

CARSON-WILSON POST NEWS

VOL 13

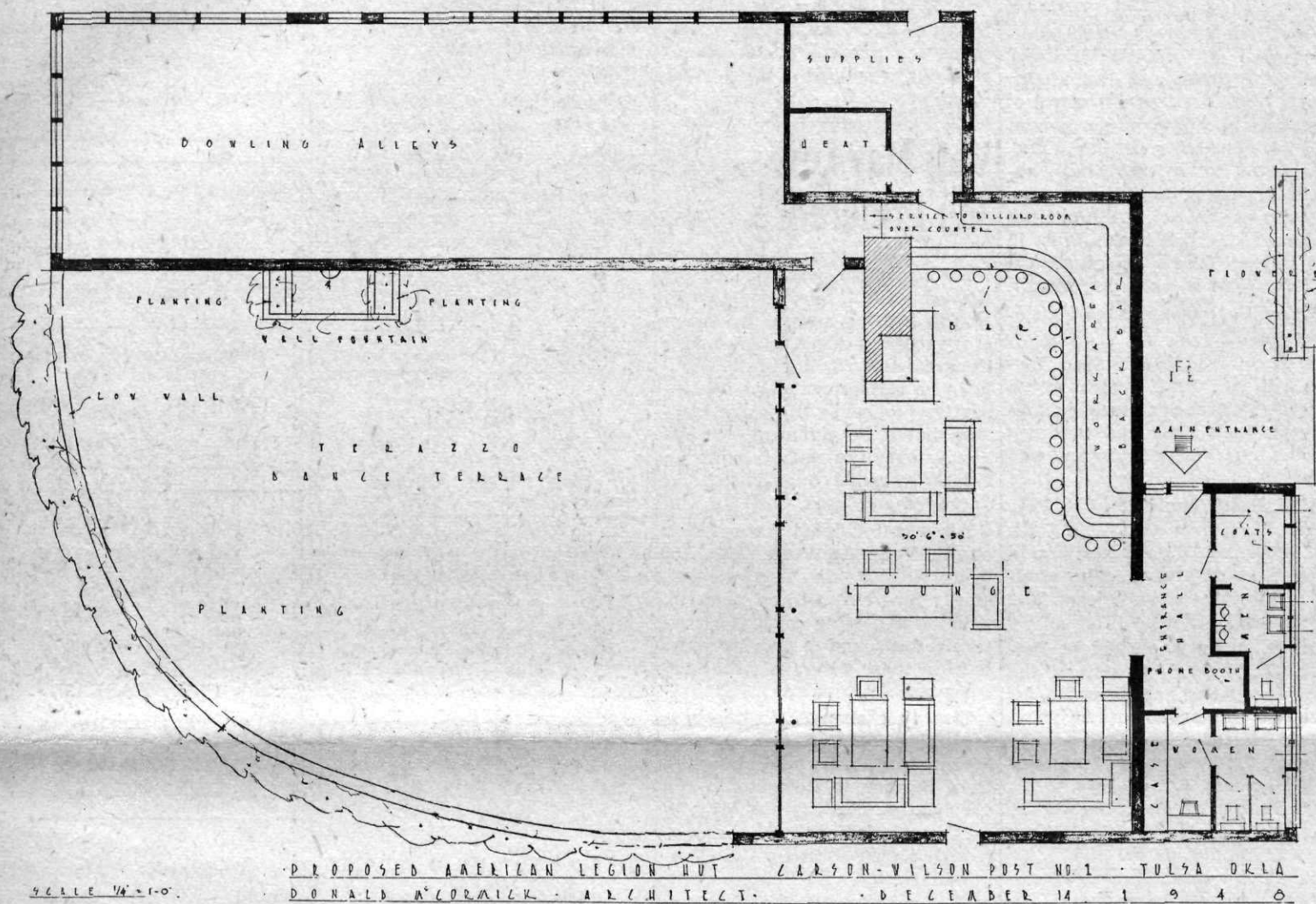
TULSA, OKLAHOMA



JANUARY 28, 1949

No. 20.

It Takes Members to Have This Building



Jet Fighters On Top By 21 Members

The membership drive has been slowed down somewhat due to the weather but from the 14th of January until and for the period ending Tuesday, January 25. The tabulation is as you can see a total of 161 for this period. As stated this number for the period is inadequate but the Commander is inclined to be just a little lenient for the past week due to the bad weather. But if the drive is successful the members of the two teams will have to double their efforts during the campaign to attain the goal set for this drive. A report of the standing of the two teams will be made at the meeting next Tuesday night for the period January 25 to February 1.

The contest will close Friday, February 18. On this date the Commander is arranging for a meal for both teams. The losers are to get nothing but mush. The winners a steak or chicken dinner. In previous years this has been the custom but having prepared several such meals the mush has gone on the left-over list and everybody ate what was supposed to be for the winners.

The Commander states that this drive will be different and that the winners will be served a good substantial dinner and the losers will absolutely have to eat mush or do without. If mush and milk doesn't satisfy you we suggest when the weather clears that you step out and get some new members or eat mush.

With just a little personal effort on the part of the members of both teams the membership drive can't help but be a grand success and will be a grand effort toward the goal set by the Commander for the 1949 membership quota, 4,000.

(Following is an individual breakdown showing memberships brought in this past week):

JET FIGHTERS

Captain — J. Earl Simpson—9
Lt. 1. Bob Howe—4
2. Floyd Long—0
3. Paul O. Neal—8
4. N. H. Davis—8

Members

Arnell, Dick—0.
Barrow, Allen E.—0
Bassett, W. H.—0
Bernard, M. S.—23
Blackford, Cal—2
Brown, Robert B.—1

(Continued on Page 4)

Regular Meeting and Initiation Postponed

The regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, was cancelled due to the weather.

