12-1951

The Rouen Post, October-November-December 1951
WE HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU HAS HAD A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND THAT 1952 WILL HAVE FOR YOU THE FULLEST MEASURE OF HAPPINESS, HEALTH AND ALL OF THE BEST THINGS OF LIFE.

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And apologies for the long period of neglect of duty as editor of the Rouen Post.

Excuses there are many but we shall refrain from enumerating them. Let it be sufficient to state that we were not in another accident nor was it for reasons of health. There simply were not enough hours to cover all of our activities. Most of these special situations are now under control and we shall be able to resume where we left off in the Fall. Henceforth aside from earning a living, all other extra-curricular matters shall be placed in the category of "when time permits."

We have assembled many items of interest to members of both the units. Some of these have taken place some time ago, however, we feel certain each of them shall find an interested reader somewhere.

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DR. ROBERT W. KELLEY NAMED COMMANDER OF ROUEN POST 242.

Since our last publication was issued one of the many important events was the election of Dr. Robert W. Kelley of the 21st General as Commander of Rouen Post #242 for 1951-1952.

The first meeting of the Post under the new commander was held at the spacious and elegant home of the hospitable Bob Kelley's. Following the meeting a sumptuous buffet luncheon with all of the trimmings awaited the guests.

It is also noteworthy to mention that the annual Fall Armistice Party was held at the Kelley home. There was a goodly attendance and a good time was had by all.

Bob Kelley's first important move after assuming the duties of Rouen Post commander was to address a letter not only to the members of the Post but it is intended for each member on our mailing who makes our paper possible. We quote:

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FELLOW MEMBERS OF ROUEN POST #242

At the first Fall Meeting of Rouen Post #242, the slate of officers for the coming year was nominated and elected. I was absent and being unable to present a defense, was named Commander. This puts me in the position of seeing that things go well for the next year.

As you know Rouen Post #242 is an American Legion organization, made up of men and women who served with Base Hospital #21 of World War I or the 21st General Hospital of World War II. The post was organized in 1936 with the expressed purpose of bringing together the old comrades of 1917-1919 and to preserve the friendships, memories and traditions of their service together. After the end of World War II it seemed proper that we of the 21st G.H. accept the generous offer to join up. Here was the permanent nucleus which will hold us together. It is my personal impression that Rouen Post #242 is completely non-political, non-pressure, and only mildly interested in State and National American Legion policy. If this be treason, I fire easy.

In the early days (following Union) an ambitious program of frequent meetings was attempted. It went well for a time but the increasing responsibilities of business, profession, and family, made it impossible to bring together more than a small group on any single occasion. We have, there-
adopted the policy of two to three "meetings" a year, the function being social. This means the necessary business of the organization must be carried on by a "kitchen cabinet." It is to be hoped that the membership at large approve of this unorthodox procedure.

As the new year starts Rouen Post #242 has a bank balance of $66,22 and all current operating bills have been paid. We owe $492.50 to several of our members who advanced non-interest bearing loans to retire the indebtedness incurred when the Post newspaper ran into financial difficulties. It is anticipated that the entire sum of $492.50 can be repaid to the lenders in this year.

The "Rouen Post" is the newspaper appearing monthly and sponsored by Rouen Post #242. It is devoted solely to the interests and affairs of all who ever had any connection with our two hospitals. It is supported entirely by contributions which are never used for any other purpose than the Rouen Post. Any usefulness it may have will cease when news is no longer sent to the Editor or the subscription list fails to meet the cost. The newspaper is now operating strictly within its budget and will continue to do so unless contributions do meet the cost of publishing.

The Editor is open to all suggestions and criticisms, but he also needs help. When you write give him Hell, enclose a few news items and send a check to Justin Jackson, Treasurer.

If you have ideas as to how we should conduct our affairs this year, please send them along.

Robert W. Kelley
Commander

Editor's Note: We feel the members of Rouen Post 242 chose wisely and well when they selected Dr. Bob Kelley to be their leader. He has always evinced a considerable interest in its affairs. We are certain Bob is alert to every situation confronting the affairs of the members of both the Units and shall keep a watchful eye on each of their activities. We, of the paper staff, shall encourage his active participation in our affairs. It is hoped that he shall be able to create news items from hitherto unexplored sources. The Rouen Post will be extremely grateful for guidance and help from the new Commander and in turn we shall do everything in our power to make his tour of duty outstanding.

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Our congratulations to the membership of Rouen Post #242 for having elected to the exalted position of Commander, that genial gentleman, scholar and eminent medical specialist, Dr. Robert W. Kelley.

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DURING THE LAYOFF

Another B.H. 21 original member and a stalwart, Wrennie "Sing-em" Steele has been at Barnes Hospital since November 26, 1951 after a heart attack. We are informed he had a pretty bad time of it for a number of weeks but when we saw him a few days ago he was progressing very nicely; in fact, he had ambitions to leave the hospital in about a week.

Wrennie was radiant and very grateful for the fine care he had been receiving at Barnes Hospital. He is one of the first patients we have ever visited who had nothing but high praise for the hospital, its food, its attendants and medical staff. Most other patients dig deep to find something to criticize—in any hospital.

