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The Rouen Post, May 1948

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ROUEN POST 242 MAY MEETING
ANOTHER GALA EVENT
by Grethe Knudsen

Saturday night, May 15, the rafters of the Candlelight House Rumpus Room rang again with the laughter and witticisms of the two 21sts. The occasion was more special than usual (all get-togethers of Rouen Post 242 are special, you know) because we had several folks from far-away... and it was Base 21’s, 31 anniversary.

Colonel C. F. Shook, now medical director of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, Toledo, Ohio, a former member of the 21st General, also a member of Rouen Post 242, was the principal speaker of the evening... and very clever and amusing at that job, is our good Dr. Shook.

Dr. Walter Fischel of the first 21st was present and spoke. He has a grand sense of humor, and we surely hope he’ll be with us more often. Incidentally, a little bird told us that it is not alone his medical ability that makes him famous... but his prowess as a conquerer of greased poles.

Mrs. Saidie Nolan Hausmann, a very charming looking lady spoke briefly. Looks like Base Hospital 21 didn’t lack pretty women, if we may use Mrs. Hausmann as an example! If you gals of the G. H. 21 can look as good in 25 years, you’ll be doing O.K.

We were pleased no end to see some of our enlisted boys show up. Not only did they come but they came from great distances. After all, we need you fellows to make 242 a successful Post, and without you men we are sort of a one-legged affair. Pass the word along, fellers, we want you and are very proud... and happy to see you. There’s been too much foolish delay on that score, anyway... so let’s see more of you men present... you of the 21st General.

There were Jim Mosher and Edwin Lenert of Aurora, Illinois, who drove down... just to be with us. Then Walter Arnold came from Oconee, Illinois. Last, but not least, was smiling Pete Puricelli of St. Louis. Poor Arnold was a patient of Knute’s once, and he’s never gotten over it... we saw him shying away from her when she came barging in to talk to him! Lenert is just as tall and thin as ever. Mosher was talking to everyone... they just can’t forget that face... Jim.

Edwin Kohn of Base Hospital 21 journeyed all the way from Parsons, Kansas for the affair... the first one he has attended in 31 years. How come Ed? Look at all of the fun you’ve missed, but we were glad to see you... only now do it oftener... don’t wait another 31 years. He is the man you’ve probably heard about, who waxed wealthy in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas... went completely broke during the crash... and used $50. of the hundred he was able to borrow to get his car out of the state when he migrated to Parsons, Kansas.

Ye olde bartender, Forney, “the silent”, Dixon, was unemployed that night, as we had professionals. And, as for Jabby, well you’ll never believe it, but the desperado who fired the first shot for Base Hospital 21, is flat on his back! He is recuperating from some ordinary mortal ailment... who’d-a-thunk-it? Him so tough... and there he is, puny as the rest of us, at times.

Others on the hospital list, are Dr. Edwin C. Ernst of Base Hospital 21, who was just
operated. He, of course, has been our excellent host many times in his charming ranch-house... we missed his genial smile and hearty handshake. Another was Colonel Veeder, commanding officer of Base Hospital 21, who is now recuperating from an operation. We certainly missed you gentlemen! However, it is an ill wind that blows no one good: to wit; if Joe Edward’s daughter had not gotten the mumps, Joe would have been in Oklahoma. We’re sorry the little girl has the mumps, but we were sure glad to see Joe’s sweet countenance there.

Ernie McIlvane was doing all right for himself... we saw him caressing Miss Spalding. How about that Ernie? Bob Kelley, “the Judge”, looks so prosperous... could it be an expanding waistline? “Knute” was there from Chicago, and as usual going all out to have a good time. At “choir practice” later, we noticed that right hip wasn’t as mobile as it used to be... could it be age or should she get her money back from the doctor who just tided her over an attack? Colonel Pat was called to the phone with lipstick on his pate... but we noticed it was wiped away, when he came back... just a pinkish all-over glow remained.

