

Modern Betsy Ross, Artist in Needlecraft, Makes All Army Flags



Betsy Ross, 1942

The year 1942 marks the 165th anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes, today a battle-flag proudly carried by American armed forces in every continent on the globe.

In January, 1777, the American people, elated by General Washington's recent victories at Trenton and Princeton, were seeking an emblem for the new nation. The Congress on June 14 following adopted a resolution providing for a flag of 13 alternate red and white stripes with 13 white stars on a blue field. And then the inspiring story of Betsy Ross who made the first Star-Spangled Banner in her little upholstery shop in Arch Street, Philadelphia.

Today the modern Betsy Ross still sews in Philadelphia—any one of hundreds of women skilled in needlecraft. She plies her art in the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot where all the flags used by the United States Army are made.

Story of Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross was born January 1, 1752, and died January 30, 1836, but it was not until a third of a century after her death that the legend of her handiwork in the making of the first flag became generally known. One of her descendants, W. J. Canby, related the incident before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1870 and since then she has been exalted as a national heroine.

The modern Betsys take keen pride in their work. Many have reached the highest perfection in the art of embroidery, in designing and the blending of colors. Nameless though they are to



— U. S. Signal Corps Photos

Embroidering Quartermaster's Banner

lions of people who are thrilled by the sight of glorious banners fashioned from their delicate stitches, they are rewarded by the knowledge that the flags they have wrought are today the signals of liberty and freedom afar amid the fogs of combat and in the battlesmoke of the Philippines.

The most stirring sight at the Quartermaster Depot is the making of the flag. After thorough inspection of the cloth to insure that it comes up to rigid specifications, the bunting is marked and cut with an electrically driven cutting machine into strips of two lengths for making the flag. One hundred strips are cut in a single operation. The blue field for the stars is cut in the same manner. The material for stars is stamped out with a steel-cutting die on an electric-driven stamping machine. The alternate red and white stripes are joined together on a double-needle sewing machine.

Each blue bunting field is carefully marked for its stars, and the stars are stitched on with a special machine that produces a zig zag stitch. Other operations complete the making of the flag of the United States.

The manufacture of silk colors and standards is a specialized art at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot. The stripes and field are cut by hand but the stars are of solid embroidered silk on hand embroidered

chine. The blue fields are placed in frames on a machine provided with many needles and these turn out a stitch resembling hand embroidery, both sides alike.

Regimental Standards

Regimental colors and standards, with their coats-of-arms and mottoes, each distinctive unto its own military unit, are embroidered by hand. As many as 20 different shades of silk thread are used in embroidering each flag. This calls for exceptional skill and care to produce the predetermined designs in their exact blending of shades. All designs are passed upon by technical experts in the office of the Quartermaster General.

Proudest moment of the Philadelphia flag makers is when they receive an order for the colors carried as a symbol representing the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States—the President. This color has a blue background in the center of which is embroidered the seal of the President. There is one white star in each corner of the flag, representing his grade as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. This color has gold and silver fringe on three sides, and also has a cord and tassel secured immediately below the flagstaff headpiece, consisting of a gold-hued, spread eagle. The design of this flag was established by Executive Order of President Woodrow Wilson on May 29, 1916.

Deputy County Clerk Resigns To Farm

Mrs. Lyle Woods will leave her position as deputy clerk Saturday night. As soon as possible she and Mr. Woods will move to Centerville, Washington where they have bought a ranch with her father, Roy Powell. Mrs. Robert Hoskinson will take up the duties of deputy.

A group of local people are practicing a play, "Castles in the Air" which will be given some time in February for the benefit of the local library.

Joe Ritner, here Saturday, reported that he would report Monday for service in the naval reserve.

Fred Ruckman is back from Hermiston having aided in finishing the job of painting the federal buildings there.

Mrs. May Belshe, while coasting down hill with her grand son, fell from the sled and suffered a broken shoulder blade which is keeping her in the hospital for several days.

The May grocery store is undergoing a change this week with the addition of new movable shelving for display and reshuffling of counters to make the store hender for both customers and clerks.

The state highway crew repaired the tube under Bidwell street at its junction with the highway this week thus giving drainage again to that part of town.

Mrs. E. R. Barzee returned home this week after a visit with her daughter in California.

Mrs. Wayne Thompson spent a few days of last week here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Powell.

Born: To Mr. and Mrs. Leon V. Hubbard, Saturday, a son in The Dalles hospital. Both doing well.

Stanley Coelsch expects to be called in a short time to begin duty with the coast guard which he joined a few weeks ago.

