

Albuquerque Venture Is Successful

Vet Cooperative Provides Homes at Reasonable Cost

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(This is the fifth of a series describing how American ingenuity is helping to solve one of America's biggest problems—the G.I.'s No. 1 headache—the housing shortage.)

WASHINGTON.—As congress prepares for the home stretch, some veterans' organizations are promising that lifting the rent and construction controls will start such a rash of construction that everybody's housing problem will be solved. Others say that would be the knell to any kind of a veterans' housing program.

Rep. Jesse Wolcott of Michigan, who wrote the bill modifying restrictions passed by the house, told me he believed that the veterans wanted not priorities, but houses. His bill, he thinks, will make the latter possible. Opponents claim the opposite — that two and a half billion dollars worth of building applications for higher priced construction has been built up as a backlog. With restrictions off, opponents say chances for cheap house-building will go with the wind. At this writing, the senate has not yet said its say.

Meanwhile, some veterans are getting houses on their own.

Drawing for Homes Climaxes Project

For example, a few weeks ago in Albuquerque, N. M., a man put his hand into a hat and pulled out a house. It happened on a bright sunny Sunday, when the New Mexico Housing Cooperative association held a drawing for the first house completed under its new building program.

There were 58 members of the housing association who had a chance to move into that first house — the 58 people who were paid-up members. They gathered on the sandy lot where the house stands. There were more than 200 persons, counting sweethearts, wives, kids and friends, attending the drawing.

The lot is on Arvada avenue in northeast Albuquerque. You can see the desert from there and the purple mountains rising in the distance. The house is a single-story bungalow of Spanish style with a low-pitched roof like so many of the homes you see in the Southwest. It is made of concrete block, covered with white stucco.

The drawing was a gala affair. The people, dressed in their Sunday best, perched on the piles of lumber or sat on the hoods of automobiles to watch the association's president, M. E. Holly, place the 58 slips of paper in his hat. Assistant City Manager Arthur Stanton drew the first name—Duward E. Lee.

There were whistles and shouts of congratulation. By coincidence, it happened that Lee had been the first man to put up his money to buy stock when the association was organized. Real poetic justice that he should get the first house.

The drawing continued. All 57 remaining numbers were drawn. The name drawn second was to get the second house completed, to the third name drawn went the third house, and so on.

Soon each association member would have a house similar to the Lee's—a comfortable five-room bungalow with hardwood floors, steel casement windows and an attached garage. Lee said he couldn't possibly have bought the place if it hadn't been for the co-op. It cost him \$6,350, complete with lot.

The New Mexico Housing Cooperative association developed from the idea of Veteran Paul Robinson, a tall rawboned engineering graduate of

build houses for themselves might solve the problem for other veterans. He took this idea to Max Kaslo, who operates the local veterans' referral center. Robinson also talked to Virgil Judy, local housing expediter.

The idea clicked. Interested veterans got together; drew up a constitution and by-laws; filed papers of incorporation.

Community Aids Vet Enterprise

As word got around, the Albuquerque community pitched in to help. A local architect donated his services on the first house and pledged to provide blueprints, floor plans, et cetera at special rates for subsequent houses.

A concrete block manufacturer furnished the blocks for one dwelling; a landscaping firm offered to do the landscaping without charge; an awning company contributed the awnings.

Other business firms wished the association well; promised to sell it materials at reduced prices. But the contributions and reduced prices don't apply to any single house. They are to be prorated among all houses, so that each association member will benefit from the savings.

So far the association has the second and third houses almost completed; the fourth about half-finished.

Membership has swelled to 75, and because the association feels that a new house in Albuquerque means a vacant house for rent or sale eventually, the membership isn't limited to just veterans.

Association operations are flexible. A person may become a member by buying one share of stock for \$100. (This is credited toward his house.) He may buy more than one share of stock if he wishes, although he is not permitted more than one vote.

Each member buys his own lot and has the privilege of selecting the design of his own house. However, the house cannot be any bigger than 1,200 square feet (around average size), and construction must meet FHA standards and building code requirements. Members can have the co-op build for them, or they may merely purchase the materials through the organization.

