



Veterans SERVICE BUREAU

EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

Local Service Centers

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, administrator of veterans' affairs, in a recent statement declared that the most pressing need, insofar as the civilian population and the veteran is concerned, is the establishment of a single service center in every community so that benefits to the veterans can "get down to the grass roots of the home community."

Many communities already have set up these centers where the returning veteran may go for information, for service, for advice, but there are thousands of home communities where no such benefit is available to the veteran.

"We have the plans," General Bradley said, "but you can't help a veteran with a plan. We need the help of business, patriotic and civic organizations, of the press and radio, in solving a problem of space and personnel which is slowing up our job."

In the meantime, the veterans administration has inaugurated a six-point program for amputee rehabilitation to include: (1) direct veteran contact to learn problems, invite criticism and provide corrective measures; (2) a survey to determine availability of prosthetic appliances; (3) to provide each veteran a booklet with essential information; (4) a program of scientific after-care designed to meet the need of the veteran; (5) a conference with artificial limb manufacturers to establish fixed limb standards; (6) to establish a museum of prosthetic appliances.

Questions and Answers

Q. I want to know if a man who has been in the army over six months, is 30 years old and has a wife and four children, will be sent overseas or will he get a discharge soon?—Wife, Strasburg, N. D.

A. According to regulations at this time your husband is eligible for overseas service. According to the information you give, he has only approximately 42 points.

Q. I want to know if my husband can get a discharge. He has been in service 21 months and overseas 14 months and has four children and is needed at home since his mother is his dependent, too, and very feeble. He is in the army and is 29 years old.—L. B., Pisgah, Ala.

A. Without any points for battle stars or decorations, your husband has 71 points so he would be eligible for discharge.

Q. My husband served nine months in World War I, five of these overseas. While in service, one of his ear drums was affected from roar of guns and he can hear but very little. During this time his service record was lost and now he cannot get help because he doesn't have a record of his ear. Does he have to be handicapped because the army lost his record? He can do very little work.—Wife, Beaverville, Ala.

A. Your husband's service record should be in the war department in Washington. Would suggest that you immediately file a claim for pension, due to disability, with the Veterans administration at Birmingham. Write to the bureau of enlisted personnel, war department, Washington, D. C., concerning his service record, giving all details possible.

Q. I was called for the army September 4, 1918, and went to Fort Riley, Kans., and got my discharge at Fort Riley September 14, 1918. I got the \$60 bonus and the whole outfit of uniforms. Did guard duty and my serial number was 3474300. I asked for the soldier tax exemption in Iowa and they turned me down.—E. J. H., Webster City, Iowa.

A. You were apparently in the army only 10 days, but the internal revenue bureau says there is no federal tax exemption for veterans except on disability payments and the \$1,500 exemption on active service pay. There may be an Iowa state law providing for some form of tax exemption for veterans. Suggest you apply to your state or local tax authorities.

Q. My husband, who is in the navy, has three children and is 25 years old. Under this new system of discharging fathers of three children, will he be eligible for discharge?—Wife, Vanderbilt, Mich.

A. The navy department says "yes."

Q. How long will boys 18 or 15 years of age, who entered service in the spring of 1945 and are now on their way overseas, remain in the service?—N. G., Lancaster, Wis.

A. Under present regulations, until they have the required number of points to make them eligible for discharge.

Q. I want to know if a man who has been in the navy 21 months, is 34 years old and has a wife and three children will be discharged?—Wife, Owens Cross Roads, Ala.

A. Yes, he is eligible for application for discharge.

The Forum

Dec. 11, 1945
To—West Oregon Electric Co-op:
Vernonia Eagle;
R.E.A., St. Louis, Mo.:

There seeming to be very little chance for a local director of West Oregon Electric Co-op to submit his opinions before the board verbally, I am taking this opportunity to place in writing the result of my observations of the working of the R. E. A. during my time in office. I am very sorry that I am forced to express a very disagreeable opinion of our procedures so far. I am only going to take into consideration what I have seen in that part of the district in which I live. In the Mist-Birkenfeld area three months ago the people there were well served and satisfied with the service given by the Clatskanie P.U.D. and the private utility Co. operating there before the P.U.D.

Since the arrival of the R.E.A. working in the Mist-Birkenfeld area I have been showered with complaints day after day by almost every one living in that community with whom I have come in contact. These complaints are well founded and come from people whom I have known up to 45 years and who never complain only when the trouble caused exceeds the power of their endurance.

The original source of electric energy coming from Clatskanie to these people has been cut off by orders from no one knows

who. For two months I have been trying to ascertain the cause and get relief from this blundering system introduced and believed by employees of the St. Louis R.E.A.