Russ Crider and David Kerr, of the 21st General were just back from some desert... or else they had herring for lunch... they were not alone in their great thirst... it was endemic as far as the 21sters were concerned! The girls seem to be getting slimmer and the fellows stouter, but, if you ask us... we think they’re a darned good-looking bunch... so there. Cute little Maggie Loomis was there from Columbus, Ohio... and she had her children with her... not at the party... but in St. Louis, visiting. She’s going home to her Barth very shortly. Incidentally, she mentioned that the First Armored is going to have a reunion... oh, girls... how can they have it without the 21st General being represented? We practically raised them from a pup... or vice versa. How about that?

Earl Shepard made a record called the “Spirit of the 21st” and this “spirit” was with Base 21 and General 21... it certainly told all about our vicissitudes... and fun... and work. The closing line was priceless... and to the effect that Colonel Cady is now in our largest state... Texas... so he would have room to expand! You, of the 21st General well remember Colonel Cady’s famous quotation... which now ranks with quotations of famous leaders in our history... “GIVE ME 24 HOURS AND ROOM FOR EXPANSION, and I’ll make it an even 4000 patients”. The record was a honey and it is our guess other copies will have to be made for many who wanted them.

There you are... now you see what you missed... you who were not there? Bill Engel deserves an orchid for his hard work... and that includes keeping the paper going, too. I doubt if there’s any other small publication, as avidly read as our POST paper.

And in conclusion, Dr. Sim Beam, as smiling and handsome as ever, is a fine commander... so all we really need... is more of you 21sters, the old and the new... join with us... Knute... Addenda... There were two handsome men there, answering to the name of Hampton... could it have been father and son??... Dr. Oscar Hampton entertained after the party in his palatial “ten-level” duplex. The ladies were “waiting up” there for the boys... and another pleasant hour or two was idled away in chatter.

JABBY ON LEAVE

Charles Jablonsky, erstwhile tough first sergeant of Base Hospital 21 during World War I, former commander of Rouen Post 242 and now the post’s perpetual service officer, has been on a leave of absence from his duties as deputy jury commissioner, for reasons of health, in hospitals at or near Phoenix, Arizona. It is reported that the ex-sergeant is being benefitted by the curative climate of the Phoenix region and should return soon to St. Louis in better physical condition than he has been for years. We have missed the little, round man at our meetings, since he is the one member of Rouen Post 242 who can
be characterized as a thoroughbred Legionnaire, a man who has the interests of former service men at heart and who has worked untiringly for their betterment. He has represented the post at regional and state conclaves for many years, and, unlike many others who attend these meetings, has returned with detailed reports oftentimes requiring hours to render. A master of detail and a stickler for accuracy, Jabby’s reports always have every “i” dotted and each “t” crossed. We have missed the old boy and his loquaciousness . . . and hope he returns soon.

** **

PAUL HAUSMANN DIES
Mr. Paul Hausmann, son of Mrs. Saidie Nolan Hausmann of Base Hospital 21, passed away recently at his home in Nicholson, Pennsylvania, after a short illness. To the best of our knowledge, Mrs. Hausmann was the only member of Base Hospital 21 of World War I who had a son or daughter in the armed forces of World War I. Mr. Hausmann’s remains are interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

We mourn with Mrs. Hausmann . . . the passing of her son.

THUGS AT THEIR WORST
While awaiting a bus one evening not so long ago, a couple of thugs of the lowest type, slugg ed and robbed Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Garner of St. Louis. Lew Garner was a member of Base Hospital 21. George Jordan visited him at the hospital and described his condition as “terrible”. And this is supposed to be a democracy . . . with the highest level of civilization ever attained by mankind. Better that we had less of some things . . . and more decency . . . and milk of human kindness . . . less leniency toward our criminals . . . fewer conniving politicians . . . who accept filthy bribes . . . from criminals . . . for defense . . . and early release from confinement . . . money acquired thru the lowest forms . . . white-slavery . . . drugs . . . any illicit activity. Our laws should be for the defense of the innocent . . . not twisted and distorted . . . by thieving lawyers. The poor fools who committed the crimes on the Garners should be incarcerated for life . . . and with them their defenders . . . if the milk of human kindness . . . of a percentage of our population . . . were churned . . . the product would be a million year old limburger cheese.

** **

THE BULLETIN BOARD
Mr. and Mrs. James Wolford of Newberry, Indiana are the proud parents of a baby boy, born March 11, 1948. Jim Wolford is a former member of the 21st General hospital. We extend our sincere felicitations.