This, as you should know, was the fourth Tuesday of January and the regular initiation. 108 cards were mailed to new members of the post in the last 30 days to notify them to come for initiation. But at the last minute this also had to be cancelled. But only for one week and will positively be held on Tuesday, February 1. So, if you received a card keep the card and show up at next Tuesday's meeting.

A great number of new members of this post have failed to report for initiation in the past and while it is not absolutely obligatory that you take the oath of the Legion, but a very nice gesture and we would suggest that if you have never taken the obligation that you also report next Tuesday.

Sam Craig Donates Elaborate Sound System To Local Post

Through the generous offer of Legionnaire Sam Craig, the Carson-Wilson Post now has an elaborate sound system installed in the post building. This equipment is not entirely completed, however, should be within a few days.

The equipment installed will handle radio broadcasts, will record rebroadcasts and phonograph records. It is all the very latest in sound devise and estimated to be worth more than \$500. The local post is only out a few dollars for the expense of a cabinet to house the equipment. Labor for the cabinet is donated through the courtesy of Walter Deppe, George Turner and Whitie Martin.

Comrade Craig is to eventually be repaid for this equipment at the small return of \$10 each time it is used at a Legion function where an admission is charged. As an example if this is used at a dance, stag or such.

Special Request

Any member having phono-

40-8 Under Repairs

40 et 8 are working on their new home at 17½ East 3rd now. Anyone wishing to volunteer their service in this venture can report to Eddie Gambill at this address and he will be more than glad to put you to work.

The 40 et 8 still have their legal headquarters at the hut and will not move for at least 2 or 3 weeks.

You Think We Have It Rough!

Police in New York are searching for thieves who broke into the clubhouse of the Captain Belvedere Brooks Post 450 of The American Legion at 270 West 96th Street and made off with a deluxe television set. It weighed 400 pounds.

graph records that he wishes to donate to the Legion kindly get in touch with Sam Craig or the post adjutant. They will certainly be greatly appreciated.

Auxiliary Boosting The National Security Conference at Enid Feb. 5-6

A state-wide National Security Conference has been scheduled for February 5th and 6th and will be held in Enid, Okla. Extensive plans are being made by the Legion and Auxiliary for this Conference and we hope to have representatives from every Post and Unit in attendance.

The program will be opened with a dinner Saturday evening, February 5th. Dr. M. L. Wardell of the University of Oklahoma, will be the speaker at this dinner. A dance and entertainment is being planned by the Enid Unit and Post to conclude the evening. Open House will be held at the Air Field Sunday morning. There will be a buffet luncheon in the Legion Hall at noon and the afternoon session will feature nationally known speakers.

We have been able to secure Mrs. O. W. Hahn of Omaha, Neb., Past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary and

(Continued on Page 8)

DANCE

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT — 10 - 2
American Legion Hut

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Ladies50

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EDDIE J. SHIELDS, Ed. Staff
DEXTER MOSS, JR., Adv. Mgr.
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Welcome.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS LETTER

WASHINGTON (ALNS)—With
the major portion of its top prior-
ity legislation already in the hop-
per of the 81st Congress, The
American Legion will move its
shock troops into the Nation's
Capital, Jan. 27, to commence the
battle for enactment of its bills.
On that date the 20-member na-
tional legislative commission of
the Legion will convene for a
three-day meeting.

At the same time 18 members
of the Legion's national security
commission will meet here to plan
national grass-roots action for
the passage of The American Le-
gion's own universal military
training bill which has now been
introduced in both houses of Con-
gress. Presented during the first
week of the current congressional
session by Sens. Millard Tydings
(D., Md.) and George Malone (R.,
Nev.) and tagged S. 66, the UMT
measure has just been placed with
the House of Representatives by
Rep. Charles E. Bennett (D., Fla.)
a former member of the Legion's
national legislative commission
and a paraplegic veteran of
World War II. It has been num-
bered H. R. 1305 and referred to
the House Armed Services Com-

mittee. House committees still
have not been named so there is
no firm indication as to when
hearings on UMT will commence.
National Commander Perry
Brown, however, has promised to
press for early consideration of
the measure in both houses of
Congress.

More Legislation Introduced

A host of bills carrying out Le-
gion mandates was introduced
during the past week. Heading
the list are the 11 top rehabili-
tation measures of the Legion.
Co-introduced in the Senate by
Sen. Ernest W. McFarland (D.,
Ariz.) and Sen. Edwin C. John-
son (D., Colo.) the bills include
the Legion's old-age pension for
veterans plan, an across-the-board
cost-of-living increase in the com-
pensation of disabled veterans,
widows, orphans and dependents,
and a liberalization of require-
ments for eligibility to permanent
and total disability pension. Rep.
Harold A. Patton (D., Ariz.), im-
mediate past department com-
mander of the Arizona American
Legion, introduced the bills in
the House. Also sponsoring them
is Rep. John Rankin (D., Mass.).

Other Legion supported legisla-
tion includes:

S. 125, introduced by Sen. Lis-
ter Hill (D., Ala.) which would
provide for one national ceme-
tery in each state and territory
for the burial of veterans and war
dead.

H. J. Res. 45, submitted by Rep.
John J. Rooney (D., N.Y.) for
the issuance of a postage stamp in
commemoration of the 30th anni-
versary of the founding of The
American Legion.

