

CARSON-WILSON POST NEWS

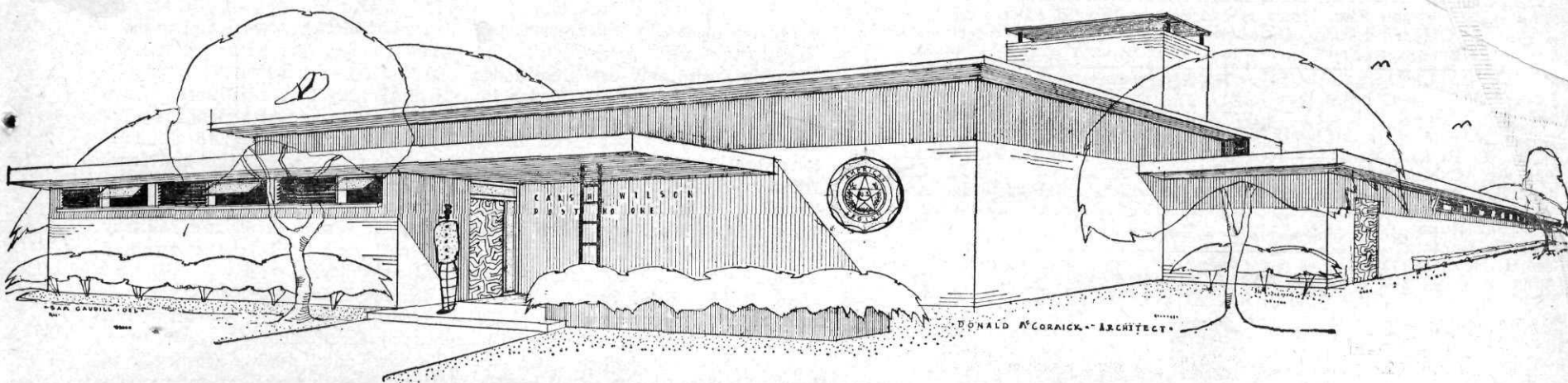
VOL. 13.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA,



DECEMBER 24, 1948

NO. 15.



LEGION RECREATION BUILDING—Work will begin soon on the new \$40,000 recreation building of the Carson-Wilson Post. The drawing above, by Architect Donald McCormick, shows a north view of the structure, to be constructed of brick and masonry. It will include an outside dance terrace of terrazzo marble, a lounge with glass walls

and sliding glass doors, and a modernistic bar room and two recreation rooms. The building committee estimated the building would be completed within six months. It will be located directly west of the present Hut.

Work to Start Soon on New Legion Building

Work will begin within the next two weeks on a new recreational building for the Carson-Wilson Post, Commander Guy Belford announced.

Designed by Architect Donald McCormick, the structure will cost an estimated \$40,000. It will be located west of the present post building.

The structure will be L-shaped and will include two recreation rooms, a modernistic soft drink bar, a lounge and an outside dance terrace.

The Carson-Wilson building committee, formed to finance the new building, includes Otto Koenig, chairman; John Cochran, secretary-treasurer; Jack Porter, Glen Codrington and Joe Herman, Walter Deppe is building chairman.

Commander Belford said the Legion hopes to complete the building within five or six months.

The lounge and recreation rooms will be air-conditioned. Sliding glass doors set in clear glass walls will open onto the dance terrace of terrazzo marble finish.

The present post building will continue to be used for meeting and other functions.

The new building will cover 3,500 square feet of floor space. Exterior surface will be of brick and masonry.

Adjacent to the terrace will be placed a marble fountain. The building will be fireproof.

Christmas Dance Christmas Night—Saturday, Dec. 25

As per usual there will be a dance at the Legion Hut next Saturday night, December 25 (Christmas night). The time is set for 10 p. m. with music by Walter Bray and his Crescent City Band.

Remember, the Ladies are admitted for only 50c now and the gents \$1.00, so plan now to meet your old buddies and spread a little Christmas Cheer on Christmas night.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Bob Howe Honored

Your distinguished Robert (Bob) Howe, chairman of the entertainment committee, has just received notification that he is now a member of the National Distinguished Guests Committee of the American Legion. Howe was appointed to this committee by Commander Perry S. Brown and received final approval last November 20 when the national executive committee confirmed said appointment.

Financial Audit of Records of Carson-Wilson Post No. 1, The American Legion, Tulsa, Okla.

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD AUGUST 26, 1947 TO SEPTEMBER 14, 1948

Scope of Examination

RECEIPTS:

The examination covered the checking of all miscellaneous cash receipts, being receipt number 1 dated August 26, 1947, to receipt number 340 dated September 13, 1948; also receipts for membership dues were checked from stubs of membership cards. All receipts were traced until deposited in the bank or properly accounted for. The cash on hand shown in Exhibit "A" amounting to \$353.45 was deposited in the bank on October 12, 1948.

DISBURSEMENTS:

All disbursements covering checks, number 450 dated September 22, 1947, to check number 1011 dated September 14, 1948, were checked to the reports approved by the Executive Committee and cashed by the bank except checks outstanding.

COMMENTS:

Information as to cash receipts and disbursements was kept in detail in an orderly manner and disclosed full information. The cash disbursements while clearly stated were not consolidated into accounts. Consolidation of items belonging to accounts as shown in Exhibit "B" was accomplished with the assistance of your Finance Officer, Mr. Gittinger.

Exhibit "A"

CASH RECEIPTS

For Period August 26, 1947, to September 14, 1948

	Cash On Hand	Deposited Citizens State Bank Bldg. Fund	Deposited 1st National Bank	TOTAL RECEIPTS
Total Receipts	\$353.45	\$567.16	\$27,463.00	\$28,383.61

Exhibit "B"

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

For Period August 22, 1947 to September 14, 1948

Total Disbursements	\$27,288.73
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Exhibit "C"

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BONDS OWNED September 14, 1948

Total Bonds owned	\$13,750.00
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(See AUDIT—continued on Page 3)

CARSON-WILSON POST NEWS

Published every Friday by
CARSON-WILSON POST NO. 1—AMERICAN LEGION
Tulsa, Oklahoma

DEXTER MOSS Jr.	Editor
GREGG CHANCELLOR	Editorial Staff
EDDIE J. SHIELDS	Editorial Staff
DEXTER MOSS, Jr.	Advertising Manager

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2-0

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POST OFFICERS

GUY BELFORD, JR., Commander

Walter C. Deppe	First Vice-Commander
Roger E. Lavery	Second Vice-Commander
Robert L. Brown	Third Vice-Commander
Rev Pat W. Murphy	Chaplain
John Cochran	Post Judge Advocate
Elwood Taylor	Finance Officer
Mrs. Pat Rupe	Historian
Fred E. England	Sergeant-at-Arms
Jas. H. Neal, M. D.	Post Surgeon

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Dexter Moss, Jr.



Harry A. Pope
Earl Howard
George Norvell

EDDIE J. SHIELDS, Adjutant

Office Hours—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LEGION HUT—1120 East Eighth Street—Phone 3-0723

Frank Crawley—Service Officer—Office Hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Legion Hut—1120 East Eighth St.—Phone 5-7696

Night Emergency Calls—Phone 6-0365

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

LET'S TAKE INVENTORY

By GREGG CHANCELLOR

Last year at this time, I wrote another editorial for this newspaper also titled "Let's Take Inventory." That editorial mainly concerned an inventory of some of the reasons why I was proud to be a member of the American Legion. This year with all of the foreign and un-American elements threatening this great country, I thought it would be wise for us to take inventory of the many things which we as Americans enjoy every day.

Won't you join me as I take a mental tour through America's great factories, her productive farmlands, her music halls and finally her arsenals? Go with me on this mental tour as we inventory our stock in America and then observe what responsibility is placed upon us in keeping that stock from becoming worthless. I am proud of what I saw, and yet, I feel a keen duty to protect and preserve it for those who will follow.

Today I saw American Industry and I was amazed at its magnificence. I saw her gleaming skyscrapers rising as an armor-clad giant, lifting his silvery sword to the heavens and with a steady wink of his beacon eye beckoning the army of smaller buildings to rise to new heights. I listened to the deafening roar of the massive turbines at the power plant, to the whine of the infant motor at the shoe shop, and I knew that both were adding their voices to America's magnificent Symphony of Progress!

In this Symphony, I heard the staccato of the telegraph key, the modulated tones of radio, the droning chorus of airplane engines from their loft of clouds, and the asthmatic wheeze of the locomotive. I saw or become metal, wheat become bread, and sand become glass. I saw livestock transformed into food and cotton into clothing. I watched forests become lumber, lumber become buildings and buildings rise as an emblem of progress.

I saw steam transformed into electricity, electricity into power, and power into a controllable force.

I observed American industry in all of her comic beauty, not as a stagnant object, but rather as a powerful dynamo, radiating from her atomic heart the force to do what is to be done for ourselves and for the world!

We are Americans. We are the people of the United States! And proudly we claim this rightful heritage of natural resources, labors right to organize, free enterprise!

Today I saw American agriculture and thrilled to its productive grandeur!

I saw her bulging graneries standing as lighthouses to the hungry of the world and visioned her packing plants as monuments to the God of Plenty! I saw Kansas golden oceans of wheat, bowing to the breath of God and navigated by the Ship of Plentiful Harvest. I observed Iowa's myriad fields of corn, lifting their emerald arms to kiss the clouds and

watched Georgia's cotton plants nod their snowy heads in defiance to the southern sun. I stood in awe at Oregon's towering skyscrapers of pine, lifting their spiny arms in silent prayer and was dwarfed when introduced to the giant Redwoods of California! At America's exquisite perfume bar, I sampled the pungent odor of Oklahoma's alfalfa, sniffed the romantic fragrance of apple blossoms in Arkansas, breathed faintly the acrid aroma of tobacco in North Carolina and longed to carry with me the delicate scent of Kentucky clover.

Today I also saw the blue-bloods of American animality. I was introduced to the aristocracy of milch cows in Wisconsin, the hierarchy of horsedom in Kentucky, greeted the finest of sheepdoms royal family in Texas, to say nothing of meeting thousands of dollar-a-pound hams (on foot) in Nebraska.

Yes, today I beheld American agriculture in all of her productive beauty. I saw her products of the soil, not as a force steadily diminishing with use, but, rather as an embryo, nourished by the God of Fertility and leased to those who will but care for it!

This is American Agriculture and . . . We are Americans. We are the people of the United States. And proudly we claim this rightful heritage of fertility, virgil soil, scientific aids, ingenuity.

Today I heard the music of America and I marveled at its genuine expression. I heard nine simple notes transfigured into a rainbow mirror of melody, reflecting the myriad emotions of men and women who know the "Stars and Stripes Forever" not only as a stirring march but also as a sacred trust! As I toured this Concert Hall of the World, I felt as though I was listening to the emotional heartbeat of 130 million free people . . . a people born to dance rather than goose-step to music.

It seemed as if I was looking at America's heart through a giant X-ray, which revealed to me a kalidoscopic variety of emotions.

I heard many different interpretations . . . yes as many interpretations as there are emotions, and yet, I cannot classify any as being poor music, for each composition or interpretation, whether it be a hill-billy ballad of Tennessee or a musical of Broadway, is certainly a genuine reflection of life in "These Forty Eight" as seen by its composer or interpreter!

I listened to the boogie beat on the juke box at a cafe, the waltz concert at a Convention hall, and bowed my head in prayer at the sound of a Cathedral carillon.

Today, as I listened to America singing, I heard the sprakling compositions of Cole Porter, the magic moods created by George and Ira Gershwin, thrilled to the romantic ballads of Jerome Kern, and reminised at the vibrant interpretations of Sigmund Romberg.

I sang a colorful show tune of Rogers and Hart, danced to a spritelty ditty of Johnny Mercer's and

whistled a Hoagy Carmichael hit as I returned from work.

