The Rouen Post, May 1940

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RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT CHESTERFIELD

Crackling log fires and the steady patter of rain lent an autumnal touch to the party for former members of Base Hospital Unit 21 at the summer home of Dr. Joseph Larimore near Chesterfield, Missouri, on the afternoon and evening of May 18. The veterans gathered to observe the twenty-third anniversary of their departure for duty overseas in the World War, but with water dripping from the eaves, firelight falling on the faces of army comrades and the radio reporting attacks on Arras, Cambrai, Peronne, Amiens and Abbeville it was easy to confuse the anniversary with the occasion of its commemoration. Hearing the names of those once familiar towns again taking their place in the annals of history was like watching the revival of a great drama in which the attentive listeners had once played a part.

It was a memorable meeting, this anniversary party in a rustic lodge overlooking the Missouri River. Old friends, old songs and a generous grog ration combined with delicious food and a genial host to offset the unseasonable weather and create an atmosphere of rare goodfellowship. Ever-faithful Judge Neely drove in from Marion, Pat Byrns turned from the demands of the current Red Cross drive to lend his cheery presence and Dr. Charles O'Keefe was on hand for his first Unit meeting in many months. Dr. and Mrs. Proetz called during the afternoon and Dr. Eddie Ernst, host to the veterans last Armistice Day, came early and was among the last to leave.

The promise of barbecued lamb and pig prepared by chef Roosevelt, brought such irregular attendants as Carl Taylor, Wrennie (Singem) Steele and Harold Pope on the run. However, the pace proved too fast for Pope who was forced to the sidelines early in the fray and departed shortly after dinner.

As the evening progressed the shrill notes of "Wullie" Reid's bagpipes clashed at frequent intervals with the tenor voice of Judge Neely who came through with "Danny Boy" and led the way with "Long Long Trail," "Blighty" and "Good By-e-e." Not to be outdone by the Judge, "Wullie" put his pipes aside and did a neat bit of vocal work with "Loch Lomond."

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RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT CHESTERFIELD

Willard McQuoid crept into the hearts of the waiting guests by arriving two hours late with the supply of liquid refreshment. He was accompanied by "Weaving Willie" Engel who attempted to alight without opening the door as the car came to halt before the Lodge. "There's the reason for the delay," commented Charles Jablonsky nodding towards Engel. "McQuoid has been carrying excess baggage."

Gordon (Shorty) Kimbrel, instructor of interior decorating at the Rankin Trade School, has taken his place beside ex-fat man Charley Jablonsky, charter member of the Befuddled Buddies, a dunce-cap fraternity recently created by Rouen Post. Eligibility for membership is based upon at least one outstanding exhibition of temporary mental rigor mortis in regard to the date and location of a Post meeting. Kimbrel qualified for admission by tacking direction signs along the road to Dr. Larimore's home on May 11 instead of May 18.

"Old friends, old songs—new whiskey," grimaced Judge Neely as he sampled a bourbon highball. "McQuoid must have made this stuff in his basement yesterday." Jules Silberberg, Ritchey Williams, and Justin Jackson served efficiently as volunteer bartenders.

A toy automobile was presented to Justin Jackson in recognition of his birthday.

Nurses present were Jeannette Parish, Margaret Conochie, Mary McCrie, Marie Schoenherr, Supervisor of Bethesda General Hospital, Mrs. Margaret Polloch and her daughter, Margaret. Ernesto A. Obregon and Oscar Obregon, students from the University of Mexico City were the guests of Marvin Hamilton.

The domestic serfs headed for home through the rainy darkness at the approach of midnight, but Jim Sallee, Judge Neely, and your Editor accepted Dr. Larimore's invitation to spend the night, enjoyed an excellent breakfast with our host Sunday morning and drove leisurely to town as the sun was breaking through the clouds. It was a pleasant sequel to a grand party.

FREE TRIP FOR McQUOID

Willard McQuoid, salesman for Maccarthy Motor Company, was a three-day guest of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit early in May. McQuoid, who has been with the Maccarthy Company for the last ten years, was one of about two hundred salesman in the St. Louis metropolitan area who were given the trip as a reward for their showing in a recent sales contest. The program in Detroit included a trip through the Rouge plant, luncheon at Dearborn Inn with officials of the Lincoln Motor Company, a visit to Edison Institute and Greenfield Village. The entertainment closed with a cocktail party and dinner.

McQuoid, one of the few members of Rouen Post 242 who has never missed a monthly meeting, shows no traces today of the illness that ended his army service in France and kept him in the Army and Navy Hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., for three months after his return to America.

Dear Mr. Stack:

The Rouen Post has come with the sad news of the passing of George Delany. I have such pleasant memories of George. The last time I saw him was at the reunion dinner. We sat at the same table. He seemed so well and vigorous; so successful in life. I shall be glad to carry that memory of him always.

