

Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

By WALTER TOWNSEND

Flu shots were the order of the day Friday with 150 members appearing from "personal" to receive the needles in their arms.

Margaret (Peg) Corcoran, secretary to the chief medical officer, sat at a table at the entrance to the treatment room, and chic, with simple pearls and glamorous bracelets, presided at the two-hour session.

Some appeared with frowns and apprehension, but Peg's wit and ruthless reassurance, gave them courage to endure it.

She frequently appears at the coffee shop of a morning, and greets the morning Vets, with courtesy and smiles. Striking and neat - and popular with the members - she perhaps knows a thousand persons by name.

Bestows Titles

Upon some of them she has bestowed titles of great respect and outrageous dignity. Marshall Jackson, she greets with profound obeisance. "Hello, Bishop!" she'll say.

Others, she has addressed with lesser honors, as for instance, looking at a "certain" writer, this week, she said, "How are you Walter Lipmann - or is it Ernie Pyle?"

It has often been noted by the members, talking among themselves, "CMO's come and go but Peg stays." Quick of step and quick of wit - with a ready smile - Peg has been secretary to one CMO or another for the past seven years. Often the only womanly personality in the new coffee shop mornings, Peg comes because she is so welcome, all the members suppose.

"There is nothing like Peg," some say. "Never will be anything like Peg again," others claim.

Sometimes Wonder Why

The members who think about it, sometimes wonder why, in all the names she has conferred upon different personalities among the men, no one has yet been referred to by Peg, as a "Cardinal." She is saying that high rank, for some "special" person, it is generally believed.

She enjoys coffee in the early morning. And will discuss nearly any subject with a Veteran - whatever it is - and with whosoever brings it up. Nor does she hedge at love, or marriage, even. Does not turn away. But looks into her purse instead, a faint smile showing on her face, as she has more than once collapsed a coffee-drinker, sitting next to her.

In her office at the medical clinic, she sits at a desk behind a wide glass window, and in point of service has been there through many administrations. Often the chief medical officer is seen conferring with and talking to Peg for a moment or two. Many a member watching them, wonders, and would like to know

218 Cases Reported To Sheriff in Oct.

Yreka - Sheriff A. B. Cotlar reports the following activities by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's office during the month of October, 1960:

There were 218 cases reported and investigated during the month. These included: One assault, one auto theft, 11 burglaries, three checks, six disturbing the peace, seven drunk, three failure to provide, two forgery, two insanity, 22 thefts, one robbery and 111 miscellaneous criminal cases. There were 46 miscellaneous non-criminal cases handled.

During the month of October there were 85 bookings at the Siskiyou county jail, of which 78 were adults and seven were juveniles. The average daily population for the month was 63 persons.

The sheriff's civil department handled 30 cases during the same period and collected \$228.12 in county fees.

COUNCIL MEETING

Central Point - The city council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 1, resulted in the adoption of a City Planning commission recommendation to tear down the old grandstand at the ballpark. All salvage material will be later utilized in constructing portable bleachers. Fencing the field and building dugouts are also planned for the future.

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men, for it does not wound or hurt, and they trust her implicitly. Another time this week, sipping her coffee slowly and staring over the cup, little finger straight out, she looked at the "certain" writer again. He writes for a monthly publication, with less than a thousand circulation. "How's the press of the nation?" she asked.

"The member writer," could only grin, and look away. Yet in a vague sort of emotion, he felt complimented for his writing ability - or something! - he did not know just what.

Turns To Coffee-Drinker

She turned to another coffee-drinker, who had just seated himself with a cup, and

insisted on being heard. "Hi, Professor!" she said, "how you like my new hair-do . . . it left me flat!" She patted her well-groomed hair in despair.

The other members looked admiringly at Peg, and one of them told her, it was worth more than it cost, in his opinion. Apparently she was mollified, even though, two or three Veterans laughed.

But on Friday, the flu shots came, and the civil service employees needed cheering up. To every one's surprise, Peg Corcoran sat at the table checking off names and saying, "How are you?" as the victims filed in. As they came out, and left, her parting remarks would invariably

prompt a smile, the pain forgotten.

Doctors, nurses, engineers, and dietitians came to the table where Peg sat, with her pencil and list. "How are you, John?" - bare your arm!" she said in a low voice. He was a young man from the personnel section, "and very handsome," Peg said.

"He's assistant to the assistant," she explained without a smile. Young John Bourdon smiled broadly, and stepped into the treatment room.

There Christine Bates, RN, stood in stiff professional white, and swabbed the spots on 150 arms to receive the shots. As they came out, more went in.

Outside the door, Peg took care of other details. "You don't have to sign, Gals," she said to a group of pale women coming out. Mrs. Edna Brassfield of the canteen, stood doubtfully. "It's all right," Peg said to her, "the damage is already done."

Suddenly Peg Corcoran was very much on the job. "Here's Dr. Thomas Frank Crowley!" she exclaimed breathlessly, "a very fine addition to our medical staff." Peg works for Dr. Crowley, or at least, works with him. The doctor, distinguished, and just the right age for greying hair, bowed, saluted Peg, and left without a word.

Mr. Glenn and Frank Glon-

ing, came up to Peg's desk, and bared their arms and pretended to be brave. "Go in Gentlemen," Peg said encouragingly. Glonning went first, and Glenn followed cautiously.

"A couple of giants!" Peg commented acidly, looking down at her desk, overwhelmed.

Active Service

She has had 15 years of active service in the Veterans administration. "I'm a pioneer," she said suddenly.

At this moment, Mr. Kelley, chief of social services, arrived hurriedly in white shirt sleeves. "Hello Bob Hope," she greeted him. The busy official, with urgent duties wait-

ing, and an unpleasant needle ahead, at last, made some sort of suitable and proper reply.

This might have continued into further repartee, had not

Dr. Hein arrived in a trot. He was on an emergency case. "I have to have my 'shot' immediately," he said. The whole line gave way for him.

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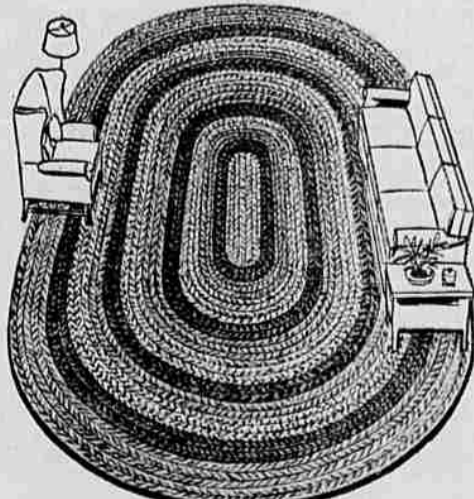
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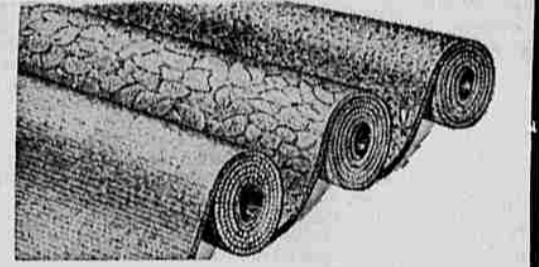
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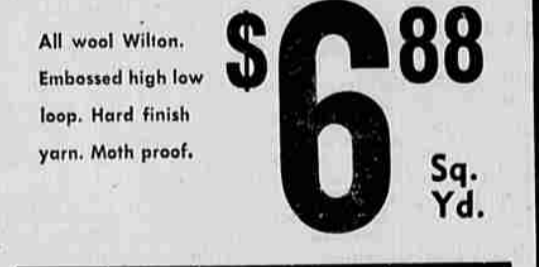
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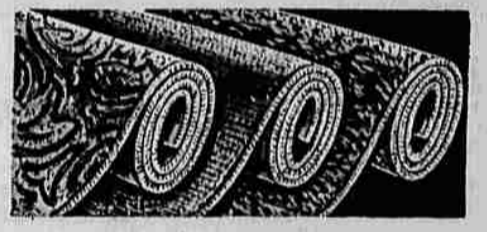
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