I took my trek across the "Forty-Eight" with Burl Ives, was whisked away briefly to the "Emerald Isle" by Earnest Ball, only to be carried back to the banks of the "Swanee" by Stephen Foster. For just a few nickles, I was entertained at the corner cafe by Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Bing Crosby, Duke Ellington, Sammy Kaye and Kate Smith. By just a simple flip of the dial, I also knew what the ten top songs of the week were, not to mention hearing the price of tobacco in North Carolina.

Yes, today I heard American Music, and I marveled at this magnificent voice proclaiming to a battle-scarred world the smiles and tears in the "Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!"

Today I saw America's Military strength and I felt a new sence of responsibility.

Today, I saw the best equipped, the best trained, the best army and navy in the world!

I saw this mighty reservoir of strength, with its silent guns, anchored ships and shiney atomic bombs, as a bulwark against the forces which seek to destroy our way of life. Greater still, than this display of military might, I saw nations united to build an even more powerful machinery . . . The mechanism which will balance the world on the orbit of peace.

Man's unleashing of cosmic energy, so staggering in its impact that an entire city can be wiped off the map, is no longer a comic strip creation . . . it is a terrifying reality that has done more than change the complexion of the "Land of the Rising Sun" or give the "Togoites" a severde sunburn . . . It has changed an entire world of thought, in the arts of peace and war!

We may use this great force to build a world of unprecedented peace and prosperity . . . or we may use it to destroy civilization itself!

We stand at the crossroads of these decisions . . . there is no turning back from this challenge. The choice has been thrust upon us and our duty lies in making certain that the world takes the path to peace.

I am confident that Legionnaires will work as hard . . . as unselfishly, as unitedly in the cause of peace as we did in the cause of war! The peace will be one of reality . . . backed with the power to preserve it, for we members of the American Legion will do our utmost to see that it doesn't happen again.

SPECIAL NOTICE

A Resolution is being prepared and will be read on the floor next meeting night, Tuesday, December 28, with the intention that carson-wilson Post No. 1 be in favor of and give full support to the question of a Bonus for World War II Veterans. Also that the Post back a Repeal Movement.

Be on hand for discussion on these vital subjects.

AUDIT—(Continued from page 1)
The American Legion
Joe Carson Post No. 1
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

November 18, 1948

BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

I have examined the recorded transactions of the Building Fund Account of the American Legion for the period November 25, 1947, to September 22, 1948. On amendment of the Charter January 27, 1947, changing the name from Joe Carson Post No. 1 to Carson-Wilson Post No. 1, I find no change made in the original designation of this fund. I did not trace back the resolutions establishing this fund and the sources from which it was to receive its funds or the nature of the expenditures to be made therefrom.

I was informed that the fund was created for the purpose of providing funds for such time as the building needed repairs; that the source from which the funds had been derived in prior years was from Fourth of July Fire Works. It appears that funds from this source have not been realized as the 1948 Fire Works reflects a check drawn for a deficit of \$321.86. No other detail regarding income and expense of this event was reflected. The disbursements with few exceptions were supported by proper receipts filed with few exceptions were supported by proper receipts filed with vouchers and payments approved by the Finance Committee. The last two payments were to Bruce Norman being an advance of \$1,200.00 for change at Fire Works and \$321.86 to reimburse him for loss sustained in connection with Fire Works of 1948. These checks have not been submitted to the Finance Committee for approval but the \$1,200.00 advance has been returned and deposited in the bank.

A reconciliation of the bank account and a summary of the receipts and disbursements for the period November 21, 1947, to September 22, 1948, shows as follows:

Balance per books November 27, 1947.....\$3,886.33

Deposits for period:

Balance Fire Works 1947.....\$ 14.50

Received from Recreation Room No. 2..... 552.66

Re-deposit of funds drawn for change

for 1948 Fire Works.....1,200.00 1,767.16

TOTAL.....\$5,653.49

Disbursements:

Improvements, repairs and Miscellaneous approved by Finance Committee.....\$1,861.40

Advance for change for 1948 Fire Works.....1,200.00

Loss on 1948 Fire Works..... 321.86

TOTAL Disbursements.....\$3,383.26

Book Balance September 22, 1948.....\$2,270.23

Balance per Bank Statement, September 22, 1948.....\$2,270.23

Respectfully submitted,

O. W. BROWN, Certified Public Accountant

(The complete audit is available for you at the Adjutant's Office of Carson-Wilson Post No. 1).

Legion Radio Show Now Used by 1,019 Stations

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—A total of 915 broadcasting stations is now airing on regular schedules The American Legion's professionally produced weekly transcribed radio pro-

grams in its "Decision Now" series. In addition, 98 FM and six short wave stations are carrying the program regularly, making a grand total of 1,019 regular broadcasters.

Thirteen 50,000-watt stations are included in the list, as well as 112 in the 5,000-watt class and 537 in the 250-watt group.



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Greetings, Auxiliary Members:

That man is here again in the red suit and white whiskers to remind me that it is time to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas is a time for adoration, praise and prayer.

We adore the Christ-child and we praise you our fellow workers and show our appreciation for your close and confident friendships. "The best friends are the ones who go all out for you and always find something exciting and wholly good to say about you" I sincerely hope you will ever find me thus.

I pray the Lord to keep all of us and help us do good for humanity.

In adoration, praise and prayer, I wish for you and yours a Bountiful Christmas and a most Happy New Year.

May God bless and love you always.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Sam (Bessie) Craig,
President American Legion
Auxiliary, Carson-Wilson Post
No. 1.**The Adjutant's
Column**

By EDDIE J. SHIELDS

Well, first of all—Merry Christmas to Everyone.

Looks like I am going to make it to Chicago to see my son and daughter-in-law over Christmas. Leaving Thursday morning by car to Vincennes, Ind., and then by rail to Chicago. Will be back with you sometime Tuesday the 28th. Not for long but oh how I am going to appreciate it. Thought the weather man was going to try and stop me from going but hear by the radio this morning that storm is supposed to have detoured so Chicago, here I come.

The Christmas party for vets at Muskogee, Sunday the 19th, was a huge success, thanks to the many hours of effort on the part of Geo. Norvell as chairman and Ralph T. Harrison as co-chairman. About a hundred went down to the hospital for the day and then in the evening here at the Hut a swell feed was served by our good Legionnaire Ray Barnett. This was a new addition this year, meaning the feed. It was free and about 250 people were served and everybody had a wonderful time so they say. The total cost of the party this year including the feed was \$607.84, but through many swell donations by firms and individuals, the net cost to the Legion proper was \$96.48. The entertainment at the hospital was superb and Ralph Harrison deserves a lot of credit for this end of it. George Norvell was kind of the steer horse for the whole party and when

(Continued on Page 29)

Sincere Holiday Greetings*. . . . from***GRIFFITH CONSOLIDATED THEATRES, Inc.**

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GOVERNMENTS THAT LOSE WARS NEVER HAVE TO PAY PENSIONS

"Governments that lose wars never have to pay pensions!"

With this punch line National Commander Perry Brown fired the first shot in the battle which The American Legion will wage in the 81st Congress during 1949 for the enactment of legislation authorizing the payment of pensions to veterans of both World Wars in accordance with resolutions adopted at the recent Miami convention.

Commander Brown revealed himself as a fighting leader by choosing the 15th annual Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce appreciation luncheon to The American Legion here to make his first presentation of the pension cause. More than 400 prominent local businessmen and key Legionnaires heard the talk. The consensus was that Commander Brown had scored with friend and foe alike.

Legislation Studied

Commander Brown told his audience that he had been authorized by the National Executive Committee to appoint a special sub-committee to translate The American Legion's Miami convention pension resolutions into legislative form for presentation to Congress.

"I can tell you this," he said. "We are going to make a sound, a realistic and a practical approach to this pension matter. The fantastic estimates of pension costs published by the daily press are on the par with its forecasts of the last presidential election."

This thrust received applause.

The American Legion chief pointed out the little known fact that no government pension today was paid purely on the basis of war service alone.

"Pensions are paid only on the basis of disability or of age or on a combination of both," he said.

Urge Explained

Comparing the chamber's luncheon to The American Legion as an expression of the Hoosier spirit of good neighborliness, Commander Brown hammered home the fact that this same spirit lay behind all pension movements in the United States today.

He said: "Behind every pension movement in the United States today, whether in government, in industry or in organized labor, there is only one driving force. That is the good neighbor urge to take the terror out of dependent old age. That, too, is the motive behind all pensions for veterans."

He explained that the Miami resolutions on pensions were not the "product of the impulse of the moment."

"Behind them stretch years of hard thinking by the men and women of The American Legion who are confronted by a tragic human problem right in their own ranks and who want to do the right and fair thing," he stressed.

Two-Way Loyalty

Frankly telling his audience about the avalanche of press editorials, 100 per cent against The American Legion on the pension issue, Commander Brown said, "these newspapers are exercising a sacred right in these expressions. That is the right of the freedom of the press. We glory in that right. We consider our free press as one of our blessings. It is one of the freedoms for which members of The American Legion fought in two world wars. The American Legion would defend to the end this right of our press to speak freely."

He called attention to one vital fact in this connection. He pointed out this was the press that remained free today and was prosperous because the Government of the United States had never lost a war.

"Governments that lose wars never have to pay pensions!" he hammered home. "When governments come to death grips in a test of brutal force, the decision is won only by fighting men and women who are willing and who do die to defend those governments. To die in the bloom of youth means to give up a lifetime of living. That is the most costly sacrifice that can be asked. It is devotion to the last full measure. Our government lives today because it has always had men and women with such all-out loyalty behind it! But loyalty must beget loyalty! It cannot endure on a one-way lane. The government must be loyal to its defenders. It must stand by them when their hour of need comes along as they stood by the government in its hour of stress!"

(Continued on Next Page)

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Army Pensions

Commander Brown struck a double blow on behalf of pensions and UMT as well when he reviewed the country's current commitment against the thinking of The American Legion to a policy of building a vast professional military establishment.

He explained the average World War II veteran was against a huge professional Army with "military Brass" running the country. He said the veteran wanted a small Regular Army with big civilian reserve components trained through a democratic program of Universal Military Training. Many veterans at Miami voted for the pension resolution, he said, because they saw the nation launched on a program of spending billions on a so-called new "glamour" Army with a "lush" pension plan for the peacetime soldier.

He emphasized the combat veteran of World War II got \$50.00 a month "fighting pay" out of which he had to pay for his own government insurance. He described how this veteran was told by the Army that the G.I. Bill of Rights was his special reward for his war service.

Now this veteran sees a new professional Army being built. The peacetime soldier gets \$75.00 a month, 50% more for peacetime duties than for fighting pay. He gets vacations and time off that add up to more than 140 days a year WITH PAY. He has also been made eligible for the benefits of the G.I. Bill. On top of that he is given a pension program which, Commander Brown charged, the Army is advertising as beating anything that industry can offer. In only 20 years the peacetime serviceman can "soldier" himself into a pension that will pay him from \$114 to \$200 a month FOR LIFE!

"Is it any wonder," Commander Brown said, "that the veteran is trying to shock the people of America into realizing what they are doing by ignoring the democratic and inexpensive program of UMT by the only way he has left—through the pocketbook?"

SKY PILOT FROM THE SKY

Once upon a time there was a sky pilot who came floating down out of the sky . . .

No, this isn't a fairy tale. It's simply a description of one very unusual sky pilot, Chaplain Solomon Rosen, who is a thrice blessed man of distinction. First, he is both a chaplain and a paratrooper, a somewhat unique combination. Second, at the ripe old age of 25 he is the youngest chaplain in the Army. And third, he is the only chaplain member of the famed Caterpillar Club, an organization composed of fliers who had to jump to save their necks.

Chaplain Rosen made his neck-saving jump in September, 1945, when a B-29 blew up. The Chaplain was heading for New Mexico to conduct Jewish holiday services. There were 11 men aboard the big plane when her engines caught fire and the pilot ordered everyone to hit the silk. Only Chaplain Rosen and another soldier, who was near the escape hatch, managed to make it before the plane exploded with a tremendous roar.

