

**In The Mail-box:**

Brookings Harbor Pilot  
Brookings, Oregon

Gentlemen:

May I, in representing Southwestern Oregon Baseball League, take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the league, for the publicity your paper afforded our league during this past season of 1952.

We of "The Sawdust Circuit" consider ours one of the strongest field organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Naturally we hope that our 1952 season will be bettered by that of 1953. With the continued aid of your fine publication we are confident that our past records will be surpassed next season.

Again, on behalf of the Southwestern Oregon Baseball League, may I thank you for your wonderful contribution to our program. With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,  
Jess Barton  
Secretary

JB/cg

Coos Bay-North Bend Lumberjacks, Medford Cheney Studs, Coquille Loggers, Roseburg-Umpqua Chiefs, Bandon Millers, Drain Black Sox, Brookings Beavers

Brookings

To The Editor:

I have been an unpaid, volunteer veterans' service officer since before World War II. For the past three or more years I have been consulted by some member of a veteran's family on the average of one or more per day. Queries run all the way from pre-natal to long past death and cover practically all phases of life in between.

There are, I know, many families who will verify this and have the evidence, in many dollars, to back it up. I want to emphasize that everyone who has shared my time owes a deep debt to organized veterans and their auxiliaries because it is they who have made and kept these benefits—EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM—available.

In the Chetco area there are about 250 known veterans who have had overseas service and, consequently, eligible to the VFW, of which outfit I have the best knowledge. There must be half or two thirds more than that who served in the United States, only. The local post of the VFW had, in 1952, ninety one members of which seven were non-residents,

so it can be assumed that only about one third of the eligibles belonged to any veterans' group. In other words, one third of the veterans were doing all the work in which two thirds droned yet also participated in the results. It is natural that those who work should have their own opinion of that majority! And as a service officer I know that the most of those who came to me wanting something do not belong to any veterans' organization. Service officers are forbidden by law to discriminate. Further, many questions asked of me are common who keep up their affiliations.

I will again say that regardless of the religious, fraternal, or tavern affiliations, when a vet or his kin really NEED help their first thought is to hunt up a vet's service officer and it gripes me, no end, to be shunted by such folks until I appear the laddy boy who will, surely, they expect, drop everything and rush to their aid. Service officers do and will probably continue. Who automatically went into intelligent action and got results when "Babe" Gardner, John Arlandson, and Dewey Akers were suddenly called? Ask their families.

It is definitely not the case where we who do the work should have to beg members to keep up their dues and those in the aforesaid majority to join us. It is a certainty that unless veteran enumeration of the various outfits is substantial their lack of interest will bring about further curtailment of such benefits as

they have already won. Right in your own county, if there are insufficient veterans and ladies represented before the county budget board to assure continuance of a paid service officer the board members will conclude the veterans are too few to warrant the expenditure and the otherwise available funds will be diverted to groups or projects better presented and represented before the board. That's only SENSE! That's what they're there for.

From many years experience I urge everyone who can to join some one or more of the National Veterans' or Ladies Auxiliaries or the whole Maryann of us will be sunk! Hunt out a member and tell him or her you want to help even though you may not be able to regularly attend meetings. It is numerical strength—VOTES—that count!

In closing, I'd like to ask how many of you who got the Oregon soldiers' bonus belong to any vet's outfit? That deal originated in the VFW State meeting at Astoria and put across, all the way, by the VFW. This service officer assisted in processing over 200 veterans' or dependents' State bonus claims.

WELL—?

M. S. Brainard,  
Service Officer, VFW. 966.

PS: Yesterday, a vet from Weed and a few days ago an elderly came to see me re state bonus Spanish War vet to see about chances of getting in to Camp White—his daughter brought him up from Orick!

MSB

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Powell of Grants Pass, were visitors at the home of Mrs. Powell's sister, Mrs. Frank Tygart on Monday. The Powells formerly owned the property now Turley's Bulb Gardens south of Harbor, and have many friends here.

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