

Additional Veterans' News

(Continued from page one)

AID GIVEN WIDOW PROVES WORTH OF VETS' ACTIVITIES

An example of the great good that can be accomplished by veterans who interest themselves in the welfare of unfortunate widows and their families, is seen in the history of a veteran's widow and child living in the vicinity of Farmington, within the past few months. These dependents of a soldier who has passed on have experienced a joyous change from illness and despair to good health and hope.

The husband and father, an overseas veteran, died several years ago. The mother was unable to take care of the child and at the same time earn enough to keep them in good circumstances.

The mother had applied for a mother's pension soon after death of her husband, but her request was not met favorably, and she feared that the authorities would insist that she give up the child unwilling to have the child go to an orphanage or among strangers, she was forced to seek aid, going on the County welfare list. The "welfare" food did not give the child proper nourishment and the little girl was undernourished.

Dr. Joseph W. Norton of Farmington, a veteran and member of Groves-Walker Post, American Legion No. 346, had been attending the family and interested himself in the case. He believed that the mother was entitled to a mother's pension, and took it upon himself to see the authorities at the county seat. At the same time he wrote to the Michigan Department headquarters at Detroit, asking their assistance in securing the mother's pension for the widow.

Some matters in regard to the case which the county pension authorities had misunderstood were made clear and the pension was granted. Mrs. Ruth A. McIntyre, Department Child Welfare case worker had been assigned by the Department Child Welfare office to investigate the case. And a short time later there came to the veteran's widow a letter and an enclosure which surprised and even shocked her.

The letter was from Herbert R. McKinney, Department Child Welfare Chairman. The enclosure was a check for \$20 from the National Child Welfare Division, American Legion, "to assist you in the care of your family." And still more astonishing was what followed: "This is the first of three monthly checks to go forward to you. This money is to be utilized for moving, securing household necessities, and supplies for winter's fuel." So amazed was the widow, and even more so had been the child, had had any funds worth mentioning, that she said of the \$20 check that she "would hardly know what to do with so much money."

Dr. Norton said he had not anticipated when he asked the Department Child Welfare office for help, that there would be anything further than assistance in obtaining the mother's pension. The National Child Welfare Division's contribution of \$60 was a welcome surprise to all.

The veteran's widow and child are now in suitable quarters and able to get along without aid from the public welfare authorities.

Hazel Park Auxiliary Plans Social Program

On December 27th, the business meeting of the Hazel Park Legion Auxiliary was held at Mrs. Hagadorn's home, 955 E. Roberts St. Mrs. Bertha Lewis reports having sold Goodfellow papers to the tune of \$6.20. Mrs. Anna Farnsworth was appointed music chairman, Mrs. Lewis is our Legislative chairman and Historian. We are to have weekly teas at different members' homes.

On December 13th, a social meeting was held at Mrs. Bell's home, 1561 Harry Street. Mrs. Childress, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Deyson, Mrs. Hagadorn and Mrs. Babinech attended. We played Bunco and prizes were given. Mrs. Campbell receiving the first prize and Mrs. Hagadorn the consolation prize. Sandwiches, coffee and cake were served and a good time was had by all.

Spanish War Veteran At Illinois Hospital

George W. Bailey, Adjutant of Capt. David L. Kimball Camp, No. 61, 7th St. W. V., Pontiac is undergoing a series of operations at Illinois Hospital, at Great Lakes, Illinois.

Bailey is recovering from his first operation, the least serious one of the three he must undergo. All veterans are urged to write him to cheer him up and to let him know that his friends are thinking about him.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT IS AIDING VETERANS

Cook-Nelson Post No. 220, of Pontiac, is maintaining its fine record of service with a number of worth while activities helpful not only to veterans but to the betterment of this community as a whole.

Comrade Ben Smith, chairman of the employment committee of this post, has been working hard to obtain some results. He has met with employment managers' association and they have assured him that any ex-service man will receive preference if qualified for the job. Applications of all unemployed ex-service men are being filed at Legion Home. One man named "Tom" is being interviewed and is expected to be called to work. Comrade Smith also explained the purpose and ideals of the Legion, its place in the community and what employment should expect ex-service men whenever possible.

Comrade Pflieger gave a very fine talk relative to the apparent lack of interest on the part of employed ex-service men to those not employed. He declared that more attention and help could and should be given by all employed ex-service men to their buddies who are unfortunate and unemployed.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the big New Year's Dance at Legion Home. The last couple was seen to leave in the "wee" hours of the New Year so they must have had their money's worth.

Comrade DeCamp announces plans are being made for a show to be given very soon for the purpose of raising money for the milk fund for undernourished school children. Children of the City will be cared for this year and in the county if possible.

The Christmas party was given by Post and its Auxiliary for children of 150 homebound and also one other child. The children of all ex-service men. A luncheon and ice cream was also served for the children. Many broken and discarded toys were repaired and given to the children of all ex-service men.