. . . Miss Lucille Spalding, former chief nurse of the 21st General, who has been in charge of the graduate nurse education program in the Washington University School of Nursing for the past two years, will become superintendent of nurses at Barnes Hospital September 1. Whoever was responsible for this appointment rates “an Oscar” . . . and all of the members of the 21st General will agree . . . Dr. Earl E. Shepard, another general member of the 21st General, has received an appointment to a professorship at Washington University, effective July 1, 1948. Dr. Shepard’s subjects are, dental materials and clinical orthodontics. The heads of Washington University are to be congratulated, as Dr. Shepard rates with the best in these fields.

** **

DR. ERNST HOSPITALIZED
Dr. Edwin C. Ernst of Base Hospital 21 entered the De Paul Hospital to undergo a minor operation but which subsequently developed into a rather nasty stomach ailment. By the time this goes to press it is expected that Dr. Ernst will have been discharged from the hospital . . . in fine fettle . . . ready and eager to pursue his many activities.

** **
DR. VEEDER IS AT ST. LUKE'S

Col. Borden S. Veeder, former commanding officer of Base Hospital 21 is at St. Luke's Hospital, recovering from a minor adjustment. Dr. Walter Fischel has advised us Dr. Veeder is doing very nicely and should be out in a few days ... we hope so, as we cannot afford to have men of his caliber out of circulation too long.

* * * *

MISS RANZ RETIRES FROM AUDRAIN HOSPITAL

Miss Cordelia Ranz, a member of Base Hospital 21 of World War 1, recently retired from the Audrain Hospital at Mexico, Missouri, after more than 25 years of service to the county institution.

Following Miss Ranz retirement she was married to Sidney McIlhaney which we shall write about in another story.

Miss Ranz rounded out her service to the hospital which began on December 1, 1922. Since that time the use and facilities of the hospital have grown and she, as superintendent of nursing, has symbolized the hospital for the hundreds and thousands who have been cared for there.

A rest from the work of the hospital was Miss Ranz aim, but then she "up and got married", but her continued interest in the hospital she has helped make an effective institution, is sure.

"You can't take the 'nurse' out of a nurse," she said ... "That's too long a time to be one thing and not have it become a part of you."

"We have tried to build up the hospital on a firm foundation, and it will be carried on. I'll always feel like it is part of my family. I have enjoyed working with Mr. Peck, hospital administrator."

Miss Ranz will remain near Mexico, and members of the hospital board said she had agreed to be available for emergency service with the hospital.

Tributes to Miss Ranz marked her 25th anniversary last December, from staff physicians, board members, and others who gathered to honor her 25th anniversary with the hospital.

A graduate of the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing at St. Louis, Miss Ranz was doing private duty and public health nursing in Mexico when she joined with Base Hospital 21 in 1917. She served in France with the unit until 1919 and after that in St. Louis until she took the hospital post in Mexico in 1922.

* * * *

MISS RANZ & SIDNEY McILHANEY MARRY

In a quiet wedding on a bright, sunny Sunday afternoon early in April, Miss Cordelia Ranz was married to Sidney McIlhaney of near Santa Fe, Missouri in a ceremony held at the Ranz home at 602 East Love street. The double ring ceremony was read at 2 o'clock by the Rev. Ernest Jones of Hannibal, Missouri, Methodist minister. A huge vase of lilies and white snapdragons, and a bouquet of lavender iris and yellow daisies were used in the living room.

The bride wore a gray gabardine suit with matching accessories for her wedding and her flowers were a shoulder corsage of pink carnations and sweetpeas.

Miss Ranz is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ranz.

Mr. McIlhaney has spent his entire life in Monroe County where he is engaged in farming. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McIlhaney.

Light refreshments were served after the wedding from a lace-covered table centered with a decorated wedding cake, and lighted by white burning tapers. Later, Mr. and Mrs. McIlhaney left for a visit at Crawfordsville, Indiana with relatives, and are now residing on his farm near Santa Fe.

Guests at the wedding were: Mrs. E. A. Jasper, sister of the bride; Mrs. C. C. Hammond, Miss Mary Virginia Houston and Miss Tine Houston, the bridegrooms aunts; and Mrs. Jessie Davis Walstrom, his cousin.

