2-1947

The Rouen Post, February 1947

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/rouen_post

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/rouen_post/102

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Base Hospital 21 Collection at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Rouen Post by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact engeszer@wustl.edu.
The fight is on against the number one health enemy of American childhood, rheumatic fever. With the establishment of an annual National Heart Week by the American Heart Association and the American Council for Rheumatic Fever, doctors hope to focus public attention on this disease which kills more children of school age than any other cause and causes more than twice as much illness and disability as infantile paralysis. Rheumatic fever affects the heart, and a crippled heart is as bad as a crippled body.

Rheumatic fever and heart disease are estimated to occur in about 2 per cent of the school age children in this community. It is hoped that the public will think about this problem and give special attention to it through National Heart Week that will occur each year around St. Valentine's Day. Heart Week has not been started before this because of lack of funds, but now this has been made possible through a large grant from the American Legion.

The Legion has become interested in this problem through the Child Welfare Division, the Auxiliary, and especially the Rehabilitation Division. Although the disease is primarily one of childhood, any one under the age of 30 years may contract it, and during the war period, the disease was a major problem in the armed services. More than 40,000 cases were reported. The State of Michigan, alone, has reported that 5000 veterans have been discharged by the disease. It is such groups that the Legion is interested in helping, and also the children of veterans to prevent the development of this disease. The Legion has also contributed large sums in their local areas, especially in Syracuse, New York. It is hoped that the Missouri Department will be interested in various plans being set up in this state.

The disease occurs more frequently in under-privileged children of large families who live in crowded homes in the poorer sections of large cities and children in need of better nutrition.

The Missouri State Service for Crippled Children operates a Rheumatic Fever Program in St. Louis, Jefferson, and Washington counties. Other counties in the state are not included because of lack of funds which are appropriated by Congress as part of the Social Security Act. These funds are limited and are not matched by any appropriation from the state. Children who are included on the program receive medical, nursing, and medical social service care in the hospital, clinic, and home. Children are given hospital and clinic care at the St. Louis Children's Hospital, 500 S. Kingshighway.

Only a small number of children with rheumatic fever are receiving adequate care. Many others are not properly recognized or lack opportunity or facilities to see doctors.

(Continued on page 2)
In a community, many resources in social and medical welfare are needed to cope with a family situation which arises when a child is found to have rheumatic fever. Community planning also involves accurate diagnosis and registry of cases, enough hospital beds for medical care, and special arrangements for adequate follow-up of cases. Rheumatic fever is a disease with recurring attacks that continue sometimes for several years.

For the best control of rheumatic fever in the largest number of children, especially those who are "below par," it would be necessary to have an adequate health service in the schools where properly trained doctors, nurses, and teachers could observe and examine children regularly and watch for signs of rheumatic fever. A satisfactory school health service means, of course, more available funds, more trained personnel, and close cooperation with the family doctor who understands children and the problem of rheumatic fever.

Dr. McCulloch served with Unit 21 in Europe during 1917-18-19, is a member of Rouen Post No. 242, advisor to the National Child Welfare Division of the American Legion, chief pediatrician for the Missouri Crippled Children Service and a member of the executive board of the American Council on Rheumatic Fever.

REUNIONS

The call of "21 ON DECK" which has been ringing through the years for the original Unit 21 will ring again in 1947—this time in a dual role. Base Hospital Unit 21 will commemorate its 30th anniversary and the 21st General of World War II counterpart of first 21st, its 5th anniversary. Both units originated at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. The dates are May 23, 24 and 25.

Set aside the cares of the present and devote a few days to renewing old friendships born during those colorful days of World Wars I and II. If history repeats you will add unforgettable memories to your wartime album. Full details will follow. However, mark your calendar today. REMEMBER the dates are —

May 23, 24 and 25, 1947

HOTEL CORONADO
ST. LOUIS, MO.
We'll be seein' you, we hope.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

On the envelopes of the last ROUEN POST was a routine message to the postmaster to advise of changes of address. It is noted that there have been a number of removals which corrections have been made, but also a number who have not filed a forwarding address of any kind. We list these as follows:

Mrs. O. S. Flynn, formerly of 4475 West Pine St., St. Louis, Mo.
Veldon J. Sparks, formerly of 2920a Michigan Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Dr. William C. Stahl, formerly of 4576 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
William G. Miller, formerly 420 Penning Ave., Wood River, Ill.

Anyone having the latest addresses of these comrades please send them to Rouen Post at 220 North Fourth St., St. Louis, Mo.

Since this news sheet is mailed as second class matter if we do not have your correct address it will not be forwarded; therefore if you are interested in receiving it promptly all changes of address should be sent in immediately.
ROUEN POST REMEMBERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1947 - 7:00 p.m.
GARAVELLI'S RESTAURANT
ST. LOUIS

This meeting is under the auspices of the self-styled "front-line veterans" of Mobile Hospital No. 4, an outfit spawned by Base Hospital Unit 21 in the summer of 1918. Previous meetings held by this boastful group have been marked by dull, mendacious tales of the important part played by Mobile 4 in the Allied victory—but on this occasion they have bobbed up with a program that promises to atone for their unsavory offerings in the past.

The honored guests of the evening will be Dr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Larimore and Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Ernst whose hospitality to the members of Rouen Post on innumerable spring and fall parties have endeared them to every member of that organization.

It is the hope of the Entertainment Committee that this meeting will tax the capacity of the private dining room at Garavelli's. Your presence will be a gesture of appreciation to our hosts of Chesterfield and Schultz Road.