H. R. 8, by Rep. Wright Pat-
man (D., Texas), to extend the
time for filing applications for
payment of World War I adjusted
service certificates under provi-
sions of the Adjusted Compensa-
tion Payment Act of 1936.

H. R. 83, by Rep. Chester E.
Morrow (R., N. H.), to outlaw
the Communist party.

S. 91, by Sen. Homer Fergu-
son (R., Mich.) to protect U. S.
citizens against mob violence and
lynching.

H. R. 542, by Rep. Edward H.
Rees (R., Kans.), to provide for
uniform administration of effi-
ciency ratings in civil service.

H. R. 274, by Rep. Chauncey
W. Reed (R., Ill.), to revise and

codify the Pensions and Veterans
Code.

S. 246, by Sen. Elbert D. Thom-
as (D., Utah), to provide federal
aid for education in the states.

H. Con. Res. 7, by Rep. Phillip
J. Philbin (D., Mass.), to provide
for a 70-group air force.

H. R. 318, by Rep. Carl Vinson
(D., Ga.), to provide death and
disability benefits for members of
the reserve components of the
armed forces.

H. R. 25, by Rep. Homer D. An-
gell (R., Ore.), to give statehood
to Alaska.

S. 156, by Sens. William Know-
land (R., Calif.), and Guy Gordon
(R., Ore.), to grant statehood to
Hawaii.

H. R. 441, by Rep. Kenneth B.
Keating (R., N. Y.), to give allow-
ances for private burial of re-
patriated war dead of World War
II.

Vets May Lose Job Preference

Authoritative sources disclose
that the Civil Service Commis-
sion is drafting a program of em-
ploye reforms that it will soon ask
Congress to write into law. Like-
ly to be recommended in its leg-
islative program will be a sugges-
tion that it be given greater au-
thority over the salaries paid the
500,000 so-called wage board and
ungraded employees.

Also contemplated is a revision
of the Veterans' Preference Act
to provide 5 or 10 preference
points for only those veterans
who make passing grades on civil
service tests, and to give 10 points
only to those veterans who have
compensable injuries.

Sweeping changes in the sal-
ary-fixing Classification Act—an
overhauling that would allow the
Civil Service to delegate to the
various agencies the authority to
fix the salaries of their jobs, sub-
ject to a post-audit by the Com-
mission is likewise being consid-
ered.

The Veterans Administration is
reported to have frozen its em-
ployment at present levels in pre-
paring to wipe out 10,000 jobs by
next June 30.

"This won't mean 10,000 em-
ployees will be discharged," a
spokesman said, "many of the

positions are now vacant and oth-
ers will be vacant before June
30." He suggested that most of
the cut back could be brought
about by normal turnover and
through the process of abolishing
vacant jobs.

However, the personnel freeze
is an indication that VA won't ap-
peal to Congress for more money
than was recommended by the
President in his budget. Mr. Tru-
man has asked the Congress to
give VA \$1,300,000,000 less than
it has for the present fiscal year.
Several Members of Congress
have indicated they will try to
get additional funds.

The VA now has about 183,155
employees in its field service. Its
1950 budget would provide for
an average of 173,941, or about
9,200 less.

A year ago the President's
budget also called for a slash of
10,000 VA jobs, but it never took
place. The Congress overruled
the Administration on the slash.
When it failed to get either the
VA or the Budget Bureau to offi-
cially ask for the money to pre-
vent any layoff, the Congress in-
dependently gave VA the money
to retain most of its employees.

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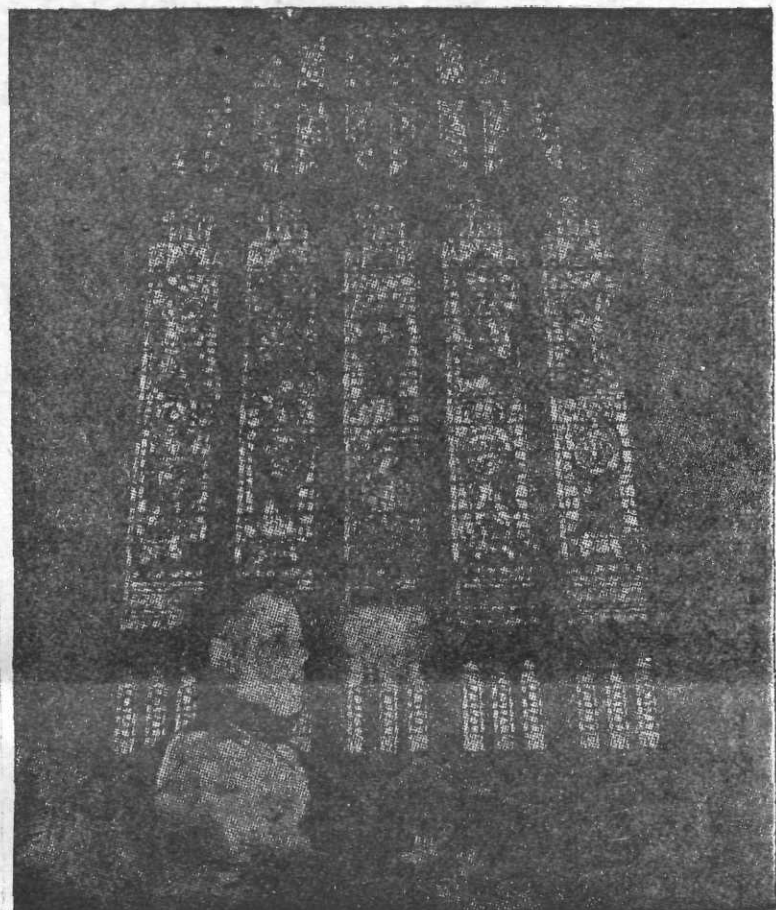
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Speech
Press - and
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This is the eighth of a series of educational messages brought to you as a reminder that THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE has made us the healthiest, wealthiest and happiest nation in the world. It is sponsored by the following firms and individuals who know our system must be maintained for the benefit of humanity.

