

Marion County Sent 9000 to War and 6000 are Home; Some Are Disabled: How Are They Doing? Quite Well



Hyatt Worthy was hit by numerous pieces of shrapnel while serving with the 45th division in the European theater. Now he works as a floor salesman for the Western Auto Supply company. A weakened right arm and left knee prove no handicap to Worthy.

By Len Turnbull

Marion county has an influx of prospective workers at the present time, the like of which has never been seen before. Some of these are called special cases, but on official records they are called disabled veterans — close to five hundred of them in the surrounding area.

Salem has been handling most of the disabled veterans of World War II with deft placements in jobs suited to the in-

dividual. A lot more of the fellows are still around, without jobs.

One veteran says, "I guess I was in a tough spot. I was banged up, had a wife and four kids to support, but now I have a job that suits me and I'm really ready to make good." This comes from James R. Hills, 50 percent disabled veteran and apprentice lens grinder with the Riggs Optical company here in Salem. Hills' pre-war work experi-



The intricacies of Operating Lens Grinding Machinery are becoming more clear to apprentice James Hills, disabled veteran of World War II. Hills rebounded from multiple wounds received while with the infantry in Germany during World War II, now is working for the rating of journeyman optician.

ence listed only heavy duty as welder and worker with the Southern Pacific railway system. A shattering German 88 shell and a rifle wound fixed Hills so that all heavy work was out. He checked with the U.S. employment office, found that he was eligible for the Veterans Administration apprentice training, now is working for a journeyman opticians rating.

Disabled veteran Hyatt Worthy hit misfortune late in the

deciding phases of World War II. While with the 45th Infantry division in France an aerial burst from a German flak wagon covered him with wounds.

"I was discharged from Baxter General hospital in Spokane with a 50 percent disability," Worthy said. "At first I didn't know what I could do. I found this job with Western Auto Supply company as a floor salesman. I've had two raises so far—I'm very well satisfied."

Worthy has a right arm weakened by five pieces of shrapnel. His left knee was punctured by another particle from the same shell. A combination of these injuries prevents any heavy lifting by Worthy.

Men like James Hills and Hyatt Worthy have not caught the state of Oregon unprepared. Discharges from the service of disabled veterans began in force in January of this year. A total of 82 local men in that month increased to over 300 in May.

Employers have responded to the challenge. Now practically all of the once long backlog is used up, and most of the veterans are placed in jobs of their liking. Around 250 handicapped veterans have been placed in jobs thus far by the U.S. Employment office.

Disabled veterans get job priority preference in the U.S. Employment office. Veterans come next, then non-veterans. The problem now is finding work for more disabled men coming out of the service.

Attitude Very Good

Statistics prove that the attitude of veterans with major injuries is very good. Men who have no apparent injuries are the major problem today. Oregon has 1 1/4 percent of the total national figures of returning disabled veterans, or around 25,000 men.

Employer cooperation in Marion county is excellent. More and more jobs are opening for these men. There is a problem now, but officials hope that soon the troubles in placing disabled

veterans will be reduced to a minor role.

A right frame of mind is a necessity for the proper placement of the disabled veterans. First of all, the men must want to work and make good. Only a few straight 52-20 men are in the neighborhood.

Back As Civilians

Jim Hills and Hyatt Worthy are just two of the hundreds of returned veterans in Marion county that are listed on the records of the Veterans Administration as being disabled from 10 to 100 percent. Of the 9000 county men sent to the service, 6000 are back in civilian clothes ready to take up life where they left off.

Carlton B. Greider works in the U.S. Employment office as an advisor to disabled men coming out of the service. Greider was honored by the Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce when he was chosen as the Junior First Citizen in the community last January. Greider lost his eyesight on Tinian Island in the Mariannas when shot through the right temple by a Japanese sniper.

Salem veterans are displaying initiative and ingenuity in working out solutions of their job problems. Many are making a practical return to civilian life. Yet many need help in solving family relations and leisure time problems.

One official said: "The important thing now is to get the disabled men out of self-placed hideouts—cause them to realize that there is opportunity for all."

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Vacationing With Parents

Bethel — Alfred Bahnsen is spending the summer holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bahnsen. Graduated from

the Southern California Bible college at Pasadena in June with a BA degree, after graduation he went with a group of college students on a 6000 mile trip to Mexico City and through the interior of Mexico.

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