

## Uncle Sam Still Disposing Of Far Flung Properties

By CLARKE BEACH

WASHINGTON—Winding up a \$330,000,000 operation like the United States' share in World War II is big business in itself, even when only the tag ends of the job remain to be done.

Uncle Sam, who has been selling things like mad for the past year or two, still is one of the world's largest real estate dealers.

The War Assets Administration has about \$9,000,000,000 worth of real and personal property left in the United States. About 90 percent of our wartime holdings abroad have been disposed of, most of them to the governments of countries in which the property was situated. Our major foreign properties now are in Germany and Japan where our occupation forces still have use for them.

### Sales Continue

The property still owned in this country is about one-half real estate and one-half personal property. Officials expect to sell nearly all the personal property by next January. Some of the real estate will be sold or leased by them, but it is believed that much of it will still be left on the government's hands.

Army and Navy Munitions Board officials say that about 100 war plants will be held by the government permanently and that about 150 other war plants are now for sale or lease under a recapture arrangement by which the government will be able to get them back in case of emergency.

Of the 100 plants to be kept, about 40 are held by the War De-

partment. They are to be leased to private industry if whole or in part. Deals already have been concluded for 10 of them. The Navy is holding about 44 plants. About 12 of these have been leased, and the Navy Department is considering leasing the remainder.

### Lend-Lease Problems

The lend-lease phase of the war operation which involved about \$50,000,000,000, is being cleaned up in relatively minor million-dollar lots. When lend-lease was terminated we arranged for many of the governments concerned to receive the goods contracted for and extended them long-term credit. Some of these orders have yet to be filled.

All major countries except Russia have agreed on settlements of their lend-lease accounts. The terms agreed on in nearly all cases provided that the U. S. absorb the cost of military items and that the countries concerned pay for the civilian goods still on hand and usable. Russia recently informed this government that she was ready to discuss terms.

Struggling out the vast legal tangle created by the lend-lease patent interchange agreements, however, is expected to provide work for many years for lawyers and engineers in both Britain and the United States.

Each nation was permitted to use each other's patents without restriction while lend-lease lasted, with the understanding that claims of patent owners would be met after the war.

### Patent Questions

British patent holders under the agreement have until June 30,

## World Honors American Heroes



"WHITE CROSSES, ROW ON ROW"—This American cemetery near Luxemburg is just one of 16 in foreign lands.

By ALEXANDER G. GEORGE  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

WASHINGTON—America's soldier dead overseas are being honored this Memorial Day at services in military cemeteries in nearly every part of the world.

By next Memorial Day the bodies of the thousands of World War II service men which now lie in foreign soil will be resting in their homeland. Steel caskets, in which the remains of soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen will be brought home are arriving in Europe. The law requires bodies to be returned if next of kin desire.

The first ships bringing back bodies of the war dead are expected to reach this country in

October. The plan is to return first the remains of those who now rest in about 16 cemeteries in Europe, Africa and the Hawaiian Islands.

These include the Henri Chappelle cemetery, Belgium; U. S. military cemeteries, St. Laurent, France; Cambridge, England; Nettuno, Italy and Gela, Sicily; European cemeteries, Casablanca, French Morocco; the American cemeteries at Garsa, Tunisia, and Tunis.

Also these cemeteries in Hawaii: Schofield Barracks, Mokuapu, Nuanu and Halawa on Oahu island; Homelani on Hilo, Makaweli on Kauai, and Makawao on Maui island.

Congress authorized the return, at government expense, of the

bodies of women as well as men in the armed forces and of civilians attached to the armed forces.

The Quartermaster Corps, in charge of the return, recently had received 8,800 replies to 20,000 letters of inquiry sent to families. Some 77 percent wanted their war dead returned. And 63 percent of those desiring their return said they wished them to be buried in private cemeteries at home.

Meanwhile, all of this country's 209 military cemeteries abroad have been beautified with shrubs and flowers, the building of fences and the erection of markers. In row upon row, white crosses and stars of David rise from the greenward. On every grave, this Memorial Day, there will be at least an

American flag.

The work of identifying the dead will go on for some time. Of some 328,000 who lost their lives abroad in World War II, the bodies of 269,000 are buried in known locations. About 250,000 of these have been identified. An additional 17,126 bodies are known to be recoverable. Others have been buried at sea or are among the missing.

