The Rouen Post, December 1946

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Dr. Padgett, a former member of Base Hospital Unit 21 (1917-19) died December 2 at his home 1425 Brookwood Road, Johnson County, Kansas City, Kans. Death was due to pneumonia.

Dr. Padgett, a widely known plastic surgeon was born in Greenleaf, Kansas and had practiced in Kansas City since 1926. He received his degrees from the University of Kansas and Washington University. In 1940 he received the distinguished citizen award in recognition of scientific achievement for "outstanding work in the field of plastic surgery, including his development of the skin-grafting instrument, the dermatone which is recognized throughout the medical profession for its efficiency. The award was made by the Kansas City central committee of the American Legion.

For many years Dr. Padgett was a professor in surgery at the University of Kansas school of medicine and later served on the staffs of the Mercy, General and Providence Hospitals. He was a member of the staff at St. Luke's Hospital.

Dr. Padgett was a frequent contributor to medical journals, especially with articles on skin grafting. He was a member of the state and county medical associations and the American Board of Plastic Surgery. His fraternity memberships included Alpha Tau Omega, Alpha Omega Alpha, Nu Sigma Nu and Sigma Xi.

Dr. Padgett is survived by his wife, Mrs. Winona Youmans Padgett, his father, J. M. Padgett, of Greenleaf; two daughters, Mrs. Albert Lea, Cincinnati, and Mrs. Edmund W. Pugh, Jr., Cambridge, Mass.; a son, Calvin Padgett, a student at the Shattuck Military School, Faribault, Minn.; three sisters, Mrs. Gladys Neal, Greenleaf; Mrs. Martha Beverly, Concordia, Kans.; Mrs. Harold Ralm, Battle Creek, Mich., and a brother, Sherman Padgett, Greenleaf.

The list is mounting. During the past two years we have lost Pat Byrns, John Higgins, Roger Puckett and Joe Lennon. And now Earl Padgett's name has been added to the roll.

I was poring over a book in my hotel room on a gray December afternoon when a telephone call from Bill Engel brought the news of Padgett's death. Coincidentally, a radio program was being brought to a close by a quartette of male voices softly singing —of all things—the memory-stirring lyrics of "Auld Lang Syne". It couldn't have happened to a more susceptible guy. Turning to a bottle of "Old Rarity" on the dresser I poured a brimming jigger. And as voices drifted away I drank "a cup of kindness" to my absent comrades and the days we knew in Normandy.

"They are not long, the days of wine and roses:
Out of a misty dream
Our path emerges for a while, then closes
Within a dream."

Bill Stack
LETTER FROM COLONEL CADY

Mr. William Stack, Editor

Dear Bill:

I noticed the signs of a phenomenon in the last Rouen Post which seems to be more or less S.O.P. for the second 21st General Hospital. They have moved in, as they would say in the Marines, and the situation is well in hand.

I was delighted to hear that Elizabeth Brooks had won the "Typical American Nurse of 1946" award and scholarship. I certainly concur in the honor thus bestowed. Our nurses certainly carried off honors in performance the thirty-six months they were overseas, and might be expected to receive recognition after coming home. Betty Brooks never was a "typical nurse", but she does typify what people want their American nurse to come up to be like.

Miss Frohbieter, I see, is still doing her journalistic stint. If you are not careful she will get your job too. And then on Page 4 where the new officers are announced it certainly seems that the 21st either had learned all of the tricks of politics to get so many members elected as officers, perhaps they didn't even bother about politics, but just moved in. Either method would have been typical of the outfit while it was on E.A.D. . . . Yet I wonder, profoundly, if there were not some ulterior motivations among those old-timers whose names I do not see on this list. I wonder!

Just in case Commander Patton does not warn the unsuspecting general membership of the Rouen Post, you had better carefully screen for membership those candidates being dragged in by Beam, et al. Your new Chaplain, Harold Freedman, while visiting around unsuspecting members, will probably persuade them to put in a garden filled with artichokes, "salad", "pin-up" tomatoes and various prescribed, and incompatible animal associates. Paul Max will want to enlarge Eddie Ernst's lake so that he can float his private yacht club; "Lord" Henry Schwartz had better be prevented from becoming "outraged" at something or other, and he will have no end of medical meetings about it, and photographing the place for evidence; "Collisimo" Earl E. Shepard may be caught digging holes in the mud under some obscure building for installation of a Post "hot spot". L. C. Boemer won't really bother anybody if he may only be furnished standing room on a boggy island to cast for the sardines that "Jedge" Kelley and Truman Drake have long since privately removed from the lake by and for their own devices. The experienced court room workers, Harry Agress and Lucille Spaulding will soon be vigorously arguing with Bill Stack, Frohbieter, Bowen and Manley about what should be done about anything legally. "Oc" Hampton, of course, won't be saying anything! What a line-up! "Faites vos joues!"

Sincerely yours,

Lee D. Cady, M. D.

We are most grateful to Dr. Cady for this wonderful letter and it came at a most opportune time. Since the party at Dr. Ernst's we have been trying to get a couple of stories from members of the staff but without success. Perhaps they now may be "shamed" into action—we hope.
DR. EDWIN C. ERNST ATTENDS SOUTHERN REPUBLICS MEETINGS

The Inter-American Congress of Radiology of the Southern Republics held a meeting in Havana, Cuba November 19 to 23, 1946. A small group of American radiologists and those interested in cancer including Dr. Ernst, a former member of the original Unit 21 and past commander of Rouen Post No. 242 were invited to attend, they having been accorded special privileges and made official delegates of the United States Government to this Congress. Some 700 scientists attended this meeting most of whom were physicians from the South American Republics and Cuba.