I have always believed R.E.A. in principal to be a very fine act to promote better living in general. However, I am now convinced that principal and purpose have given away to politics, with the main objective of some or most of the employees to hold a job by pleasing a boss either in St. Louis or Washington, D.C. and there seems to be plenty of jobs being held.

We on the board here spend night after night as late as 2 a.m. listening to many words that express little. We come again another night to listen to a new program that voids nearly everything we heard at the last meeting, thus being kept mostly in the dark and acting as a rubber stamp for government job holders. Our efforts to maintain business contact with R.E.A. seems to me like dealing with the dead as the group we talk to (or rather the group that talks to us) at one time passes away and a new bunch appears when we wish to counsel with them again.

I wish to confess, at this time that I hold myself in no way perfect in this business and I believe that my associates on this board agree with me in believing we would be much better qualified to earn our \$3.00 per month if we were permitted to deal with some responsible agent from R. E. A. who is available and responsible. There are other matters of importance that could be mentioned and will be mentioned in respect to not only

R.E.A., but also to our own staff, pending future adjustments.

Respectfully Yours,
Noble Dunlap

BIRTHDAYS ARE HONORED AT PARTY

MIST—A party was given at the home of Mrs. Wm. Bridges last Sun. night a week ago in honor of her birthday and also for Mrs. A. E. (Doc) Jones. Games, cards and charades were enjoyed. A most delicious lunch was served during the eve. Each honored guest received some lovely gifts and the Circle presented each lady with lovely silver lined dishes.

Six or more trucks are hauling rock to the oil drillers road in the making about two miles off the Eastman road.

The entertainment and dance afterward given at the Mist gym Sat. nite netted the Mist Helping Circle \$89.

Nehalem Unit of county demonstration met Fri. at Mrs. Fred Siegenthaler's. Owing to such bad weather attendance was less

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than it would otherwise have been.

L. P. Wickstrom left for Myrtle Point last week after 10 days at home.

Mrs. Joe Roeser is looking forward to having Joe home in a short time, as word from him received last week stated he would be home.

Mrs. Wilson and her daughter from the Burn were shopping in Mist Mon.

Les Stevens, former Tavern

keeper, was in the village last week on business.

Austin Dowling and another state employee were in Seaside Sat. morning in the interests of the state highway dept.

Jackies Nelson of the merchant marine was here a few days during the week end visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Knowles. He left Sun. Jackie is joining the navy Sat.

The Lloyd Garlocks were in St. Helens a day last week.

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WILL THERE BE A STEEL STRIKE?

Not if the CIO abides by its pledged word, given only last spring.

Question: What would be the general effect on the country of a steel strike?

Answer: Over 40 percent of all the factory workers in the country earn their living by making steel into useful products for American life. A shutdown of the steel industry would be a disastrous blow to reconversion and would cause a serious loss in both wages and industrial production at a time when they were most needed.

Question: Is it true that the Steelworkers Union has pledged itself not to strike?

Answer: Yes. Every contract which the Union has signed this year with the various steel companies has a clause wherein the Union agrees not to strike during the life of the contract.

Question: Are those contracts still in effect?

Answer: Yes. They were signed in the spring of 1945 to run until October, 1946.

Question: Who signed for the Union?

Answer: Its international officials—Philip Murray, Van Bittner, Clinton Golden and others—and the local Union heads at the various plants.

Question: Is there no "escape clause" by which either side could end the agreements?

Answer: No. The Union demanded a fixed, long-term contract and got it.

Question: Why did they want a long-term contract?

Answer: In the Union's own words before the War Labor Board, "The Union's request for a termination date of October, 1946, is not made capriciously or pressed here for bargaining purposes. It represents the considered view of the Union that only such a term will adequately serve the needs of stability."

Question: Did the recent strike vote violate the contracts?

Answer: No. Only an actual strike would violate them.

Question: Haven't there been strikes already during the life of the contracts?

Answer: Yes. There were 998 strikes in steel plants during the past year alone. They were mostly local strikes which the Union characterizes as "wildcat," but they meant a big loss in production.

Question: Does the end of the war justify changing the contracts?

Answer: No. The bond was sealed on both sides and should be kept whether times be good or bad. The steel companies are continuing to live up to these agreements. If a strike is called, it will be in clear violation of the existing contracts.

A strike in the face of existing contracts would shatter any confidence in the validity of union agreements in the steel industry.

American Iron and Steel Institute

350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

OUR COMPANY MEMBERS EMPLOY 95 PER CENT OF THE WORKERS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY.