



DEC 28 1943



News, Music Slated With Repair of 'PA'

News flashes hot from the wires of the nation's news services, music and transcriptions of local musical productions and stage shows will become a regular feature for Camp Abbot soldiers soon, through the medium of the camp's public address system, the Special Service Office announced this week. Amplifying equipment, made useless when a high wind blew speakers from their perch atop the All-Purpose building a couple of months ago, was restored to service this week when Station KWJJ in Portland loaned the camp a set of speakers to use until the original set has been repaired. Equipment was installed atop the Service Club.

Installation of the new speakers makes possible new use of recording equipment acquired last week from the International Woodworkers Union in Portland. The latter machine, loaned by the CIO organization until the arrival of a set being built for presentation to the camp by the Portland station, will be used to make transcriptions of local programs as well as to make individual midget records which soldiers and members of the WAC may send home.

Some 400 of the small records have been received by the Special Service Office and will be distributed to various camp units on a pro rata basis.

The new speakers, as well as the recording apparatus, was brought here by Les Marcus, staff announcer of KWJJ.

Furnishings for Dayrooms Set

As soon as the necessary priorities are obtained, \$6,000 worth of furniture for Camp Abbot dayrooms will be purchased through the county Red Cross camp and hospital committee, Ben Hamilton, chairman, has announced. The \$6,000 represents the amount of the county war chest earmarked for furnishing dayrooms and has been available since the county's \$27,500 quota was reached late in November.

Bend Knights of Columbus, Elks, Veterans' groups, and the Civic league each equipped rooms at the camp previous to the war chest drive. Furniture purchased from the chest funds will be divided among the remaining "living rooms" for the boys, Hamilton said. At present, members of the committee are working with Abbot special service representatives on the specific needs.

Bill Veeck, president of the Milwaukee Brewers in the American Baseball Association, has joined the Marines and is taking his boot training at San Diego, Cal.

UP SHE GOES



Post Signal Photo Lab.

Up goes the bush at the "bush raising" ceremony held at the new addition to the Officers' Mess last week to celebrate the near-completion of the roof without the loss of life and limb. The custom was imported from Texas and originally sprung from the "roof raising" celebration of English tradition. (See story).

'Bush Raising' Rites Held For New Mess

And old Texas custom was revived in Oregon recently when officers and enlisted men of Camp Abbot staged a "bush raising" ceremony to celebrate the near-completion of the roof of the new addition to the officers' mess.

Participants in the program, which is modeled after the "roof raising" ceremony of English tradition, were the men who had a hand in planning and erecting the structure. Like the English ceremony, Friday's program marked the virtual completion of the roof without the loss of life or limb.

It was the custom of English workmen to celebrate the occasion by getting drunk; however, service men confined their debauch to consuming 3.2 per cent beer and staging an impromptu entertainment program which included group singing led by Lt. Robert Herring and selections by the Camp Abbot band, directed by Warrant Officer Charles S. Spalding.

Included in the more formal aspects of the program were brief talks by Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander; Maj. LeCompte Joslin, director of training, and Capt. Howard F. McKeown, who was in charge of construction. The invocation was read by Chaplain Norman M. Goldberg.

The bush was hauled from the floor of the building by rope and nailed in place atop one of the huge, rustic roof beams by T/Sgt. William M. Corts, non-commissioned officer in charge of construction.

Officers and men who planned or aided in building the structure, a spacious, two-story building of Oregon timber and natural stone, the latter processed at Camp Abbot and installed in the fireplace and chimney, were Colonel Besson; Lt. Col. Alvin M. Mock, executive. (Continued on Page 2)

New Attendants' Exchange Eases 'Phone Problem

Congestion of telephone facilities at Camp Abbot was relieved considerably this week with the opening of an eight-booth attendants' exchange in the building behind the Post Signal Office on Center street.

Under the new system, patrons merely fill out a slip listing where and to whom the call is to be placed, give it to the attendant in charge and wait to be notified when the call has been put through. Attendants also collect for the call, making it unnecessary to drop coins in a call box.

The new addition is open from 4 to 11 p. m. week days and from 2 to 11 p. m. Sundays and holidays. As a special Christmas feature the booths will be open from 8:30 a. m. to 11 p. m. tomorrow. Two public booths (the coin variety) are available in the lobby of the attendants' building during closed hours.

Plans also are under way for installing new furnishings in the exchange. Magazines will be (Continued on Page 2)

Christmas Dance Sets New Record

A record crowd attended Camp Abbot's formal Christmas dance at the Service Club Wednesday night.

The hall was appropriately decorated with a Christmas tree and garlands of evergreen. Music was provided by Cpl. Agho Tiemann's ERTC dance band.

Camp Featured In Radio Series

Camp Abbot will go on the air at 7 p. m. Friday to begin a weekly series of 45-minute radio broadcasts over a northwest network. Sponsored by the Barde Steel Company of Portland and entitled "Pacific Parade," the program will be devoted to the promotion of government activities and will feature music by the Camp Abbot band and dance orchestra.

Stations in the northwest chain include: KWJJ in Portland, KORE in Eugene, KJR in Seattle and KBND in Bend.

Broadcast of the first program, the theme of which is bond sales, will originate in the studios of KWJJ in Portland. Camp Abbot's portion of the program will be broadcast from the Service Club on the Post through the Portland station. Because of a conflict in schedule for the first broadcast, KBND will make a transcription of the show for rebroadcast at 7 p. m. Saturday.

Next week's program will be devoted to the WAC recruitment and the following week's to the "March of Dimes" campaign.

Use of other Camp Abbot talent on subsequent broadcasts also is contemplated, Lt. V. G. Henderson, Special Service officer, said. In addition to being a publicity medium for the post, broadcasts also will provide entertainment for Service Club audiences.

The band's part on the program will be divided into three sections. Selections in the first, by the military band, will be "Them Basses" by Huffine, featuring the bass section of the organization, and "Born is the King," a fantasy of Christmas carols, by Warrant Officer Charles S. Spalding, director. The dance band will be featured in the second section. Numbers will include "Liza" by Gershwin, "New Orleans Jump" by Alexander and "You're Tops With Me"

by S/Sgt. Jack Hayes. The closing section will consist of parts of "Over There Fantasy" by Grofe, played by the entire band.

Sgt. Dante DiThomas, arranger and former clarinetist with Tommy Reynolds' orchestra, will be in charge of the dance band in the absence of Sergeant Hayes, who left Wednesday on furlough.

Following the broadcast, the band will play a Christmas Eve concert at the club.

NCO Club Plans New Year's Dance

A New Year's dance for members of the NCO Club, their wives and guests will be held in the club rooms Saturday, January 1, T/Sgt. Max Millsap, chairman of the entertainment committee, announced this week. Music will be provided by members of the Camp Abbot band and dancing will be from 8:30 to 12 midnight.

NCO Grill

The NCO club added sandwiches to its menu this week following the installation of a three-burner electric grill and promptly began advertising the biggest hamburgers in Central Oregon for 15 cents. Hours for serving are from 6:30 to 10:30 p. m. week nights, 6:30 p. m. to 1 a. m. Saturdays and 9:30 a. m. to 10:30 p. m. Sundays.

GREETINGS FROM COL. BESSON

A good soldier is a happy soldier.

I wish you all happiness and success in whatever you undertake during the new year.

I give the Season's greetings to all the Command, and thank those units, and officers and enlisted men who have sent their greetings to me. I wish I could answer each personally.

COLONEL F. S. BESSON