

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

A Resume of Government Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, June 19—While congress is making up its mind what to do further toward curbing labor unions and what to do in order to keep our armed forces from becoming dangerously inadequate, we shall devote this column to a brief analysis of the statistics on our nation's housing situation.

For right now there are almost 5,000,000 families looking for homes—and there is no chance that more than about 25 per cent will find them by the end of the year. If all goes well, it is estimated that 475,000 houses will be completed this year. In addition, approximately a million families may find older homes or move into newly constructed apartment houses or houses which have been turned into two-family homes. Over 3,000,000 of those seeking homes will have to double up with other families, live in trailers, unheated summer cottages, or temporary quarters provided by the government. But the shortage of homes is only one part of the housing problem facing the returning veteran. Even more of a hurdle is the present cost of homes. It is estimated that home costs have just about doubled in most sections of the country. The home

that sold for \$8,000 in 1940 is now selling for \$11,000 to \$12,000. Stack the cost figures up against the army's finding that no more than one out of 10 discharged veterans can afford to pay more than \$50 a month for housing and it is obvious that the few homes which are available are out of reach of the veterans.

What's the answer? Well, for veterans there are priorities which will make materials available to them for building. That is, they can stand at the front of the line to wait for the materials to be produced. Then they can borrow money for a down payment and, if they build a shack that doesn't cost over \$5,000, will be able to finance it at their \$50 per month maximum. But the kind of a home they can get for \$5,000 will be equal to the \$2,500 home of 1940—if any homes were built at that time at such a low figure. Pre-fabrication may help, if the unions don't interfere too much with their progress, but even with pre-fabrication not much of a house can be built for \$5,000 during these times.

Veterans' emergency housing program order No. 1, aimed at controlling the use of building materials in order to steer them into the construction of homes for veterans, is designed to clear the way for the construction of homes which will sell for less than \$10,000, or rent for less than \$80 a month. But it appears likely that most houses built will sell for the \$10,000 maximum and the 90 per cent of veterans who can only afford to pay \$50 per month will be left out in the cold—or will have to go heavily into debt.

PERKINSVILLE HOME CLUB MEETS WITH MRS. GREENE

The Perkinsville Home Demonstration club met with Mrs. Eynum Greene June 11, 1946. After a short devotional period the roll was called and two new members were added, making a total of 19. The business session followed. Miss Matheson gave a very helpful demonstration on "Cleaning the Sewing Machine." The hostess served delightful refreshments during the social period. The July meeting will be held with Mrs. Troy Greene and Mrs. Raymond Hendrix.

Local Campfire Girls Go to Georgia Camp

The Okih Campfire Girls left for Camp Toccoa at Toccoa Georgia on Monday making the trip by bus. Seventeen girls were in the group accompanied by Mrs. E. E. Garbee and Mrs. H. R. Eggers. The group will stay two weeks returning on July 2. Mrs. Garbee and Mary Jean will stay for the remainder of the 8 weeks session. Mrs. Eggers will accompany the group back to Boone. Those making the trip are: Mary Lee Edminsten, Beth Eggers, Orlando Brown, Martha Council, Patsy McGuire, Patricia Aldridge, Joan Aldridge, Betty Anh Hagaman, Sara Linn Dowling, Sallie Brendell, Evelyn McCracken, Rebecca Shoemake, Jane Rivers, Nancy Winkler, Billie Jean Storie and Mary Jean Garbee. Edith Moore of Sylva met the group in Asheville.

Mrs. Garbee Honored By Order Eastern Star

Mrs. Mildred E. Garbee member of Snow Chapter No. 220 Order of the Eastern Star was appointed District Deputy Grand Matron for the 10th District at the 40 and 41st session of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina Order of the Eastern Star. This meeting was held at Elizabeth City, N. C. June 9, 10, 11, and 12. The tenth district includes chapters located at North Wilkesboro,

Lincolnton, Maiden, Elk Park, Lenoir, Valdese, Hickory, Newton, Statesville, Newland, Taylorsville, and Boone.

AFRICAN ACREAGE

China, India and the United States could be spread out like carpets over Africa and there still would be enough space to accommodate the whole of Europe minus Russia.

The use of postal cards was first suggested in 1865 by the director of the Royal Prussian Post.

Making potato chips last year toes and the employment of 13, called for 650,000 pounds of potato people.

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DEVERS SAYS ARMY HAS FABRIC THAT WILL STOP BULLET

The army has developed a protective cloth for soldiers that "will stop a bullet," General J. L. Devers says. He predicted the cloth would "save a lot of casualties," especially those caused by glancing shell fragments. Other army officials said it is a step beyond the metallic body armor used by airmen and that the details might be disclosed later.

Devers told reporters that the army ground forces which he commands would figure as importantly as the air force and the navy in any future conflict and that commanders are keeping their planning flexible to make full use of scientific advances.

Civil Service and Foreign Openings

Beach Keller, Supervising Interviewer of the local USES office, states that there are foreign openings for skilled and semi-skilled workers in various trades. Civil Service openings are also for skilled and semi-skilled persons. Interested applicants should contact the local USES office for interviews and further information on these jobs.

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