* * * *
TEXAS COUPLED DECORATED

Bronze Star Medals were awarded to Dr. and Mrs. Wendell S. Dove of Morton, Texas at a meeting of the Lubbock Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter, recently.

We have a newspaper picture of the presentation ceremonies but it is not sharp enough for a reproduction in this paper. The picture shows Tom Everheart, VFW commander, pinning one of the ribbons on Mrs. Dove.

Mrs. Alice Dove, formerly 1st Lt. Alice A. Walker, was cited for meritorious service as chief nurse in Army hospitals in Italy and France. Dr. Dove, a major in the Army, served in North Africa. He is now with the West Plains, Texas, Hospital-Clinic at Morton. Dr. Dove was cited for development of secondary suturing of wounds in Africa, a treatment later adopted throughout the Army.

We extend our most hearty felicitations. It is our guess that it is a rare achievement for a man and his wife to be so decorated, in a dual ceremony.

We have a letter from the honored couple which we quote:

Dear Bill:

We have enjoyed the numbers of Rouen Post. Delighted to offer this help to place some reading material in the hands of that St. Louis gang. (I always suspected some of them couldn’t read though)

Anyway here’s greetings from a couple of “foreigners”.

As you can see from the enclosed clipping Alice is a “big shot” now.

Send us a confidential report occasionally on Paul Max and that guy Patton.

Best wishes
Wendell and Alice

LOST ADDRESSES

Does anybody know the addresses of any of the following? If so, please write to Col. Lee D. Cady, Med.-Res., 4436 Mockingbird Pkwy., Dallas (5), Texas. Please do this at once in order to help complete the list for a new directory. The 21st General Hospital questionnaire sent these people were returned unclaimed.

Ahlen, Miss Louise
Agnew, Mr. Joe
Agnew, Mr. Louie
Alo, Mr. Frank
Almeida, Mr. Manuel
Bates, Mr. Phillip
Baum, 1st Lt. Frank E.
Behrens, Mr. Gilbert
Bendle, Mr. Robert
Beyda, Mr. Jack
Blanton, Mr. Howard
Bogan, Mr. Albert
Boland, Mr. Arthur
Bolin, Mr. Myron B.
Bourelos, Mr. Angelo
Brewer, Mr. James
Brindel, Mr. Louis J.
Brooks, Mr. Frederick
Broughton, Mr. McKinley
Brown, Mr. James D.
Bruckner, Mr. Herbert
Burns, Mr. Thomas
Carley, Mr. Joseph
Chalmers, Mr. Robert
Colvin, Miss Lola
Commerata, Mr. Frank, Jr.
Coursey, Mr. Isaac
D’Agosta, Mr. Hugh
Davidson, Miss Lena N.
Deason, Mr. Jack
DeCorato, Mr. Jack
DeNike, Mr. Edward
DiBenedetto, Mr. Vincent
Drzewiecki, Mr. Alex
Duprey, Mr. Roy
Earpe, Miss Virginia D.
Farrell, Mr. James
Fasstig, Mr. William
Felder, Mr. John
Florian, Mr. Edward
Frothingham, Mr. Charles
Gaebe, Mr. Albert
Glazier, Mr. Samuel
Goldberg, Mr. Irving
Gregory, Mr. Robert
Griffard, Mrs. Ruth G. (Evans)
Grzegorski, Mr. Alexander
Happach, Kenneth
Harrell, Miss Helen
Hayes, Mr. Murl
Hill, Mr. Walter A.
Hoffenberg, Mr. Sidney
Houtoror, Mr. Abe
Hoyt, Mr. Budd E.
Hyde, Miss Marjorie
Jew, Mr. Yet H.
Johnson, Mr. Archie

