

Ingenuity Solves Housing Problem

Cooperative Action Builds Homes for Yakima Vets

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(Editor's Note: This is the first of four articles describing how veterans in different parts of the country managed to put roofs over their heads. The first deals with Yakima, Wash.)

WASHINGTON. — There is one quality that is as thoroughly indigenous to America as potatoes, hot dogs, baseball or apple pie. That is ingenuity. It often is alluded to as "Yankee ingenuity," but it blossoms from the Florida Keys to Puget Sound and from the purview of San Diego's farthest floating pelican to the northernmost quirk of St. John's river.

Ingenuity is something that achieves the impossible. There has come to my attention a number of stories on how certain communities have solved, with their American ingenuity, that seemingly unsolvable housing problem. I think some of the stories are worth repeating to you, and I'm beginning with Yakima, Wash., a town of 50,000 people which I haven't visited for 15 years, but which I can visualize clearly, resting contentedly in the heart of Yakima valley.



Baukhage

That vicinity furnishes many things from apples to polo ponies, but like many other communities in America, it didn't—until this spring—furnish enough homes for veterans. Formal dedication of a white, green-roofed, five-room house was the end of the first story I want to tell, a story with many a sequel.

Last fall there were 160 houses standing unfinished in Yakima for lack of plaster. Many of the houses were unlivable, but with winter weather coming on and the housing shortage getting worse every day, some people tried to move into their uncompleted homes.

Yakima's mayor, M. K. Buck, knew that 200 low-cost homes (under \$5,000) were needed for veterans as well as 1,000 higher-priced houses. He consulted contractors, plaster sub-contractors, the plasterers' union, veterans' organizations and press and radio; gave them the facts; asked their help.

Sub-contractors agreed to move crews from commercial construction to the unfinished homes. They also agreed to transfer stocks of plaster being held for commercial building to veterans' housing. The plasterers' union agreed to work only on veterans' housing when plaster was available. Materials dealers agreed to sell rock lath and sheet rock for veterans' homes only.

The plan went into high gear when a carload of plaster—the first to reach Yakima in a year—came in one October night, consigned to a local lumber company. When the company manager arrived early in the morning, he found a crowd of veterans waiting for him. The local commander of the Disabled American Veterans checked the needs of each purchaser. The en-

tire carload was apportioned on the spot—to the place where it would do the most good.

Within a short time, 50 homes were completed—but 50 were not enough, so the mayor organized an emergency housing committee with a retired Baptist minister as chairman, veterans' organization representatives, a lawyer, a labor chief and three persons from local savings and loan associations.

The committee asked local builders and architects to design a house which would meet FHA standards and still be sold for less than \$5,000. A large order in these days of high prices, but the committee turned up a practical plan. Four local contractors were interested and construction got underway. The local government housing expediter helped by organizing a "swap shop" where builders could find out who had some extra hardwood flooring, plaster or plumbing fixtures.

The Yakima contractor who completed the first of these new low-cost houses says he couldn't have built the house for the price if he hadn't had plenty of cooperation from everybody in the building industry. He saved money by using straight walls instead of offsets, and he simplified the cabinet work. But the most important thing was the cooperation he got from the unions who saw that he had the right men at the right time to do the jobs when they needed to be done. The contractor paid union wages to his workmen, bought his materials from



Ex-Sergeant Colgan finds K.P. duty in his new house a pleasure. Ex-WAC wife Mildred says the kitchen is everything a kitchen should be—cross-ventilation and plenty of built-in cupboards.

regular dealers, made a fair profit for himself—and was still able to sell the house for \$4,750.

The veteran who moved into the first house was Walter Colgan, a former army sergeant, and his wife, Mildred, who served in the WAC. They're very proud of their new five-room, two-bedroom product of American ingenuity and cooperation.

(Next week, Des Moines, Iowa)

Freshman Senators Make Mark

"I've never seen anything like it," my friend was muttering, "never in my 12 years on Capitol Hill."

My friend explained, "I mean the freshmen senators in this 'class.' The class of '47. I've never seen such activity among any group of baby senators before—the way these boys have pitched in to build major legislation; the way they handle themselves on the floor, presenting their points so effectively, and so on—"

It used to be the custom that freshman senators were seen and not heard. They were supposed to sit around for a year or maybe even two years, absorbing procedure and protocol, speaking when they were spoken to. But not the "Class of '47."

My friend explained this unusual activity among the newcomers as due to two reasons.

One: There are so many newcomers—16 on the Republican side alone. This means Republicans had to put newcomers on subcommittees. Subcommittees are small—three men, usually—and traditionally, the chairman of the subcommittee handles the legislation in question on the floor. Thus this year's freshmen have had opportunities denied their predecessors.

Two: He points out that this year's crop of newcomers are unusually capable men. Under Roosevelt's large majorities, he said, "accidents" were apt to be swept into the senate—men who were put up by the party with no real confidence that they would be elected—but they rode in on the tail of Roosevelt's popularity.

