

CLARK COUNTY NEWS

PRIZES FOR XMAS DECORATION

A \$25 war bond will be awarded first place winners in each of four housing project Christmas decoration contests this season, the project services department of the Vancouver housing authority announced today.

Separate contests will be held at McLoughlin Heights, Ogden Meadows, Burton Homes and Bagley Downs.

Entries will be judged on originality and effect of Christmas atmosphere. Lighting is not necessary. Decision of the judging committee will be final, and entries must show proper thought and work to be considered eligible for the contest.

Persons wishing to enter the contest must notify the department by December 18. Entries will be judged between December 11 and December 22, and awards announced December 23. Bonds will be presented winners December 26.

Persons living in the Heights will call 3620, extension 41, to leave addresses; Ogden Meadows, the personal services office at 3540; Burton Homes, project services office, 3646, and Bagley Downs, project services office, 3696.

Final judging will be made by a selected committee of the maintenance departments of the projects, of the project services department, and from tenants on the four projects.

A film entitled "The Negro Soldier", an authentic war department production, showing colored troops in action, was shown Tuesday at 8 p. m. at the Bagley Downs community center.

Preceding the film was stage show featuring outstanding Negro soldier singers and musicians from the Portland Army Air Base.

The program is sponsored by American Youth for Democracy, and the Vancouver Inter-racial Council.

Three athletic amateur events are scheduled for the near future at Vancouver housing authority community centers.

A boxing show will be held December 5 at Bagley Downs under the direction of Harvey Haynes, recreation worker, and December 18, Jack Henderson will stage a similar show at the McLoughlin Heights center. A wrestling show, produced by Ivan Jones, will follow December 19 at the Heights gym.

Admission to the three shows will be a gift for a convalescent soldier or 50 cents for the purchase of a present.

BAGLEY DOWNS

Approximately 175 youngsters took part in the football kicking and passing contests held Friday at the Bagley Downs Grade School under the direction of Harvey Haynes, recreation worker at the Downs community center.

Winners in the junior division of the kicking contest were Ronald Borger, first, Charles Barber, second, and Eric Leland, third. In the senior group for the same event, winners were Bobby Vest, Ralph McGrady and Russell Vickers.

Football passing winners for the junior division were Charles Barber, Robert McGrady and Billy Roberts, and for the senior group, Ralph McGrady, Howard Thompson and Russell Vickers.

Organizations wishing musical, dramatic and dancing acts for club programs in the Vancouver area, may learn of prospective entertainers by calling the talent bureau at the recreation association headquarters, 3210 extension 11.

Department heads of the association have listed outstanding talent with the bureau, and arrangements may be made to enlist entertainers for various local programs.

MANPOWER SHORTAGE SERIOUS

Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, said today that "a manpower situation of the utmost seriousness" confronts the country, not so much in terms of total number of workers needed but rather in terms of the difficulty of recruiting them in certain critical areas for super-critical war programs, such as ammunition.

Of an estimated total requirement of 200,000 workers for urgent war production, the need for half of them is critical, Mr. McNutt said. While they are not needed every place in every industry, they are most urgently wanted in specific localities. Wherever anyone hears an appeal for workers for a job which he can fill, it will be most helpful to the war effort if he will seek one of these jobs, unless he is already on urgent war production, the WMC chairman said.

Mr. McNutt mentioned specifically seven "must" production lines which present critical manpower problems — foundries and forge shops, shipbuilding, heavy artillery ammunition, radar, cotton duck and tent twill, heavy field artillery and gun carriages, and dry cell batteries.

"The basic recruiting difficulties arise largely from the fact that most of the places where men are needed are in already very tight manpower areas. Therefore, fewer workers are available," Chairman McNutt said. "The jobs to be filled are often difficult, and some of them are relatively low-paid. This very difficulty places a special responsibility on all of us to seek out work in this most critical production."

"This statement describes some of the special jobs which must be filled. Local newspapers and radio will tell you of others which the United States Employment Service lists."

Mr. McNutt said that some of the shortages spring from a cause that is a matter of national self-congratulation.

"They grow out of our successes on every front on which we and our allies are fighting," he declared. "Eisenhower, Nimitz, MacArthur and their colleagues have been setting a faster pace than

either friends or foes expected. Naturally, the faster and thicker they pour it on the Germans and the Japanese, the greater are their needs for the wherewithal to follow up the advantage they have gained. It's up to us on the home front to supply them with the power behind the knockout blows.

"That is now our happy task. But when production schedules are stepped up to meet this battle pace, they are telescoped into a shorter period of time. New manpower problems are thus created.

"Shortages of facilities and needed components for new products required in large volume stand in the way of attainment of many of the scheduled goals in the critical items. Numerous technical difficulties block sharp increases in the production of specific items needed. These problems are now hampering production of such items as heavy artillery, artillery ammunition, aerial bombs and airborne radar.

"Transportation difficulties in the theatres of war, changes in design dictated by combat experience and many other factors contribute to constantly fluctuating production requirements. The picture is never quite the same from week to week."

Of the 69 larger market areas listed as critical by the WMC he mentioned particularly Chicago, Philadelphia, Newark, Baltimore, Akron, Mobile, San Diego, Seattle, Waterbury, Conn., Springfield and Decatur, Ill., Fort Wayne, Ind., and the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Areas such as Bridgeport, Hartford, Wichita, Beaumont, and Galveston, which had been very tight since the beginning of the war period, have moved into less stringent classifications as a result of program reductions and successful manpower mobilization, Mr. McNutt pointed out.

Chicago, Philadelphia and Newark, which were late in coming into the war program, have developed serious manpower shortages this year, said Mr. McNutt. Although Chicago's total labor needs have been considerably reduced in recent months as a result of contract can-

cellations, improved utilization and careful screening of needs by the Manpower Priorities Committee, there is still an overall manpower deficit in that area, with minimum requirements in "must" plants totalling about 20,000.

Philadelphia likewise remains an area of serious labor shortage despite recent improvement. "Must" production establishments require about 14,250 workers. Workers are particularly needed for shipyards and foundries, WMC reports.

Newark's labor requirements for "must" production total about 10,000 with those of shipbuilding the most urgent.

Mr. McNutt said that in each of these three areas "must" production needs were about half the total labor requirements. In all three areas there is an extremely small labor supply, despite declines in munitions employment during the year. Smaller critical areas are in much the same situation, he declared.

Discussing "must" items in which there are critical shortages, Mr. McNutt said a shortage of about 17,000 workers in foundries and forge shops caused special concern because their products are basic components of a large number of military end products. The lag in production of some of these, such as heavy trucks, is largely attributable to the failure of foundry industries to meet requirements, he pointed out. Production has shown improvement recently.

The shipbuilding industry will need at least 50,000 workers on "must" jobs by the end of the year, Mr. McNutt reported. Failure to meet recent sharply increased schedules in the most urgent part of the maritime shipbuilding program — combat — loaded transports and cargo vessels — has necessitated an 80 per cent speed-up over the rate in September, when production as a whole was about one per cent better than schedule.

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