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THE OIL DIGEST

Monthly Digest of the Petroleum Industry

JET FIGHTERS

(Continued from Page 1)

- Brooks, Charles L.—0
- Beals, Harold—0
- Burdge, L. L.—3
- Balay, George—0
- Coddington, Glenn H.—1
- Covington, N. D.—0
- Cain, C. C., Jr.—0
- Clark, Charles—0
- Camp, Clarence R.—0
- Cochran, John—0
- Calkins, A. B.—0
- Chism, Herschel, Jr.—1
- Degen, Sol—0
- Ditchkus, Mike—0
- Douglas, G. N.—0
- Erickson, Oscar—0
- Eckman, Grant L.—0
- Farringer, Jack—0
- Gaddis, Irene—0
- Gambill, Eddie—1
- Garrett, C. M.—0
- Gunn, Gus—0
- Herman, Joe—2
- Halley, Harry—0
- Howe, Denny—0
- Hotchkiss, Robert L.—1
- Harris, W. H.—0
- Higgins, J. C., Sr.—0
- Hunt, Jim—1
- Hill, Leonard J.—0
- Johnston, C. C.—0
- Jarvis, A. R.—0
- King, Jimmy, Sr.—0
- Kay, H. V.—5
- King, James—0
- Knight, Earl M.—0
- Lynn, Joe—0
- Markham, Lon—0
- Marshall, Ed—0
- Moss, Dexter, Jr.—2
- McCright, Lester—1
- Norvell, George E.—0
- Nicholson, Clarence E.—0
- Nelson, H. K.—0
- Porter, Jack—0
- Peacock, Bob—0
- Prigmore, Charles T.—0
- Rollins, Bill—0
- Roberts, M. C.—0
- Scott, G. H.—0
- Smith, Fred—0
- Streck, I. B.—0
- Sternbach, Jake—0
- Stephens, A. L.—0
- Taylor, E. J.—2
- Tankersley, R. N.—1
- Thompson, Elmo—0
- Tucker, Ralph W.—2
- Veach, Virgil—2
- Woodard, Chick—2
- Walker, Linus—0
- Wienecke, Ed—0
- Wallace, Ralph E.—0
- Wilson, Winthrop H.—0
- Williams, George—3
- Waters, O. D.—6
- Wilson, A. E.—0
- Wilde, Cleve—0
- Total — 91.

HOT SHOTS

- Captain — Ralph Harrison—14
- Lt. 1. Walter Deppe—4
- 2. Sam Burnham—4
- 3. Sam Craig—0
- 4. Roger Lavery—6

Members

- Allred, J. B.—1
- Allen, Edna—0
- Aaron, William—0
- Bewley, Jim—0
- Brewer, E. D.—0
- Barnett, C. L. R.—4
- Baker, Troy—2
- Bullock, Fred—0
- Bohannon, Clinton J.—0
- Belford, Guy, Jr.—11
- Burns, L. A.—0
- Chaffin, Leslie A.—0
- Crossland, Hess—0
- Chapman, L. O.—0
- Davis, Bob—0
- Easter, S. H.—1
- England, Fred—0
- Egan, Georgette Mayo—1
- Earley, Hank—0
- Fales, Warren S.—1
- Faulkner, Joe—0
- Faulkner, Alex—1
- Fry, John L., Jr.—0
- Galloway, Bert—0
- Gittinger, C. O.—0
- Griffith, F. F.—0
- Holden, Charles A.—0
- Hurst, J. E. Bert—0
- Hickman, Dr. C. S.—0
- Howe—Sam—0
- Harolson, Ralph—0
- Hynes, J. D.—0
- Jarvis, Robert W.—0
- Johnson, William B.—0
- King, Robert 7.—0
- King, Kenneth C.—0
- Koenig, Otto—0
- Kile, Don C.—0
- Long, W. J. F.—1
- Long, Richard—2
- Leman, Janeal—0
- Leitch, Autry A.—0
- Moreland, T. J.—0
- Moss, Jim—3

Legion to Train Picked Leaders in Ways of Exposing Commie Activities

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The American Legion will conduct the first of its scheduled four 1949 schools of instruction in effective techniques of combatting subversive activities on February 5 and 6 in New York City.

Planned on an area basis, the other school conferences will be held as follows:

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., February 12 and 13.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., February 19 and 20.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., February 26 and 27.

Because of the semi-confidential nature of these conferences, they will be closed to the general public, according to Archie M. Closson, of Lodi, Calif., chairman of the National Americanism Commission's sub-committee on subversive activities.

"These are purely conferences designed to train officials of The American Legion in the latest ways and means of exposing subversive activities and individuals," Chairman Closson said. "Attendance will be limited to trained Americanism workers, such as department, district, county and post chairmen who have been approved and designated for this instruction by the department organizations of The American Legion."

Numerous authorities and experts on Communism and other subversive groups will appear before The American Legion conferences.

They will include:

Elizabeth Bentley, Vassar graduate and former Communist, whose testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee broke the whole Alger-Hiss-Whitaker-Chambers red spy scandal.

