lavery—3
Lt. Ralph Harrison—2
Lt. Sam Craig—2
Lt. Walter Deppe—2
Lt. Sam Burnham—1
J. B. Allred—2
Jim Bewley—2
C. L. R. Barnett—3
Troy Baker—5
Fred Bullock—1
Clinton Bohannon—4
Guy Belford, Jr.—11
Hell Crossland—1
S. H. Easter—1
Georgette M. Egan—1
Alex Faulkner—3
Joe Faulkner—5
C. O. Gittinger—3
Burt J. E. Hurst—2
Sam Howe—6
William B. Johnson—1
Otto Koenig—2
Richard Lang—5
Jim Moss—3
Harry E. Mitchell—8
Garrett Newman—2
Joe Norton—1
Harry A. Pope—5
Bob Rocka—1
Brad Risinger—5
Storm Foster—2

40 & 8 Spring Wreck April 23 - 24

Chef De Gare, Floyd Long, announced that the annual Spring Wreck of the 40 & 8 would be held April 23-24. Details of the program are not yet complete and will be printed in this paper when they are available.

Work on the 40 & 8 Club is progressing very well. The bar and the beautiful indirect lighting fixtures are installed. Installation of the tables and steam table will be completed in the next few days.

The regular promenade of the 40 & 8 was held Wednesday, March 9th at the club. At this meeting, all were encouraged to purchase as many bonds to support the building program as possible.

Stag Party March 25th

Those of you who attended the last great stag will not need to be urged to attend the next one scheduled for Friday, March 25th. From all reports, we understand that this one is planned to stir your manly emotions even to a greater degree than ever before.

MARK FRIDAY, MARCH 25 ON YOUR CALENDAR AS A NIGHT FOR REAL ENTERTAINMENT.

THE LEGION IS THE VETERANS FRIEND

The best friend of the veteran is the American Legion. No one knows this better than a veteran in need. Too many veterans give the American Legion too little thought until old man trouble comes along and then they discover that the American Legion is a great friend to them.

Birthday Banquet Successful

In commemoration of the thirtieth birthday of the American Legion, a banquet and program was presented last Tuesday night at the Hut. Dinner, prepared by ladies of the Auxiliary was served at 6:30. Immediately following the dinner, an inspiring Americanism program was presented.

Principle speaker of the evening was Hess Crossland, prominent Tulsa attorney and legionnaire, who spoke on the history of the Legion and its phenomenal progress during the past thirty years. An Americanism program was presented by student of Bryant School of Dawson. The program was directed by Mrs. E. L. Cole. A birthday cake, baked by the Auxiliary was presented to Commander Belford. A membership report was made by membership team captains. Food was prepared for an expected 175 guests but over 250 people were present for the dinner, thus some guests watched while others ate a delicious meal.

Appreciation Dinner Chairman Appointed

Frank Hugill has been appointed chairman of a committee to arrange the annual Appreciation Dinner at the Veterans Hospital at Muskogee. This dinner is an annual affair to show officials and employees of the Veterans Hospital appreciation of their splendid service to the veteran.

Date for the dinner has not yet been announced, but it probably be sometime in the month of May.

V.F.W. Celebrates Golden Jubilee

Throughout the nation, the week of April 3-9 will be observed as "V. F. W. Golden Jubilee Week" in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We take this opportunity to salute the V. F. W. for their fifty glorious years of service to the veteran and wish them success in the future in carrying out their many service programs.

The Delaware American Legion will hold its 1949 state convention at Dover, July 15 and 16.

I am going to get down to cases to show you what the American Legion is doing for veterans in this country every day. The American Legion is a fighting organization started by fighting men and women and it believes in fighting for things which are worth while. The best interests of America and of her veterans are always worth fighting for.

An American Legion membership costs only a few dollars for a whole year but those dollars are fighting dollars and working dollars. They fight and they work for veterans and their dependants. They fight and they work too, for the things for which all veterans have sacrificed when they served their God and country in war time uniform. The trifling cost of annual American Legion dues brings the veterans the greatest protection value he can buy for himself and his loved ones against a rainy day. It is the protection that lies in the vast strength of organized veterans.

American Legion dues are split three ways. One dollar goes to national headquarters, that is the 'buck' that fights and works for the veteran in Washington and all over the nation. It is the dollar that maintains a staff of full-time experts in medical, legal and claims affairs in the Washington offices of the American Legion and at the thirteen veterans' administration branches throughout the country.

