A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Our annual period of Thanksgiving has come and gone. Traditionally the harvest festival, and time to sum up the benefactions life has afforded us.

Let us be thankful that our economy continues to move with reasonable smoothness. There are plenty of unsolved differences but we as a great nation can solve these if we forget petty politics, rancor and selfishness. Fighting the dangerous heights of inflation has been a problem for which we have not yet found the answer. To restore checks and balances to guard against depression is another problem we must continue to fight.

Let us be thankful that we are not at war. We are a peace-loving people but even the best intentioned people are forced into conflict not of their own choosing. In the long analysis no one really wants war but human selfishness sometimes transcends better judgment. Wars are costly in lives, resources and human relationships. Too often the fact that we are a peace-loving nation has been misinterpreted—that we will not go to war. This is not true. We do not make wars but when forced into them we do not lack in leadership, manpower, fighting ability and productivity to win wars. This has been proven to no uncertain degree. We have managed to maintain delicate relations in Europe. Actually war can be avoided, and with the passage of time a workable "modus vivendi" can be established. Western Europe through our economic priming and their own initiative is growing stronger and becoming more self-reliant with each passing day. Thanks to our current defense program we have strength which no longer is dormant. We are a reasonable nation but we are also a strong nation.

Foremost, let us be thankful that we are Americans and a truly united nation regardless of elections. Confident that we can hold our own in the world and willing and eager to lend a hand in the re-establishment of normal, peaceful relations between all nations.

November, 1948
I went over and ate some more delicious beans instead of having a transaction with the silent Forney. Oh, I'm a smart gal in spots.

From out of town we had Dotty Duggan of the auburn locks, who came from Topeka, Kansas; Margaret Lawton from New York City; guests of "Ginner" Dyer and Edna Kelly, she STILL looks worried — why? Margaret; Irene Steplyk from Chicagoland, houseguesting with the Rouen Post reporter Frobie, but Frobie wasn't there; Dick Crouch from Farmington, Mo., whom I of course greeted violently as Russ Crider—Never will I get those two straightened out in my mind; Tobey Dunville from Clarksville, Mo., and Judge Horace Neely from Marion, Ill. The last two are original Base 21 fellows.

"Jedge" Bob Kelley was strutting around bragging about the girls school he has started —now that he has two daughters.

Helen Kelley looked fine and she has as perfect a bit of femininity in that darling little new baby as ever you did see. When I saw her on Sunday she was sleeping with her girlish bottom stuck rite up in the air—like an Arab praying—and was absolutely the most precious little darling of a baby. Susan has gotten so big and she talks a blue streak—she fed me crackers by the ton when she found out they helped my hangover—bless her—she's sure crazy about the "jedge" No accounting for childrens' taste is there?

To get out of the nursery and back to the party: There was a hot card game going on in the corner between Rich Williams, Ed. McCuddy, George Jordan, Horace Neely (Danny Boy), and Phil Conrath kibitzed. Phil by the way, draws your insides better than your outsides—anyway, that gives me an equal chance with my lack of pulchritude. How does he do it? Does Dr. Ernst take an X-ray and give it to Phil? We missed old Jabby in that corner. Unfortunately the former first sergeant of Base Hospital 21 is still confined to the Veterans Hospital at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Jabby, old socks, hurry and shake that illness...we all miss you terribly. Just the same, the gang sends you warm greetings and best wishes for a speedy recovery. Got a few 21st G. H. mysteries cleared up during my talk with Truman Drake—after five years of wondering. L. C. Boemer removed his coat so he could get in closer proximity with the bar—so he said. Also said the way not to cure ulcers was to massage the abdomen from rite to left. There you are, free medical advice. "Connie" Conochie and Mae Gluck are amongst the faithful original 21sters and I saw that rascal Bill Engel entice Connie with a wee bit o' Scotch and proclaim loudly —"It's 15 years old—just your age Connie, have another"—Fine thing, I must say Bill's quite the promoter.

Miss Spalding, chief nurse of 21st Gen. came for an hour or so. she's one busy lady and I might add—superfluously of course, a mighty clever one too, but shucks, everyone knows that I think she's absolutely tops. And I am not alone in that opinion.