All labor is paid for, but members can reduce the cost of their houses by working on their own or other houses under construction. If a plumber who is working full time on other jobs spends Saturdays doing plumbing work on one of the cooperative houses, he will be given credit at the standard plumbers' pay for the hours he works. Quite a few members have done this but most of them are men with office jobs, anxious to pitch in and get the houses built. When they work on the project, they are assigned as laborers and receive credit at laborers' pay. There are a few unaccustomed blisters and callouses, but they enjoy the novelty, and houses are going up fast.



M. E. Holly, president of the Albuquerque, N. M., Housing Cooperative Association, reads the name of the lucky veteran who will occupy the first house constructed by the organization.



'FLYBOYS' OF THE FUTURE . . . These Philadelphia youngsters listen avidly as Victor J. Fritz, Philadelphia youth leader and head of the model aircraft meet for the world air show, tells about the miniatures. These youngsters are too young to participate in the model plane competition, however, participation being limited to boys of 16 or over.

NEWS REVIEW

Farm Land Prices Soar; Portal Claims Outlawed

PORTALS CLOSED:

Back Claims Denied

Almost six billion dollars in back claims for portal-to-portal pay was erased from the books when President Truman put his signature on congressional legislation designed to relieve employers, as well as the government, from such claims—now and in the future.

Although he opposed the wishes of organized labor and overrode an appeal for a veto by Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach, the President emphasized that he was certain that it was not the intent of congress to nullify past gains made by labor.

Explaining his reasons for signing the bill, he said, "Businessmen will be able to plan with assurance for full production and price reductions. This will be of real value to labor and management in a continued high level of employment."

At the same time he repeated his plea to business for lower prices and requested congress to take immediate steps to increase the statutory minimum wage from 40 to at least 65 cents an hour.

TOO MUCH SMOKE: Can't See Stars

The nation's capital city is getting just too smoky, dusty and crowded for the U. S. naval observatory, which is getting ready to move to a more sylvan neighborhood.

Because big cities radiate heat, which is bad for delicate astronomical instruments, the new location for the world-famous observatory must be no nearer than 25 miles to any metropolitan area. Officials estimate that it will take about eight years to find a site, put up the necessary buildings and install equipment.

In addition to providing the nation with the world's most accurate time checks, the observatory warns the radio industry of sun spot activity, puts out almanacs, supplies data on tides, phases of the moon and sunsets and sunrises, and figures out calendars.

FLU STOPPER: New Mold Tested

A possible cure for influenza may be forthcoming from a newly discovered green and black soil mold, according to an announcement by the Society of American Bacteriologists.

So far, although there are preventive vaccines for flu, no specific cure has been developed. Not yet tested on humans, the mold is said to have shown a curative effect on chicken embryos and mice with influenza.

There is one hitch, however. The mold-bearing earth, according to the two scientists who made the discovery, was one of numerous samples which came to them from all over the world. Just where that particular bit of dirt came from they do not know.

Dentists Are in Pain, Too

Pity the poor dentist when he sneaks in behind your teeth with that savage little drill and tries to unscrew the top of your skull.

Chances are his feet hurt. And his back aches. And his legs are weary. That, at least, is the contention of Northwestern university school of dentistry, which is starting to teach its student dentists to work sitting down—on a specially constructed stool.

A standing dentist is of no more advantage to the patient than a sitting dentist, the school asserts. If dentists can be brought to a sitting position, the university believes, their professional lives will be extended by five years.

FARM LAND:

Prices Go Up

Continuing the steady trend upward begun early in the war, farm real estate prices are nearing a level double the average for the 1935-39 period, a survey by the U. S. bureau of agricultural economics shows.

During the year ending March 1, farm real estate prices rose 12 per cent for the country as a whole. That figure is compared with a 13 per cent rise for the corresponding period in 1946, 11 per cent in 1945 and 15 per cent in 1944. Fifty-six per cent of the recorded sales in the past year were for all cash, it was revealed in the survey.