The Chaplain has a record of 18 jumps, some in training, other "operational" in Germany. But take it from this seasoned paratrooper, the greatest hazard in the business is not in the jumping itself. "It's trying to explain to your wife why you became a paratrooper," says the Chaplain. Maybe he has something there.

Chaplain Rosen confirms the opinion of other parachutists that the first jump is the easiest. He explains it this way. "Before your first jump they give you a long song and dance about how safe it is, and how many others have jumped before you. They build you up to it. It isn't till the third or fourth jump that you really begin to get scared; by then you've learned all the things that can happen to you.

"The worst moment comes when you get close to the ground. You're floating along like a feather and suddenly the ground starts coming up at you—fast. You try to pull away from it and say to yourself, 'Look, let's go back and do it all over!'"

With a suspicious bulge in his cheek that just might be his tongue, the Chaplain explains the paratroop battlecry, "Geronimo." "What it really means is, 'Who pushed me?!'" He also asserts he wasn't pushed on his first jump. "Didn't have to be. The jump master just gave me a look that said plain as day, 'Get your rear end out of here before it gets kicked out!'"

Chaplain Rosen joined the services shortly after being ordained as a rabbi. In common with the patriotic and courageous chaplains of all faiths, Chaplain Rosen felt that he had a special mission in the armed forces during wartime. Now, he has a worshipful following of about 125 Jewish soldiers at the Scott Air Force Base but doesn't confine his work to members of his own faith.

In his more serious moments the Chaplain will talk about the troubles of the world and what he thinks can be done to ease them. His prescription is simple and goes the Golden Rule one better. "We must do even more for others than we do for ourselves," he will say. "We have to teach by example. A lot of people talk about it, few do anything. But each individual must say to himself, 'Today, in my associations, I will take the first step'."

Check! Chaplain Rosen is one sky pilot who has done more than talk.

SOME GI'S WILL LOSE DIVIDENDS

Some 500,000 ex-GI's may be out of luck when the Veterans Administration pays service insurance dividends.

It was disclosed last week that the VA may withhold all or part of the checks to two groups of World War II veterans. They are veterans who have received overpayments for education or training subsistence, and those who have defaulted on GI loans.

Assistant Veterans Administrator Frank W. Kelsey said there are now about 600,000 veterans who have been overpaid for subsistence, and have not made refunds.

Although the number is being reduced gradually, he said, it will be more than 500,000 a year from now. That is the latest guess on when the National Service Life Insurance dividend checks will go into the mail to some 16,000,000 GI policyholders.

7 Billions In Fund

There is approximately \$7,000,000,000 in the fund. After it is estimated how much of a reserve is necessary, the surplus will be paid to policyholders as dividends.

The surplus has been estimated at between \$1,500,000,000 and \$2,000,000,000. The exact figure is to be announced soon. This surplus resulted from overcharges on premiums, due to faulty actuarial tables.

Kelsey, head of VA finance, said subsistence overpayments amount to about \$52,000,000. They were made, he said, when veterans stopped training courses and the institutions failed to notify the Veterans Administration.

Kelsey said the \$52,000,000 is not a loss. It is being repaid by veterans and a huge sum will be recovered when the insurance dividend melon-cutting season arrives.

Under the law, VA is allowed to withhold pension and other payments to veterans except in cases of death or hardship.

In "a large number" of cases, the VA states, the veterans return the unauthorized checks. In the great majority of cases, however, the veteran either doesn't realize he has been overpaid, or figures that the Government will come after the money soon enough if it is really a mistake.

When the VA first cracked down on repayments of this money over a year ago, the total outstanding overpayments had hit close to 50 million dollars. In rapid succession it announced that veterans who had left school or training would not be allowed to re-enter training until they had made "arrangements to pay" and then that overpayments would be deducted from future unemployment allowances.

The "arrangements to pay" is the key to VA's method of collecting these debts. The VA is barred from working "a undue hardship" on a veteran or his family, and so makes no attempt to collect overpayments in a lump sum unless the veteran is financially able to make such a payment.

Instead, finance officers handle each overpayment case on an individual basis, working out a system of small payments that will gradually wipe out the debt.

Where a series of small payments would work a hardship, veterans have the right of appeal to a waivers committee which may, after investigation, cancel the debt entirely. In such cases, the VA can clear its records by reporting an "uncollectable debt."

Before this can be done, however, VA is required to make "an honest and diligent effort" to collect.

Some success is being registered in this direction, attesting to the fact that the majority of veterans are more than willing to settle up on this money which was paid them by mistake.

Such overpayments, VA says, will undoubtedly go on so long as the GI education and training program exists. However, enough veterans are now making repayments to more than offset new erroneous payments. From a peak of about 55 million dollars, the outstanding debt has been reduced in recent months to the present 52 million dollars total, and is slowly being chipped away.

How much of the total debt can be liquidated through insurance attachments is not known, but it is assumed to be somewhere in the millions.

The only benefits which the VA is not allowed to attach for repayment of a veteran's debt are such items as GI insurance proceeds and other survivors' benefits. The collection must be made from the veteran himself, not his survivors or dependents.

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**PENSION HIKE HAVE FIRST PLACE
IN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE EFFORT**

Increased pensions to be paid across the board alike to the service-connected and non-service-connected and to widows and dependents of veterans, as well as to the veterans themselves, are called for by high living costs in the mind of the American Legion National Executive Committee, which met in Indianapolis for its regular November meeting last Thursday through Saturday.

Mandated by the national convention in Miami last month, this demand headed a priority program of legislation adopted after presentation by George L. Cleere, committeeman from Alabama. It should turn out to be a fair break for disabled veterans and their dependents whether or not service connection has been proved, because both the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are also on record for such increases. Those two organizations have a 25 per cent increase demand on their priority dockets. The Legion did not ask for any specific hike, but the three major veterans' organizations are agreed that something must be done to help pensioners beat high prices on the commodities they require most to sustain themselves. The United Spanish War Veterans also adopted the principle of cost-of-living increases last August in Washington.

Also on the Legion's priority legislative program are mandates calling for relief of veterans in the field of housing, new pensions for disabled and aging veterans and social security credits for time spent in the armed services. The demand for immediate enactment of a universal military training law was reiterated, and, from the standpoint of Americanism, there is insisted upon a continuing of the House Committee on Un-American Activities "as the eyes and ears of the Congress in the field of subversive activities," and full endorsement and approval was given to legislation similar to the Mundt-Nixon bill of the last Congress, which would not seek to outlaw Communism in this country but

would apply to it the curbs that would prevent its spread.

Pension Resolves Conflicting

The matter of obtaining social security credits for time spent in the military or naval service and the housing mandate are, of course, applicable alone to veterans of the last war.

Because the Miami convention passed conflicting resolutions on the subject of pensions, National Commander S. Perry Brown, of Beaumont, Texas, was instructed to name a three-man committee "to reconcile those differences and to submit a directive to the National Legislative Commission for preparation of legislation and its implementation in the Congress."

At Miami there was passed a resolution to grant to veterans of World War I pension rights equal to those now permitted to veterans of the Spanish-American War. This was put through by a record vote of 2,024 to 1,364. Subsequently, there was adopted without debate another resolution calling for the granting of pensions to honorably discharged veterans of \$60 monthly at age 55, and \$75 at age 65. In addition, other mandates called for increases to the only pensioned veterans now on the rolls with nonservice-connected disabilities from \$60 to \$75 monthly where there is total unemployability and asked that existing income limitations for both veterans and dependents be modified. There is no income limitation in Spanish War legislation. Other mandates which have held over from previous conventions, or which were reiterated at Miami, called for additional legislation. Because there is confusion, the committee on priority legislation of the Legion, backed by the national commander, insisted that the matter be properly studied, differences composed and an accurate proposal be presented to the Legislative Commission for translation into law. Commander Brown has not yet named the personnel of this subcommittee.

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At this Christmas season we are reminded that whatever our race or creed, Christmas is remembered as the anniversary of One who was pre-eminent in friendship, according to Mrs. Hubert A. Goode.

Perhaps the title that describes Him best among all the names by which He is honored and adored is Kingsby's simple, limitless tribute: "I Had a Friend."

Not only at Christmas but all through the year, the American Legion Auxiliary members are endeavoring to bring happiness and friendship into the hearts of our veterans and their families. United in this work, we are accomplishing big things—carrying out an amazing program which at Christmas time alone reaches well over 100,000 disabled veterans and their families in every part of the country.

This world of ours needs so desperately the spirit and the unity of purpose which make our Christmas program possible. If we could inspire women throughout the world with ideals which are given such practical and concrete expression in our rehabilitation work, I am sure much more rapid progress could be made toward the rehabilitation of stricken nations as well as individuals everywhere. Unity of thought and action could bring a better world, Mrs. Goode said.

But now we see the forces of disunity striving to tear the world apart, keeping wars going in various places and preparing the stage for another and more horrible world war. Communications between peoples are cut off. Fear and hate are inflamed by propaganda. Nations of the world are being divided into hostile camps and the people within nations are being divided against each other.

Still, the people of the world all have the same basic purpose—to live in peace and security, to enjoy freedom and the opportunity to achieve a better way of life. If they could be united for this purpose, if all of their energies could be directed toward building a better world for everyone, miracles could be accomplished.

We are only an organization of women in one of the world's many nations, yet as an organization of nearly one million members in the world's leading nation, we have great opportunity. We can wield powerful influence toward keeping our own nation united in purpose, secure in its peace and happy in its freedom. Can such as America fail to inspire peoples of other nations to thought and action for a better world? asks Mrs. Goode.

As we go to the hospitals with our Christmas services and gifts, we are joining together to express the spirit that is the only real hope of mankind. Is it not possible that our Christmas lights, shining from the hospital windows, will be seen far in today's dark world and guide people everywhere toward new unity of effort for that common goal of "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men"?

Children's Home Given New Organ by Auxiliary

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—A \$3,000 organ has been presented to the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home at Knightstown by the Indiana American Legion Auxiliary. The new instrument was installed in the chapel at the home. It will be used in the music training of more than 500 orphaned children who are institutionalized there.

Post to Lend Hospital Equipment to the Sick

BATAVIA, Ohio.—Three wheel chairs, one hospital bed and two pairs of crutches have been purchased by the Frank W. Weaver Post 237 of The American Legion here, for free loan to anyone in Clermont County needing them. Commander A. P. Gardner said the post is making this equipment available as a community service and no rental will be charged for its use.

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January Deadline For Reserve Officers

Reserve officers of the Army who are not currently engaged in Reserve activities, have been granted until Jan. 1, 1949, before being automatically transferred to the Inactive Reserve, it was announced by the Department of the Army.

This action permits Reserve officers to protect their active Reserve status by contacting their unit instructors in or near home communities, it was pointed out.

Last spring, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, the chief of staff, dispatched a questionnaire to each of 274,000 Army Reserve officers. More than 40 per cent of Reserve officers receiving the questionnaire failed to answer or otherwise indicate a preference for transfer to the Inactive Reserve where they would have no military duties or responsibilities except in time of war.

"During the months subsequent to distribution of the questionnaire, a long range Reserve training program has been established," Brig. Gen. Wendell Westover, Army Executive for Reserve Affairs, said.

"The current program affords extensive opportunities for reservists to take an active part in the essential mission assigned to the Organized Reserve Corps in the nation's security plan."

"In conjunction with this well defined mission, the Army Reserve program today offers wide unit assignment possibilities, a liberal promotion policy, inactive duty training pay, non-disability retirement and the opportunity to share actively in the community responsibility for national security. These policies, so important to reserve activity, are new and have become fact since spring when Reserve officers were last questioned as to their preference for the Active or Inactive Reserve."

General Westover pointed out that "thousands of Reserve unit assignment vacancies exist in the 18-25 Division Mobile Striking Force, particularly for enlisted reservists and officers in grades of lieutenant and captain. Vacancies exist for field grade officers in the remainder of the M-Day force. Veterans, not now enrolled, are urged to take part in the nation's vital security program by enlisting in the Army Organized Reserve Corps for assignment to active organized Reserve units in training."