Dr. Ernst's contribution to the meeting was a scientific exhibit of a new method and instruments for the application of x-rays and radium in the treatment of cancer as developed at the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri.

Mrs. Ernst accompanied the doctor and together they took out time to visit some of his old haunts to the south of Cuba; namely, the Isle of Pines and Batabano, Cuba. Forty years ago Dr. Ernst, prior to studying medicine, started out on what he thought was a summer jaunt. He was captain of a 125 foot passenger yacht operating between the above ports until the hurricane of 1906 wrecked his boat on an island toward South America. The boat was one of four vessels out of a total of forty-nine in the Harbor of Batabano prior to the hurricane. There were only three survivors out of Dr. Ernst's crew of twenty-eight. Two old men in Batabano and the Isle of Pines remembered the Vapor Sara, the captain's boat.

The Cuban revolution was likewise in progress and Captain Ernst was accused of filibustering in favor of the revolutionists. Fortunately the latter group won out when the President of Cuba asked the United States to intervene.

Outside of the hurricane and the revolution Dr. Ernst spent a very quiet summer in the tropics. Bill Stack in a previous issue of The Rouen Post wrote a more complete story of our comrade's experiences.

AN OLD COMRADE COMES TO LIFE

A day or two prior to Christmas the writer found on his desk a letter postmarked Naples, Texas and it was from none other than our old buddy "Marse" Jess Lasater. A very pleasant surprise, indeed. We are always glad to hear from our former comrades. Never shall we forget the night Jess and Howard Harding dropped in on a Rouen Post meeting at the Kingsway Hotel. They had driven from Texas to be present and needless to say we had a "large night".

It is evident "Marse" Jess reads his Rouen Posts. In his letter he referred to one of Miss Frohbieter's stories in which she made a plea for a place of our own to meet. Jess assured Emma E. she can count on him for a donation, at least, when she starts to dig "a place of our own to meet".

Comrade Lasater sends best wishes and greetings to all.
DR. ARTHUR W. PROETZ WEDS HIS SECRETARY

Dr. Proetz, a former member of the first twenty-first, now nose and throat specialist with offices at 3720 Washington Avenue, and his secretary Miss Esther Schroeperf, 609 Clara ave., were married Tuesday, December 31 in St. Roch’s Catholic Church, 6060 Waterman bl., it has been disclosed. He is 57 and she is 42.

Only a few close friends and relatives were present for the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. George A. Lodes, assistant pastor of St. Roch’s. The couple left afterwards for a honeymoon in New York, following which they will be at home at 12 Westmoreland pl., the Proetz residence.

Dr. Proetz is professor of clinical otolaryngology at Washington University Medical School, is secretary of The American Laryngological Association and editor of a professional publication. His first wife was the late Mrs. Erma Perham Proetz, vice president of the Gardner Advertising Company and one of the leading women advertising executives in the country. She died Aug. 7, 1944.

The members of Rouen Post No. 242 and all former members of both the Twenty-firsts extend heartiest best wishes for a long and happy union.

PAST COMMANDER JORDAN HONORED

At the recent annual meeting of the Past Commander Club of the American Legion our Past Commander George Jordan was elected to the executive committee. This club is composed of past commanders of Legion posts in St. Louis.

AT LEAST THEY WORE BOOTS

Marvin Hamilton, Bill Engel and the Editor had lunch recently with Lt. Emma Frohbieter, whose descriptive letters from North Africa, Italy and France appeared frequently in these columns during her service with the 21st General Hospital. The Lieutenant found many things to her liking overseas but the method used in making wine was not one of them.

“One morning another nurse and I were off duty for an hour or so and we decided to write letters. Sitting on a rock in a meadow about two hundred yards from the hotel we noted a procession of wagons loaded with grapes moving along the road toward a barn-like building in the rear of the hotel. After lunch we went back to the same spot and the wagons were still coming and going. Finally one driver stopped and brought us several bunches of grapes. He d probably seen us there in the morning and assumed we had not had lunch. That evening our curiosity got the better of us. On our way to dinner we entered the building to see what was going on—and did we get an eyefull! Three men wearing rubber boots were walking around and around in a huge vat into which a wagon load of grapes were being dumped without being washed, wormy and rotten ones and all. They were making wine. That was nearly as bad as the Italian kids we saw stomping the grapes up on Vesuvious one day. They were making the celebrated Lacrime Christi. From now on I’ll take American wine for mine.”

THE ROUEN POST official paper of ROUEN POST No. 242

Just as we have with the former members of the original Unit 21, whether or not a member of our post we want you of the second Twenty-first to have regular issues of this publication. In it we shall try to have news of interest to members of both the units. Send in news of yourself or anything else which may be of interest.

Regardless of your residence you are eligible to join Rouen Post No. 242, if you are not a member of a local post or if you are you may transfer. Application blanks are enclosed. Dues are $6.00 annually.

Mail “news items”, applications and any changes in address to—Wm. E. Engel, Adjutant, 404 - 220 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

BILL ENGEL