Dr. J. B. Matthews, orientalist and professor of Arabic, Sanscrit and Persian, former fellow traveler, who broke with the Communist Party in 1935 and became

chief investigator for the House Committee.

Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, author of a series of articles on "Communists Invade the Churches," which led to his resignation from his pulpit at Westchester, N. Y., and who is now director of The American Jewish League Against Communism.

Benjamin Gitlow, founder of the Communist Party of the United States, first Communist sent to prison for criminal anarchism, who was purged by Joe Stalin in Moscow in 1929. He is now a lecturer and author of a recent book, "The Whole of Their Lives."

Eugene Lyons, former United Press correspondent in Moscow, and author of "The Red Decade," and other books on Communism.

- Mitchell, Harry O.—8
- McCrary, C. C.—0
- Murray, T. D.—0
- Newman, Garrett—2
- Norton, Joe—1
- O'Brien, Charley—0
- Pope, Harry A.—1
- Rocka, Bob—0
- Risinger, Brad—1
- Rabbitt, George—0
- Rupe, Pat—0
- Storm, Foster—0
- Swaze, Jess E.—0
- Stenson, Frank—0
- Saxon, Mike, Sr.—0
- Tomlins, H. V.—0
- Trice, Howard—0
- Underwood, J. B.—0
- Victory, C. C.—0
- Walker, William 0
- Webb, Carl H.—1
- Welch, L. V.—0
- Total—70.

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Jerry Glikesman, former Polish Socialist and veteran of Russian enforced labor camps, who is author of "Tell the West."

Samuel M. Birnbaum, department judge advocate of the New York American Legion, an authority on the legal aspects of the Communist conspiracy.

Ben Mandel, Director of Research for the House Committee.

Miss Bentley, Dr. Matthews and Gitlow will appear at all four conferences.

A feature article in The American Legion Magazine for January, 1949, on the "Normandy In-

vasion Route — Then and Now" showing a French village mayor holding the D-Day issue of The Nashua, N. H. Telegraph, has caused the publisher, B. E. Warren, to send a reporter to France to find out how the copy of the paper got there.

The first special home for wheel chair living under American Legion sponsored Public Law 702 which provides government financial aid up to \$10,000, is being built at Richmond, Va., for Bernard Shufelt, 27, president of the National Association of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

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Legion, Others Had 4,154,705 Members In 1948

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The American Legion and its three affiliated groups, mustered a final strength of 4,154,705 members in 31,202 organization units.

The official figure with which The American Legion closed its 1948 membership books on midnight of Dec. 31 was 3,087,044. It made it the third consecutive year in which American Legion national enrollment exceeded the 3,000,000 mark, the others being 1946 and 1947.

National Commander Perry Brown is determined to beat the 1948 membership record this year. The American Legion is off to a flying start in its 1949 membership campaign, with the enrollment during the first half of January running some 50,000 ahead of a year ago.

Here are the final official membership figures for 1948 for The American Legion and its affiliated groups:

American Legion, 3,087,044 members in 17,176 posts.

American Legion Auxiliary, 959,754 members in 12,818 units.

Forty and Eight, 94,267 members in 936 voitures.

Eight and Forty, 13,640 members in 362 salons.

Carlisle Reed Elkins, 55, of Greenville, a past department commander of the South Carolina American Legion (1927-28) and member of the Paris Caucus, died at Atlanta, Ga., where he has been a VA official.

A Salute to the Past And Challenge to The Future

The exciting evolution of Carson-Wilson Post from its historic beginning to the hope of its bright future was dramatically brought to mind early this week when General Alva Niles, Past Post Commander, sent some of his personal memoirs associated with his duties as Commander to Glenn Condon, also a Past Commander. General Niles was a founder of the American Legion and was a member of the Committee on Preamble.

With the permission of Mr. Condon, the News is reprinting this letter to bring back pleasant memories to the older members of the post and with the hope that it will instill a sense of pride in the new members as well as acting as an impetus for them to carry on the great work which these early Legionnaires started.

"My Dear Glenn:

Recently I have gone through files connected with my flight through many pages of history, most of which I have destroyed. Occasionally I ran across something that is connected with you and Joe Carson Post No. 1. As for instance: early in 1919 when you called a meeting of the few "returned" veterans of World War I together with patriotic citizens of Tulsa, to form a reception committee to welcome the others upon their return. This meeting, as you will remember, was held at the Tulsa Court House and was the meeting at which was organized the FIRST American Legion post in the United States. . . . Joe Carson Post No. 1. Do you remember the "Arch of Triumph" which was built across Main Street between Fourth and Fifth, through which the returning soldiers marched and were properly acclaimed?

Though you were at the time not only a distinguished soldier of the Marines, you were also an Editor of one of our nation's outstanding newspapers. (Tulsa World) in which were published articles connected with the organization of Joe Carson Post that came from your heart. It was through you and by you that the Carson-Wilson Post was organized. The inclosures are some of my files that show some of the trials and tribulations through which the biggest and highly useful organization in the United States, The American Legion, has passed.

The American Legion was created and organized in the minds of men like you and it will go on to do bigger things in the future."

Sincerely,
ALVA J. NILES.

Included in the inclosures mentioned above were cancelled checks dating back to the Legion's early days in 1919. One was a check signed by General Niles and dated Jan. 9, 1920, for the first set of post colors. The General made a notation that these colors were carried in many a national convention parade and a silver band for each year was placed on the staffs. Eddie Shields informs us that these colors are still preserved at the hut. There were many other checks signed by General Niles for use in the building fund of the present hut as well as his financial support of other worthwhile projects.