Officers of the Inactive Reserve, it was pointed out, are subject to call to active duty in a national emergency during the life of their commission, but are not eligible for promotion, drill pay or retirement benefits.

Inactive Reserve officers who now desire to be retained in the Active Reserve should so notify their local unit instructor or Senior Army Instructor at once.

Those officers who failed to re-

ARMY SURE CHANGES

Colorado's first postwar draftees pinched themselves and wondered if this is the Army.

The Army threw them a swank party last week. It made them Cinderella generals. Tough old sergeants jumped at their commands. The brass looked on and smiled.

There were dates and bands and songs and comedy. And there was food that never graced a wartime chowline.

When it was all over, they went back to warm hotel rooms instead of the cold tents of wartime induction centers. But then they headed for Ford Ord, Calif., and the realities of basic training.

The party was all a part of the Army plan to prove there's a new look in soldiering. But it still was by the numbers. The 22-page script for the affair was big enough to swallow a D-day field order.

As one inductee put it "we weren't exactly invited. We weren't exactly ordered. They told us very nicely that we had to go. It was all part of the things we had to do the day we were inducted."

There was a little of the old hurry-up-and-wait. The group was told to be on hand at 7 p. m. The party got under way 35 minutes later.

A sergeant lined them up and paired them off with their dates, USO and Y.W.C.A. hostesses in formal gowns. Sixty-one men were slated for induction but six were turned down at the last moment. Nobody remembered to tell the girls so there were six spares.

The couples marched in. The program called it a "grand march . . . a slow stately march to left of dignitary guests table down center aisle in a column of two's up to the stage and from there to their designated tables."

The men pinned corsages, also courtesy of the Army, on their dates. The girls pinned stars on the men and gave them printed commissions as general for the night.

While 30 sergeants sat on the dance floor and ate C rations, hotel waiters served orange juice, prime ribs, rissole potatoes, peas, salad, rolls and butter, ice cream, cake and coffee.

There was a floor show. Then there was dancing.

At midnight the band gave out with a roll of the drums and 12 loud bangs with the cymbals. The party was over. The gals went home. Two sergeants lined the men up, shouted "Forward, March!" and took them back to their rooms.

spond to the "Bradley Questionnaire" or have previously indicated their preference for the Inactive Reserve, must now indicate their desire to participate in the ORC program and express their availability for assignment to an Active Reserve unit or revert to inactive status.

Veterans Administration Releases Indebtedness Due to Overpayments to 30,000 Veterans

Some 30,000 veterans have received waivers of indebtedness caused by overpayments from the Veterans Administration since the end of World War II, it was learned this week. The amount of indebtedness thus, in effect, canceled by the VA in this period totals roughly \$4,000,000.

While exact, up-to-date figures have not yet been compiled, the dollar total of waivers granted averages slightly in excess of \$100 for each veteran who has received favorable action on his appeal for waiver.

And, as of November 1, some 4,400 cases involving possible over-payment waivers were pending before the VA's central committee on waivers and forfeitures. The amount of money involved in these pending cases was slightly over \$1,000,000.

The policy of granting waivers of indebtedness on veterans' over-payments is not a post-World War II development. It dates back to the World War Veterans act enacted in June, 1924, although the amounts of money involved did not reach high levels until after the recent war.

This 1924 act, with subsequent amendments, was designed to provide "equitable relief" for certain of those veterans who received the over-payments.

In general, the relief was intended for those veterans who obtained the payments without being aware that they were not entitled to them and for those veterans from whom repayment of the indebtedness would cause undue hardship.

In the fiscal year 1946 (ending June 30, 1946) waivers on such over-payment indebtedness were allowed in 5,314 cases involving some \$498,611. Such waivers were not granted in 34,256 cases involving \$2,455,117.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, waivers on a total indebtedness were allowed in 15,145 cases; waivers were not granted in 306,226 cases involving more than \$24,000,000.

During the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1948, waivers totaling \$1,402,186 were allowed in 9,654 cases. Waivers were not granted in 112,189 cases involving roughly \$12,000,000.

Types of over-payments involved include virtually all kinds of money benefits paid by the VA—compensations, pensions, insurance, subsistence allowances and so on.

The most common variety of over-payment since World War II has been the continuation of subsistence payments to veterans participating in "GI Bill of Rights" programs after they stopped their active part in those programs.

Veterans, of course, are supposed to notify the VA when they stop attending college under the GI plan, or training in the on-the-job program, etc.

C. L. Johnson, chairman of the VA's central committee on waivers and forfeitures, says that every effort is made to treat all cases on a fair and equitable basis.

He declares that, insofar as it is humanly possible to eliminate it, there is no discrimination of any kind. He discounts the possibility that waivers of indebtedness might constitute discrimination against those who were not overpaid, because of the more-or-less standardized requirements of eligibility for the waivers as well as the original requirements for participation in the programs.

While general forecasts are not feasible because of the possible changes in the law by congress as well as prospective changes in the national and international situation, Johnson says the current indications are that the over-payment and waivers problems may remain near their present post-war high levels for another year or so before dropping off appreciably.

In other words, while large numbers of veterans are participating in the benefits offered by the GI Bill there are certain to be a considerable number of over-payment errors.

Even if government mistakes and occasional stumbles over red tape could be eliminated, there would be the human failing of thousands of veterans to muddle things up a bit.

Meanwhile, the VA attempts to give "equitable relief" wherever it is warranted in the dozens of over-payment cases that come to light every day.

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MISSOURI WILL NOT BE RETIRED

Standing on the Japanese surrender deck of the Battleship Missouri, President Truman last week at Norfolk, Va., said the "Mighty Mo" was "a symbol of might and strength in war as well as in peace" and he emphatically killed rumors that she would be put in moth balls.

As a Missourian whose sentimental attachment to the great battlewagon began when he was a Senator, Mr. Truman asserted that "some smart aleck who poses as a spokesman for the Navy said the Missouri was going to be taken out of commission." He was President and he wasn't going to let that happen, Mr. Truman added with feeling.

The Chief Executive alluded to a report in a Washington newspaper which said that the battleship would be taken out of service. The report quoted unnamed Navy sources as authority for the story.

Mr. Truman called White House correspondents together after a ceremony in which the warship received an elaborate silver service of 281 pieces. He told them that he wished to give a statement and he assured that the last remaining battleship in active service would continue to roam the seas as an instrument of security and seapower.

Speaking extemporaneously at the presentation ceremony, Mr. Truman said:

"This battleship is not only a symbol of might in war. It is a symbol of might in peace."

The President was talking only a few steps from the well-polished brass plate embedded in the deck which bears this legend:

"Over this spot on Two September 1945 the instrument of formal surrender of Japan to the Allied Powers was signed thus bringing to a close the Second World War. The ship at the time was at anchor in Tokyo Bay."

Mr. Truman recalled "three great days" which he associated with "Big Mo." The first was Jan. 29, 1944, when his daughter Margaret cracked a bottle of champagne on her. The second occasion was when "I was President of the United States and it was decided to send the Battleship Missouri into Tokyo Bay."

The third great day, one of peace was when Mr. Truman rode the mighty ship into the harbor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Sept. 2, 1947, for the signing of the Inter-American treaty solidifying the American republics, an act of peace and strength.

Mr. Truman was preceded as a speaker in the presentation ceremony by Gov. Phil M. Donnelly, of Missouri.

The President told newspaper correspondents "the Missouri will not be taken out of commission. I want to make it as emphatic as I can make it, and I'm speaking as President of the United States."

John L. Sullivan, Secretary of the Navy, standing at the President's side, quickly seconded Mr. Truman. He also reminded the reporters that he and Adm. Louis E. Denfeld, Chief of Naval Operations, also present, had jointly issued a denial when they read the offending story.

In an introductory speech, Capt. James H. Thach, Jr., commander of the Missouri, recalled a prediction Mr. Truman had made when his ship had been commissioned at New York on June 11, 1944.

"Big Mo, with guns blazing, will sail into Tokyo Harbor," Capt. Thach quoted the President as saying.

The battlewagon, as a unit of the famous Task Force 58, participated in the first fast carrier task force strikes against Tokyo on February 16 and 17, 1945.

The sister ship of the 45,000-ton battlewagon, the Iowa, is now being decommissioned. Two other sisters of the same class, the New Jersey and the Wisconsin, are already in moth balls.

The American Legion under a directive issued by a special sub-committee of the National Executive Committee, will ask the 81st Congress to enact legislation granting old age pensions to veterans of World Wars I and II starting at \$60 at the age of 60.

The American Legion has been called upon by its National Medical Advisory Board to encourage development of local mental health clinics in communities everywhere due to the fact that 53 per cent of all hospital patients in the nation today involve psychiatric disorders.

National Commander Perry Brown of the American Legion will broadcast a Christmas day message to more than 135,000 hospitalized veterans over the NBC network from his home at Beaumont, Texas, 11:15 to 11:30 a.m., CST., Dec. 25.

The clubrooms of the Argonne Post 33 of The American Legion at Steubenville, Ohio, were broken into by burglars who got away with \$797 in cash.

East Liverpool, Ohio, American Legion Post 4 has broken ground for its \$165,000 modern new clubhouse.

LEGIONNAIRES LOYALTY PAY OFF

National Commander, Perry Brown; Department Commander, Preston Moore and Post Commander, Guy Belford, Jr., has called for teamwork by members of our American Legion to gain achievements that are for you Legionnaires of providing suitable activities for all posts and members. Their ideas are outstanding, all exservice men should come to "attention" and very Legionnaire should contact all non-members, showing them the accomplishment of 31 years fighting for their rights.

The biggest surprise to our leaders was that the lack of membership and all reports show our leaders are not working, lack of interest in Posts meetings. They are all urging for more cooperation from YOU—the individual member.

YOU WEREN'T THERE!

Let's try to understand their plight. Your Post Commander, knowing that he would be more than busy with the post operations and the committees appointed would function to the challenging plans outlined. Since the new officers have been installed, they accepted their assignments in good faith but the lack of cooperation is lacking, now it is time for every one to get busy for you are needed.

Committees are appointed, they work hard. They plan ahead. They arranged big affairs. Our child at the Ponca City Home, Crippled Children Party and Christmas Party at the Veterans Hospital. These events are going to be had—successful—as well as others held—but YOU were not there. Because of your absence, the Commander and committees feel that somehow, somewhere they failed!

WHO FAILED?

The absent member is the one who failed. He penalized himself and his own. He deprived himself of the new and enriched friendship which he could have made had he attended his Post meetings (every Tuesday) and other affairs. He lost pleasant hours of comradeship of your buddies and entertainment which he could have enjoyed with renewing old acquaintances. He stole from himself the chance to keep informed on the really big questions of the day, questions that will affect his life, his job and his family. Yes, the absent member and Legionnaires and his own are the losers!

Don't be one who cheats himself. Attend your Post meeting, pay your Legion dues, take part in its activities. To your Post Commander, volunteer your time, your service and ask to work on a committee. When appointed on or as a chairman or elected to office, accept the assignment as an additional opportunity to grow—to grow in experience, in service for others, in leadership for yourself and your fellow veterans.

KEY TO SUCCESS.

Loyalty to your Legionnaires—to your Post—does pay off—with rich dividends in more friendship, in building up a better, cleaner and finer entertainment in greater knowledge, in valuable experience. The key to this success is in your hand—personal participation in your post affairs. Use that key for your own pleasure and profit.

—FRANK H. J. CRAWLEY, Service Officer.

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NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE DISCONTINUED

The matter of the 1948-49 budget and its relation to Legion income and its public relations activities came in for discussion over parts of two days during the November meeting of the National Executive Committee. The upshot was that the \$3,500,000 budget was adopted upon recommendation of Commission Chairman Sam W. Reynolds, of Nebraska, based on an anticipated minimum membership of 3,100,000. The Legion voted to do away with the National Legionnaires and to absorb its publicity features in the Legion Magazine with an additional eight-page insert each month. A request for \$80,000 to continue Legion radio activities was not admitted and that function was gutted.