I hear Col. Cady is on D. S. in Newark, Texas; and Ben Charles was out of town with his cousin who is visiting from France. Joe Edwards said; but you know what I think? I think he ducked when he heard I was flying down. Missed seeing him the last two times, if he is "out-of-town" (well-worn phrase!) in May for the reunion, well—I'm going to smell a mouse. Yeah—always the suspicious type. Oh well—Bill Loeffler propositioned me so the evening wasn't entirely lost. Of course I "gaily lawfed" and said 'No, thanks' but at my age it does the old heart good to at least get the chance to say NO. Oh me—who has more fun than the 21sters? I was genuinely pleased to see Leo Gottlieb and to meet his Sally. Haven't seen Leo since Africa, sure missed him after he left us.

Found that the Base 21 had an S. Basil Assaly just as we had, to wit: Camel Herder and linguist Arshav Nushan, now a staid member of the school board. Ed McCuddy has just been appointed chairman of a board for "The March Of Dimes" so in January you'd better get those polio-relief dimes rolling in. Met Willard McQuoid of the old 21st, now commander of 242. Heard folks call him Hairy—I don't get it—could they have been referring to his chest, arms and legs?? Got involved with a man called "Sally" AND he had a little gadget for
shooting craps—result: I lost 85 cents. Ho-Hum I’ll never learn to look out for men.

especially gadgeteers. Earl Shepard had his acrimise moments at the upright. Dunville had his too, but Col. Pat just played that darned song that just busts all my good resolves and away I go with that St. Looey woman. Doggone! I do it every time—I should get a whuppin’. The food was delicious, was prepared and served by Chas. W. Koch and a couple of men from his bakery business. Ruby Walker Eimers looked very English in her tweeds and her beret with her new husband Dr. Eimers on her arm—he seemed to be a nice chap. There weren’t as many of the 21 G. H. as there usually are, but it was a lovely party and well-worth flying down for.

Took off the next day at 2:45 to make a formal dinner I had to cover for my weekly and was at the dinner, in formal attire at 5:30—Isn’t modern science wonderful?

The post will give a Christmas party at December meeting and will invite underprivileged children and show them what Christmas means. Joe Edwards is chairman of that committee. At Christmas time I should be sending you all kinds of wishes imported from Copenhagen—providing my plans do not go awry. But I’ll be seeing you at the jolly reunion. It was just swell visiting you all again.

**THEY MISSED ANOTHER GOOD PARTY**

Regret that I will not be present. Kindest regards to all. . . Karl H. Metz, Fort Devens, Mass.

Sorry I cannot come. Hope you all have a grand time. . . Mary McCrie.

My wife will not trust my morals to that “bunch of hoodlums” so I probably will not be there . . . Horace C. Barker, Oblong, Illinois.

I am sorry, will be out of the city. Tell all hello. . . Irl Evert Trickey.

I will not be present. Not from “preference” but necessity. I have always enjoyed the parties at Dr. Ernst’s. . . Mable Gray.

I will not be present. Previous engagement . . . Stanley M. Harrison.

Sorry, I cannot attend . . . Flora M. Cilelland.

Dr. and Mrs. Ernst’s “21 On Deck” will, I know be a grand time for W. W. I and W. W. II to round up old memories. With much regret I am unable to be with you . . . May Flie Harned, Mattoon, Illinois.


Am sorry not to be there. . . Mary E. Stephenson.

I will not be present. See you end of November. . . Charles Winterbower, Sacramento, Calif.

Can’t come—got in from Southern Medical via Havana, Cuba, just this morning—enjoy yourselves as I know you will—say hello to everyone that I know—especially Eddie (Ernst) and wife . . . Allan (Gilbert), Fayetteville, Ark.

I regret, I am having a few friends out to Hill-Haven . . . Louise Hilligass.

I will not be present, as usual, office hours. Remember me to your nice Mrs. and your boy . . . Joe Magidson.

Sorry, I will not be present, out of town . . . Sim F. Beam.

Sorry, I always miss the fun working from 4 P. M. until 12 M . . . Lucille Dauer Brown, Wood River, Illinois.

Dear Bill: Will plan on your January meeting if you let me have the date. Thanks . . . Charles F. Shook, Toledo, Ohio.

Sorry, unable to attend . . . J. M. Lasater, Naples, Texas.

I will not be present, previous engagement . . . A. H. Conrad, Jr.

Sorry, I cannot join you . . . Minnie Scott, Topeka, Kansas.

Sorry that I’ll be out of town. I know I’ll miss a grand party . . . Louise Knapp.

**BOY’S TOWN OF MISSOURI**

By Dr. Joseph C. Edwards

Formed recently to give socially handicapped boys a home, an opportunity for rehabilitation and a school of good citizenship, Boy’s Town of Missouri is—to one man—the culmination of a promise he made while drifting as the lone survivor on a life-raft after his ship was torpedoed and the raft had been machine-gunned by a German submarine.