One check dated Christmas 1948 had the notation on it "An appreciation of Glenn Condon—

a highly useful American and veteran of World War No. 1." This check upon the approval of Glenn has gone into the treasury.

The editorial staff of this paper humbly salutes General Niles and Glenn Condon for their unselfish services and continued loyalty to this post. We hope that their magnificent spirit of service will serve to inspire new Legionnaires to keep faith with the original intentions of these founders. We believe that it is our sacred duty to cherish this heritage advanced to us by the founders and to strive to better serve God and Country as ACTIVE members of Carson-Wilson Post. We must be united as one to reach this goal.

G. C.

Yanks Sign Star 1948 Legion Junior Pitcher

BALTIMORE, Md.—Dick Carr, 18, star right-hand pitcher for the 1948 Junior Baseball team of the Westport Post 33 of The American Legion in Baltimore, has been signed by the New York Yankees. He is believed to be the first ace graduate of the 1948 American Legion Junior Baseball program to land in the major leagues.

Thirteen major league clubs were after the young hurler. He pitched Westport Post's team to a sparkling 1 to 0 victory over the Trenton, N. J., nine during sectional play at Manchester, N. H., last August. The Trenton team subsequently won the national title. In the Manchester contest Carr allowed only three hits in 14 inning, struck out 17 and faced only 44 batters, just two more than absolute minimum.

The Jimmie Lynn Post 186 of The American Legion at Alice, Texas, has announced it would sponsor a "Reprieve Bowl" post-season football game there Dec. 29, 1949, for teams which did not win a single game during the season.

...TAPS...

Pfc. Herbert McGrew
s/n 3859004

Killed August 2, 1944 in France. Memorial service was held in Assembly of God church in Pryor, Okla., Saturday Jan. 15, at 11 a. m.

Funeral under direction of the Green Funeral Home of Pryor and burial was in Tulsa at Rose Hill Cemetery at 2 p. m.

Graveside services were conducted by Carson-Wilson Post No. 1 American Legion of Tulsa.

Commander, Joseph F. Herman

Chaplain, O. D. Waters.

Bugler, LeRoy Henninger.

Service Officer, Frank H. J. Crawley.

Colors, Wm. Walker and James P. Bewley.

Color guards, Lundy Crowder, C. F. Sheldon, Rowland Chastain, Tom Arrington, Sam Craig, Ralph Wilkerson, Harry D. Cook, Joe Norton.

To those members that assisted on this funeral, we want to congratulate as the weather was so bad. When so many people assist and accompany the funeral of their comrade and friend it shows the real Americanism of the United States of America.

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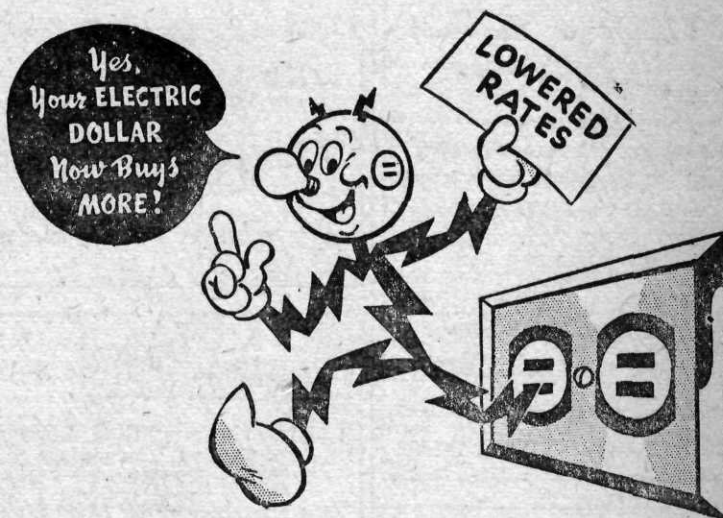
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Chief Investigator Is Guest Speaker of Geo. Washington Post 1

Robert E. Stripling, the 36-year old Texan, who has been an outstanding figure as chief investigator of the House Un-American Activities Committee, was the principal speaker at the annual "Past Commanders' Night" of George Washington Post No. 1, the American Legion, in Washington, D. C., recently. It was also "ladies night" and a large attendance was on hand for the event.

Stripling, who is a member of the post, with his soft speaking voice, outlined the highlights in connection with the recent Communist spy case, which has been attracting world-wide attention and concluded its activities last week. He carried his auditors over a trail covering several years past and expressed a preference to calling this the "Pumpkin Case" rather than the "Red Herring" case. Now that the grand jury in New York City has taken over, as well in the District of Columbia, he is retiring to his Texas home for a long rest. He has concluded his report and it will in all probability be made public soon. Except for his service in the Army in World War II, the speaker has been with the committee since its founding 10 years ago. Prior to joining the committee staff he was for eight years with former Representative Martin Dies, of Texas, who was first chairman of the committee. At the conclusion of Stripling's address, he was complimented by Past Department Commander Amos A. Fries, who said that 28 years ago while he was serving on a national committee, the Communists were boring within the Government causing the Ameri-

can Legion to condemn such subversive activities. At the conclusion of a sort quiz session, which followed Stripling was given a rising vote of thanks for his splendid address.

A brief memorial service was held for deceased past commanders of the post since the post was founded March 7, 1919. As the roll of past commanders was called by Adj. James J. Murphy, a candle was lighted in their honor and at the conclusion of the service they were slowly extinguished while the post bugler sounded Taps in the far distance. Past Commanders responding present during the roll call included Howard S. Fisk, James J. Murphy, Bernard C. McGee, Amos A. Fries, Charles S. Beilman, William A. Corley, George F. Hooven, Chas. L. Schuettler, John Lewis Smith, Jr.

Another interested ceremony during the evening was the presentation of a past commander's jewel to John Lewis Smith, Jr., son of John Lewis Smith, Sr., past national commander in chief of the United Spanish War Veterans, who served the post with distinction last year. The presentation was made by Past Department Commander Amos A. Fries, who complimented him on his outstanding year. Adj. James J. Murphy presented him with a citation for his services. Smith responded with appropriate remarks.

A brief address was made by Owen C. Holleran, national executive committeeman, who served last year as department com-

mander, during which he lauded the work of the post and its members and urged a continuation of the unselfish and outstanding work which it has carried on since 1919.

The meeting was presided over by J. Burton Morris, post commander, who is planning for the 30th anniversary which will take place March 7, 1949. The evening concluded with dancing and refreshments.

Legion Drummer Fatally Stricken During Parade

WASHINGTON. (ALNS) — An American Legion drummer was the only fatality reported during the presidential inaugural parade here.

Edmund P. R. Holt, 65, a member of the crack drum and bugle corps of the Herbert Paul Lentz Post 29 of Allentown, Pa., was fatally stricken by a heart attack while marching in the parade. He had walked more than half of the parade route with his corps when he collapsed on Pennsylvania Avenue, in full view of thousands of spectators. He was taken to Washington Emergency hospital. He died there even while his fellow corpsmen were participating in the parade attendant to the first inauguration of a Legionnaire President.

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Medical Survey Board Recommends Closing of Three Army Hospitals

A special Medical Survey Board has recommended closing of three military general hospitals in a program to consolidate medical facilities used by the three armed services.

The board was headed by Dr. Paul R. Hawley, former chief medical director of the Veterans Administration. Its report to Jas. Forrestal, Secretary of Defense, proposed that these three hospitals be closed.

The United States Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor; McCormick General Hospital, Pasadena, Calif., and the 22d (Army) General Hospital, Guam.

Forrestal, releasing the report, said he had neither reviewed nor approved it. He said the type of recommendations indicate, however, that important progress is being made toward effective co-ordination of the military medical services.

The Hawley Board said its report was made with a view to:

1. Effecting all practical economies in the use of funds.
2. Making the best use of the limited medical personnel available.
3. Conserving the effective strength of military manpower.
- 4 Reducing large costs involved (in funds and man-days lost) when patients are transferred long distances from their stations of duty.

The board also recommended that 48 Army station hospitals, which now take patients for a limited period be reduced to dispensaries that do not take patients. Eleven of these station hospitals are located overseas.

The board recommended that in 38 areas general hospital-type patients be sent to a nearby gen-

eral hospital of another service rather than to a more distantly located hospital of the patient's own branch of service.

President Truman, in his budget message, also called for a cut-back in hospital facilities for veterans. He asked cancellation of 24 new projects and reductions in 14 additional proposed hospitals.

The Hawley Board report is regarded in some quarters as an answer to recommendations made by a subcommittee of the Hoover Commission on reorganization of the executive branches of the Government.

The Hoover subcommittee recommended consolidating hospital facilities which are operated by the Veterans Administration, Public Health and Indian Affairs with military general hospitals. The military general hospitals treat complicated cases or those requiring long-term care.

The Hawley Board said it considers "a fundamental principle—that hospitalization of military personnel, in peace and in war, is an integral and essential part of the mission of the medical departments of the armed forces."

The board said while it has given much thought to the feasibility of hospitalizing a large number of military patients in civilian and nonmilitary hospitals, it concluded there are too many inherent and necessary differences.

It said "tremendous administrative difficulties and problems" such as record-keeping, would arise in sending any considerable part of military personnel to civilian hospitals.

July 3, 1949, is the deadline for entries in the national post history contest of The American Legion in which \$300 in cash prizes will be awarded.

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Not only is February the month in which to hold our Americanism program but it is also the birth month of two of our greatest and most revered Presidents, George Washington, who gave us our cherished Freedom and Abraham Lincoln for proving that a "House divided cannot stand"; that in a free world, all people must be free, regardless of race, color or creed. **FREEDOM**—like the human body—must be nourished in order to survive and that daily nourishment is giving out best in word, thought and deed.

The Americanism Contest will be held as a Department Contest this year. Rules of contest:

Subject and title: "American Freedoms—Now and Forever."

Length: 500 words or less.

Eligibility: All pupils of Junior High School (7th, 8th, and 9th) and Senior High School (10th, 11th and 12th) shall be eligible to compete.

Department Award: \$25.00 cash award to winner of each classification.

All essays must be typed, double spaced, on one side of paper only, to be entered in Department contest. Name of student, age and grade, school and town, must be placed on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the essays submitted to the Department Chairman.

One or more judges may be members of the American Legion or Auxiliary, provided that no judge is a parent of a contestant.

Each unit must submit the winning essay from Junior High School and the winning essay from Senior High School to: Mrs. A. A. Stoll, Department Americanism Chairman, 1423 Pine St., Clinton, Okla. (Only one essay from Junior High and one from Senior High may be sent to the Department.

All essays to be entered in the contest must be in the hands of the Department Chairman by April 15, 1949.

More information can be secured by contacting Mrs. E. L. Cole, Americanism Chairman at 6-1608.

It is pertinent that all Officers of our Auxiliary attend the meetings unless you have a legitimate excuse—weather of course at this time is bad and is a perfect excuse—but as soon as this ice and snow clears away, you will be expected to attend all meetings. You have a particular job to do and in order to make the performance of your office a perfected duty, it will be well for you to be informed of all activities—there are just 6 more months until the expiration of your term of office, so let's all do our jobs and make our organization distinguished.

February Calendar:

Business Meetings February 1.
 Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12.
 Valentine Day, Feb. 14.
 Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22.
 District meeting to be held in Enid, Okla., Feb. 5 and 6.

(Dinner meeting to be announced at a later date).

MEMBERSHIP—Combined efforts of all members is needed to affect a 100% goal in our membership—We are informed that Oklahoma City Unit has reached their 100% quota January 25th—Tulsa can go over this—so let's all make a record and do our bit by bringing in new members—ask your grocer's wife, your doctor, your druggist, your milkman and ask them to ask the employees of their organizations. All of these are good leads and each of you ask each other—"how many members do you have to hand in?" This membership can be accomplished and a lot of good work is being done to bring about good clean fellowship and to make our hut a place where you can ask your daughter to join with you in making the American Legion and Auxiliary outstanding.

AUXILIARY CONFERENCE IN ENID FEBRUARY 5 & 6

(Continued from Page 1)

recently Chief of Women's Affairs for the United States Occupation Zone in Germany, as one of the speakers at this Conference. Her message alone will be worth your effort to attend. In addition, the Legion will have outstanding speakers for their part of the program.

Oklahoma's representatives to the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Security, Mrs. Willis C. Reed, Mrs. J. Sam Johnson, and I, will return from the National meeting in Washington, D. C., January 30. Vital information from that conference will be passed on at our state meeting.

This is a meeting for all interested in the security of our Nation. We want you to make special note of this date, give this program wide publicity in your local papers and plan to attend this meeting. See that the invitation to attend is extended to everyone in your community. For hotel reservations in Enid, write to MRS. GRACE ANDRUS, care of Youngblood Hotel, Enid, Okla.

Tickets for the dinner Saturday night must be purchased in advance. They are \$1.50 each and will be reserved for you by sending check to MR. A. B. MELICK, 309 North Van Buren, Enid, Okla. Please send for your tickets by February 2 so they will know how many to plan for. The tickets will be delivered to you at the registration desk in the Youngblood Hotel at the time you register for the Conference.

With your help we can make this an outstanding Conference. Please cooperate by urging attendance from your town and by getting the dinner reservations in by February 2nd.—Mrs. George Redman, Department National Security Chairman.

Topeka, Kansas has been chosen by the delegates of the Area D American Legion child welfare conference meeting at Milwaukee, Wis., for their 1950 session.

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Legion Scores Economy at Expense Of Veteran

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The American Legion is squaring off for an all-out fight against purported economy moves in government expenditures practiced only at the expense of veterans.

John H. Walsh, of Newtonville, Mass., chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission of The American Legion, made this clear in blasting the \$280,000,000 slash in the VA hospital construction program. Carl Gray, Jr., VA chief, announced the cancellation of 24 approved new hospital projects and a cut back in 14 others, which wiped out 16,000 beds.

"The march of economy in government expenditures at the expense of veterans is on again," said Chairman Walsh. "The attack has reached its initial objective. Supported by proposals of The American Hospital Association, the recommendation of the Hoover's Commission's subcommittee on federal medical services and an alleged plea for economy in government spending, the drive to drastically reduce this benefit is now officially announced.

"At a time when there are 2,000,000 veterans of World Wars being compensated for service-incurred and service-aggravated disabilities, when thousands of new claims are pending adjudication and when nearly 15,000 veterans are awaiting hospital admission, we will strenuously fight curtailment of the VA hospital construction program."

Chairman Walsh pointed out that out of 103,000 hospitalized veterans today, 35,000 are listed as service-connected; 38,000 are suffering from tuberculosis, psychotic or neuropsychiatric ailments listed as non-service-connected and 30,000 are in the general medical and surgical group.

"What is to become of them?" he asked. "What will be the situation five or ten years hence when many of the insidious ailments encountered in World War II will take their toll in increasing numbers?"

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MAJOR LEGION BILL IN LAP OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Three of the major 1949 legislative objectives of The American Legion are provided for in bills already presented to the 81st Congress.

Here are the bill numbers, taglines and their provisions in nut shell form:

DISABLED VETERANS COMPENSATION HCL INCREASE—H. R. 903, introduced by Representative John Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi, also referred to as the **RANKIN COMPENSATION BILL**. It calls for an across-the-board, cost-of-living increase in the compensation rates of service-connected disabled veterans; an increase in the permanent and total disability payments; and an increase in the death pension payments of the widows and orphans of non-service-connected deceased veterans.

VETERANS' PENSION — H. R. 898, introduced by Representative Rankin, also known as the **RANKIN PENSION BILL**. It calls for old-age pensions for veterans of both World Wars, starting at \$60 a month at the age of 60 and increasing to \$90 at 65.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING—Senate Bill 66, introduced by Senators Millard Tydings, Democrat of Maryland

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and George W. Malone, Republican of Nevada, also known as the **TYDINGS-MALONE BILL**. It calls for UMT for all youths upon reaching the age of 18 years, provides four months of basic training and nine options under which trainees may elect to complete the equivalent of a full year's required preparedness instruction.

The American Legion has been upheld by the New York Supreme Court in its right to cancel the temporary charter of a post at its own discretion in a mandamus suit brought by the Duncan-Paris Post 1422 whose charter had been suspended.

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