Here again the opinions of the members of the governing body of the Legion were not fully in accord, and each of the public relations functions of the organization had its champion. In the long run the magazine was determined to be capable of meeting all requirements. The Executive Committee action amounts to the abolition of the Legion's nation-wide radio program "Decision Now." The Legionnaire, originally a semi-monthly publication, was stripped down a year ago, and only six issues were published during 1947-48.

A special report was made to the committeemen by one of their own members, John E. Curtiss, of Nebraska, who said that a special investigation and poll showed that reader interest among Legionnaires indicated that if one of the Legion publications had to suffer, it should not be the Legion Magazine. All of the elements relating to publication were debated in detail with the final recommendation adopted that the newspaper be dropped and that the insert be placed in the revenue-raising magazine.

George A. Bideaux, of Arizona, chairman of the Public Relations Commission, made no recommenda-

tion with reference to the National Legionnaire during the progress of his report, but there was discussed the possible loss of the radio program which is being broadcast over 1,038 stations at a minimum of cost. Other publicity features engaged in by the Legion were also debated. Bideaux's report, too, was held over until a decision was made on the balance of the publicity program as was final action on the report of the Publications Commission, made by Vilas H. Whaley, of Wisconsin. The commission activities as such were not tied in with the continuance or discontinuance of individual features, its principal activities being the business management of publications. Whaley spoke of revenue from advertising, the return in money to the Legion, printing contracts, mailing and delivery and reported a substantial over-all savings and a better job of the magazine since it was taken over about a year ago by a Kentucky publishing company.

The full national commissions personnel was not called to Indianapolis for the November meeting, chairmen and vice chairmen and a few special committees only being present in addition to the National Executive Committee itself. Under the circumstances then, a number of resolutions referred to permanent commissions by the Miami convention were held over for further study and no final action on them was taken.

Nevertheless, an example of the comprehensive nature of some reports can be found in that of the Foreign Relations Commissions, submitted by Anson T. McCook, of Connecticut, who reviewed the world situation from the standpoint principally of driving for international peace through strength. In it, the Legion renewed its appeal for a strong United Nations, saw need for new aid to stricken China and termed the longshoreman's strike on the West Coast "Communist-led."

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WELCOME '49

With old man '48 tottering out, vets can give him a big hand—even while we hope, as '49 toddles in, that he'll go the old boy one better. For, truth to tell, ex-GI's fared pretty well in 1948.

Under the GI Bill, eight million veterans have already obtained eligibility certificates. Right now, some two million vets are attending school under the GI Bill; well over half a million are undergoing job training; and a quarter million more are learning to run their own farms.

Nearly a million and a half loans (mainly for homes, but some for setting up business enterprises and buying farms) have been guaranteed for veterans under the GI bill. Nearly eight million have made use of unemployment compensation, collecting three billion dollars while seeking work or awaiting entrance to school. In addition, Congress raised pensions in keeping with the rising cost of living, and also increased allotments to GI students and job trainees.

Meanwhile, under the able direction of General Omar N. Bradley, the veterans Administration has been streamlined and expanded. In particular, with VA medicine overhauled, vets are now assured of top-notch medical care through a tieup between VA hospitals and the nation's leading medical centers.

Of course, no one is perfect and none of us is ever completely satisfied. Most of the legitimate gripes we still air are plaguing the rest of our population, too. Housing, expensive and scarce, is still a headache to all Americans. Communism, international tension, high prices, the atom-bomb control problem—all these and many other riddles stump ex-GI's as they do our fellow citizens. But there is reason to look forward with hope to '49, particularly in the field of Americanism.

In the recent election, both Democrats and Republicans pledged themselves to enact Americanism measures that would assure every citizen an equal right to vote, to obtain a job, to serve in the armed forces without discrimination, and to get equal legal protection—without regard to faith or national origin. This is the sort of progressive legislation that makes sense to vets. It's the kind of legislation veteran organizations have been passing resolutions on for years past.

In the muck and mud of the fox-hole, every GI was equal and everyone's blood ran red when he was hit. No dogface was told he couldn't fight or die because his skin wasn't the right color, or his church was wrong, or the country his father came from wasn't on the accepted list. That policy is practiced by all major veteran groups.

If every GI was good enough to die for Uncle Sam, the men who returned are good enough to get an equal chance at living and working for him.

Welcome '49. And bring with you a better, stronger, freer America for all!

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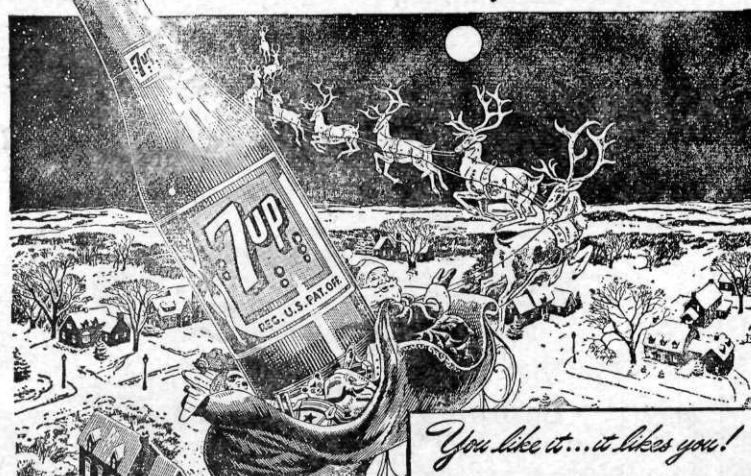
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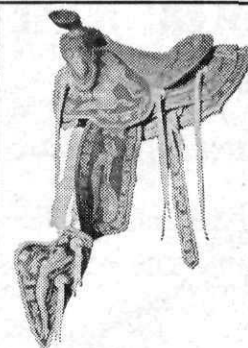
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52-20 Payments

A temporary benefit provided veterans of World War II under the GI Bill of Rights, which has been costing taxpayers over \$800,000,000 a year, will end for all practical purposes on July 25, 1949, thereby effecting an immediate reduction of more than 10% in the continuing costs of vet benefits.

This benefit is the readjustment (unemployment) allowance payments, familiarly known as 52-20 Club benefits, which as of Sept. 30, 1948, has been paid to 8,131,559 veterans in a total amount of \$3,276,402,492.

With the unemployment allowance phase of the GI Bill program expiring for most vets, 25 days after the start of the new 1950 fiscal year it is probable that the new budget for the Veterans Administration will include only nominal sum for future payments.

Despite unfavorable publicity, resulting from few flagrant examples of abuse of unemployment allowance rights, VA records easily refute charges of general "treasury raiding" prove that majority of veterans took quick advantage of employment opportunities.

Actually, only slightly more than half of the potentially eligible veterans, 14,500,000, ever drew any readjustment allowances at all, and those who did, on the average, received far below the maximum of \$20 per week for 52 weeks.

Average 52-20 compensation drawn by 7,507,706 vets up to Sept. was only \$365.21, while 623,853 who drew some part of the maxi-

mum \$100-a-month allowance authorized for self-employed, received an average of \$856.84.

Deadline for collecting allowances while unemployed, or while self-employed but earning less than \$100 a month, was set by Congress as two years after discharge, or two years after July 25, 1947, whichever is later.

Final deadline, even for those discharged after July 25, 1947, will be July 25, 1952.

Special provision for enlistees under Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act, men who enlisted between Oct. 5, 1945 and Oct. 6, 1946, gives them two years from discharge from first period of enlistment to exercise rights.

At the end of September, only 673,880 veterans had exhausted all of their entitlement to unemployment benefits.

In the first five months of 1948, January through May, the total paid to beneficiaries, both unemployed and self-employed, was \$263,381,000, an average of \$52,676,200 per month.

But in most recent four months, June through September, average dropped to \$36,325,750 per month, with indications that average will continue to drop to approximately \$25 millions per month between now and July 25, 1949, when program, for most vets, expires.

Fact that only 673,880 veterans, out of possible 14,500,000 eligibles, collected maximum benefits indicative of justification of program, of fact that vast majority of War II vets prefer to earn their own way, don't take advantage of nation's generosity.

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LEGION COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING SET FOR JANUARY 9-15

The American Legion will graduate another class of 64 younger members in Indianapolis January 15, intensely trained for future leadership in the world's largest veterans' organization.

The third American Legion Post-Graduate College will be held at national headquarters here, January 9 to 15, 1949, inclusive. There will be 64 students from 45 states, Panama and the Philippine Islands, all honor graduates of the third American Legion Extension Institute. The institute is a six-months' correspondence training course in American Legion leadership. More than 4,000 Legionnaires enrolled for the third institute. The 64 coming here for the post-graduate college are those with the top grades in the mail course, most of them averaging 90 per cent or better.

"These students when they leave Indianapolis all will be potential future state and national American Legion leaders," said National Commander Perry Brown. "The record of the graduates of our previous colleges justifies that prediction."

Emphasis on Speaking

During the post-graduate college session, the honor students will receive special instruction in public speaking, according to V. M. Armstrong of Indianapolis, a past national vice-commander of The A. L. who is president of the college.

In addition, they will review American Legion history, internal organization, law, programs and accomplishments. All American Legion objectives in such activities as rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, child welfare, public relations and community services will be thoroughly discussed, Armstrong said.

The January post-graduate college class will include three students each from California, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania; two each from Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. There will be one student each from 33 other departments.

Dr. M. O. Ross, president of Butler University here, will deliver the graduation address on the night of January 15.

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"Chicken" on the Skids

"Just another brass hat white-wash," That was the prediction of the average GI when Lieut. Gen. James H. Doolittle was named head of an Army board to investigate the excess of brass in the Army brass hats, a couple of years ago.

So, when the Doolittle board blossomed out with a report that recommended, among other things, the introduction of equal treatment of men and officers as far as food, quarters, social life, and uniforms were concerned, it came as quite a surprise to the skeptics. And then, when the Army actually began in a very quiet but nevertheless effective way, to put many of the Doolittle recommendations into operation, this GI and vet surprise turned into downright amazement.

A couple of months ago, President Truman appointed another committee to check up on methods of ending discrimination in the armed forces. Called the "Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services," it is headed by former Solicitor General Charles H. Fahy.

Now, word comes from Washington, D.C., that the problem of bol-

stering morale and efficiency in the armed forces by ending segregation and discrimination, is being tackled in vigorous fashion by the service authorities. According to James C. Evans, Defense Secretary James V. Forrestal's aide, "Much progress has been made in the National Military Establishment towards attacking and solving problems relating to the equality of opportunity in the armed forces, particularly as regards Negroes and other minorities."

This will be good news to millions of ex-GI's who had their bellyfull of "chicken" of all varieties. We have been reading with interest of the treatment accorded new trainees. An army where brass is at a minimum, where every soldier has a chance to give his best and to win promotion without regard for the color of his skin, his church or his ancestry, is an army that's bound to win. It is also an army that upholds the good old American tradition that everyone has a chance to hit the top. These changes will, no doubt, boost voluntary enlistments and aid our defense program.

Let's keep heading that way. Less chicken, less brass, and more equality in the armed forces.

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Young World War II Veteran of Michigan Is Director of National Security Division

Martin B. Buckner, 31, of Flint, Michigan, Air Force combat veteran of World War II, is the new director of the National Security Division of the American Legion.

Another World War II veteran, Erie Cocke, Jr., past department commander of the Legion in Georgia, is chairman of the National Security Commission.

Buckner's appointment was announced by National Commander Perry Brown. Buckner, a past national vice commander, had been acting director of security since the resignation of Milt D. Campbell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, May 15, 1948.

In his new post, Buckner will direct all of the programs of the American Legion on behalf of national security, including Universal Military Training, an Air Force and Navy second to none, a long-range civil defense organization, the building of an adequate Merchant Marine and other preparedness objectives.