According to my informant, there are very few "accidents" in this senate. One or two at the most, and even those, he says, aren't too bad.

He feels optimistic about the trend; thinks it's a good thing for the country. Most of the new "boys" are young—several of them in their early or middle forties. They've come straight from the people, and maybe they are closer to the people. New house of representatives members, he says, can be trained to party teamwork under the type of strong leadership provided by Speaker Joe Martin, but the senate freshmen of '47 will never be led or influenced out of their independence of action. "Watch them," my friend predicts. "This class is going to be a notable one in the history of the senate."

RELIEF IN SIGHT

Building Costs To Level Off

NEW YORK.—Construction costs have reached a peak after soaring to all-time highs during the post-war period, it is revealed in a survey covering 268 general contractors.

Fifty-three per cent of the contractors queried in the poll, which was made by F. W. Dodge corporation, expressed belief that building costs have reached their highest peak, and a majority felt that costs will stabilize below present levels.

It was pointed out that, with exception of lumber, cement, struc-

tural steel and cast iron soil pipe and fittings, prices for most building materials have tended to remain steady since the start of the year.

Only in the Pacific states was opinion general that further gains of from 11 to 12 per cent would be witnessed in 1947.

According to the survey, labor inefficiency caused by an irregular flow of materials, construction delays imposed by an inadequate supply of skilled workers, and an excessive expenditure of time in shopping for and obtaining materials are

major contributing factors of today's high construction costs.

Of the reporting contractors, 43 per cent said the average wage of some building craftsmen in their areas of operation had increased since the first of the year, and 76 per cent said that they expected increases later in the season.

In the aggregate, the general contractors reported that 34.6 per cent of their present work, by dollar volume, is being done on a lump-sum basis, while the rest is being handled on cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts.



BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD . . . The grave of an "unknown brown and white doggie, victim of an intoxicated Christmas driver," is tended by neighborhood children. It is located at a busy intersection in Santa Monica, Calif. Curious motorists stop to read the inscription; then drive away carefully.

NEWS REVIEW

Anti-Strike Bill Drafted; Railroad Crashes Probed

LABOR BILL: Plenty of 'Teeth'

A strike-control bill that would rigorously restrict labor unions in many ways has been approved by the house Republican steering committee. Its most drastic provision, perhaps, is a clause authorizing the federal government to obtain injunctions for a 75-day period in industries which affect public health or safety. This apparently would cover the telephone and other communication industries, coal mining, electric light and power companies, railroads and possibly several other fields.

The bill was prepared under direction of Chairman Hartley (Rep., N. J.) of the house labor committee. He told newsmen he hoped that the bill would pass the house within a week. It probably faces a struggle in the senate, observers believe.

The injunction feature is designed to give the government a stronger weapon against strikes imperiling public safety and welfare. The attorney-general would be empowered to seek a restraining order in federal courts which would require a 75-day "cooling off" period.

Other provisions would outlaw industry-wide bargaining and ban the closed shop. Unions would be required to keep dues low and to elect officials regularly by secret ballot. Communist-dominated unions would lose the recognition of the National Labor Relations board. Unfair labor practices would be investigated and prosecuted by a new agency—the Office of Administration of the National Labor Relations Act.

RAIL ACCIDENTS: Daily Occurrence

Derailed of the Santa Fe's Super Chief in northern New Mexico, with injuries to 25 passengers but no fatalities, rounded out a week of railroad accidents reminiscent of the early days of railroading.

The Super Chief, one of the nation's most famous streamlined luxury trains, left the track near Raton, N. M., while traveling at high speed. The three-unit diesel locomotive broke loose and came to rest with its nose on the trestle of a dry river bed. The train was eastbound from Los Angeles.

Other accidents within a week: April 3, Burlington's Twin City Zephyr derailed in Downers Grove, Ill.; three killed, 35 injured.

April 4, engine of Rock Island Rocket derailed near Linwood, Kas.; engineer injured.

April 5, Milwaukee road switch engine fell off bridge near Ottumwa, Iowa; crew narrowly escaped drowning in swollen Des Moines river.

April 6, Union Pacific's City of Portland collided with a freight near Granger, Wyo.; 11 injured.

April 7, Pennsylvania's Gotham Limited jumped track outside Columbia City, Ind.; 40 injured.

April 8, Pennsylvania's Manhattan Limited derailed; passengers shaken up.

FRANCE:

Trouble in Colonies

Rioting and revolts in various parts of the French empire have prompted the French cabinet to strengthen the army. To this end President Auriol has called up conscripts of the 1947 class on May 15, several months early.

An uprising in Algeria has brought promises of reforms. Interior Minister Debreux has gone to the North Africa country to make swift changes to pacify the rebellious Kabyle tribes and to quiet general unrest.

