

Domiciliary Board Functioning To Aid Interests of Members

Camp White—Members entering the domiciliary center here now are being given expert assistance in finding new interests.

A member-planning board has been selected to interview new men admitted, following their physical examinations. The idea conforms with rehabilitation plans found best for the type of men who are accepted here.

Lumbering, Other Industries Holding Well During Winter

Salem — (U.P.) — Lumbering, construction and metals manufacturing have been holding up well during the usually slackening winter months but other seasonal let-downs have been factors in the uptrend of unemployment according to the State Unemployment Compensation commission.

This has resulted in a mid-January claims load somewhat over last year's and about the same as in early 1953.

Slight Decrease
Employment in the basic logging and lumbering industry was estimated at 78,800 in mid-December. That compared with 83,100 a month before and 70,000 the previous year.

Construction also remained on a more even keel than usual at this season with 21,000 working last month.

Employers' reports tabulated by the commission showed 458,900 non-farm jobs last month, a decline of 2,400 from November but 8,200 more than a year ago. Food processing, ship repairing and some other smaller industrial groups had fewer workers than in late 1953 but manufacturing as a whole reported 134,800 employed, a rise of 6,200 over a year before.

Employment Office Manager To Speak

John Patton, manager of the Medford office of the Oregon Employment service, will be speaker at the weekly Roundtable meeting of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at the Jackson hotel at noon tomorrow.

He will discuss personal and labor problems faced today by both employers and employees. Vic Milnes will be chairman of the luncheon meeting.

Another chamber committee, appointed to study the chamber's participation in a study of the possibility of a World's Fair in Oregon in 1959 will also meet at the Jackson hotel at noon Monday. Jennings Pierce is chairman.

The Blossom Festival committee will meet at noon Tuesday at the Medford hotel to discuss plans for the 1955 event, and to view a colored film of last year's festival take by Jim Anders.

Domiciliary Officer R. H. Ruffin is chairman of this board.

"In this rehabilitation effort, we are concentrating on a program of adapting the men to the task of making their lives beneficial to themselves while here," Ruffin states.

Five Classifications
A light detail is required of the membership, under VA regulations, in five classifications. The kind of work that may be performed depends on the nature of their disability.

The planning board, however, will go further than the mere assignment of a job. It will also consider personal factors in each case. If physical or corrective therapy is needed, Dr. Samuel D. Earhart, in charge of this program, will prescribe the treatment, as well as make recommendations in the physical medicine and rehabilitation program.

Under the revised recreational schedule, occupational therapy and group interests have been developed, in addition to the arts and crafts program, and are supervised by a trained therapist. Special Services Chief Frank Glonning is the board member who recommends such activity.

Therapists Added
In the last year two therapists have been added and encouragement given to Red Cross and other volunteer efforts in the training program.

The new admission plan, which is being given a thorough workout under board supervision, has already proved of benefit to Contact Officer Veldon J. Diment, who is able to clear the veteran's record, on pension and other details, upon arrival. The chaplains also find this an opportune time to make their first contacts.

Actual details are confined to Company 1 members, most of whom are able to hold member jobs or perform a limited amount of assigned work. Nearly half of the members, however, fall in the class where no detail is assigned because of infirmities or disability. These men will be given credit for participation in other phases of the rehabilitation effort.

May Extend Scope
Success of the method has brought consideration for extending the scope of the board's work to men already assigned but who have not as yet made satisfactory adjustments.

Board member Herbert Daniels, chief of social services, eval-

uates the background history of men. His recommendations, based upon interviews, are helpful in this part of the plan.

Company Captains Martin and McEvers talk with new "recruits" and try to assign them beds in a building or ward where they will find congenial companions. If this does not suit them, they may be moved. This is the rule, rather than the exception, under the policy of "humanizing" living conditions here.

Ernie Rickson, the detail sergeant, using his list of available

detail assignments, puts the new member to work at a task which conforms with the medical-social classification as well as the aptitude and interest of the member. Memorandum Quoted

In a recent memorandum covering domiciliary member detail, Manager E. K. Ricker stated:

"Members are detailed to perform duties on the well-recognized principle that employment suitable to the individual's condition is beneficial both from a physical and mental standpoint.