OUTMODED DEFENSE: Rockets Far Ahead

Ever-improving rocket weapons already have rendered obsolete the best anti-aircraft guns of the army and navy, Paul W. Martin, an ordnance expert, has asserted.

The big strides made in development of rapid-firing automatic, radar-directed guns have been far outstripped by atomic energy and guided missiles, he said.

Three important features of a good defense were cited: A long-range detection system; a defensive rocket to intercept the enemy missile, and destruction of the enemy missile at a safe distance.

Record Slaughter

A new record for slaughtering of cattle and calves was set during April in all federally-inspected plants in the country. Hog killings were lower, however, reports the department of agriculture.

Cattle killed reached the all-time high during April of 1,203,137 head, compared with 714,860 for the same month a year ago. Calves slaughtered numbered 678,440, compared with 445,049 in April, 1946.

Hogs killed dropped from 3,857,972 to 3,615,746, and sheep declined from 1,735,882 last April to 1,326,589 this year, lowest since 1939, the department reports.



CHICAGO is steaming up for the hottest midsummer sport carnival in recent history.

First, there will be another big-money All-American open golf tournament, involving



Grantland Rice

Then the all-star ball game arrives, where there will be an entirely different attitude on the part of the National league for a big change.

While these maneuvers are taking place, Tony Zale and Rocky Graziano will begin the final stages of their training, for what should be boxing's best show in many years. Certainly Tony and the Rock topped the book last summer, including two heavyweight championships. And the flop there wasn't Louis' fault. It belonged entirely to a pair of palefaces known as Conn and Mauriello.

After the Zale-Graziano melee is out of the way, the \$100,000 Arlington classic will arrive. This may be one of the biggest races of the season, coming along at a high spot of the racing year.

So here we have Chicago crowding in golf, baseball, boxing and racing, all in the championship mold, through a three-week stretch.

The Zale-Graziano meeting will be the standout. It should be one of the most dramatic middleweight contests in the long history of the ring. It may not carry all the fury and destruction of their first meeting, but it can't miss as a thriller. There have been some great middleweight fights in the past, but none had the color this pair can take into the ring.

And you can wager a few stereotypes this time that the National league isn't going to concede the all-star game in advance.

Star Coach Missing

Spring football practice, which draws little publicity despite the many thousands getting ready for next fall, has an absent star who will be missed badly in the home of the Crimson Tide. His name is Frank Thomas, Alabama's able leader, who has had to retire because of illness and now is the athletic director of the southern institution. Red Drew, who happens to be another coach of class, is in charge of the squad.

Sixteen years ago, back in 1931, Thomas succeeded Wallace Wade at Alabama, when Wade left for Duke. An ex-Notre Damer, Thomas was short and stubby with a pair of keen, alert eyes and a thorough knowledge of football in every department.

Alabama couldn't have picked a better man. For in Thomas' 16 years at Alabama, the Crimson Tide from Tuscaloosa won 111 games against 22 defeats. Five games ended in tie score. In seven bowl games, which include Rose, Sugar, Cotton and Orange bowl contests, the Thomas-Alabama record is five victories against two defeats. These are pretty fair marks in big-time competition.

It also might be added, that in this period, Thomas developed such all-Americans, or near all-Americans as Don Hutson, Jenkins and Don Whitmire (later with Navy), Johnny Cain, Hupke, Dixie Howell, Bill Lee, Riley Smith, Tarzan White, Holt Rast, Vaughn Mancha and Harry Gilmer. He rates Gilmer, who has one more year, as the best college passer he ever saw, and predicts a brilliant pro future for his 160-pound back in case he decides to take up professional play.

In addition to strong intersectional competition, Tommy had to battle his way through a fast-moving circuit that included such stout opponents as Tennessee, Duke, Georgia, L.S.U., Tulane, Vanderbilt and many others who always played for keeps.