War Minister Paul Coste-Floret has demanded additional troop reinforcements to cope with trouble spots in Indo-China, Madagascar, Algeria, Morocco and several African protectorates.



BIG EGG . . . This speckled Brahma hen, owned by Mrs. Evans Mealing of Glen Cove, L. I., N. Y., is the new champ of egg layers. She laid a 14-ounce egg, seven and a half inches in circumference, which is shown beside one of ordinary size.



Newcastle Disease Control Progresses

Vaccination Now Gives Promise of Real Aid

By W. J. DRYDEN

New vaccine developed by the U. S. department of agriculture gives a chicken immunity to Newcastle disease for several months. This is good news to the poultry industry which



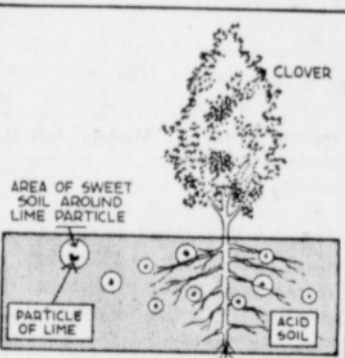
had cause to fear this new killer. Poultrymen in about 30 states have suffered from costly inroads made by the disease.

The new vaccine is not the last word. Specialists of the various states and federal department of agriculture are still at work to devise a "fool proof" vaccine. The achievement of the federal specialists in developing the vaccine that would last even several months is a big step forward.

Newcastle disease is a virus which attacks chickens of all ages, from baby chicks to laying hens. It also is known to attack pigeons, ducks, turkeys, geese and pheasants.

Until the vaccine has been placed on the market in an improved state, the prevention and spread of the disease must be controlled by sanitary procedures, use of disinfectants, proper feeding, housing and management.

HOW LIMESTONE ACTS

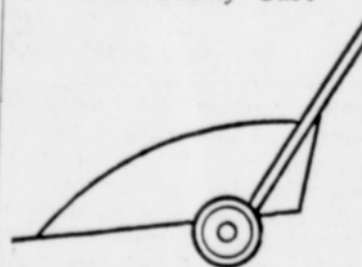


Applications of limestone at the rate called for by a soil test will correct the acidity of surface soils. Lime, however, should be applied from six months to a year before legume seeding to allow time to sweeten the soil.

Disking or harrowing scatters limestone particles through the top two or three inches of surface soils. Then each particle starts correcting acidity in its immediate area. Within a year it may materialize an area of from one-half to an inch in diameter.

In the beginning, acid soil zones considerably outnumber non-acid areas around the limestone particles. However, if sufficient limestone has been applied and thoroughly mixed with the soil and if lime particles are allowed several months to establish areas of sweet soil, clover will be able to secure lime from the sweet areas. Tests should be made before, not after, liming.

New Utility Cart



This cart may be used for garden or barn. It is made from an old hood, doll carriage wheels and three pieces of tubing for the handle. This cart disposes of leaves, weeds, etc., from the garden and even takes the ash can to the dump. It was designed and welded by Fred W. H. Spear, Natick, Mass.

New Enzyme May Have Affect Upon All Life

The new enzyme found in the eggs of frogs, by University of California scientists, called phosphoprotein phosphates may have counterpoint in all forms of life. This enzyme separates phosphorus from proteins in the ovum, making it available for use by the developing embryo. Phosphorus is essential to the normal growth and development of all living tissue, and development of embryo.

How to Raise and Train Your Dog



Teaching Tricks

EVERYONE admires a well-trained pup. Don't postpone teaching your dog appealing tricks because you think a special knack or skill is required. All you need is patience and good humor.

Remember that dogs have varying degrees of intelligence, too; don't abuse your pup if he's slow to learn. Better not begin training before three months old. Then stick to three short training periods a day until each trick is mastered.

Our booklet No. 78 contains 20 illustrated lessons on teaching tricks and obedience. Also chapters on diet, grooming, house manners, illness. Send 25 cents (coin) for "How to Raise and Train Your Dog" to Weekly Newspaper Service, 243 W. 17th St., New York 11, N. Y. Print name, address, booklet title and No. 78.

Francis Marion 'Swamp Fox' of Revolution Fame

Francis Marion, who led a guerrilla band of Americans against the British during the Revolutionary war, was known as the "Swamp Fox." He broke British lines of communication, captured British scouting and foraging parties and prevented the Loyalists from organizing.

Whenever he was hard pressed or met a force too big for his guerrilla band to tackle, he would retire to the swamps to reappear at some distant point to harass the enemy once more. That is how he earned the title of "Swamp Fox."

Gas on Stomach

Relieved in 5 minutes or double your money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, suffocating gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe "Alka-Seltzer," which has a tonic effect on the stomach. But Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a better remedy. It not only relieves the gas, but it also builds up the stomach. It is a tonic for the stomach. It is a tonic for the stomach. It is a tonic for the stomach.



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Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, uric acid and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS