

Camp White Veteran, Hearing Damaged by Shell Explosion, Now Gainfully Employed

BY A. W. Riberty. Editor, Camp White Dominions. "You cannot run away from a weakness," wrote Robert Louis Stevenson. "You must fight it out or perish, and if that be so, why not now and where you stand?" He was afflicted with tuberculosis of the lungs, but some of his greatest work was done while he was suffering the most. He gave of the best that was in him and enriched the world with his writings. Courage, however, is not limited to the great. Walter L. Willis is a World War II veteran of 3 1/2 years of army service. He is 41 years old, is married and the father of a nine-month-old boy. Before the war Willis was an art glass worker in Chicago, Ill. On entering the service he was sent to Camp White, the former Army training camp, where he served his entire army career with the 96th Division. It was during a training exercise that Willis was injured by an exploding shell which

damaged his sense of hearing to the extent that he was given a medical discharge in 1945. Noise Unbearable Upon returning to civilian life and his native Chicago, he found that he was unable to continue his former line of work due to the fact that the machinery used in art glass working caused a peculiarly high pitched noise which was unbearable to his sensitive nerves. He was transferred to the firm's shipping department as shipping clerk. During the few years that he worked as a shipping clerk, he learned lip reading which, together with a hearing aid, permitted him to carry on a conversation in an almost normal manner. In 1946 and again in 1947 Willis spent his annual vacations in Medford where he had met and courted a local girl. It was during his 1947 vacation that they were married, and both returned to Chicago. However, after their return there, and perhaps influenced by a fondness

for Oregon and some homesickness on the part of his Oregon-born wife, he decided to return here and make his home which they did in September, 1949. Applying to the Veterans Administration for vocational training, he was admitted to the Medford Business College where he studied business administration.



WALTER L. WILLIS Training Overcomes Deafness

workers. When the Veterans Administration began the changeover of their accounting to the punch card system, Willis was sent to the IBM training school in Portland. After returning to his job at Camp White he took over the card-punching machine. Incidentally, this machine is quite noisy in operation so that his deafness has, at least, the advantage that, by removing his hearing aid, he is not troubled by the noise.

which included accounting. On graduating he applied for a position with the Veterans Administration at Camp White. He was accepted and assigned to the accounting division of the Supply department. This was in February, 1951.

A survey by the various rehabilitation agencies throughout the country confirm the fact that the deaf or hard of hearing person is more efficient at a job in which he has been properly trained than is a person with normal hearing. Employers are said to be more willing to accept the deaf than any other group of handicapped people. This is due to several factors. In the first place, the deaf are usually physically able-bodied and can do heavy or light work, sitting or standing; in the second place, they can readily be trained to do jobs on which there is a minimum of conference with spoken instructions. The deaf, moreover, have keen observation and are able to concentrate better on their work than most hearing employees. And last, but not least, they are no longer hard to get along with because of the excellent training given them in vocational schools, which makes them cheerful and agreeable.

Washington —(U.P.)—Baxton Howard, Midland, Tex., Oil Co. attorney has testified he received a \$5,000 bonus for his work on behalf of the natural gas bill.

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Around Hollywood



Hollywood —(U.P.)— James Dean's third and last picture, "Giant," has been previewed to an enthusiastic Hollywood press but the final performance of the late actor received a mixed reaction. The movie itself drew adjectives such as "magnificent" and "unequalled," mainly because of George Stevens' masterful direction. The film appears headed for the finish line in the Oscar Derby. It has its world premiere in New York tonight.

Albany, Ore.—(U.P.)—The office of Rep. Harris Ellsworth has notified officials here that the Air Force has authorized release of \$4,830,000 for immediate use in planning and building its SAGE installation at Camp Adair.

By ALINE MOSBY United Press Correspondent

But the fans who have raised the late actor to a status not even matched by Rudolph Valentino might not care to hear that not all of the critics and columnists agreed it was his best performance.

Performance 'Uneven' Columnist Sidney Skolsky declared Dean's acting was "uneven."

"Whether it was because of acting, direction or cutting, he started out as one type in the movie and without any transition suddenly became another type," he said.

Critic Philip Scheuer of the Los Angeles Times pointed out that "all the Dean mannerisms are there, and if anything, exaggerated."

Daily Variety reported Dean gave a "competent" performance. A magazine critic said "Dean was still playing the juvenile delinquent and you had the feeling that if the camera moved one foot to the right you'd see

Schwab's drugstore... Actor Ages in Film

Dean played the character of Jett Rink, who strikes oil on his small plot of land in Texas. He builds hotels and an airport and is regarded as ruthless and cruel.

In later scenes he wears a white mustache, graying hair and dark glasses in an attempt to appear middle-aged.

A Warner Bros. technician who worked on "Giant" says "a large part" of Dean's scenes were cut out during the editing. As a result, the technician pointed

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