More than 500,000 veterans write the national organization of the American Legion every year for help with their claims. That calls for huge files and battalions of clerical help including stenographers, filers, typists and research specialists which are kept up with part of the national dollar. This dollar also keeps ace American Legion legislative representatives on the job fighting for the interest of the veterans in the halls of congress. It is also this dollar that translates the veterans desire to continue to serve America into effective nation-wide programs in Americanism, National Security, rehabilitation, child welfare, youth training and community betterments every year. It is this dollar too that brings the veteran two great National American Legion publications to keep him informed of the doings, progress and accomplishments of the veterans' largest organization.

An average of two dollars of the veterans annual American Le-

(Continued on Page 8)

DANCE

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT — 10 - 2
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Ladies50

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DEXTER MOSS, Jr. Editor
GREGG CHANCELLOR Ed. Staff
DEXTER MOSS, Jr. Adv. Mgr.

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Post meets every Tuesday evening at
8:00 p.m. Visiting Legionnaires are
Welcome.

**Legion Indorses
Housing Measure**

A new cooperative housing bill
designed to serve middle and low-
income families and providing
special consideration for World
War II veterans has been indorsed
by the American Legion.

The measure, H. R. 2811, intro-
duced in the House of Representa-
tives on Feb. 17, by Representa-
tive Wright Patman, of Texas,
would facilitate the establishment
and financing of housing cooper-
atives and authorize direct gov-
ernment loans at 4 per cent in-
terest if financing could not be
obtained from private sources.
The entire program would be
managed by a new federal agency
known as the Cooperative Hous-
ing Administration, operating un-

der the Housing and Home Fi-
nance Agency.

John Thomas Taylor, legislative
director of the Legion, described
the bill as "the first sound answer
to the housing problem of the av-
erage veteran family." Taylor
said the legislation would carry
into effect one of the major hous-
ing mandates adopted by the
American Legion at its 1948 na-
tional convention at Miami, Fla.

"This bill would enable the vet-
eran in the middle income group
to obtain adequate housing at a
price he can afford to pay," Tay-
lor stated.

The Patman bill would give ad-
ditional federal assistance to
three types of cooperatives: (1)
the cooperative that builds hous-
es to sell; (2) the mutual home-
ownership type, in which families
occupy multiple-type units with
each family sharing ownership of
the entire project; (3) rental co-
operatives which build single or
multiple family units to rent to
members of the group and non-
members who are veterans.

Under the bill, an authorized
cooperative could obtain a devel-
opment loan amounting to not
more than 5 per cent of the es-
timated total cost of the project.
This money would be used for
preliminary planning and orga-
nization required before the coop-
erative qualifies for a construction
loan.

The Federal Housing Adminis-
tration would be directed, under
the measure, to insure loans made
to cooperatives up to 90 per cent
of their value. The bill provides
for a sliding scale of insurance,
with 90 per cent maximum for
homes or units costing \$8,000 or
less; 75 per cent for those costing
between \$8,000 and \$10,000, and 50
per cent for those costing be-
tween \$10,000 and \$12,500.

Loans to veterans belonging to
the cooperative would carry an
additional 10 per cent of insur-
ance. This means that veterans
buying homes in the \$8,000 and
under class would have the ad-
vantage of 100 per cent insurance.
The measure also provides a waiv-
er of indebtedness in the case of
veterans who contract for dwell-
ings as members of a cooperative
and find it necessary to leave the
community before completing
purchase.

A provision for technical advice
to co-op members is included in
the Legion-supported bill. It fur-
ther provides that a membership
fee of \$100 would be charged all
members. The dues would be
credited as part of the down-pay-
ment on a family unit.

**Sees Threat to
Security of U. S.**

The Nation is living in a
"fool's paradise" insofar as or-
ganization of the armed services'
reserves is concerned, Col. Clar-
ence E. Barnes, president of the
Reserve Officers' Association, de-
clared on Friday.

"Almost without exception,
every reserve officer . . . is ex-
tremely perturbed because of the
snail's pace progress in revitaliz-
ing the reserve program," Col.
Barnes said in the association's
official publication. "The officers
of this country who saw so much
of the last war are uniform in
their belief that we are living in a
fool's paradise; and, unless a real-
istic approach is taken, and soon,
in the utilization of the citizen
soldier in our defense structure,
the security of this country will
be inexcusably precarious."

