

RED CROSS RECREATION PROGRAM HELPS HOSPITALIZED SERVICEMEN



Providing recreation and entertainment for hospitalized and convalescent servicemen is an important Red Cross job at military hospitals. These Red Cross hospital recreation workers take a group of patients for a tour of Mammoth Cave, Ky., during an outing sponsored by a community service organization.

Any woman will tell you she'd rather nurse five sick children than one sick man. Doctors and nurses are inclined to agree with her. A man resents being helpless and is often beset by fears for himself and his family. The sick soldier is little different from the civilian, except that treating the sick serviceman presents additional problems. Unlike the patient in the civilian hospital, who undergoes his convalescence at home, the soldier remains in the hospital until he is completely fit for duty. After the acute phase of the serviceman's illness is past, he is sent to a "reconditioning ward," where he remains until he is able to take up his regular military job. Sometimes he remains there for weeks. And usually he is far from home. For recreation and simple, pleasurable activities to fill those long hours of convalescence, military physicians in post hospitals look to the American Red Cross and its corps of specially

trained recreation workers. Recreational programs are adapted to the needs of both the man confined to his ward and the convalescent. They range from teaching a bedridden man to play solitaire to dances and bingo games for the man on the road to recovery. There are motion pictures for both ward patients and the convalescent, and for the ambulatory patients there are tickets and transportation to nearby ball parks and theaters. There are also the special services provided by volunteer workers. Gray Ladies run errands and write letters. Motor Service provides transportation. Volunteer Services, working with other community agencies, help bring into the hospitals boys and girls of the same age group as the hospitalized serviceman. Red Cross provides the "home touch" which, added to medical and nursing care, helps restore the sick man to good health.

RED CROSS CHAPTERS MEET VARIED NEEDS OF SERVICEMEN

The Red Cross Home Service worker looked up from her desk to find an old man holding a telegram and twenty-five dollars. "My boy wants to come home, but he hasn't got the money for such an expensive trip," the old gentleman said. "He has just returned from 2 years overseas service and is getting a leave before reassignment. His mother has been very sick and I think he might help her to get well. We are living on our family allowance and whatever money my son can send, but I've scraped together this \$25. Can you give me enough more to bring him home?" After verifying the facts, the Home Service worker sent a telegram to the Red Cross field director at the boy's camp, telling of the father's request and of the offer of the twenty-five dollars he could so ill afford. The following day she received an answering wire from the field director: Under federal statute and regulations of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, the American Red Cross furnishes volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of the armed forces and acts in matters of voluntary relief and as a medium of communication between the people of the United States and their armed forces. "Return twenty-five dollars to father. Army granting emergency leave and arranging for air transportation home. We are arranging for maintenance and return transportation." It was only one item in a busy worker's day, but to two old people and a long-absent son it meant a lot. Often the need is not for financial aid but for help with the unexpected problems that may hit any family and are more acute when the head of the family is thousands of miles away. It was so with an Air Force sergeant who reenlisted after overseas combat service. He left his wife and children in Kentucky on a farm with his mother-in-law. He also left 25 head of cattle, through which the family income would be supplemented. He thought his family secure for the 3 years of his new enlistment. Then disaster struck. The wife's mother became ill and was compelled to sell the farm and go to live with a distant sister. This left the sergeant's family without housing, and 25 head of cattle without care. The Red Cross helped the soldier get emergency leave, helped him find suitable living quarters for his wife, and arranged for quick sale of his livestock. The sergeant then returned to duty, content in the knowledge that his wife and two small children were provided for. Often, the need for help extends beyond the time a man is separated from the service. If, as a veteran the man and his family continue to need aid, the chapter is ready to help. That is Red Cross Home Service—a friend and counselor to the perplexed, to those in need, to men and women with problems.

ABOUT YOUR HOME

—By FRANCES DELL

There are a number of ways some other room. of creating a friendly atmosphere. Give color to a dull-looking wall in the rooms of a home. One sure-fire way is to do it with books. Colorfully-jacketed books can be used to call attention to some particularly beautiful piece of furniture by building a frame of bookshelves around it. Bookshelves are quite often used as the all-important center of interest in small rooms, in rooms. Books are at home in any type of surroundings. Dress a window by removing the draperies or curtains, that may either side of the casing. Bookshelves can be used to divide one room into two—such as a bed alcove or a study alcove from

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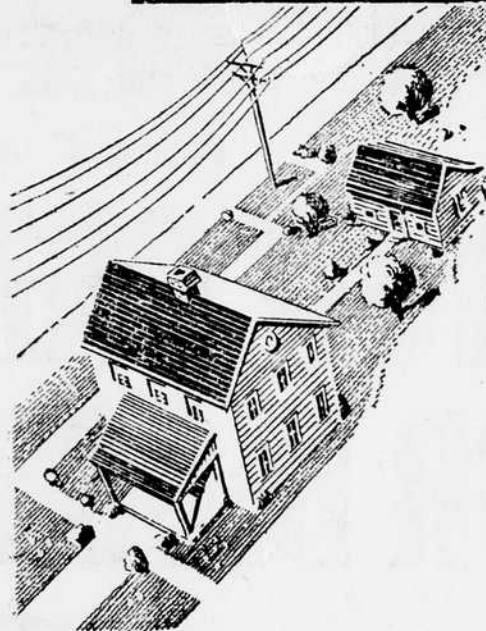
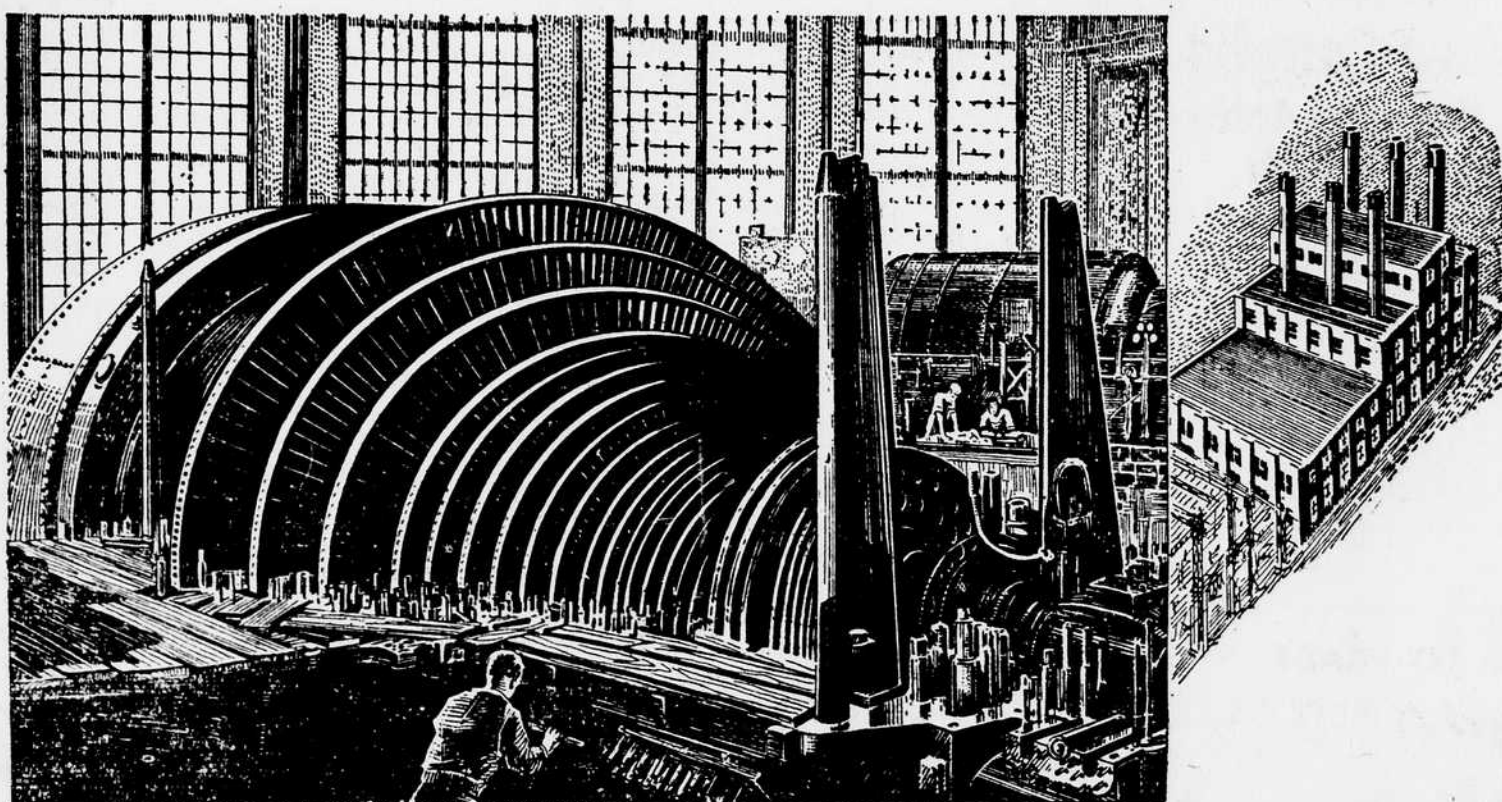
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