Johnston, Mr. Wallace
Kennelly, Mr. William
Kleidon, Mr. Irving
LaBrake, Miss Jean
LaChance, Mr. Valere
Laurenelle, Mr. George
Leggett, Mr. James
Lovvorn, Mr. Robert
Lozano, Santiago
Malik, Miss Marian
Mark, Mr. Albert
Mathesn, Mr. Samuel
Mathis, Mr. Wilbert
McAndrew, Miss Catharyn
McElearney, Mr. Bernard
McGriff, Mr. Lavern
McNeil, Miss Helen
Miller, Mr. John
Mogil, Mr. Milton
Montalbano, Mr. Joseph
Mooney, 1st Lt. Lee W.
Moore, Mr. Dave
Moore, Mr. Paul
Navarro, Mr. Hipolito
O’Brian, Mr. John
Olson, Mr. Ivan
Oser, Mr. Samuel
Pagel, Mr. Roy
Prince, Mr. Snell
Roach, Mr. Eldridge
Shattuck, Mr. George
Smith, Mr. J. E.
Solimo, Mr. Frank
Spicer, Mr. Lloyd
Spurr, Miss Geneva M.
Stahl, Dr. William C.
St. Clair, Mr. Eugene
Stodolsky, Mr. Max
Styberski, Mr. Ben
Sullenger, Miss Laura
Sutton, Mr. Ray
Tippler, Miss Doris L.
Todorooff, Mr. James
Trubachik, Mr. John
True, Mr. Frederick
Tullrich, Mr. Robert
Valentine, Mr. Calvin
Van Winkle, Mr. John
Varchmin, Mr. Arthur
Walter, Mr. William
Weinshelm, Mr. John
West, Mr. Norman
White, Mrs. Agnes P.
Whitfield, Mr. Ted
Wohl, Mrs. Marv Shippen
Wright, Mr. Gray
Youngblood, Mr. Tim

MILD COMPLAINTS

From the beginning of the 21st General members association with Rouen Post 242, Commanders Patton and Beam and this writer have made a real effort to interest former enlisted men of the 21st General. We have not been successful to any appreciable extent. Happy, however, we were when for our May meeting, three of those men journeyed from distant Aurora, Illinois and Oconee, Illinois to meet with us. They were Jim Mosher, Ed Lenert and Walt Arnold.
The boys promised us a report on their impressions. Oh, yes... someone rounded up Pete Purcelli who resides in St. Louis... we promptly changed his first name to Tony... the last we heard of him he was headed for his fishing lodge... next morning, we'll wager he saw two poles... where only one should be... and the fish... they were having a holiday.

We publish, as is, a letter we have from Warren Frankel of New York and our answer... that sentence about his small complaint... we have answered in our letter to Warren... Boys, if you will send us the "news" we will publish it... we are eager for it... news of the enlisted men... examine the record and see how those charming nurses are doing... not just your editor's weakness... they are interested and are willing to devote a bit of time and energy to express themselves... that is why they have "hogged" the pages... here are the letters.

Dear Bill:

For a long time I wanted to write to you, but I always put it off on account of plain laziness. Have my sincerest congratulations for your 8 page paper!! I read same with the greatest interest... Enclosed you will find a contribution toward the Rouen Post so that we will soon have a 16 page journal... I have only one small complaint and that is there should be some more news about the former enlisted men of the 21st Rabbits... How about it? Got a great kick out of the article which was sent in by Grethe Knudsen about Europe, she should become a radio analyst, because she was so right about her experiences... everything turned out the way she reported it. How about that my friend Demumbrun? (There was a time when we were together in a tent in Naples). Unfortunately I see only a few old rabbits in the big town... Santarelli works right around the corner from me and we meet once in a while at the corner drugstore on Whitehall Street... Bob Hazzard meets me often, especially when I go to work early in the morning, he never fails to be in the same Queens bus which takes me to work. When I come home tired in the evening from a ski trip in Vermont, who punches my season ticket on the Long Island Railroad? None other than our good friend Ralph Garlo who gained quite some weight since he is out of the service... When I am tired and hot in summer I go to Johnny Wiener's place in Livingston Manor called "White Roe"... As you know he was the founder of our 21st paper. Quite a lovely hotel he has in the mountains and the fellow who looks out that all his electric wires are in the best of shape is Harold De Vaughn.

That will be all for now, keep up the good work and as I said before I would love to see some more news about the old rabbits in the Post. As for myself... still a bachelor. Have my own business and love to think back of the good old days with old and new rabbits alike.

Kindest regards,
Warren Frankel
(Formerly Cpl ASN 32118557)

Hi Bill.