Last October President Truman
took cognizance of the reserves
and ordered Defense Secretary
Forrestal to institute "vigorous"
programs within 60 days for the
Army and Air Force. Both serv-
ices have appointed high-ranking
officers to direct their programs
and the statement of Col. Barnes
was the first criticism since the
issuance of the order.

As a result of Mr. Truman's
directive, Forrestal also recom-
mended to the President that con-
trol of the Air National Guard be
taken from the states and that its
units be merged with those of the
Air Force Reserve.

The politically powerful Na-
tional Guard Association has at-
tacked the federalization proposal
and has promised to fight it in
Congress. The defense establish-
ment, however, shows no signs of
backing down on the move. In-
stead the Air Force has announced
appointment of a board of high-
ranking officers to study prob-
lems incident to proposed con-
solidation.

"As a preliminary to the draft-
ing of appropriate legislation for
consolidation," the announce-

ment stated, "the committee will
determine the desired structure
of a single federal reserve com-
ponent, as well as size, organiza-
tion and training, within the lim-
itations of manpower, appropria-
tions and installations.

Col. Barnes, calling attention to
National Security Week, said the
occasion afforded an opportunity
to call attention to the lagging
reserve programs.

"We must reconcile our plan-
ning to the forces available as of
now and not predicate the poten-
tial of the components on the pos-
sibility of the legislative enact-
ment of universal military train-
ing," he declared. "We must,
therefore, dispense for all time
with 'paper armies' and have an
immediate allocation of units to
the components."

He called for "at least token
equipment" for the reservists and
a decision as to whether the Re-
serve is to have an actual mis-
sion or be only a pool for men
from which the regular services
might draw.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR '49 POPPY PROGRAM

The following suggestions for the promotion and sale of poppy wreath boards and single poppies were made at the annual poppy meeting, recently held in Oklahoma City. We feel that there are many good ideas here, and perhaps they will stimulate you into enlarging upon them or to even give you new ideas for making the poppy program a big success.

Organization and Sales
Poppy wreath boards should be sold early in April, in order not to interfere with the sale of single poppies in May. Make contacts in February or early in March for the wreath board sale; contact the school superintendents and ask for an appointment to present the program, then request permission to contact the principals or to appear at an assembly; take boards along and tell the poppy story, leaving a board for each room. Ask teachers to call someone person in your post or unit who will work with the schools; have a representative from both unit and post make contact with schools. Use the 'row on row' plan in school rooms, the children in each row buying a board. Request a store window to display the boards with a placard listing the schools or rooms; have the pupils write their names on the board or under each poppy. Give special prizes to children selling the most boards.

Contact rural schools in both wreath board and single poppy sale campaign.

Request every member of the post and unit to buy a poppy wreath board. Write a letter to clubs and organizations explaining the board program and what the board stands for; state you will call on them about the first of April and check how many

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boards to reserve for them. In-
close a postal card addressed back
to the local post chairman.

Hold a business men's stag, de-
livering the invitations personal-
ly; at this meeting tell them
about the poppy program.

At any meeting have a buyer
in the audience who will buy one
board for every board bought by
another person.

Always begin your sales talk
by asking the buyer to take ten,
fifteen or more boards, then re-
duce the figure if necessary, but
set you goal high at first. Never
under sell the poppy program.

Urge every one to display the
boards.

Urge the poppy chairman to
order wreath boards and poppies
well in advance of sales.

Increase orders. Why not ex-
periment and see how many can
be sold, you might be surprised.

Make it a point to enlist, at
least five young members of the
post and poppy unit to work on
the poppy program this year. This
is for the purpose of familiariz-
ing the younger members with
this great program.

Special Sales

Use the poppies for funeral
wreaths, crosses, etc., combine a
few fresh flowers with the pop-
pies as desired; use poppies for
table decorations; dances, parties;
style shows; teas, etc.; for cor-
sages for Gold Star Mothers. For
unit members to wear to mem-
orial services for any party.

Order poppy memorial sprays
from Department Headquarters
for \$3.00 each; credit of twenty-
five poppies is given for each
spray.

Street Sales

Appoint poppy chairmen early;
have eight or more on poppy
committees. Train your new and
younger members in the work.
Hold a meeting of all workers to
explain the poppy program and
inform them how to sell.

Assign at least two persons to
every block or area in the down
town and residential sections.

Have a checking booth conven-
iently located and stagger work-
ers. Put sales tables in entrance
in stores, Post Office or other
buildings where people are pass-
ing.