Richard Morgan has sold his herd of cows to John DeMoss to make delivery the first of the month. The Morgans will move to the Grandma Says home to care for her. Mr. Morgan is incapacitated because of an injured knee and Ariel is going to farm work.

Alton Axtell and wife came down from Prineville Saturday for a brief visit with his parents before going to Portland where he will work in the ship yards during the emergency.

The tire rationing board have permitted Vernon Platt to have a truck tire, George Iosty two obsolete tires and Harold White a truck tire and tube. In addition to this they have refused some applications.

George Martin failed to pass the navy physical examination this week changing his plans considerably.

Wendell Balsiger was taken to the hospital in The Dalles Thursday morning suffering from the same ailment that caused him so much pain a few weeks ago.

Miss Signa Woods is here for a few days to visit her brother Lyle and friends. She is on her way from Prineville where she had visited her brother, Ethan to Drain where she and her mother live.

It is reported that J. B. Davis has sold his lease and equipment to Harvey Thompson who will farm both places. Bert will continue to handle his stock.

C. L. Poley, M. D.
Physician & Surgeon
The Dalles Hospital
The Dalles, Oregon

EVACUATION PLANNED

Army plans for area evacuation in the event of war emergency require accurate data relative to trucks and busses that would be available for use by the federal agencies under such conditions. Earl Snell, secretary of state, declared today in urging Oregon owners who have not yet returned their inventory questionnaire cards to do so immediately.

The highway transport information needed by army corps area commanders for evacuation plans can be obtained only from records gathered as a result of the inventory ordered some weeks ago by the war department, Snell pointed out.

The inventory seeks information on trucks and busses, the owners of which may be asked to hire or lease to federal agencies in emergencies. Adequate compensation will be given for any vehicles so used, it was emphasized. The inventory does not anticipate confiscation of private vehicles.

Oregon returns are more than 90 percent complete at present, but, due to existing war conditions, the war department is anxious to obtain 100 per cent completion of the survey. Snell thus urged truck and bus owners who have not returned a card to fill out the desired information and send the questionnaire to Salem promptly. Owners who did not receive a card are asked to contact the state department, Salem, and a card will be forwarded promptly.

Information sought in the questionnaire. From the complete information thus obtained, army and other federal agencies will be able to find necessary vehicles quickly and without interfering with private enterprise, Snell explained.

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The gigantic demands of modern war have created a copper shortage. Civilian use has been cut drastically. No longer can power companies build long rural and suburban

extensions such as have already brought low-cost electricity to nearly every farm in this area. Nor can we make extensive installations to serve stores or industries without approval of the Office of Production Management.

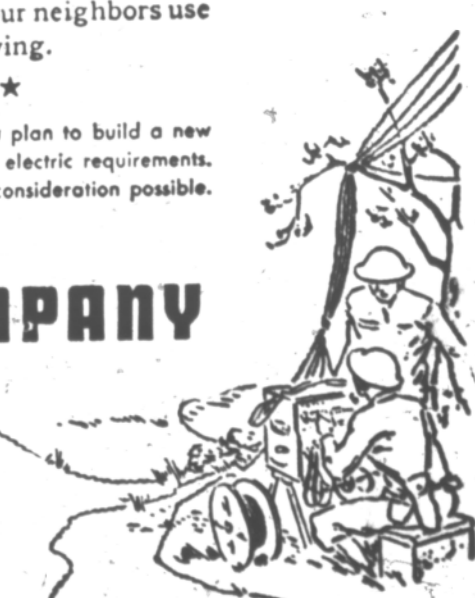
It will be a real, though temporary, inconvenience for this growing area not to have Pacific Power & Light's cheap electricity so easily available for new farm and suburban homes. However, until the Japs and Nazis have been thoroughly defeated and our homes and families made safe from aggression, we are sure every American wants the Army and Navy to have all the copper they need.

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Nursing Class Announced For Wasco Women

A class in home nursing will be started at Wasco February 5 and will meet at the council room. The hours of 2 until 4 will be utilized. Mrs. A. H. McIntyre will direct the class.

A traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs will arrive in Wasco on Friday, January 30, 1942, and will be on duty at the City Hall from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner at this time.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hilderbrand died shortly after birth at The Dalles hospital.

Defense bonds and stamp pledges were signed at the council rooms this week with the local committee in charge of the campaign.

The snow went off pretty fast the first of the week and farmers state that the frost is well out of the ground in most places assuring some moisture in the ground for the coming crop. Wheat seems to be in good condition.

Want Ads

Piano Tuning, expert service, why let moths, rust, wear, neglect of tuning ruin your fine old piano? Write The Dalles Piano Store, 204 E 2nd St. 7-tfn

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