"It must be borne in mind that detail work will be necessary work of a constructive nature which contributes to the maintenance of the station as a whole or the quarters occupied by members, and which the members feel serves a definite purpose."

At the present time 75 mem-

bers are listed in Class 1, covering the heavier details; 130 are in Class 2, calling for light work such as gardening duties and as helpers; 41 are listed in Class 3, whose disabilities require a sitting detail; 186 men are able to do sweeping, dusting and similar work called for in Class 4; and 45 men are only able to make their own beds and maintain their lockers in an orderly manner. The Class 6 members are not required to perform detail.

More than 100 of the 800 men on the roster are member-employees. The largest number work as attendants. There are 10 members working for the canteen service in the coffee shop. A total detail assignment of 375 is listed for mess hall, custodial, funeral, watchman, messenger and miscellaneous duties.

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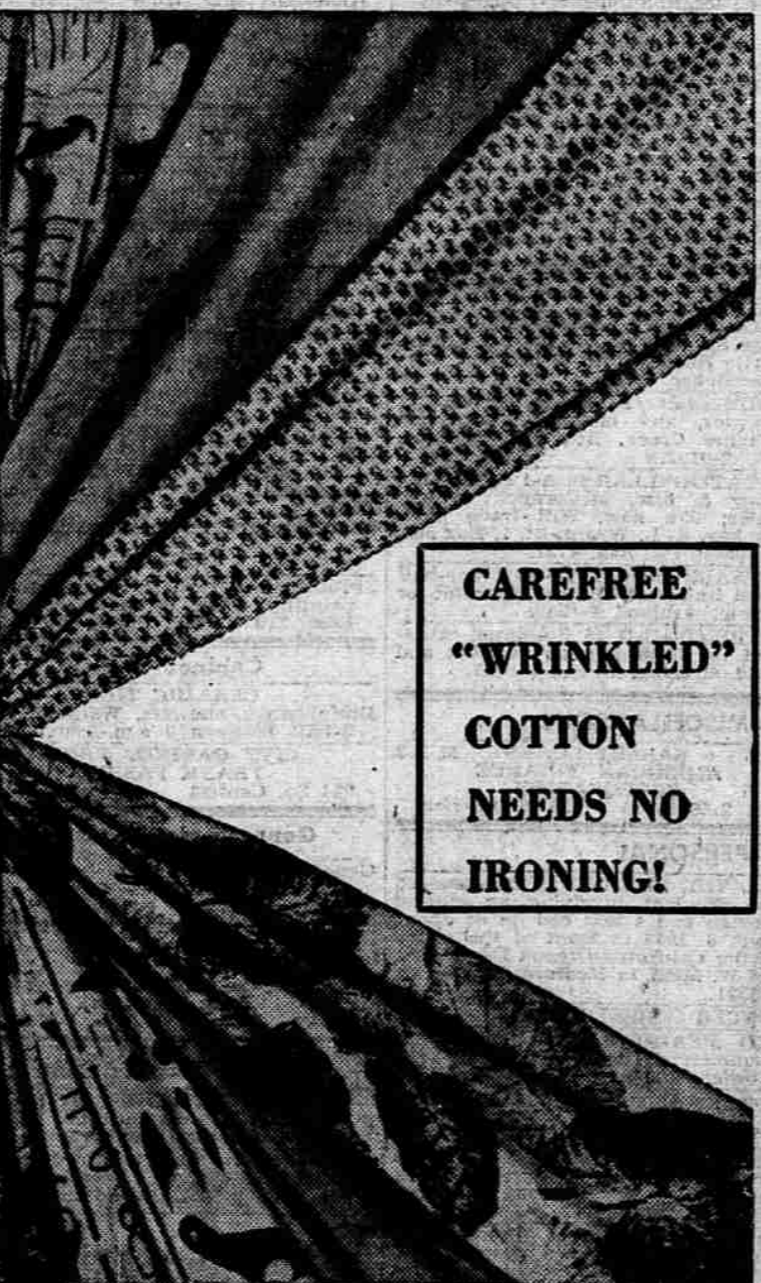
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