Request school children, pep
clubs, boy and girl scouts, mem-
bers of clubs and organizations
to help with sales.

Have public talks on the poppy
sales in churches, before clubs
and other meetings; request the
mayor to issue a proclamation for
poppy day.

Train your workers to greet
the public properly and with en-
thusiasm about this great pro-
gram.

Of course, all of these sugges-
tions may not be applicable to
this post but they are worth
thinking over and using as much
as is practical. If you have any
suggestions how to increase pop-
py sales, please let this paper
know and we will be happy to
share them with others.

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Gen. Bradley Warns American People On Neglectful Attitude

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, U. S.
Army Chief of Staff, warned last
Wednesday the American people
risk losing the struggle against
stateism by "default" unless they
stop acting as "10 per cent citi-
zens."

The World War II combat lead-
er asserted the mere possession of
atom bombs is not enough to in-
sure victory in the contest be-
tween personal freedom and state-
ism.

Bradley, in a strongly worded
article in the current issue of Col-
lier's Magazine, assailed what he
termed "atrocious post-war apa-
thy" and lack of individual re-
sponsibility in community and
national welfare affairs.

The former head of the Veter-
ans Administration declared what
America needs is some "old-
fashioned willingness to do the
chores," adding:

"Our danger lies not so much in
a fifth column whose enmity is
avowed. It lies in a first column
of well-meaning American citi-
zens . . . who are 100 per cent
Americans in their daily protest-
ations and 10 per cent citizens in
their daily routine of neglect."

"We are engaged in a contest
today over the integrity of the in-
dividual versus the integrity of
the state. It is a contest as start-
ling dramatic as the air lift into
Berlin. It is a contest in which
ideas are as important as the
atom bomb."

Bradley scored "blind self-in-
terest above country," over-de-
pendence on Washington, and
what he described as "citizenship
by the dollar sign," he said:

"Too many of us have accepted
the dangerous illusion that we can
buy off our responsibilities as
citizens in payment of taxes or by
private donations."

Bradley said the "greatest
cause" for delinquency in citizen-
ship can be traced to a "declining
sense of responsibility in the
home, the church, the school and
the community in which we live."

Legion Buying 25,000 Flags For War I Graves

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The
American Legion is buying 25,000
U. S. Flags, 8 by 12 inches in
size, and shipping them to Europe
for the decoration on next Mem-
orial Day of World War I
graves. The cost is being defrayed
from the earnings of its Over-
seas Graves Decoration Trust.

This year the decoration of
World War I graves is handled
through the Graves Registration
Service of the Army. However,
these World War II cemeteries
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mission after this year. Next year
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ed with assuming the responsibil-
ity for the decoration of all Amer-
ican overseas graves of both
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First Past Legion Chief in Cabinet As Louis Johnson Gets Defense Post

WASHINGTON, D. C.—By his appointment as Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson of Clarksburg, W. Va., has become the first past national commander of The American Legion to achieve cabinet rank. Johnson was named to succeed James V. Forrestal, who resigned.

Johnson was elected national commander of The American Legion at its 14th annual convention at Portland, Ore., September 15, 1932. He served until October 5, 1933. Since then he has held numerous high committee appointments in The American Legion.

His most recent service in The American Legion was as chairman of its Postwar America Commission. This was a group of outstanding Legionnaires which drafted The American Legion's program for postwar economic readjustment.

Johnson served also as American vice-president of FIDAC, the inter-allied organization of 8,000,000 World War I veterans in 11 countries, of which The American Legion was an integral part prior to World War II.

Johnson served as civilian aide to the Secretary of War for West Virginia from 1933 to 1937. He was appointed by the late President Roosevelt to be Assistant Secretary of War, June 28, 1937, serving until July 24, 1940. Subsequently he served in India and Near East as the personal representative of the President of the United States with the rank of Minister.

Born at Roanoke, Va., Johnson was graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree of Bachelor of Law in 1912. He came out of the Officers' Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., November 27, 1917, with the rank of Captain of Infantry. He went overseas with the 80th Division. In the Meuse-Argonne offense in France, he was in action with the 4th, 5th, 80th and 90th Divisions. He was discharged honorably at Camp Dix, N. J., June 5, 1919. The Republic of France decorated him with the rank of commander of the Legion of Honor.

Johnson became a charter member of the Roy E. Parrish Post 13 of The American Legion at Clarksburg, W. Va., in 1919. He is still a member of that post. He served as department commander of the West Virginia American Legion in 1930-31.

Married and the father of two daughters, Johnson is a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church at Clarksburg; a past exalted Elk ruler; past president of Rotary; a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, of the Reserve Officers' Association, of the American and other bar associations, and of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco, Calif.

Churchill to Meet Truman in Boston

NEW YORK.—A meeting between Winston Churchill and President Truman is in the offing, Business Week reports.

They will meet in Boston where both have agreed to address the Mid-century Convocation on Social Implications of Scientific Progress at M. I. T. Churchill speaks on March 31, one day before Truman. Churchill is staying over to see his old friend.

The magazine points out that the meeting will come at a momentous time. The North Atlantic Pact will have been signed, and Churchill will be fresh from his efforts to set up an unofficial organization to push for a United States of Europe.

285 Pilots In Training With 125th Fighter Squadron In Tulsa

When you see those F-51s and B-26s streak through the Tulsa skies, their engines pound a powerful reminder of American air strength, you are viewing this area's fire line of air defense.

Those fighters and attack bombers, belonging to the 125th Fighter Squadron stationed in Tulsa, comprise the closest immediately available force standing between you and the enemy—in the event the latter would choose to attack from the air.

It is no secret that Tulsa, the nerve center of the oil industry, would be a prime target for the enemy in case of war. It was in World War II. The difference now is that potential enemies have perfected aircraft which can fly non-stop from home bases to Tulsa, drop their lethal load, and return.

To build up to full strength, the 125th Fighter Squadron celebrated its second anniversary February 15 with the launching of an intensive recruiting drive.

Lieut. Col. Joseph W. Turner, commanding officer of the 125th, explained Saturday that his squadron, like all others in the United States, is to be an M-Day force, at full strength, trained, equipped and capable of immediate mobilization for both defensive and offensive operations in the event of an attack by an aggressor nation.

The fighting range of Tulsa's 125th is 500 miles, but it must be prepared to mobilize and move anywhere in the United States, or

world, on 24 hours' notice, Col. Turner said.

As of January 1, 1949, there were 865,000 veterans in federal employment, of whom 113,700 were disabled.

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Five Legionnaires on Non-Stop World Flight

FORT WORTH, Texas.—Five of the crew that flew the B-50 Bomber, Lucky Lady II, on the first non-stop flight around the world are members of The American Legion.

That includes the commander of the historic flight which spanned the globe over a 23,452-mile route in 94 hours.

The honor of being the first Legionnaires to fly non-stop around the world is shared by the following:

Captain James Gallagher, flight commander and pilot, who is a member of Melrose, Minn., Post 101.

Captain David B. Parmalee, flight engineer, member of the Darrow-Rebuzzini Post 48 at Guilford, Conn.

First Lieutenant Earl L. Rigor, second navigator, member of the Withycombe Post 11 at Corvallis, Ore.

T/Sgt. Burgess G. Cantrell, radio operator, member of the Clifford-Harold Bentley Post 208 at Pound, Va.

S/Sgt. Robert T. McElroy, radio operator, member of the Truitt-Bishop Post 426 at Alvarado, Texas.

A new anti-submarine destroyer will be named in honor of Vice Admiral John Sidney McCain, World War II hero.

In 25 years the Naval Air Reserve has grown from one base with one seaplane to 27 air stations and 34 satellite units.

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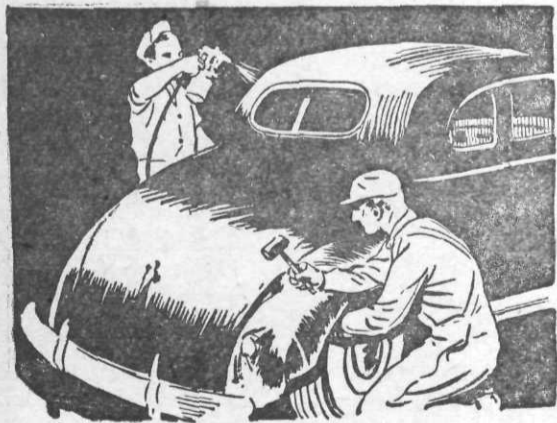
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Committee Passes Bill Providing For Reserve Protection

The Senate Armed Forces Committee on Thursday approved a bill that give members of the Reserve Forces who are injured during training the same benefits as now received by Regulars.