Buckner is a veteran of 35 bombing missions over Europe during World War II. He was a B-24 bomber pilot. He was a first lieutenant with the 466th Heavy Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. He served 47 months. He is now a first lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve, assigned to the headquarters of the 323d Troop Carrier Air Division at Stout Field, Indianapolis.

Born at Leachville, Ark., June 4, 1917, Buckner moved to Flint with his family in 1924. He was graduated from Michigan State College in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He completed a four-year ROTC course at college and was commissioned immediately upon graduation.

Two days after separation from active service in August, 1945, Buckner affiliated himself with the Oakley Traynor Post No. 64, at Flint. He served as secretary of the post drum and bugle corps and as Americanism chairman. In December, 1945, he served as World War II consultant to National Executive Committeeman Herman F. Luhrs, of Michigan. While attending the NEC meeting, he was selected as a member of a special committee of three young Legionnaires to accompany the national commander to Washington, D. C., to testify before the House Military Affairs Committee on UMT. He was named also to a three-year term on the National Aeronautics Commission and as member of the Special Committee on the Control of Atomic Energy and the Unification of Command. The 28th national convention in San Francisco elected him as national vice commander for 1946-47. He joined the national headquarters staff in Indianapolis as assistant director of aeronautics on January 1, 1948.

Buckner was married to Miss Therese Fromm, September 6, 1941. They have four children. He is a member of Theta Kappa Nu, Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Epsilon Mu Fraternities.

LEGION MANUAL ON SPIRITUAL TRAINING OUTGROWTH OF GIFT

HIALEAH, Fla.—The American Legion's latest pamphlet, "As the Twig Is Bent," to further the spiritual training of children in the United States, now being distributed to its 17,176 posts, was made possible by the generosity of a Hialeah Legionnaire.

He is George H. Keen, charter member of the Sullivan-Babcock Post 32 of The American Legion here. Always interested in The American Legion's child welfare program, Keen contributed \$650 to make possible the printing of the new booklet. He is in the real estate and insurance business here and a member of the Methodist Church. He came here many years ago from his native Abbeville, Ga.

Spiritual Manual

Designed as a guide for American Legion post child welfare chairmen and chaplains, the new brochure is the work of three past national chaplains of The American Legion. They are Father John F. McManus of Wilson, Kansas; Rev. Mr. Paul DeF. Mortimore of Caldwell, Idaho, and Rev. Mr. Arthur L. Rustad of Faribault, Minnesota.

The booklet points out more than 3,000,000 American children have never been inside of a church, and that less than one-third of all children in the United States receive any regular religious instruction. The National Child Welfare Commission of The American Legion long has stressed the importance of spiritual training of children in its program for the care of the "whole" child. Hitherto, funds have been lacking for literature on this phase of child welfare. Legionnaire Keen received the thanks of The American Legion by a national convention resolution in Miami for meeting an obvious need.

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**Full Time Claims
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A special convention of the Dis-
trict of Columbia Department of the
American Legion last week ordered
the appointment of a full-time claims
specialist to assist District veterans,
and the naming of a six-man board
of managers for the American Le-
gion clubhouse.

The delegates, meeting in the De-
partment of Commerce auditorium
for final sessions of a two-day spe-
cial session ordered by the regular
convention last summer, also made
several changes in the articles of
their constitution in an effort to
"streamline" that document.

In Saturday's actions, the dele-
gates asked that a claims specialist
be placed in the Washington Veter-
ans Regional Office to assist in mat-
ters of rehabilitation of District vet-
erans. The department's executive
committee was ordered to make this
appointment at the earliest practi-
cable date, at an expense figure to
be worked out by the committee. An
original proposal recommending a
\$7,000-per-year service officer was
defeated.

The delegates further directed De-
partment Commander David E. Kis-
liuk to appoint a six-man board of
managers of the American Legion
clubhouse, 2437 E. 15th St., N.W.,
subject to the ratification of the ex-
ecutive committee. The clubhouse
is now managed by one man, Ed-
ward G. Comingore.

In addition to making changes in
several articles of the constitution,
the delegates asked that a list of pro-
posed changes in the by-laws and
amendments be referred to the ex-
ecutive committee for study and pre-
sentation at a January meeting.

A resolution calling for a \$1 in-
crease in yearly dues to sustain the
Newspaper, the Washington Legion
News, reportedly operating at a
yearly deficit of \$8,000, was voted
down by the delegates. A following
resolution ordered the paper discon-
tinued.

MAY DRAFT DOCTORS

Physicians have the choice of vol-
unteering in sufficient numbers for
military service or of being drafted,
Dr. James C. Sargent, chairman of
the American Medical Association
Council on Emergency Medical
Service, said last week.

**Dental Backlog
Is Low With VA**

The Veterans Administration an-
nounced that its current dental work
backlog is the lowest in two years.

Dr. Bion R. East, director of VA's
Dental Service, said that during the
three months ending Sept. 30, the
agency's dental work-load was pared
from 291,051 to 229,541, a reduction
of 21 per cent.

Dr. East said he expected an even
greater reduction by June 30, 1949,
the end of the present fiscal year.

Private dentists have cooperated
with the VA in caring for the serv-
ice-connected dental disabilities of
World War II veterans. They hand-
led 88 per cent of the dental treat-
ment cases and more than 50 per
cent of the examinations completed
during the three-month period.

A statistical report shows 132,843
dental cases were completed by pri-
vate dentists, for which they receiv-
ed \$10,786,548, during the first quar-
ter of fiscal 1948. VA staff dentists
in clinics located in VA regional of-
fices, hospitals, and other field of-
fices, completed 18,248 treatment
cases during this period.

Private dentists also examined 79,-
040 veterans, and VA staff dentists
completed 70,405 examinations.

**Legion Post Has
Girl Bugler**

Miss Donna Niedermeyer, 18-year-
old Moundsville, W. Va., girl, holds
an honor unique in Legion circles
anywhere in the nation. An accom-
plished musician, she was recently
appointed official bugler for the Earl
Francis Post No. 3, in Moundsville,
and as such will blow Taps for the
returning dead from World War II
as well as for local military funerals.

Miss Niedermeyer, an eighth grade
student at Moundsville Junior High
School, considers her appointment
an honor and has already demon-
strated the solemn dignity befit-
ting the occasion of a military fu-
neral.

The position of official bugler of
Post No. 3, became vacant because
of the death on Oct. 15 of well-
known Legionnaire Arch W. Rex. A
veteran of World War I, Rex had
blown Taps for 680 military funerals
since 1920, and during the present
year, had played Taps for 39 dead
veterans. He died suddenly of a
heart attack, and his successor as
bugler, Miss Niedermeyer, blew taps
at his funeral.

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Over Million And Half In Armed Services

James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense, said the combined strength of United States armed forces on Nov. 1, was 1,564,018 officers and men.

This is an increase of 19,528 since Oct. 1.

But to reach the goal of 1,786,500 by June 30, 1949, as authorized by Congress, an average increase of 27,810 monthly will be needed for the next eight months. This can be taken care of by the draft.

The Nov. 1 figures do not include the 10,000 draftees called that month. In addition, there are 15,000 scheduled for December and 20,000 for January.

The February quota is being held up until the budget for military defense has been determined. Military planners have said they expect the draft to take in 30,000 monthly after it gets into high gear.

The armed forces had enlistments and re-enlistments totaling 69,024 during October. Re-enlistments, however, do not increase overall strength.

One-year enlistments of 18-year-old volunteers under the Selective Service Act during October totaled 4,469. Other enlistments amounted to 38,189. Re-enlistments were 26,416.

Army strength on Nov. 1 was estimated at 645,067 officers and men—an increase of 9,527 over Oct. 1.

At the same time, the Navy had 426,316, up 7,840; the Marine Corps had 85,435, up 1,049, and the Air Force had 407,200, an increase of 1,112 over Oct. 1.

Flash! Docs invade entertainment field—prescribe new type of shows for hospitalized vets! Yup, the medics have been giving hospital shows the once-over and studying audience reactions. Diagnosis: Some of the stuff being dished out as entertainment isn't good for the digestion. For instance, the docs learned that jugglers and tumblers go over big with the boys, while animal acts and routines with loud noises are practically taboo. Fast talking gagsters don't cut any ice with the vets, but they do get a big kick out of watching a performer imitate hospital patients. The Veterans Hospital Camp Shows, Inc., successor to the USO, aren't taking any chances—they're planning their new shows along the lines laid down by the medics. Last year, this organization managed to cover 28,000 miles, visit 109 hospitals and entertain 100,000 vets. This year, the program is equally ambitious. Only one thing will be missing—gripes from the audience.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Strong Reserve Asked For By Chief

National Commander S. Perry Brown, said at Columbus, Ohio, last week there is increasing evidence of a tendency by the nation's defense chiefs "to build little empires."

Commander Brown, addressing a national commander's banquet, urged more emphasis on marshaling the citizenry as a reserve for emergencies.

"I doubt very much that this idea will be happily received by our defense chiefs," Brown said. "There has been increasing evidence of their tendency to build little empires. We must prune down any such ambitions to their proper size."

He asserted the American Legion advocates two ways of striking a security balance by calling a halt to multiplication of armed forces and placing more reliance on trained citizen reserves.

"One would be by military manpower preparedness through universal military training," the Legion chief said, "and the other by civilian protection preparedness through a civil defense system."

He said approximately one-third of all money collected by the Federal Government will be earmarked to maintain the nation's current military establishment and that "the cost of preparedness today is terrific."

"If it continues to mount," he declared, "it will topple our economic structure, and achieve by indirection, what the Communists have predicted and sought—economic chaos in the United States."

He said in urging a strong corps of trained citizen-soldiers to serve as the bulwark of defense, he did not mean "we should forsake an adequate professional force."

Parents of Missing Flyer Ask Legion Aid

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lepselter, of 915 Elsmere Place, New York 60, N. Y., parents of an American Air Force sergeant missing in action since July 17, 1944, still praying he may be alive, have asked The American Legion to help them in their long search as to their son's fate.

The missing soldier is S/Sgt. Nathan L. Lepselter, Serial Number 12155245, one of three members of the crew of an A-20 J bomber which disappeared while on a mission over France after taking off from Chalgrove, England. The bodies of the other two crew members were washed ashore on a beach near Regenville, France, later but no trace has ever been found of Sgt. Lepselter. The father made a personal trip to France where he was told by natives that his son was seen after the date of the bomber's disappearance. The parents believe their son was a German prisoner and may still be alive.

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Maj. Gen. Carl R. Gray, national director of the Veterans Administration said a \$15,000,000 VA hospital will be built in Oklahoma City as planned.

He said contracts for the 1,000-bed hospital probably will be let the first part of 1950. Construction should end two years later.

The VA director also said plans for the neuropsychiatric hospital at Norman are nearly complete. He expects the corps of engineers to advertise bids for that \$11,000,000 unit in February.

Both projects have been approved by Congress in a program calling for 90 new VA hospitals.

"We have a mandate from Congress to build your hospital here and one in Norman, Gen. Gray said. "And they will be built as far as the VA is concerned."

Gray said the VA hospital in Muskogee would not be enlarged.

"Certain additions to present VA hospitals were authorized by Congress. But Muskogee is not included in that program," Gray said.

Gray's statements gave new life for the hospital proposed for Oklahoma City. But several things stand in the way of actual construction.

The state board of affairs now holds the nine-acre tract where the hospital will be built.

The board granted the VA an option to purchase the land for \$97,376. The government accepted the option last month but the attorney general has not yet examined the title.

The Oklahoma City unit will specialize in surgery and general medicine. Plans call for construction of the hospital next door to the proposed Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation building.

These two new medical units will join the University of Oklahoma medical school, University hospital and crippled children's medical center.

Captain Lyle O. Armel, 53, USNR of Lawrence, Kan., veteran of both World Wars, and Navy Liaison Officer with the American Legion, died suddenly in Washington, D. C., as the result of a heart attack.

George L. Berry, 65, who served as a national vice commander of the American Legion during 1921-22, died at the Pressmen's Home, Tenn., after a long illness.