That man was Lt. Bill James of the Navy and St. Louis. After the war, he interested a group of like-minded veterans and the Harold Francis Schramm Post 484 of the American Legion came into being, dedicated to community service. Meeting at Candlelight House since it’s beginning, that Post immediately went looking for a suitable project for it’s endeavors.
A committee of 12 members was delegated to find, and recommend, a project. It was quickly determined that facilities for the rehabilitation of delinquent boys was a blank spot in the social picture of Missouri. Nothing but penal institutions were available.

The Committee set about intensively studying the principles and philosophy already employed by other famous boy's groups — Father Flanigan, Boy's Ranch at Amarillo, Starr Commonwealth in Michigan, the George Juniper Republic in the East. These places were visited with a view of determining the best possible treatment—the proper approach and philosophy—the type of facilities and operation—that would produce the best possible results. All the thousands of miles traveled, the authorities consulted, the hundreds of hours research resulted in blending the best of existing facilities with the most up-to-date thinking into a Boy's Town of Missouri. They proceeded to incorporate it under the name of TRAIL RANGERS OF AMERICA, INC.

Today, this is an actuality—where yesterday it was an idea. Boy's Town has acquired some 120 acres of fine land about two miles southeast of St. James, Missouri—about 96 miles west of St. Louis. Formerly a gentlemen's estate, it already has a large stone administration building, barns and outbuildings, and additional cottages are to be built progressively. However, a pilot operation with 12 boys will begin soon after January. Right now, a staff of qualified people is being assembled for the start. We understand the property is fully paid for and is worth over $100,000 to replace today. Funds for a year's operation are on hand with the trustees—six of the biggest men in St. Louis, not members of that Post.

It is based on the principle that every boy has an inalienable right to a home, an education, recreation and his religion. Collectively, these are called the Children's Bill of Rights. It is prepared to give them treatment under the guiding principle of "freedom within a controlled environment."

Physically, it is set up on a family basis, with 12 boys living in a cottage with intelligent, qualified house parents—eating, living and working as a family unit. Each doing his share of the family work, each learning his family obligations. Only three boys will occupy a bedroom—no barracks life or messhalls.

The project is unique in this country in that every boy offered for residence is examined by a qualified consultant psychiatrist who determines (1) the cause of his trouble, (2) the treatment he individually needs and (3) whether Boy's Town is qualified to give that treatment. Obviously, the mentally defective and those whose physical condition makes special problems are screened out.

The boy is then recommended to the Superintendent who rechecks his case history and findings and also considers the availability of his staff in a "family" of boys of like age and problems, etc. All this being favorable, the boy comes in. All concerned with his residence will have been thoroughly briefed on the consultant's recommended treatment and are prepared to carry it out.

Periodic checks are made by the staff and consultative examination by the consultant to follow his progress back to normalcy. Revisions in his treatment are made as rapidly as these checks reveal their necessity. When he is considered fully rehabilitated, fully ready to stand on his own two feet in society—in short, a normal American Boy, the procedure is reversed from Staff to Consultant in a series of examination and recommendation.

A select group of 12 boys, who have graduated a proper environment is selected for him—which may be his own family, a foster family, or even a "Big Brother" set-up—followed always by the watchful friendliness and continued interest of Boy's Town of Missouri.

At the same time Dr. C. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, at the same time Dr. C. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Joplin and St. Joseph, Mo. 2, Mo. at the same time Dr. C. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Joplin and St. Joseph, Mo. at the same time Dr. C. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Joplin and St. Joseph, Mo. at the same time Dr. C. Edgar Virden of Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Joplin and St. Joseph, Mo.

Colonel Karl H. Metz 0-138403 of New York and the 21st General Hospital has been reactivated and is stationed at the 1170 F. H., A.S.U. Headquarters, Fort Devens, Mass.

Knut Knudsen of the 21st General, in addition to being a contributor to the Rouen Post, has a regular column in the DANSK TIDENDE published in Chicago. Most of the news is in Danish, however, Grethe's column is in good, old-fashioned American. Incidentally "Knut", who is associated with the Erikk Travel Service of Chicago, is promoting a trip to Denmark for Christmas, by air. It seems that good old Grethe is going to be guide, leader, friend, trouble shooter and perform whatever other jobs are necessary to make the trip a success. Our best wishes for a happy voyage go with Miss Knudsen.

THE ROUEN POST

220 No. 4th Street
St. Louis, 2, Mo.