Purpose of the measure is to prevent the decline of many aviation groups and other hazardous duty units due to the lack of protection now extended to these men.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Margaret Chase Smith, of Maine, would wipe out the present distinction between Regulars and Reservists on extended active duty on the one hand and the Reserves serving on short training assignments.

It would make the latter eligible for:

1. Hospitalization as long as necessary when injured during training.

2. Full pay and allowances while undergoing such hospitalization.

3. Retirement pay or pension if permanently disabled.

4. Dependents would get a six months gratuity in event of death.

Witnesses told the committee hundreds of Reservists have been killed or seriously injured during the rigorous training exercises since the war and the inadequacy of disability benefits is badly hampering the Reserve program.

The bill would make Reservists eligible for the benefits if injured while present at an authorized drill for their unit, whether paid for the drill or not. It would be retroactive until VJ-Day, to take care of many back cases. However, it does not extend any additional benefits to Reservists incurring death or disability from illness while in training.

Maj. John E. Downs, commander of Marine Corps Reserve Squadron VMF 321 at Anacostia, testified that few of his fliers will take their 15-day summer train-

ing this year, unless Congress provides some protection for their families.

The Kent-Elrod Post 298 of The American Legion at Bryant, Ark., is now operating a bus to surrounding communities to pick up veterans desiring to attend its meetings.

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State Wide Survey Made On Farm Training

A state-wide survey to determine the progress made by the Veterans Agricultural Training Program is establishing World War II veterans in farming has just been completed, according to J. B. Perky, State Director of Vocational Education. Reports were obtained from 349 Oklahoma high school which have Veterans Agricultural Training departments. These 349 state high schools are operating a total of 727 classes for farm veterans and have a total enrollment of 15,267.

The Veterans Agricultural Training Program, a phase of the training provided for under the G. I. Bill of Rights, is operated by the State Board of Vocational Education in cooperation with local boards of education, and has been in operation in Oklahoma for over two and one-half years. The training program stresses two major objectives: First, the successful establishment of agricultural trainees in farming, and second, the development of their ability to farm successfully.

According to the progress report, 5,181 or about one-third of the trainees now in training, own farms. Over two thousand of this number have purchased land since enrollment in the program. Nine thousand six hundred and seven of the remaining veterans in training are also self-proprietors, but rent their farms or farm in partnership, and 479 are receiving training while being employed by other farmers.

Aside from the purchase of land, the report shows major investments by trainees to be in farm machinery and equipment, and in livestock. Over 36,000 items of farm machinery have been purchased, this figure including 6,185 new and used tractors. Livestock owned by trainees as calculated from the report, totals over a quarter million head. This number includes 102,444 beef cattle, 63,053 dairy cattle, 89,163 hogs, and 10,384 sheep.

About one-half of the veterans in training are now using purebred sires to improve the quality of their livestock. Some of these sires have been made available through cooperative livestock improvement associations formed by trainees. Other important phases of farming which are getting major attention from agricultural trainees are soil conservation and improvement, crop improvement, year-round pasture programs, efficient use of labor, home food production, and modernization of their farm dwellings.

Soil conservation and improvement work has been largely in the form of terracing, contour tilling, crop rotation, seeding of legumes and winter cover crops, and the application of commercial fertilizer. Soil analyses have been made on about one-half of the trainees' farms according to the progress report. Crop improvement is being speeded up by the use of certified seed and better tillage practices. About a million three-hundred thousand acres of Oklahoma's sixteen million acres of cropland are being farmed by veterans agricultural trainees.

Pastures on trainees' farms are being improved by several practices such as weed and brush control, overseeding with other grasses and legumes, and by fertilization. Ninety-four thousand nine hundred and forty-five acres

of cultivated cropland has been returned to pasture and seeded to native grasses on veterans' farms.

Rural electrification is adding much to the efficiency of farm operations and to the convenience of farm living. Since enrollment in the Veterans Agricultural Training Program, 3,878 trainees have installed electricity on their farms, and this number is increasing as rapidly as rural power lines can be extended to reach additional veterans' farms.

According to the survey, 1,062 farm dwellings have been built, and 3,178 other farm homes have undergone major repairs and remodeling. Instructors making the reports from local schools indicated that most of this work has been accomplished by the veterans themselves, with a minimum of hired labor so as to hold costs as low as possible. In addition to the installation of electricity as indicated above, water systems have been installed in 2,044 homes, butane or propane gas in 3,059 and telephones in 2,081. The building and repair of barns, poultry houses, hog houses, and farm fence has also been included in the construction program carried out by the agricultural trainees.