**New Regulations
On VA Loans**

Clarifying regulations governing the guarantee and insurance of veterans' loans under the GI bill, effective Dec. 15, have been announced by the Veterans Administration.

The changes pertain primarily to the relationship between the VA and lenders who make GI loans to veterans. They do not directly affect veteran-borrowers whose loans are guaranteed or insured by VA.

The amendments are designed to clarify this relationship, particularly with respect to paying or compromising claims in connection with the Government's guarantee of the loan.

Primary changes define the quality of property title acceptable to VA, and responsibility for the care of real estate properties conveyed to VA.

The new regulations provide generally, in cases of such conveyances to VA, that the VA will accept from responsible lenders a general warranty deed, or title evidence customarily accepted locally by prudent lenders and informed buyers. This will expedite settlement of claims and minimize the need for individual title examinations. Responsibility of VA for the care of acquired property also is clarified.

A new section provides for supplemental loans, particularly those for home modernization, alterations or repairs. Other changes, aimed at eliminating delays and misunderstandings in the settlement of claims, are included.

Copies of the new regulations, and explanatory bulletins concerning them, are available at any VA Regional office.

Our buddies out at the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital are feeling pretty cocky these days. Thanks to the contributions of some public-spirited citizens, these fellows are getting themselves a slick new swimming pool and therapy building, complete with sun-lamp room, exercise room, shower room and sun deck. The project goes by the name of the Four Chaplains Memorial Swimming Pool and was begun early in 1947 as a tribute to the four Army chaplains—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—who gave up their lifebelts to GI's on the German torpedoed **Dorchester** in 1943 and met death together. The good work is well under way, but there's one small hitch. The sponsors need a measly \$50,000 more to finish the job. So if you have any loose change lying around, contact the Four Chaplains Memorial Fund, 1372 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y. You couldn't put it to better use!

A total of 21,500 names of present and past living district, department and national officers has been compiled by Harry Kehm of Chicago, Ill., for the first "Who's Who in the American Legion" soon to go to press.

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ERNEST GOINS TO HEAD FIGHT FOR LEGION'S MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—Ernest Goens of Austin, Texas, has been appointed by National Commander Perry Brown as the new chairman of the National Legislative Commission of The American Legion for 1949. In that capacity he will lead the fight for the enactment in the 81st Congress of The American Legion's major legislative program dealing with UMT, pensions, housing and Americanism.

Erle Cocke, Jr., 28, of Dawson, department commander of Georgia, was named as the new chairman of the National Security Commission. He served as the vice chairman of this commission during 1948.

David V. Addy of Detroit, Mich., was appointed as National Child Welfare chairman, a post he held once before.

James F. Green of Omaha, Neb., was reappointed as National Americanism chairman. He is now serving his third term. Dan C. Hartbauer of Pittsburgh, Pa., is vice chairman.

Frank J. Becker of Lynbrook, N. Y., was named as chairman of the National Public Relations Commission with Herman F. Luhrs of Pleasant Ridge, Mich., as vice chairman.

John H. Walsh of Waltham, Mass., is the new chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission. Robert H. McCurdy of Pasadena, Calif., was renamed vice chairman. Watson B. Miller of Washington, D. C., was reappointed as commission consultant.

Lawrence J. Fenlon of Chicago, Ill., was reappointed as chairman of the National Economic Commission. John Lewis Smith, Jr., of Washington, D. C., was reappointed vice chairman.

Leon Happell of Stockton, Calif., was made chairman and Charles A. Gonser of Spokane, Wash., and Oscar B. Rohlff of Casper, Wyo., were named as vice chairmen of the National Foreign Relations Commission.

Eli Dahlin of Kansas City, Kan., got the post of chairman and William Lowry of Hartford, Conn., that of vice chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission.

Sam Reynolds of Omaha, Neb., was again named chairman of the National Finance Commission with William J. Dwyer of New York, N. Y., as vice chairman.

Vincent A. Carroll of Philadelphia, Pa., was reappointed as chairman and John W. Slacks of New York, N. Y., as vice chairman, respectively, of the National Convention Commission.

Accident Prevention Committee—Clarence E. Lynch, Burlington, Vt., chairman, and Eugene W. Biscailuz, Los Angeles, Calif., vice chairman.

Boys' State Committee—Ed R. Stirling, Cincinnati, Ohio, chairman and Hayes Kennedy, Chicago, Ill., vice chairman.

Law and Order Committee—John Gurley, Albuquerque, N. M., chairman.

Marksmanship Committee—James W. Woolrey, Canon City, Colo., reappointed as director.

Sons of The American Legion Committee—W. M. Brown, Milford, Conn., chairman.

Contests Supervisory Committee—Stephen A. Manning of Marlboro, Mass., former vice chairman, named as chairman and J. Earl McCurdy of LaPorte, Ind., as vice chairman.

Distinguished Guests Committee—A. L. Starshak, Chicago, Ill., reappointed as chairman.

Transportation Committee—Fred H. Baird, New York, N. Y., reappointed as chairman. Thomas Garbett, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Charles McKnaught, Topeka, Kan., named as vice chairmen.

Frank Wilson of Jacksonville, Fla., as vice chairman.

Agricultural and Conservation Committee—Robert L. Morrow, Brandon, Miss., chairman.

Employment Committee—Spence S. Boise, Bismarck, N. D., renamed chairman. E. F. McNally of Saginaw, Mich., is the new vice chairman.

Veterans' Preference Committee—Ray R. McAvoy, Stoughton, Mass., renamed as chairman. Gray A. Mann of Alexandria, La., and Herbert J. Jacob of Washington, D. C., are the new vice chairmen.

Emblem Committee—Julius Levy, Uniontown, Pa., is the new chairman and Dee Holder, California, the vice chairman.

Investments Policy Committee—Earl F. Knoob, San Francisco, Calif., chairman.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee—Sam M. Birnbaum, New York, N. Y., chairman and Walter Rountree, Talahassee, Fla., vice chairman.

Graves Registration and Memorial Committee—Mancel Talcott, Waukegan, Ill., and Norman John, Norristown, Pa., reappointed as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Membership and Post Activities—Irvin R. Snyder, Tujunga, Calif., reappointed as chairman.

Pilgrimage Committee—Charles L. Scheuttler and Ward H. Oehman, both of Washington, D. C., named as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Resolutions Assignment Committee—Thomas J. D. Salter, Winnemucca, Nev., reappointed as chairman.

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Insurance Advisory Board—Milo J. Warner, Toledo, Ohio, reappointed as chairman.

Aeronautics Committee—R. B. Gardner, Mansfield, Ohio, reappointed as chairman and Roscoe Turner, Indianapolis, Ind., as vice chairman.

Civil Defense Committee—Neil R. Allen, Grants Pass, Ore., reappointed as chairman.

Merchant Marine Committee—Albert B. Stapp, Birmingham, Ala., named as new chairman.

Naval Affairs Committee—Arthur F. Duffy, Queens Village, N. Y., chairman and Retiring Chairman Paul Dever, Boston, Mass., as vice chairman.

UMT Committee—Gen. Daniel B. Strickler, Lancaster, Pa., named as new vice chairman.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1949

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(ALNS)—Designating the major legislative program for 1949 in which The American Legion will fight with all the energies of its multi-million membership on the three major fronts of veterans' rehabilitation, national security and Americanism, the national executive committee at its annual meeting in Indianapolis, Nov. 18 to 20, also took the following other actions:

1.—Awarded the 31st national convention to Philadelphia, Pa., to be held August 29 to September 1, 1949.

2.—Completed the organization of The American Legion for 1949 by confirming the appointments of the following national officers:

Henry H. Dudley as national adjutant.

Ralph B. Gregg of Indianapolis as national judge advocate.

Neal Grider of Indianapolis as national treasurer.

Monte C. Sandlin of Florence, Ala., as national historian.

3.—Authorized the national commander to appoint a special NEC subcommittee of three members to study the pension resolutions adopted by the recent Miami convention and to determine in what legislative form they are to be presented to Congress.

4.—Adopted a streamlined budget of approximately \$3,500,000 for the 1949 national operations of The American Legion.

Major Legislative Program

The NEC adopted the following major legislative program for 1949:

1.—REHABILITATION

(a) Across the board cost of living increase for the disabled veterans, widows, orphans and dependents.

(b) Housing—all mandates calling for relief of veterans in the field of housing.

(c) Pensions—In view of the fact that there are points of conflict between Resolutions No. 44 and 456 adopted at the Miami Convention dealing with this subject, therefore we recommend that a subcommittee of the NEC be appointed by the national commander to reconcile those differences and to submit a directive to the National Legislative Commission for preparation and its implementation in the Congress.

(d) Social security—Resolutions amending the Social Security Act with emphasis on those pertaining to social security credit for time spent in the armed forces.

2.—NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) Universal Military Training.

3.—AMERICANISM.

(a) Continuation of the House un-American Activities Committee as the yes and ears of the Congress in the field of subversive activities.

(b) Give full endorsement and approval to a bill similar to the Mundt-Nixon bill of the last Congress.

Committee's Report

In conclusion the sub-committee on the legislative program headed by Chairman George L. Cleere of Alabama, said:

"Practically all of the mandates of The American Legion merit the continuous support of The American Legion but your committee feels that to adopt too comprehensive a priority program would dissipate the effectiveness of our legislative activities.

"We take this opportunity of bringing to the attention of the National Executive Committee that at the present time here are 348 mandates on the agenda of our legislative commission.

"Therefore, we urge the necessity of the membership of the National Executive Committee and of all the commissions and committee of The American Legion to use their influence to combat the tendency of segments of our organization utilizing the machinery of The American Legion to promote programs not germane to The American Legion."

VA CLAIMS RED TAPE FIGHT WON

The Veterans Administration says it is winning a war against forms, the stuff out of which most Government red tape is made.

The agency, keeper of 130,000,000 administrative records and 100,000,000 insurance accounts, spender of \$7,800,000,000 a year, frequently is accused of wrapping everything in red tape. Only two weeks ago President Truman, learning of one widow's difficulties about collecting her husband's war insurance, ordered the agency to investigate the cause of such delays.

Most of the complaints, the organization has discovered, stem back to the great number of printed, typed and mimeographed forms involved. Accordingly, in December, 1945, the Administration set up a forms control unit, to standardize and reduce paper work.

"The number of different forms used in veterans affairs multiplied alarmingly with the demobilization of service men and reached its peak, at 22,000 varieties, in June, 1946," Gladys P. Jones, assistant chief of the unit, said.

"Now we have cut the number to 7,000, and by the end of next year we hope to have reduced it to its probable minimum of 3,500 types of forms.

"Aside from the tremendous saving in the time required to handle and rehandle those forms, this has saved more than \$2,000,000 in the cost of printing and binding them."

Figures Are Listed

The figures: In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, the agency paid \$3,893,184 for printing 1,781,126,335 forms and form letters. For the year ended last June the total had been reduced to \$1,777,456 for printing 692,591,189 such papers.

Mrs. Jones notes these results:

In October, 1946, 2,501 different forms were being used for procurement work—matters dealing with construction, supplies and real estate. Now the total is 584.

In 1946 at least seven forms were required to authorize a veteran to report to a hospital for treatment. The administration handled about 7,000,000 such forms a year. Now only one form—a form developed in the Chicago office—is required. The estimated net gain in hospital processing time alone is estimated at 25 per cent.

Hospitals for neuropsychiatric veterans used to require 75 forms and a large number of form letters. Now they get by on 17—and the whittling-down process is still under way.

"The various operating services are working closely with the unit's 13-man staff of analysts," Mrs. Jones said.

"We've pretty well eliminated the chaff among the forms, and now we are ready to really standardize them. Much of the remaining work is with medical forms."

Legion Studies Reorganization

At the regular November meeting of the National Executive Committee William G. McKinley, of New Jersey, submitted a comprehensive plan for the conduct of National Executive Committee meetings which was adopted after spirited debate. In another report for a subcommittee on reorganization of the Legion itself McKinley spoke of a desire to further explore area organization to bring the national Legion program nearer to localities. He recommended the abolition of the Postwar America Committee as having outlived its need, and this was done by the adoption of a resolution. Also adopted was a resolution calling for liaison committees to work with the departments of Americanism, child welfare, rehabilitation and others of the major Legion commissions.