I am sending you a small amount as my contribution to the Rouen Post. As time goes by, I hope to double it.

The Rouen Post is a very enjoyable paper. If I may be so bold to say Bill, how come the boys from B'klyn & Queens aren't mentioned. To be more brief what's the matter with all the boys from other states. You know we have 48 states to be exact. Or has another been added?

Most of the boys are married, and have already started a family. It seems the girls are out ahead. Here is the score so far. That is as many as I can remember.

Girls:—Fred Russo, Anthony Fezza, Chester Ciancarelli, Charles Cirilla, Charles Kloepfer, Milton Kleinman, John Bosso, Anthony Orlando.

Boys:—Carmelo Patti, James Schirrippa, Charles Olsen, Milton Kleinman.

The score is 8 - 4 girls ahead.

Every year we hold a dinner and dance to celebrate our induction day (May 7th). It's just like a family gathering. You'd be surprised how much we look forward to it.

Will close now,

Dom. Palastro.

P.S. Feel sorry for you Jim Hubbard. But keep trying Jim old boy.

St. Louis, Mo.,
April 16, 1948

Dear Warren:

Because you have touched upon something in your letter of the 14th which has been disturbing a good many of us, particularly many of the former officers of your unit, I hasten to answer.

We have been trying for some time to stimulate interest among your enlisted personnel but aside from a few have not succeeded very well. Manley of the local contingent is the only one showing any interest—and he is tops. We invite these boys to our functions but, alas, they have not tried to make themselves fit. Certainly, it is not because we have not tried.

When Sergeant Willis was here for our reunions he was deeply impressed by the friendliness towards him of members of both units. De Mumbrun and Jim Hubbard have shown considerable interest but beyond that, we are not much encouraged. I'll be very happy to write about the 21st General rabbits, if given the material. Notice how the nurses are kicking in?

By the way, I am going to use your letter with some comments, hoping to stir up more interest... but how about a story on the rabbits. Where did they get that name... who were they... and anything else about that group that will make for a story? Please be assured we would like nothing better than to devote lot of space to the enlisted personnel... but I must have the material to work with. May I count on your co-operation?

Thanks for writing me, with kind regards, I am, Cordially yours, Bill Engel

* * *
THE ROUEN POST

KIND WORDS
March 22, 1948
My dear fellow members—
of the Legion:
It was very kind of you to send to me the
copy of the issue of the Rouen Post which
you have dedicated to the memory of my old
friend, Dr. Fred T. Murphy.
I have read with deep interest the story of
his many activities and fine accomplishments, and I can well appreciate the esteem
and affection in which he was held by the
men of your Post. His death has been a
severe loss to all of his many friends, among
whom I have been proud to be numbered.
I send to you my sincere appreciation for
this fine testimonial to a great man, and also
for your kind thoughtfulness in sending a
copy to me.

Very sincerely yours,
Henry L. Stimson

April 22-48
Dear Mr. Engel
Thank you for sending me a copy of the
memorial in honor of Dr. Fred T. Murphy
written by Dr. Veeder and yourself as re­
printed in the Rouen Post. It is nicely done
and records the life-sketch of a great man.
I am asking that this article be filed in the
records of the Faculty of the W. U. Medi­
cal School attached to a resolution by the
Faculty paying its tribute to Dr. Murphy.

With best wishes to the Rouen Post and
high respect for the traditions established by
Base Hospital 21 in World War 1.

Sincerely yours,
Philip A. Shaffer

March 31, 1948
Dear Comrade Engel:
Thank you very much for sending on to us
the copies of The Rouen Post, which I found
most interesting. Of course I know quite a
good deal about Julia Stimson, and as it hap­
pens a great deal about Dr. Murphy, who
was a great player on the Yale football team
when I was a kid, and became a great sur­
geon, as everybody connected with your
Unit knows.

You are doing a fine job of consolidating
the interests of World War 1 and World
War 2 veterans. Actually, of course, their
interests are identical, and together they
will do a job for the country which they ser­
ved so devotedly when she was under
attack.

Best Wishes
Alexander Gardner
Editor

The American Legion Magazine

The Rouen Post
St. Louis 2, Missouri
Gentlemen:
I have been out of town practically all of
the time since the receipt of your tribute to
Dr. Fred T. Murphy, and this is really the
first chance that I have had to acknowledge
it.