Sincerely,

Louise Hilligas
J. Arthur Anderson, Laundry,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:

I am sending you today by express, a dufflebag filled with clothing. Will you please hold the laundry until my return to St. Louis after demobilization.

Borden S. Veeder,  
Lt. Col. Medical Corps, U. S. A.  
Commander

ACTIVITIES OF BASE HOSPITAL No. 21

Several weeks were spent at Vannes awaiting orders, passing embarkation inspections in Base Section 1 (which were of no use at the Base Section from which the Unit finally sailed) and incidentally clearing and preparing quarters for future units. On March 20th the officers and men left for Brest. Two weeks were spent at Camp Pontenezan and on April 7th the Unit sailed on the Graf Waldersee, an armistice ship on her first voyage carrying troops. The nurses remained at Carnac until the 8th and sailed the 12th of May. The Unit landed in New York on Easter Sunday, April 20th, and went to Camp Merritt, from where, one week later, it left for Camp Funston. A stop enroute was made on April 30th in St. Louis for a parade, reception, and services at Christ Church Cathedral. The evening of the same day it entrained for Camp Funston and on May 3, 1919, was demobilized—twenty-three and one-half months after mobilization, of which twenty-three months were spent in foreign service.

Marvin Hamilton, gourmet senior grade, spent a sleepless night after leaving the Rouen Post meeting at Binig's cafe, where he consumed chili con carne, pickled herring, salted peanuts and bottled beer. "Something must have been wrong with the food," complained the veteran trencherman. "My stomach walked out on me shortly after I retired." Frank (Filbert) Depke, runner-up to Hamilton in the recent Mississippi Valley Tournament of Gluttons, found nothing the matter with Binig's rations. "It was the ghastly combination of foodstuffs that flattened Hamilton," he explained. "Frankly, I'm surprised that Marvin reached home. Jim Sallee was laying 3 to 1 that he wouldn't get out of the cafe."
BULLETIN BOARD

Joe Lennon was apparently pleased with the story "Just a Kid Named Joe" which ran in the March Rouen Post. Joe paid for the printing of three hundred additional copies. "Lennon probably intends to scatter them over the city from an airplane," commented Toby Dunville, the thwarted auditor of the St. Louis Mart. Dunville is still convalescing from his clash with Collector Lennon over a bill for three cents tax assessed against Toby by the State.

Dr. Joseph Larimore is still an associate member of the Rouen Masonic Lodge—an affiliation made during the World War. A gold watch was presented to Arshav Nushan, the sepia drum major, by the cast of the Shrine Follies during a dinner at Moolah Temple rathskellar, Thursday, May 2. The gift was in appreciation of Nushan's work in staging and directing the Follies last November. The watch bore the following inscription: To A. K. (Cecil B.) Nushan, from the cast of November 17-18, 1939.

George L. Delany was of French and Irish extraction. We had always assumed that George was all Irish but we recently learned that his mother, whose maiden name was Lavadure, was born in Strasbourg and came to America as a child. George had relatives in Rouen until 1905 when they moved to a Paris suburb. Gene Delany, sister of George, has mailed them a copy of the April Rouen Post, announcing the death of her brother.

The proposed eating contest between the live stock on Dr. Larimore's country estate and a team of veterans composed of Marvin Hamilton, Frank Depke and Commander Jordan has been postponed until autumn at the request of Dr. Larimore. The doctor explained that the animals needed further training before entering major competition. We talked over the telephone with Holland Chalfant in Springfield, Mo. the other night. "That was a good story about Lennon," chuckled the former pitching star. "Of course it put Higgins in the role of stooge, but someone had to furnish the comedy relief—and 'Ungry 'Engry was a natural for the part."

THE ROUEN POST

An open letter from your Editor in March, 1936, inviting members of Base Hospital Unit 21 to join the newly-formed Rouen Post No. 242, American Legion, led to the birth of the Post's official paper which entered upon its fifth year of existence this month. The letter recalled several humorous incidents of army days, and the favorable comment that followed by mail and telephone, indicated that we had struck a responsive chord. Hoping to sustain interest between Post meetings which were originally held every three months, we decided to launch a monthly paper recording the past and present activities of the men and women who shared our lot in Rouen. Armed with a retentive memory and a deep appreciation of the comradeship born overseas, we brushed the dust from a long-neglected Corona and joined the already crowded ranks of self-appointed editors.

Four years have passed since the first issue of the paper left Arthur Melville's Southwest Printery and we are still tapping at the little typewriter. The combination of writing and drawing has proved a pleasant avocation and the steady flow of appreciative letters from former army comrades now scattered throughout the United States has been ample reward for the time and thought applied to the Rouen Post. As long as Arthur Melville continues to print the paper at cost and Bill Engel is willing to handle the details of mailing and correspondence, we shall carry on.