The cost of the return and final burial program is estimated at some \$200,000,000. Congress has set a time limit of five years for its completion.

An Unknown Service Man—soldier, sailor, Marine or Coast Guardsman of World War II—will eventually be laid to rest beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I in Arlington National cemetery.

## Rev. Williamson To Attend S. F. Rotary Convention

Rev. M. R. Williamson, president-elect of the Waynesville Rotary club, will leave Monday, June 2, to attend the International Rotary convention which meets in San Francisco, June 8-12.

Club delegates from this section of North Carolina will entrain in Asheville and at Spartanburg will join the special train taking Rotarians from the two Carolinas. Other groups will join en route, at Atlanta, Montgomery, New Orleans and El Paso. Stop-over privileges have been arranged in New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, the Grand Canyon and Los Angeles.

At the conclusion of the convention the special train will return via Salt Lake City, Denver, Colorado Springs, Kansas City, and St. Louis, with stop-over privileges at each point. The train will reach Asheville on its return, Wednesday, June 18.

Advance information is that 12,000 Rotarians will attend the convention from over 50 different countries of the world.

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bryson, of Bridgeton, N. J., announce the birth of a daughter, Paula Ann, on May 24. Mrs. Bryson was the former Miss Hazel Caldwell, daughter of Mrs. D. F. Underwood, Sr., and formerly resided in Waynesville.

Marine Tiger, each with a capacity of 900 persons, will make eight crossings to accommodate the exchange students and professors.

Already 4,000 bookings have been made, all by Americans. The project is being underwritten by the government and is supervised by the State Department. First sailing for Europe will be June 6.

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### Louie The Loon Mistakes Runway For Lagoon

MARTINSBURG, W. Va. (AP)—Louie the loon, a bit shaken up after a belly landing on the concrete runway of Martinsburg municipal airport, recuperated in a nearby spring while officials considered how to get him airborne again.

E. C. Parkinson, airport manager, said the bird—which must land and take off from water—apparently mistook the glistening runway for a body of water and came in without lowering its landing gear.

The loon skidded about 20 feet, lost a few feathers, skinned its neck and feet, and was generally jarred.

"That didn't do him a bit of good," Parkinson remarked.

"We thought at first it was a big wild duck, but it had a different bill, so we looked it up in an encyclopedia and discovered it was a loon, which can't operate from land."

Airport officials placed the bird in a small stream, but found the "runway" wasn't long enough for the loon to take off.

"The book said it requires about 300 feet of water for the loon to take off, and there's no water around here like that."

"So, we'll let him rest up a few days, then probably take him up in a cub plane and give him a head start from the air," said Parkinson, adding:

"Now we know how they got that expression 'crazy as a loon'."

1949, to file their claims. Americans can file their claims against the British indefinitely. One lend-lease expert estimates it will take 15 or 20 years to sort out the thousands of patented processes that went into the making of war materials.

There is still a little war-born construction to be completed. The Federal Works Agency expects to have seven projects still in the building stage at the end of June. It has completed nearly 100 in the past year.

This work, carried on by the Bureau of Community Facilities, was known as the Lanham Act program. Under it the federal government put up almost \$500,000,000 to pay in whole or in part for the construction of schools, hospitals, sewers and other facilities in communities which received a sudden large influx of military personnel and war workers.

**Work Continuing**

Where projects were under construction at the war's end and where the war-created need still continued, the government is continuing the work to completion.

The federal government's pay roll has dropped considerably. There are now 2,286,202 employees under civil service, compared to 3,571,691 in April, 1945.

In Washington, to relieve congestion during the war, a decentralization program transferred many federal offices into the field. The government now wants them to "recentralize". Congress has been asked for funds to bring the boys home, and the matter is being considered in connection with the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill.

About 17 of every 20 ships arriving in New York harbor burn oil as fuel.

The Amazon river has some 1,100 tributaries.

### Summer Trips Set For Ex-Troopships

NEW YORK—(AP)—Allocation of two former troopships to carry

teachers and students between Europe and America this summer was announced by Lawrence Duggan, director of the Institute of International Education.

The vessels, Marine Jumper and

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