

# Travel agent aids veterans in voyage to 'over there'

By CRAIG PICCHURA

National news anchors could be accused for saying the World War I doughboys visiting France and England this month came all the way from "Sally" Ste. Marie, Mich.

The mispronunciation was insignificant compared to the international acclaim the 11 men in the World War I Drum and Bugle Corps received "over there" on the 60th anniversary of the Armistice.

But the unsung hero behind the hoopla was Jerry Halloran of Southfield who runs Imacom Travel.

Contacted at home in "the Soo," the corps' commander Oral J. "Moose" LaCombe said the historic trip back to England and France would not have been possible without Halloran's help.

"We thought he did a wonderful, wonderful job," Moose said. "Every arrangement from start to finish worked out beautifully. I think he did more for that trip, as far as getting us over there with the aid of the local fundraising committee, than anybody I can think of. He handled that part of it very nicely."

Halloran read a newspaper story in September describing the project. The Sault Ste. Marie fund drive was having in drumming up funds to send the World War I vets to Armentieres.

The bandsmen wanted to serenade the mademoiselle mentioned in the famous song about the city.

Without knowing where the additional money would come from, Halloran got on the phone that night and contacted LaCombe, 32, the commander of the drum and bugle corps. He told Moose LaCombe to have his group pack up their troubles in their old kit bag because they were going to Europe as scheduled on a no-frills tour.

**THE FRILLS** came later.

"I guaranteed him that even with the money they had collected at that time (\$15,000) we could take 28 to 29 people to France and provide them with transportation, hotels and at least breakfast," Halloran said.

Apparently more people than Halloran responded to the last minute plea for funds. By the time the group of 11 band members, ranging from the age of 79 to 86, left Detroit Sunday, Nov. 5, more than enough money had been collected to send the old doughboys "over there." And hotels lowered rates for the famous "Sammies."

More than \$30,000 was collected; enough for a welfare fund to be established for the future of drum and bugle corps members.

Due to sickness or other obligations, seven of the 18 surviving members of the drum and bugle corps could not make the trip. But their colleagues remembered them at every performance and the men staying home wished the corps well before they left.

But the trip didn't just fall into place. It was planned by Halloran with

the help of the French and British consuls in Detroit and the American embassy in France.

Halloran dipped into his own pocket twice for two trips he took. The month before the doughboys showed off for European crowds, Halloran went to Europe to make arrangements with government representatives and representatives of the British and French military.

**THAT'S WHEN** Halloran got discouraged.

"As far as the British government and the British Legion went, nothing was accomplished on that first trip I made to firm up our schedule."

He received a rather abrupt brush-off from a spokesman for the Royal British Legion stating that they were too busy to meet and greet their World War I allies when they arrived.

Frustrated with bureaucrats who kept telling him the doughboys "didn't fit in with their pre-arranged plans or they'd never done things that way before," Halloran took his cause to a small British Legion branch in Worcester Park Surrey, about 12 miles from the London city limits.

"They were delighted that a group from America, especially a group that old, would help them observe the Armistice," Halloran, himself a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, said. "They even made arrangements to have American beer waiting for the men when they came to dinner."

The trip showed me how uncooperative bureaucrats can be and how helpful people the world over are when you're dealing with them in a people-to-people type situation."

**ARRANGEMENTS** were also made in advance with the deputy mayor of the town of Armentieres, who loved the idea of performing doughboys.

From that point on, Halloran said, every other detail fell into place and press coverage became phenomenal.

With Halloran's help, the vets were able to meet 150 English World War I

vets at the Chelsea Hospital and perform a few tunes like "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" for their compatriots.

They visited Runnymede, site of the Magna Carta signing. It is also the home of President John F. Kennedy's memorial.

They played "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" in the town's square and placed a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in France. Deputy Mayor Yves Plotkin invited the doughboys to come back next year when a statue honoring the mademoiselle is unveiled.

But the highlight for many of the doughboys was a solemn visit to Ossington American Cemetery near Feren-Tardenois. A member of the Soo contingent, Dominic Grego, was buried there. His brother, Jack, went on the trip and saw the grave for the first time Nov. 12. The group's bus driver, Brian King of England, played taps on a harmonica after the doughboys paid their respects.

USA England France

## THE YANKS ARE COMING BACK I

with  **imacom**  
Travel

WWI Vets 1914 - 1918 Anciens Combattants

Les Sammies Reviennent  
4-15 November 1978

**FURNITURE CLEANING**  
*New!* DUAL EXTRACTION METHOD

3 CUSHION COUCH only \$2995

SPECIALISTS IN VELVETS, FURS and SILKS • SUPERIOR IN-PLANT DRY CLEANING AVAILABLE • FREE PICK-UP AND DELIVERY

**SAME DAY SERVICE**  
CALL 937-3800

4 SEASONS CARPET SERVICE  
26721 PLYMOUTH, REDFORD  
HOURS: 9 to 5 MON. thru SAT.

Don't trust your Furniture to Amateurs  
WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK

CHARGE IT!