Not the least of the farm veterans' efforts has been directed toward cooperative activities. Throughout the state veterans are organizing in cooperative groups which enable them to do jobs which they could not accomplish individually. Examples of these groups are farm labor pools in which 3,469 trainees are participating, livestock spraying groups with 4,058 members, and livestock improvement associations to which 724 trainees belong.

The progress report indicates that about one out of ten farmers in Oklahoma has or is receiving training in the Veterans Agricultural Training Program. It also shows that a very large share of the money which the Nation is investing in these young farmers is going into land, buildings, livestock, and farm machinery—investments which will pay dividends in the form of stepped-up agricultural production to help meet the country's future needs.

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Songs For 1949

Songs which will be sung by the Auxiliary's trios, quartettes and choruses in the 1949 national music contest have been announced by the National Music Committee, Mrs. John A. Lake-man, Jr., Chairman, as follows:

TRIO—"I Heard a Forest Praying," words by Sam M. Lewis, music by Peter DeRose, arranged by William Stickles and published by Chappell and Co.

Quartette—"Beautiful Dreamer", words and music by Stephen Foster, arranged by Wallingford Riegger and published by Harold Flammer, Inc.

Chorus—"Lullaby of Life," words by Rev. S. J. Stone, music by Henry Leslie and published by H. T. Fitzsimmons Co.

The national contest will be held during the National Convention in Philadelphia in August. Prizes will be: Trio, \$100; Quartette, \$100; Chorus, \$500. Championship groups from each Dept. will be eligible to compete. An award of \$25 will be made to the Department having the most outstanding report on music activities for the year.

Turner Gets Award of Aviation Association

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Colonel Roscoe Turner, noted former speed pilot, vice-chairman of the National Aeronautics Committee of The American Legion, has been awarded an honorary life membership in the National Aeronautics Association. The NAA board of directors cited him specifically for "development of the sport of high-speed, free-for-all racing competitions with heavy planes and for the advancement of aviation progress through the sale of aircraft and the training and instruction of ground, flight and repair personnel for aircraft operations." The formal presentation of the board will be made at the association's annual meeting at Akron, Ohio, next June.

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GI's Won't Receive Insurance "Kitty" Until Late In 1949

Veterans of World War II who
are expecting to share in the two
billion dollar insurance fund
that the Veterans Administration
hopes to distribute this year will
probably have to wait until De-
cember for the splitup, it now
develops.

The immense size of the job
precludes an earlier payoff, ac-
cording to the statisticians who
are working on the job. They feel
they will be doing well to make
the payments by January 1, 1950.

A rough guess is that once the
checks begin to flow, the GIs and
vets who hold or ever held na-
tional service life insurance po-
licies should get their refunds
within two months.

The \$2,000,000,000 figure itself
is an estimate. But it's the best
available guess on the amount of
excess cash accumulated from
NSLI premiums over the last 8
years. When the backlog is paid
off, the VA then will begin pay-
ing policy holders an annual
dividend, just like any other mu-
tual life insurance company.

While this \$2,000,000,000 is
roughly the same amount as the
bitterly contested bonus finally
given to vets of World War I, it
won't cost the taxpayers a cent
except for interest on government
bonds. The big kitty represents
the excess in premiums paid to
the government by the vets them-
selves since Oct. 8, 1940.

These premiums held by the VA
in a trust fund, have filed up to
the staggering total of \$7,000,000,-
000. The money is invested at 3
per cent in government bonds.

Not for some months will the
individual soldier and ex-GI be
able to figure out how much of
the \$2,000,000,000 he is going to
get. But before the checks are
ready for the mail, the VA ex-
pects to make public a dividend
scale.

The VA statisticians and slide
rule boys are now at work trying
to estimate how much of the \$7,-
000,000,000 must be kept as a safe
reserve, and how the dividend
scale can be established to give
everybody a fair break. This,
along with the task of getting the
20,000,000 records in shape, is de-
scribed as the greatest single
bookkeeping job in history.

Asks Congress and FBI Join In Anti-Red Fight

DES MOINES, Iowa.—A joint
Congressional-FBI Committee to
investigate communism was advo-
cated in a speech here by Nation-
al Commander Perry Brown of
The American Legion.

California Heads Legion Rehab Group

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Earl
Merifield of Los Angeles, Calif.,
is the new president of 1949-50 of
the Department Service Officers'
Association of The American Le-
gion. He is department service
officer of the California Ameri-
can Legion.