One reason for football strength in the South has been the quality of its coaches, with such leaders as Bob Neyland of Tennessee, Frank Thomas of Alabama, Wallace Wade of Duke, Wally Butts of Georgia, Bill Alexander and Bobby Dodds of Georgia Tech, Red Sanders of Vanderbilt, Henry Frka of Tulane, Carl Snavely of North Carolina and many others who knew their stuff.

With his former aid Red Drew at Mississippi, Thomas made a brave attempt to leave a sick bed and coach his team from a stretcher last fall, an impossible assignment.

Dixie Hangs On

It has been a matter of 19 years since a kid ballplayer by the name of Fred ("Dixie") Walker reported to the Albany, Ga., club of the Southeastern league. Dixie blew in from his home hamlet, Villa Rica, Ga., at the age of 18.

His record shows that in his 18 years of wandering Dixie has been delivering base hits for 13 different clubs. But, with such hitting stars as Stan Musial, Joe DiMaggio and others far down the list, Walker is still baseball's leading combination hitter, meaning batting average and runs batted in.

Touch Typewriting Can Be Self-Taught

GETTING A JOB



Whether you plan to make office work your career, or hope to enter some other field eventually, you have to know typing to get a foothold.

Remember, an experienced eye can instantly detect the uneven touch of a hunt-and-peek typist, so better master the touch system without delay.

The Weekly Newspaper Service booklet teaches touch typing with charts, exercises and speed drills. Simple to learn. Send 25 cents (coin) for "Touch Typewriting Self-Taught" to Weekly Newspaper Service, 243 W. 17th St., New York 11, N. Y. Print name, address, booklet title and No. 13.

But Few Handcuffs Defy Being Picked by Wearer

Of the some 400 different kinds of handcuffs and other fettering devices that have been invented, not more than 100, so far as is known, were ever manufactured, says Collier's.

Among them, only four or five cannot be opened by the wearer without a key, an outstanding example being the Tower handcuff, invented in 1876, whose double lock has never been picked, although many experts have tried it, including Houdini.

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LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Remember York?

L. L. Coryell of Lincoln, Neb., couldn't believe a two-bedroom bungalow could be provided for veterans for only \$5,250. To him goes a copy of the third story in this series—how they did it in York, Pa.

the Colorado School of Mines. When Robinson returned from a several-year tour of duty with the navy, he couldn't find a home in Albuquerque.

Finally he bought a lot, designed and personally supervised construction of a two-bedroom house. When he had finished, he found he had spent \$4,300 (making allowance for a salary for himself) for a house that compared favorably with what was costing other Albuquerque veterans about \$7,000 in the open market.

Robinson thought a veterans' cooperative through which men could

EVIDENCE OF LETUP

Income and Output Hit Peak

WASHINGTON. — Although both the national income and the national turn-out of services and finished goods rose to record peaks during the first three months of the year, there is evidence the boom is slackening, it is pointed out in a commerce department report.

Since the income and production are measured in terms of money, higher prices and higher wages were in part responsible for the showing.

The "gross national product," defined as "total output of final goods and services in the economy at market prices," was advanced to an

annual rate of \$209,000,000,000.

This, said the department, approximated the peak recorded in the second quarter of 1945 when huge quantities of war material were being produced.

Also, it topped the fourth quarter of 1946 by \$4,300,000,000, principally because of increased consumer spending, but nevertheless represented "the smallest quarterly gain since the bottom of the reconversion decline was reached in the first quarter of 1946."

National income reached a record total in the first quarter of this year at the annual rate of \$180,500,000,000,

an increase of \$3,000,000,000 over the fourth quarter of 1946, the department said.

Income payments to individuals rose by \$3,500,000,000 to an annual rate of \$177,000,000,000. Wages and salaries accounted for the largest part of the gain, \$2,600,000,000 at an annual rate.

Relief and social security payments and veterans' allotments also were up by \$600,000,000, reversing their downward trend through 1946. Dividends, interest and net rents of landlords were down \$500,000,000. Net income of business owner-operators was up \$200,000,000.