George N. Craig, of Indiana, covered a report of a special group named to aid Legionnaires who are attending college, and John Lewis Smith, Jr., of Washington, D. C., who heads a special committee to spearhead the sale of security bonds, an activity which was initiated Nov. 11, recommended the appointment of State chairmen and urged general support of bond sales "to keep America economically strong."

In additional resolutions adopted, there was combined with the Agricultural Committee the functions of conservation, this being a mandate of the Miami convention. The action was taken even though it was pointed out by some that the Legion was arrogating to itself the functions of federal departments and that the Legion should "stay in its own back yard," and protect the economic welfare of veterans. There was accepted a Pacific War Memorial proposal in living remembrance of those who lost their lives in the armed services in Pacific areas.

Several resolutions relating to publications contracts were accepted and, for purposes of Emblem Committee action, there were approved several optional Legion uniform changes having to do with shirts, Eisenhower jackets with either button or zipper front, and control of and protection against violation of the Legion emblem.

Also adopted by resolution were proposals for changes in convention contest rules, the establishment of an initiation team contest and the adoption of a trophy to be presented to a post or to the District of Columbia Department for outstanding service in the return of the war dead program.

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FIRMNESS DEMANDED

With our national elections in the past, it is more important than ever to prove to other nations that American foreign policy can be relied upon as firm, steady and free from politics; and that it is supported by a well-informed, wide-awake public opinion. The American Legion has always urged that our Government keep our people informed of all the essential facts in our foreign problems as they develop, both as a matter of right and as essential to morale at home and confidence abroad.

The continuity and firmness of our Berlin policy is gratifying. We consider that that policy is the strongest defense against Communism in Europe, also that it is the most effective means of preserving peace, if coupled with vigilance against any new upsurge of Nazi militarism . . .

The Legion's policy of strengthening the United Nations is becoming productive. Although elimination of the veto in cases of aggression has not yet been achieved, nor the American formula for atomic control adopted, the refusal by the Soviets to cooperate is making it clear to the world that America is seeking peace while the politburo is not.

The situation in China is extremely critical. The Chinese people are close to the starvation point, and ruthless Japanese armies brought desolation during China's long and heroic resistance. Now the Communists are telling these starving millions that Communism is their only hope against want and governmental corruption. It is from such evil soil that anarchy springs; and not only China but Korea and other parts of Asia are threatened. We reiterate the recommendation of the Miami convention that all practicable assistance be given to China.

In particular we urge the sending of food, under strict American control, to revive the spirit and bodies of a splendid people who at present are too weak to resist. The Chinese are thrifty, reliable, good-natured and appreciative, and are by nature the very opposite of Communists. We believe these sturdy qualities will prevail if given half a chance. But promptitude is essential, if they are to be enabled to resist the Communists who, claiming to come to them as friends, seek only to exploit them.

The question has been asked us whether the dock strikes on the Pacific Coast were fostered by sympathizers with Communism for the purpose of aiding the Communists in China. What we know is that the Pacific Coast strikes synchronized with the Communist drive in China. And we emphatically feel it to be our duty to call public attention to the serious consequences, if essentials are delayed in reaching their destinations. We regard food for China and materials for Europe as an important part of the world-defense against Communist aggression. We believe that our Pacific Coast ports are undergoing what is in effect a Communist blockade; and we urge that instant steps be taken to break through that blockade in order to permit an adequate flow of necessities to China.

In all these serious problems we believe that the American Legion has chosen the right path. Therefore, "with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

NO MORE PEARL HARBORS

Many of the problems the new Congress will face when it convenes in a few weeks are a direct result of the war which Japanese bombs brought to Pearl Harbor seven years ago. Housing shortages, high prices, necessity of military preparedness, displaced persons, European recovery, all these and many other headaches are traceable in some degree to the war and its aftermath. It is this inevitable link between aggression abroad and trouble at home which once again spotlights the interdependence of the modern world. Like it or not, we must face the fact that a blow against human rights anywhere can alter the destiny of a Kansas farm boy or a New England college youth.

Congress should keep this world-wide chain of cause and effect well in mind as it deliberates over proposed legislation. For just as aggression in Manchuria can lead to bombs on Pearl Harbor, so action for human rights on Capitol Hill may well pave the way for a lasting world peace.

The rights of man were the first targets of Axis aggressors on the path of world conquest. Freedom of speech, press and religion had to be trampled underfoot, before half of Europe could fall. "Master race" theories had to be propagated before armies could march.

Basic to any discussion of legislation on economic, political or social problems, therefore, are the individual and his rights. Failure to recognize this fact has invariably led to dictatorship.

Today, the United States delegation to the UN is working for the passage of an International Bill of Human Rights which would guarantee the fundamental liberties of free speech, press and religion to the citizens of 58 nations, regardless of their race, creed or nationality. The rest of the world properly inquires why we don't remove the beam from our own eyes before exclaiming at the mote in theirs. We must practice what we preach! Thus, to millions in other lands, what we do about human rights in our own backyard will be the acid test of our sincerity in advocating a similar program for the world.

At this crucial time in history, the new Congress can ill afford to neglect the consequences of its legislation on American world leadership and world peace. A strong democracy, with full human rights for all, is one way to make sure that there will be no future Pearl Harbor. Veterans know the price paid for Pearl Harbor and should take a firm stand so there never will be another!

Adjutant's Column

(Continued from Page 3)

George takes hold of anything it just can't fail. The Auxiliary ladies wrapped all the packages and we do thank them. They also helped serve the supper and again we thank you.

Say just a little request—Will the THIEF who pilfered the leather clock off the top of my radio in my office at the Hut be so KIND as to put it back. The clock was mine and worth about \$12, but it is not the price I am bothered about, but the fact that I have had the clock for about 10 years and it has a lot of fond memories attached to it. It was taken the night of the Sooner party on the third of this month, and I haven't said anything about it, because I thought someone had hid it on me for a joke, just to hear me gripe about it. But I have griped ever since, but still NO CLOCK—So if the person who took it will please place it back from where they took it—no questions will be asked—Thank you.

The party for Imogene Puett, our

sponsored child at the Legion home at Ponca City on Saturday the 18th. Dorothea Cosby was chairman and Harry Mitchell, co-chairman of this affair and through their untiring efforts this party for our little girl was super-colossal. This party was strictly by contributions and I am pleased to announce that the grand total donations were \$100.25. We got everything she wanted, as asked for in her letter and there were some additional gifts other than the list. Dorothea had a little surplus cash left over and she gave it to Mr. Powell the superintendent of the home, to buy candy and fruit for the rest of the kids at the home. Dorothea and Harry were so pleased with the party, in fact when they got back Saturday night all I could hear them singing was "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." They wish me to thank everybody for their generosity.

The crippled children's party on this Thursday is shaping itself into a wonderful party. The joint committee—Legion and VFW—had a meeting here at the Hut last night

(Continued next page)

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Adjutant's Column

(Continued from Page 29)

to check up on the final details of the party. I will give you a full story on the party in next week's issue.

Say, why not give the Post a Christmas present?—Pay your 1949 dues.

Looks like the two resolutions read at last week's meeting, namely the Bonus Resolution and the Prohibition Resolution, are going to get a little opposition as to their legality, from the chairman of the resolutions committee. In a letter to the Commander with regards to these, he states that these matters cannot be voted on by this Post, as individuals. But it will be perhaps mauled around at tonight's meeting I will let you know more about it.

On Thursday night, Dec. 16, the Fraternal Order of Police had their annual Christmas party at the Hut and on Friday night, the 17th, the employes of the City Water and Sewer Departments had their Christmas at the Hut. About 250 attended each party.

Well, will have to quit you for now as I am not allotted too much space in this week's issue and they are wanting the scuttle for the press so all I can do is STOP.—Have all the fun you can on Christmas.

Best Wishes for the
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OMA'S FIRST PREXY DIES

Stephen Melvil Barrett, 83, first president of Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore, died at his home in Independence, Mo.

Mr. Barrett, widely-known author and educational leader, had been in ill health since suffering a heart attack about six months ago.

A native of Nebraska City, Nebr., he was educated at Drury college, Springfield, Mo., and began his teaching career in Jackson county, Mo., in 1884.

He later served as superintendent of schools in Jackson county from 1895 to 1899 and as city superintendent at Rich Hill, Mo., and Lawton, Okla.

He was professor of education at the University of Oklahoma from 1908 to 1914. While at OU he was instrumental in starting a vocational education program. He later served as secretary and director of the Oklahoma state board of vocational education.

Mr. Barrett was one of the organizers of the Oklahoma Military Academy and served as its first president from 1919 until 1925.

After leaving Claremore he held a teaching post at William Jewell

college, Liberty, Mo., and then was on the board of education in Kansas City, Mo., until his retirement five years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Dolly; four sons, S. C. Barrett, 2501 E. Fifty-third st., J. P. Barrett, 807 S. New Haven av., S. M. Barrett, Jr., Nordheim, Texas and G. W. Barrett, Kansas City, Mo., and five daughters, Mrs. H. H. McKnight, 2531 E. Fourteenth pl., Mrs. Bertha Britt, 210 S. Cincinnati av., Miss Mable Barrett, of the home, Mrs. George A. MacKay, Independence, and Mrs. J. Frank Davis, Lafayette, La.

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I want to thank all the members of The American Legion for their support in the past election and sincerely wish each and every one of you the

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YOUR COURT CLERK-ELECT

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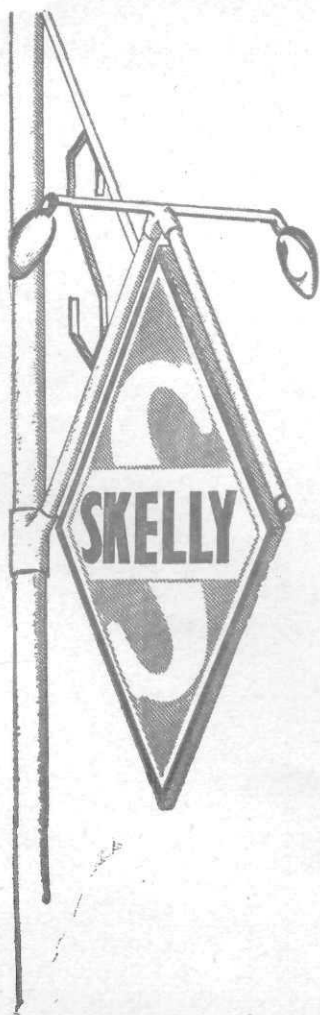
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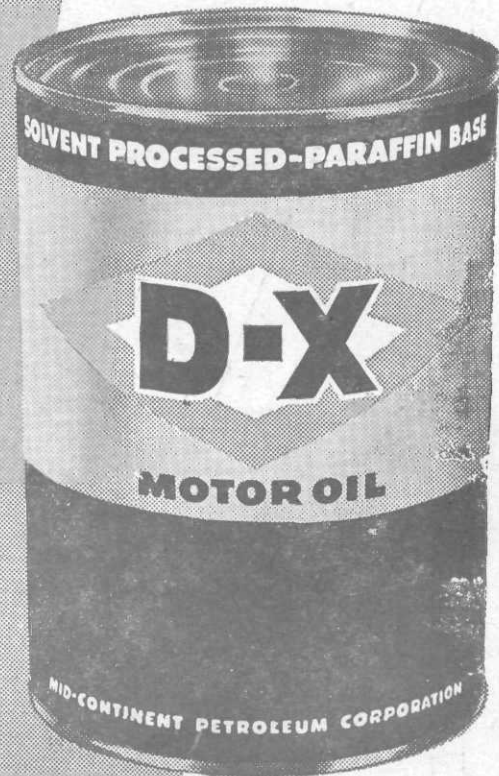
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