

FLAGS A-FLYING

AN INTIMATE MESSAGE FROM THE MIDWEST

By HELEN HENLEY

All over Chicago's Loop, flags are flying.

On almost any corner, looking in any direction up and down the shadowed caverns that are called streets in this town of skyscrapers, you can see the red and white stripes, the white stars on the blue field, catching your eye as persuasively as they catch each breath of breeze.

What's the celebration?

Jack Murphy could tell you. He'd say, "We're celebrating being Americans."

This flag-flying that marks Chicago as an American city, and proud of it, has been persistently nurtured by this veteran of World War I for more than a year.

Just after the Korean outbreak in June, 1950, Jack Murphy, who was then Commandant of Chicago Detachment No. 1 of the Marine Corps League, and is now Chief of Staff, began to notice how many flagpoles stretched starkly skyward, with no flag in sight.

On a clear summer's day when no inclement weather barred the flying of the flag, he made a survey, and reported in the July, 1950, issue of the Chicago Leatherneck, official publication of the Marine Corps League, Chicago Detachment No. 1: "The score now stands: six flags on our great Michigan Boulevard from Oak street to Van Buren street." Throughout the entire bustling shopping center on that day, he found exactly one flag flying—on Marshall Field & Co.'s store.

Then, on behalf of his organization, Mr. Murphy began a systematic campaign to interest Chicagoans to "Fly the Flag."

Despite his own conviction that Americans should be flying their national colors atop every flagpole, he understood the diffidence of this matter-of-fact generation concerning its most deeply felt traditions. He was not sure how people would react to his campaign.

"I hid behind a three-cent postage stamp at first," Mr. Murphy says. But the letters he sent out to persuade building managers and civic leaders to "show your colors" brought such eager response that soon he came out from behind the postage stamp to make personal calls on executives to promote his idea.

Ever since last July, the Chicago Leatherneck has carried in each of its monthly issues a major story reporting progress and enthusiastic cooperation. There are still some bare flagpoles to be seen in a walk around the Loop and it is plain that Mr. Murphy won't be quite happy until those poles, each one display the colors that they were built to honor.

But among all the hundreds whom he has approached, only one person has refused to cooperate. The executive of a large chain organization told him he could not fly the national emblem on his buildings because he thought that would be "commercializing" the flag.

Mayor Martin H. Kennelly gave almost immediate support to the campaign, issuing a proclamation asking all city and public buildings to display the flag and requesting all owners of buildings and homes to join in, too.

"The American flag is the symbol of the principles and ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all mankind which thousands of courageous young Americans in our armed forces are fighting today to preserve," the proclamation reminded Chicagoans. "In view of this, it is most important that the American flag be displayed as a constant reminder to all of our citizens of their obligations as Americans. . . ."

The Bankers Building, at Clark and Adams streets, which houses the FBI here, was among those not flying their flags when Mr. Murphy undertook his campaign. At first, he says, the building manager held that flying the banner every day would detract from the significance of Decoration Day, Fourth of July, and other holidays when it is traditional to get out the flag.

After Mr. Murphy had pointed out to him that "Our Marines are fighting every day, and every night, too, to defend the freedom that the flag symbolizes for us," the manager ordered the colors flown from that building every day henceforth.

"The flagpole without the American flag is un-American—Show Your Colors!" was a campaign slogan soon taken up by business and civic groups in the Chicago area, such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Bankers Association, Real Estate Board, Young Men's Christian Association, and others, who publicized it through news letters. Local newspapers and radio commentators began to plug it, too.

Lions International and Kiwanis International have also given space in their publications to spread the "Fly the Flag" idea from coast to coast.

"Flying the flag helps to combat un-American influences and the frame of mind people are in as a result of all the talk about fellow travelers and Communists in official circles," declares Mr. Murphy. "It is thrilling today just to walk down LaSalle street and see the flags flying."

We walked down LaSalle street just to see those flags, and we wish all America could walk with us and see them, too.

Local Couple Are Married In Reno

A wedding of interest to many in this area took place at Reno, Nev., on August 18, when Mrs. Essley of Harbor became the bride of Leonard (Slim) Hodges of Brookings. The ceremony took place in the office of the county judge, and the attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Pete Higginbotham, who made the trip with them. Mr. and Mrs. Hodges are making their home in the Easy street area.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT IS DELAYED HERE

The West Coast Telephone company announces that the new Stromberg-Carlson XY automatic central office equipment for the Brookings exchange has been temporarily delayed due to the critical materials restrictions and allocations to civilian orders. This equipment has been on order for quite some time now and is being further delayed due to the fact that many manufacturers of communication equipment are working on military orders.

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Communication equipment of this sort is the first to feel the brunt of civilian restrictions during times of financing emergencies and defense build up due to its increasing importance.

The present system is to be completely removed because its limitations has been exceeded by the fast growing population in Brookings. The new system will allow for greater expansion and increase in size more conveniently than many systems in use at the present time.

The Stromberg-Carlson XY system is a recent development in the communication industry and has proved its versatility and practicability in many cities in the east and mid-west. Brookings will be one of the first of the few installations to be made in the Pacific Northwest. Estimated cost of the new system will be

in excess of 20,000.

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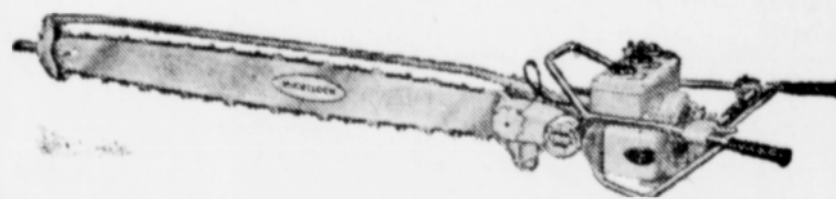
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