The tribute is a very fine and moving
writing, and I want to express my deep ap­
preciation to all of you for your sentiments.

Very truly yours,
A. S. Murphy

Mr. Murphy is one of Dr. Murphy's nephews.

INTERESTING LETTERS
FROM B.H. 21 VETERANS
April 30, 1948
Dear Bill Engel:
Your swell letter should indeed challenge
sluggards such as I. You should feel no mis­
givings about having written realistically:
It is us who should feel humble. You
and your stewarts give so much toward the plea­
sure of the great number of us. One feels
certain that appreciation is constant and
deep and wide, albeit too seldomly uttered.

Thank you for everything,

Heartly yours,
Sylvester C. Horn

P.S.
I have been confined to home for sev­
eral months, but hope to be more ade­
quate soon. S.

Editor's Note—It is our sincere wish that
Syl will have become entirely adequate be­
before this goes to press.
Dear Bill:

Enclosed you will find a check which I wish you will add to the bulletin fund.

With each passing year our Rouen "Post" means more to me. It is one of the few remaining links that tie me to those with whom I spent two eventful years. Through the brief articles that are so cleverly written I again associate with old buddies, many of whom I have not seen since our demobilization.

Last week I was reading of a Civil War veteran who was the only survivor of his outfit. Being, at the time, in a reflective mood it made me wish that when that time comes for Rouen Post that I will not be the lone survivor.

In all probability members of the second unit who have joined with us to make our Post even better that it was, will, as the years roll by, learn to appreciate the work you and the staff are doing to perpetuate the good-fellowship that began long ago with the organization of our units. I am sure that they have had as many or more interesting experiences that will grow more dear to them as the thread of life runs on and as the names of old associates begin to appear upon the Honor Roll beside other departed comrades. Such is the penalty of passing years.

In closing extend to our Commander and his Staff my good wishes for a very successful year.

Respectfully,
Charles W. Koch

* * * *

Dear Bill:

Enclosed find a check, all too small, to show my appreciation of all the Rouen Posts I have received thru the years. Although I have not seen most of you since the day of demobilization, memories of the past bring some of you before my eyes, encased in the old uniforms of World War I. And when pictures of some of the old gang appear in the Post, dressed in "Civies"—looking old and, oftentimes, dignified—I can’t believe the pictures. Can these men be the poker playing, dice throwing, whiskey drinking, thieving, foul-mouthed irresponsibles of old?

Who can imagine "Old Man" Jolley head of a bank, after the life he lead in France? He was old then. Does he use a cane now?

And "Spence" Allen. A good wind could take him off his feet in the old days. His knees knocked everytime he carried a stretcher. He should live so long!

Who would think that Arshav Nushan—the Armenian skin-beater—could be trusted with public funds?

"Pinky" Bowman had one foot on a banana peel 30 years ago. And still he lives. Who ever let Jablonisky live? How many promised him 10 minutes of their time—in a dark alley—after it was all over? Do you mean that he can be trusted? You eat with him, and drink with him?

I note that you still allow "Judge" Neely to come to your gatherings. He ought to finance them. Remember his "educated" dice?

Whatever happened to "galloping" Bry Townsend, who left the barracks "on high" with every air raid warning?

Who could forget Toby Dunville at the piano? Was it Toby—or the piano—that was responsible for those awful discords?

So “Bill” Stack—the great Auk—talked himself into something. In the army, he was always trying to talk himself out of something—usually work. I just can’t imagine Bill Stack working. He must of changed.

I suppose that Clarence Schueter has become a very deliberate and slow moving old man. As I remember him, he played them awfully close to his "tummy button" in a poker game, and once in a great while, could be persuaded to drink a glass of port. I suppose he is surrounded by grandchildren.

As I recall, the irrepressible "Cal" Tilton found things too hot for him around St. Louis, and had to leave. Is he safe where he is now, or have they come to know him?

Who remembers the night Irl Trickey placed the bedpans in front of one of the wards in the cold moonlight "so that the so and sos would think twice"?

And some have gone down the long, long trail. Peace be with them.

In memory of the first 21st
Joseph W. Severy

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