

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Six Million Veterans Join Organizations

WASHINGTON — Six million men who took part in World War II are veterans. Of these 1,500,000 have joined the same veterans' organization.

The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have signed up 1,400,000 global-war veterans. The Disabled American Veterans, the third of the three old-line outfits, claims 50,000 about the same as its World War I membership.

This leaves 50,000 veterans who have organized their own outfits and who have no connection with the "big three." How many of these outfits are there and who do they stand for? Some of the large ones are:

1. American veterans of World War II
2. American Veterans' Control
3. Reserve Officers of the Naval Services
4. National Veterans of World War II, organized by Gerald Smith
5. Service Men's Reconstruction Plan, headed by Joe Williams
6. St. Sebastian's Brigade, headed by Father Conighan

In December, 1944, twelve small groups of World War II veterans got together in Kansas City, issued out a few disagreements and formed American Veterans of World War II. Former Lieutenant Commander Jack W. Hardy was elected national commander of Amvets at the recent convention in Chicago.

Mr. Hardy now heads an organization which has distributed 29,000 membership cards, supports 200 posts throughout the country and declares that just because a man is a veteran does not make him a problem.

Of veterans who have gone back to school or college, Amvets says this: "There is relative superiority of our present veterans over the non-veterans and pre-war students."

Amvets has taken no stand on the bonus question. Recently its energies have been directed toward the strike situation, especially in the Detroit area. Veterans' strikes are not getting their G. I. readjustment allowances. Amvets is campaigning to correct what it calls an "unfair situation."

Pleasant Species

Southern pine is one of the most pleasant species of trees used in the manufacture of wrapping paper and bags.

Swanger Brothers Met First Time In 16 Months on Luzon

Colonel Eugene Swanger and Corporal Vernon Swanger met for the first time in 16 months on Luzon.

Col. Eugene Swanger, 42, and his brother, Capt. Vernon Swanger, 38, met at the camp of the 10th Army at Baguio, Luzon, Philippines. They had not seen each other since they were separated in 1942.

Col. Swanger was in the service in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944. Capt. Swanger was in the service in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944.

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A VISIT FROM St. Nicholas

IT WAS the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds; While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads; And Mamma in her 'korchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap, When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave a lustre of mid-day to objects below...



WHEN what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name: "Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid, on, Dunder and Blitzen To the top of the porch to the top of the wall! How dash away! dash away! dash away, all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too...

AND then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had slung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were a roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke, it curled round his head like a wreath...

HE had a broad face and a little round belly That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

By Dr. Clement C. Moore

WACS Wind Up Their Training Program In U. S.

FORT DES MOINES, Iowa.—The training program of the Women's Army Corps ended officially this week with the closing of the post here as a training center.

After more than three years—during which WAACS became WACS and women came from states all over the nation to take courses in administration, baking and cooking, motor maintenance, signal communications, officer candidate courses and basic training—the training program closed with a record of 120,000 women trained, 25,000 of them here.

Training started at the first WAAC training center in July, 1942, after the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was created.

The women at the Fort were jubilant Sept. 1, 1943, when they became a part of the army of the United States. Those then in the WAAC were given their choice of being discharged or re-enlisting and the majority re-enlisted.

There were 444 women in the first classes. When the first WAAC officers were commissioned in the following month they took over training of company and non-commissioned personnel, previously directed by men.

Enlistments for the WACS stopped last August 29, soon after V-J Day. Basic training was completed Oct. 22 and the last officer candidate class was commissioned Nov. 17. Members of the last classes for cooks and clerks received certificates Dec. 4.

Charles Teague Serving On U. S. S. Benner

Charles R. Teague, fire controlman, third class, U. S. navy, who is serving aboard the USS Benner, is now stationed in Tokyo Bay. The destroyer is with the Asiatic fleet.

The Benner operated with the third fleet during the pre-invasion and occupation campaigns of the Japanese home islands. Earlier she saw action at Wake Island.

In one combat period off Japan, the Benner survived a mass attack by suicide planes, shooting down one and helping destroy four others. Crew members have toured the mainland at Tokyo, Yokosuka and Yokohama.

Smoked Brick

Brick fireplaces that are smoked should be scrubbed with a strong trisodium phosphate solution and a scrubbing brush, then rinsed thoroughly.



With Every Wish for a

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

and a Year of Happy Days

Firestone Home and Auto Supply Store

"BILL" COBB, Owner

10th Anniversary—Park Theatre—

Change Pictures Every

Day This Week

SUNDAY, DEC. 23rd

"SHADY LADY"

—With—

Ginny Simms, Char. Coburn, Robert Paige and Alan Curtis

MONDAY, DEC. 24th

"It's In The Bag"



TUESDAY, DEC. 25th

LITTLE MISS NOBODY TAKES BIG MR. SOMEBODY FOR A WILD, WILD RIDE ON THE AIR-WAVES! ... and do you cash in on the fun and frolic... it's a picture to make your hearts light and gay!

Gene FRAZEE and Brad TAYLOR

Singin' on a Rainbow



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26th

"THREE'S A FAMILY"



THURSDAY, DEC. 27th



TO YOU

whose friendly support has contributed so greatly during the past year, may we extend a cordial and appreciative thanks. May your Christmas be happy and the New Year prosperous.

Friday, 28th

DRAMATIC TRIUMPH OF LOVE OVER HEART-BREAK!



Saturday, Dec. 29th

Charles Starrett and Dub Taylor

"Rough Riding Justice"

LATE SHOW Saturday Night, 10:30

Thrilling Mystery

"THE SOUL OF A MONSTER"