**A SPECIAL PLACE FOR A SPECIAL SEASON**

Special Hours For Your Shopping Convenience:

Christmas Hours:  
Monday thru Friday, 10-9  
Saturday 10-6  
Sunday 12-5

**om**  
ORCHARD MALL  
Orchard Lake Rd. at Regie  
West Bloomfield

**Rite CARPET**  
America's Finest Carpet Mills.  
Largest Selection in the Area.

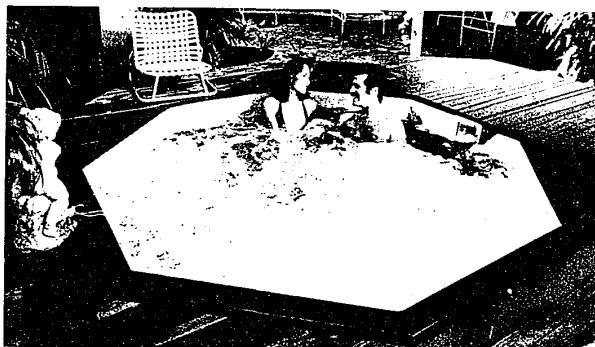
Featuring  
**LEE'S & KARASTAN CARPETS**  
at lowest prices

7 Mile at Middlebelt across from Livonia Mall  
476-8360

8497 W. Grand River Outside Brighton Mall  
1-227-1314

## Happiness is... a Hot Tub

beautiful, exciting, sensual, relaxing and healthful



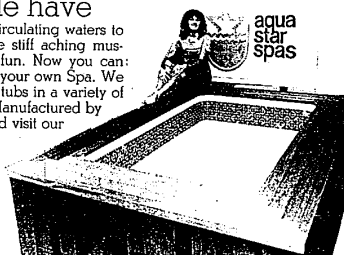
### For 2,000 years people have

used the therapeutic action of very warm circulating waters to reduce tension, improve circulation, soothe stiff aching muscles, ease arthritic pain and for just plain fun. Now you can enjoy the benefits and pleasures of owning your own Spa. We offer a large selection of carefree fiberglass tubs in a variety of decorator colors, shapes, sizes and prices. Manufactured by Aqua Star, a name you can trust. Stop in and visit our showroom, or call. You'll be glad you did.

4'x6' Fiberglass Tub  
with built-in lounge, heater pump & motor; blower, filter & fittings  
Complete Package \$1395<sup>00</sup>



Where Buying Direct Means Savings To You.



Free-standing Indoor Models now available  
Just Fantastic on a Cold Winter Night  
Simple-to-follow instructions make installation easy

CALL: 425-8830 CALL: 334-2531  
28875 Joy Rd. 1899 S. Telegraph

(3 blks. East of Middlebelt) Westland. Bloomfield Hills

Store Hours: Mon thru Sat 9-9 Sunday 12-5

## For A Warmer Winter

**SHELTER SHIELD**  
CELLULOSE FIBER INSULATION

Meets stringent current Federal Specifications HH-1-515-C and ASTM C-739-77 standards.

**QUALITY IS CONSUMER PROTECTION**  
Continuous in-plant quality control and testing. UL "FOLLOW UP" Service.

**QUALITY TESTED**  
before the label goes on

Beware of inferior products that do not have complete qualified testing results printed on the bag.

**\*\*UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC.® CLASSIFIED LOOSE FILL MATERIAL**

Contents Not Over 30 lbs.	Issue No. 000
Fire Hazard Classification (Based On 100 For Untreated Red Oak) 2-4-15 (Density)	
Flame Spread	35
Fuel Contributed	0
Smoke Developed	25
When examined in accordance with the methods and procedures of ASTM C-739 for Density, Thermal Resistance, Moisture Absorption, Color Change, Compressibility, Starch Content, and Flame Resistance Permanency, the following were determined:	
Density	2.1 pcf.
Thermal Resistance	3.7 R-in.
Moisture Absorption	0.3%
Color Change	Acceptable
Flame Resistance	Negative
Starch Content	Negative
Flame Resistance Permanency	Acceptable
Compressibility	Acceptable

PRICED BUILDING MATERIALS INDEX

Prices C & C  
Sale Ends 12-9

**H.A. SMITH**

Lumber & Supplies

25575 GRAND RIVER (near 8 Mile)

474-6610 or 535-8440

SALE 12-9

Machine Rental Available  
**DO-IT YOURSELF & SAVE**  
\$475 Per Bag  
Covers 26 sq. Ft.  
6" Thick 6" = R22

**PROOF**  
on every bag

**SHELTER SHIELD**  
INSULATION