Thus read the notice of the party conceived by comrades Arthur Melville and Philip Conrath a couple of Mobile 4 stalwarts. While this group of battle-scarred front line veterans, annually, have had their opportunities to put on display their talents, only on rare occasions have they come up with anything of real value for posterity. This year they did make a valuable contribution in spawning the theme for this affair. And they did a magnificent job. The event will be indelibly inscribed in the archives of Rouen Post No. 242.

The response for this memorable affair was everything the committee desired as the dining room was filled to capacity. Upon arrival Mrs. Larimore and Mrs. Ernst were presented with handsome corsages of orchids. The room which ordinarily is not a decorator's gem was transformed into an attractive setting, the tables being bedecked with huge baskets of beautiful flowers and smilax. An excellent dinner tastefully prepared consisted of delicious steak, choice spring vegetables, salad and dessert.

When Commander Patton was satisfied that each of the guests had amply provided their inner selves he convened the meeting and simultaneously turned the gavel over to comrade Conrath who acted as master of ceremonies. Phil first called upon Colonel Veeder former commanding officer of Base Hospital Unit 21 of the first world war who responded with his usual enthusiasm and color. The colonel was proud of his command and never fails to tell how Unit 21 was chosen to parade in Washington after the war as the outstanding hospital unit of the A.E.F. The parade did not materialize because of transportation problems. Shipping was not available to return so many units at one time. Dr. Veeder described how the personnel of Mobile 4, a chirurgical unit, were selected. While he refrained from mentioning names except by innuendo, his listeners of the original 21st had little difficulty recognizing characters to whom he was referring. The colonel intimated that all were not selected for their "soldierly" qualities—There were other reasons, too, he added.

Past Commander Stack was taken from his reveries over a boutelle of champagne Cliquot to deliver a beautiful tribute to those charming people who so long have manifested deep interest in the former members of both units. We quote:

"As you know we are gathered here this evening to express our appreciation to four people who have been heavy contributors to the social activities of Rouen Post. For the past eight years Dr. and Mrs. Larimore and Dr. and Mrs. Ernst have alternated in opening their attractive homes to our annual spring and autumn parties. We owe to them unforgettable memories of charming rustic settings, gay with laughter and the clink of glasses; the smell of burning hickory mingling with the aroma of sizzling barbecue—and above all—the gracious hospitality of our hosts.

It is only fitting that we thank these good friends in some tangible measure for the recollections they have added to our album of memories. And so tonight, on behalf of the members of Rouen Post, it is my privilege to present these testimonials (beautiful hand designed parchment scrolls) to Dr. and Mrs. Larimore and Dr. and Mrs. Ernst. May they serve as constant reminders of our friendship and esteem."

So spoke Bill Stack, not in a booming voice or with oratorical skill—but from the heart—and he spoke the thoughts of all of those present.
As a finale to this memorable evening Conrath displayed on the silver screen, slides (remember these were made nearly thirty years ago) of the activities of that historic unit, Mobile 4. They are an excellent collection and Phil did an outstanding job describing them—now in a serious vein and again with rare gayety seldom displayed by our fellow comrade. Looking at some of those old tintypes must have been mirth provoking to our new members without any comments. At any rate, this was a show in itself and contributed a fine touch of color to the more thoughtful and sentimental purpose of the party.

As is customary, as an aftermath to Rouen Post parties, some of us remained to reminisce and assist in closing the inn. After the last of the remaining guests had departed Messrs. Stack and Engel ever mindful of less fortunate citizens delivered the baskets of flowers to the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital—even though it was two o'clock in the morning.

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

Thus endeth another chapter in Rouen Post history.

DR. JOHN MODLIN NAMED TO IMPORTANT POST

Dr. John Modlin, cancer surgeon, a former member of the 21st General Hospital in World War II and a member of Rouen Post No. 242 has been appointed chief surgeon of Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital at Columbia, Missouri. Dr. Modlin, instructor in surgery at Washington University Medical School and surgical resident at Barnes Hospital until February 15 is a graduate of the University of Nebraska. He was at Barnes Hospital for about five years.

This hospital was named for Dr. Ellis Fischel, famous cancer specialist who resided and practiced in St. Louis before his untimely death in 1938. He was a brother of Dr. Walter Fischel also of St. Louis, a former member of Base Hospital 21 and a member of Rouen Post No. 242 since it was formed.

We read of Dr. Modlin's appointment in each of our St. Louis newspapers so when we came across the same article for the third time and noted the title "CANCER SURGEON NAMED SYMPHONY SOLOIST" it was concluded we really had a "scoop" for our little paper. Not being acquainted with the doctor's extra-curricular activities we had no reason to believe that the headline was in error, hence contemplated reporting the news in considerable detail. A man possessing talents sufficient to be an outstanding cancer specialist and also a famous musician really was news, so we prepared to learn everything we could about our comrade. To our dismay, it was discovered upon reading through the two columns over which the caption appeared, Dr. Modlin was not the symphony soloist but it was the celebrated Chilean pianist, Claude Arrau. Apparently the typesetter was reaching the end of his day and sought a short cut—and the doctor, well, he's just a cancer surgeon.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ROUEN POST NO. 242

We have been receiving inquiries asking about the requirements for becoming a member of Rouen Post No. 242. It is required that you shall have been honorably discharged from either Base Hospital No. 21 of World War I or the 21st General Hospital of World War II. We are very definite in this as it is a part of the original charter granted to Rouen Post No. 242. The annual dues are $6.00. Should you be interested in assisting in perpetuating the memories of these units sponsored by Washington University of St. Louis you will want to become a member of this organization. Mail your request for membership to W. E. Engel, Adjt., 220 North 4th Street, St. Louis 2, Missouri.

Bill Engel