Comrade Don R. MacDonald, who made arrangements for a "Suggestion Box" on the second floor urges all members to offer any suggestion for the good of the Legion.

At the meeting of December 5th, Comrade Joe MacGregor, 17th District Committeeman, gave a very fine talk and explained the purpose of the National Economy League, an organization organized by and for the rich against the unfortunate soldiers.

A plan is being worked out whereby a member may pay his dues in installments. Comrade Cole has offered his services in handling the extra bookkeeping. Comrade Royal, Drum Corps Commander, needs two more men to complete the Corps.

Our Post needs a scoutmaster and also an assistant scoutmaster. Volunteers see Comrade Fuller.

FARMINGTON POST ACTIVE IN WORK TO HELP CHILDREN

Farmington Legionnaires of Groves-Walker Post, No. 346, are taking an active part in an important charitable work in the community. Various agencies of Farmington are co-operating in supplying food for and feeding undernourished children of the Farmington Schools during the non-hour each day.

The work was started early in January by the Parent-Teacher Association, and various churches and organizations have offered their assistance. Legion members have volunteered to act as chefs and waiters and this offer was gladly accepted. The Post is serving the lunches this week.

Groves-Walker Post also took a leading part in the Christmas cheer work in the community in December. The Post was headquarters for filling and distribution of 88 Christmas baskets to the poor. In addition, the Legion Committee distributed 125 boxes of candy to visiting families in Farmington and vicinity. The baskets given to other families not on the welfare list but in need. The Post contributed \$5.00 to the fund and assisted in raising the money for the baskets.

Commander Norman C. Lee is appointed as the committee to co-operate with Farmington Exchange Club the following: Vice-Commander Lee-E. Doyle, Finance Officer Fred Mass and Post Commander Carl Moore and Post Carrier, Commander Lee also aiding in the work.

At the Post's meeting on January 5, Sarkis Mekjian was admitted to membership.

BIRMINGHAM MAN-URGES VETERANS TO STAN! UNITED

The following letter, from a Birmingham veteran, is submitted for thoughtful consideration and action of every war veteran:

Mr. Ex-Serviceman do you have a radio? Were you present on the air when the National Commander of the American Legion, Mr. Louis Johnson spoke on Christmas Eve, Comrade, He was a splendid greeting to those of us who believe in the principles of justice. Hope is born again through a great fighting commander who is going to make vocal our concerns with a militancy never before heard or seen. He is attempting to serve our cause upstandingly prosecuting the cause of the poor that will challenge the admiration of our most bitter opponents.

These are the trying times. Every man who served with the colors, regardless where, owes it to himself to lead the way. We realize that our own problems are engrossing and perhaps overwhelming you in this season of economy. But every constructive effort seems futile. But may I not tell you some facts regarding these things? Were you not told that the valor would not be forgotten? There are groups of self-interested chauvinists who seek to nullify the purpose for which we stand. These misguided services of Economy League are using the pretext of governmental deficits to destroy us in the public eye.

Not one cent of governmental funds in support of benefits you received are derived from your local taxes on property, nor do you pay anything as income advances to the so-called higher brackets. Yet these people would like to shift this burden of care to your local community which will affect your small holdings.

Do not be deceived. Attend your Post meetings. Let us give notice with smashing emphasis that we are alive to the pernicious influence of those who are willing to speak our great organization under the guise of patriotism and concern for the future of our country.

This is a time for a new concept of the future of our fellow citizens, especially toward those who wore the uniform and who will remain forever a thing apart from the rest of our ordinary citizens. We are concerned for the defense of our country. Our arms were successful. Therefore any prosperity accruing to any man during these past fifteen years owes its inception to the men who developed that country directly and indirectly attributable to the prosecution of that war.

One hundred million solutions are to be had for the difficulties that we face. Let us help ourselves. But only one for the man who wore that uniform who did his part with no selfish motives, in mind and who now finds himself unable to cope with the problems that beset him. Are we to remain callously indifferent to his plight?

Come all ye veterans. Join hands and let us make articulate the resentment we feel toward them who owe us nothing and would expose us to ridicule. Your affiliation with the American Legion is evidence of a mailed fist in a silk glove and will serve as notice that we will defend ourselves against these avaricious groups any and all benefits rightfully accruing to us through the customs of our country, and that we protest against the malicious propaganda now emanating from the bureaus of these selfish patriots.

Join now and pledge anew your devotion to the great cause so ably served by the American Legion.

LOUIS C. HOPMANN, 1368 Cedar Drive, Birmingham, Mich.

Veterans Of District Are Strong For Fish

Veterans of this district like their fish. When Oakland County Vulture 40 & 8 put on their fish fry Friday evening, January 20, at the home of Cook-Nelson Post, Pontiac, it turned out to be a real big time. Over 200 attended and so great was the demand that an extra order had to be sent out for more supplies.