As we were going out to look for Miss Louise Hilligass of B.H. 21 who is in a special service at Barnes Hospital, we bumped right smack into her and guided her to Wrennie's bedside. "Old Sing-em" was delighted to see Louise as is anyone at any time, sick or well. Just as soon as Miss Hilligass learns of a B.H. 21 member being in Barnes she pays daily visits to their bedsides.

Dr. Edwin C. Ernst, the cowboy-radiologist is now fully recovered from a number of fractured ribs sustained while vacationing at his Montana ranch in September.

He was trying to mount his favorite horse when suddenly a wild horse came galloping out of the woods with yellow mane and hoofs flying, frightening the doctor's mount. With one foot in the stirrups Dr.
Ernst lost his balance and was dragged a considerable distance before his horse could be stopped. Net result, multiple fractured ribs requiring several weeks of hospitalization out in Montana, some more days at Mayo's, and a considerable period of recuperation at home.

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While attending a Medical Meeting at Dallas, Texas recently Colonel John F. Patton of the 21st G.H. underwent an emergency appendectomy. There were no complications and he was able to return to St. Louis within six days after the operation. "Pat" is back on the job looking and feeling quite fit. We know his many friends among the members of both units will be pleased to learn this.

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For the sixth consecutive year we have had a most faithful visitor at our offices, to bring us words of cheer and greetings for the holiday period. Our caller has been none other than Edward Manley of the 21st General group whose name has been on our pages many times. That we have cherished these visitations goes without saying.

You have read of Ed Manley's physical problems in these pages. We shall not repeat. What we are about to write should be an inspiration to Al Lustig and his interesting old father, from whom you shall find a letter in this issue, not offering us greetings for the holidays we of other faiths know and have just passed, but the faith of his forebears which celebration was held in the early Fall of the year '51 or other years as of that matter. We believe what Ed Manley has done for himself others similarly afflicted can also do. He no longer considers his physical problem a liability but an asset because he feels he shall be able to help others with a lesser degree of fortitude.

Medicine has gone as far as our Drs. Joe Gitt and others can go. Tremendous strides are being made in the advancement of research which shall one day determine the origin of multiple-sclerosis. How near or far that day of accomplishment may be away would be a hazardous guess—but it shall come. We have too many men and women interested, such as Mrs. Lou Gehrig, Dr. Joe Gitt and Ed Manley only to mention those with whom we are acquainted.

As of this writing there is nothing known to medical science to effect a complete cure for multiple-sclerosis yet we find Ed Manley improving. His mental attitude is such that he foresees no insurmountable obstacles ahead. Beginning in the January semester he will enter St. Louis University to work for his Master's Degree in Philosophy, with the ultimate expectancy of teaching.

If others having the same problems of Ed Manley could see and hear him we are certain they too could help themselves.

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It is not difficult to guess our admiration and love for Ed Manley. His fortitude and general spirit cite him as a fine example of resoluteness and grim determination.

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And each of you who may read this do not overlook that pretty little wife of his, Betty. A most remarkable soldierly little wife who has accepted the situation courageously—with hope. She has been a tower of strength to this happy little family.

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Dr. Sim F. Beam reported that Arnold Mintz of the 21st G.H. who suffered a nervous breakdown while attending the University of Missouri has been discharged from the sanitarium in which he has been a patient for several years.

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Dr. Irving H. Boemer, brother of Dr. L. C. Boemer of the 21st G.H. died recently. Within a few weeks after Dr. Boemer's death, his wife Mrs. Ewylln Kinney Boemer also died.

Dr. Boemer was a surgeon and a member of the faculty at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

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George J. Simon, father of William Simon of the 21st G.H. died recently. He was 68 years old and died of complications following an attack of meningitis.

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PHILIP A. CONRATH IS ELECTED

Phil Conrath, a member of Base Hospital Unit 21 of World War I, now assistant professor of anatomy and medical illustration at St. Louis University School of Medicine,
has been elected vice president and member of the board of governors of the Association of Medical Illustrators, it was announced currently. The association will hold its 1952 meeting at St. Louis next October.

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NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY GROUP ELECTS 21ST GENERAL HOSPITAL MEMBER

Dr. Henry G. Schwartz, professor of neurosurgery at Washington University School of Medicine, was elected president of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery at the annual meeting of the organization in Houston, Texas, it was learned recently.

The St. Louisan, who resides at #2 Briar Oak Road, Ladue, St. Louis County, Missouri, was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work during World War II.

Dr. Schwartz helped develop new techniques of brain surgery while serving in the North African and European war theaters with the Twenty-First General Hospital, Army Medical Corps reserve unit sponsored by the Washington University School of Medicine.

An operation he performed on a German prisoner to forestall paralysis and blindness attracted attention. With Dr. George Rouihac of St. Louis, also of the 21st G.H., he cleansed an infected brain wound and grafted leg tissues to cover the skull gap. Dr. Schwartz was credited with developing a process of accurately correcting large skull defects by the use of acrylis, a substance used in making dental plates.

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AMONG OURSELVES

The Dr. Robert Anschuetz's of Alton, Illinois and the Dr. Adolph Conrad's, Jr., of Ladue, both of the 21st G.H. have achieved new daughters since our last publication.

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Late Fall visitors to St. Louis for visits with other nurses of B.H. 2t were May File Harned now domiciled at the V.A. Facilities, Dayton, Ohio and Margaret Davison of Maryville, Mo. The St. Louis girls report happy reunions with the out-of-towners. Hope they shall find time to come often.

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