Merifield was elected at the an-
nual meeting of the association
held here on the eve of the na-
tional rehabilitation conference of
The American Legion.

Oscar Brown of Indianapolis,
department service officer of the
Indiana American Legion, was
re-elected as secretary-treasurer.

Joseph Siciliano of Togus, Me.,
was elected sergeant-at-arms.

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THE LEGION IS THE VETERAN'S FRIEND

(Continued from Page 1)

gion dues goes to his state headquarters. These are the dollars that work for the veteran all over his own state. They secure for him own state legislation with such benefits as certain tax exemptions; adequate care of orphans, veterans' hospitals and many other dividends too numerous to mention.

They also support such worthwhile programs in building for future good citizenship as Junior baseball; boys' state; sponsorship of boy scout troops and other youth programs.

The rest of the veterans' dues goes to the local post with which he affiliates himself. This is the working capital of the American Legion Post. It is its Americanism fund, the child welfare fund which supports post service officer who lines up the entire strength and amassed know-how the American Legion behind the veteran when he is in need. This is the fund which maintains the post club house where he finds good fellowship, understanding, ready help and the opportunity to develop his personal quality of leadership in serving the community, state and nation. This is the money which gives him his membership card which is the greatest passport to good friends everywhere that a veteran can carry. It admits him to any of the thousands of American Legion club houses throughout the U. S. It is the best insurance against being a stranger away from home because it is also a fine means of establishing identity and credit.

The organization of the American Legion to serve veterans is truly amazing. It is built around 17,176 posts, each of which is a potent link in a nation-wide chain of service. This means there is scarcely a cross roads in this country which hasn't got an American Legion post ready to help any American Legion veteran without cost. That help has expert know-how behind it. It has the prestige and influence of millions of organized veterans behind it. It has an unparalleled record of accomplishments for veterans behind it. Virtually every piece of state and federal legislation on behalf of veterans

that is on the statute books in this country today is there because the American Legion put it there. It took strength to put it there. It will take strength to keep it there and for his reason the Carson-Wilson Post must get every veteran available to join the American Legion.

Seek to Lower Sights On Nurse Requirements

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(ALNS) A resolution urging that age and educational requirements in the employment of nurses be liberalized so that the critical nursing service shortage in VA hospitals might be alleviated was adopted by the 26th annual national rehabilitation conference of The American Legion here.

The resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, in many VA Hospitals there are veterans who are seeking admission thereto but who are denied because of lack of nursing services; and

"WHEREAS, in such VA Hospitals there are hospital wards which could be utilized if the nursing shortage were alleviated; and

"WHEREAS, qualified nurses are now being denied employment in the Veterans Administration because of the fact they are over 40 years of age and some because of an inability to comply with present educational qualifications set up by the VA; now

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the executive committee of the National Rehabilitation Commission that administrative action be taken by the administrator of veterans' affairs to modify these arbitrary standards and that any nurse possessing the necessary experience and reasonable qualifications, whether over 40 years or not, be employed in order that the nursing shortage might be alleviated and veterans entitled to hospitalization be given an opportunity of occupying hospital facilities now available."

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Legion Operates Bar

The bar is now open under the auspices of the Legion. Hershel Chism, Bar Chairman, announces that the bar will be open seven nights a week and he encourages all legionnaires to use its facilities and to bring their guests. Chims explains that proceeds from operation of the bar go into a general fund to promote many worthwhile projects of the Post and that when you patronize the bar, you are at the same time helping your organization. The Carson-Wilson bar is one of the few places in Tulsa where you have the privilege of drinking beer and being able to dance at the same time. This is because the Post is placed in a "private club" category.

Legionnaire Chism says that he will welcome suggestions for better operation of the bar. These suggestions should be left with the Adjutant.

Sick and Visitation

Hershel Chism, Sick and Visitation chairman, reports that Eddie Gambill is getting along very well. Ernie Goin has returned home. L. L. Butdige was released from Hillcrest on March 10th. Max Sperber is home from the hospital at Topeka and is awaiting a hearing before the Pension Board at Muskogee. Henry W. Hayden is in room 503 at Saint John's Hospital.

If you know of any other veterans who are ill, please contact Hershel Chism.

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3/11/49

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Chaplain—O. D. Waters.

Bugler—LeRoy Henninger.

Color Bearers — Dee Covington,
Jim Bewley.

Color Guards—Troy Baker, Jim
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