Special acts were provided for entertainment by Cook-Nelson "Minstrelers", after they had returned from Clarkton, where they put on their show to aid that post. The minstrels were treated to refreshments in return for their entertainment. The boys will talk of that fish fry for some time to come.

ROYAL OAK POST IS ACTIVE, GAINS IN MEMBERSHIP

The greatest activity and the largest membership in its history is the proud achievement thus far this year of Frank Wendlandt, Post No. 228, American Legion of Royal Oak. Undertered by unfavorable conditions, the Post is going forward and creating a real record in the midst of difficult times.

An example of what the Post is doing is shown by the plans they have for February. While many ex-service men's organizations are pending attacks of adversaries of the veteran and his compensation, the Royal Oak post is doing something about it. It is determined to strike back at such organizations as the National Economy League, and demonstrate the fallacies of their claims. But the Royal Oak boys intend to prove this, not merely to veterans, but to influential citizens outside the veterans' organizations. They are arranging a big open meeting for the latter part of February, to which will be invited citizens from all over Oakland County, and particularly the southern part. Service Clubs throughout Southern Oakland will be asked to attend. At the meeting, Dept. Commander John W. Gilmore will speak on the National Economy League, and National Executive Committeeman Raymond Kelly will talk on national defense. Invitations will go out after all Legion posts in the 17th District, stating the date. Auxiliary members are also invited. It will be at the Legion headquarters, 410 South Main Street. The date will probably be February 22, but this has not been definitely decided upon.

The Royal Oak Post now is more than a half dozen members for its roster at this time. Last year, a record that few organizations can claim. It has also formed a nucleus for a drum and bugle corps.

Social activities have been numerous. On January 5 the Auxiliary held a dinner; on January 12 the Post had 85 at Past Commanders' Night, with 70 per cent of the former leaders present, an oyster supper being served afterward.

On February 2 the Auxiliary will give a card party, and on a later date after their service is ended.

February 9 a social evening with chili con carne supper will be enjoyed.

Hard work on the part of the post's adjutant, Harry Reynolds and the commander, Harold D. Waite, are credited as responsible for the Post's exceptional enthusiasm and activity.

Plymouth Legionnaires Succeeded As Newsboys

Legionnaires of Myron H. Beals Post No. 32 of Plymouth have shown their community some new things in the past few weeks, putting over successfully two events entirely new in that town.

First and most important was a newspaper sale to help the needy, held on December 24. It was the first of its kind ever held in Plymouth, and the astonishingly large sum of \$149 was realized, this approaching amounts raised in cities several times as large. The Post sponsored the project and its members and those of the ex-service men's league acted as newsboys. The money is to be used for clothing of the poor and for feeding undernourished kiddies, being distributed by Plymouth's Central Welfare Committee.

The Post put on a New Year's party, the first of its kind in Plymouth, that was highly successful. It is planning a benefit card party for February 7, to help the Catholic parish church, whose building in Plymouth burned to the ground recently. The party will be held in the Majestic Hotel, and admission will be free. Prizes are being donated by business-men and a collection will be taken, the proceeds to be turned over to Fr. LeFevre.

Veterans Hear Means Address On Pensions

A large number of veterans heard with approval the radio talk by ex-senator Rice W. Means of Colorado last Friday night, on "Pensions and Its Effect on Taxation." Among other things, the speaker pointed out that often when soldiers are affected by war service, these difficulties do not reveal themselves until years afterward, and thus veterans are often entitled to them immediately after their service is ended.

"Michigan Legionnaire" Is New Publication

A new publication for Michigan members of the American Legion is "The Michigan Legionnaire," the January issue being the first. It is issued by the Department of Michigan from the headquarters at Detroit, and is the official publication of the Department.

REAL FARM RELIEF NEEDED

(Exchange) This country is waiting for someone to come forward with a plan of farm relief whose administration by governmental bureaucracy will not cost more than the farmer, whom it is supposed to benefit, will actually receive in cash. We have had many experiences of the former kind and they have always proved painful.

Nobody denies agriculture is in need of assistance, but it should come in such a manner that its value as a relief measure will not be destroyed by an equally increased cost of government. Many have already pointed out that there is a direct connection between the extensive growth of government bureaucracy in recent years and the farmer's economic ills.

Helping the farmer will help the nation. This help should be so simple and direct that immediate relief assistance will be placed within his reach. Congress is now engaged in working out such a plan. It should have the sympathetic support of every citizen, so long as it does not entail outrageous cost of operation at the hands of those who have for years been using the farmer as a means for extracting money from Uncle Sam's pocketbook.

For the second year Michigan's trout hatcheries are carrying hundreds of thousands of early hatching trout eggs to insure large fish for planting next fall.

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