

8-1947

The Rouen Post, August 1947

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"The Rouen Post, August 1947" (1947). *The Rouen Post*. Paper 108.
https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/rouen_post/108

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THE ROUEN POST

Base Hospital 21 — World War I

21st Gen. Hosp. — World War II

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

It seems strange to be writing on this crisp, bright Thanksgiving Day of things that happened in May and August but we do want to bring you up to date on the activities of Rouen Post. Just because your editor has been delayed due various circumstances does not mean that we are in retirement. Far from it, as you will learn "when we get caught up". In this issue we have a series pictures taken by that talented man with a Leica, Dr. Carl Lattner of the second unit. This does not by any manner of means represent his entire collection but enough of a cross section of the events and persons in attendance, to give our readers, who were unable to be present, some impressions of what we did and how we acted. Beginning with the solemnity of the opening church services, thru the dinner, the cocktail party and the picnic at Dr. Ernst's MD ranchhouse Carl's camera tells the story of the reunion.

*Complete sets of the pictures or any number of them can be had for a nominal sum.

Since our last publication Colonel Cady has been awarded some well earned decorations, "Knute" Knudsen has returned from her latest European tour, Rouen Post No. 242 has elected new officers, first and foremost Dr. Sim F. Beam as commander, held a brilliant installation of officers party, had a very interesting meeting in October with Dr. Frank Walton, medical consultant to the Veterans' Administration as principal speaker doing a fine job both educationally and as an entertainer and this past Saturday just concluded another Armistice Party at Dr. Ernst's which was second to none except the reunion when we had so many out-of-town guests. Also there have been some weddings and births during the several months just past each of which these pages will record as space permits. We now begin with our August meeting.

AUGUST MEETING

During the reunion in our mellower moments an idea was spawned and came into

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full bloom during August. Edna Haase of the second 21st was describing her cottage on Big river in Jefferson County, Missouri bordering on St. Louis County to the south. What a spot for a summer meeting? Eddie was elected to entertain us and a splendid job she and her "sister nurses" did.

Some of we more energetic and robust individuals made a day of it in real old-fashioned picnic style. It was a sticky, hot day in the city yet delightfully cool on the Haase bluff overlooking beautiful, winding Big river. On hand to greet the weary and hot travelers were, of course, Miss Haase and some of the girls and none other than Forney "The Silent" Dixon all set up to do business behind an improvised bar. Cold cans of that amber fluid for which St. Louis is so famous were immediately available. What an auspicious beginning for an outing.

After this pleasant greeting we took time to look over the Haase layout. Quite a setting! A snug cottage nestled among the giant white and burr oaks high above the river. It still possesses all of the rustic features of forty years ago—a softness which one does not feel these days of rural electrification. There simply is nothing mechanical about the place. It is quiet and restful—a far cry from the strife and turmoil of the city. At the end of a long winding path flows tranquilly, Big river, for generations a favorite stream of St. Louisans, seeking respite from the hot city.

Thus began our day, the Haase day. The girls being mindful that nothing contributes so much to an outing in the country as appropriate victuals, had the larders well-stocked with tasty meats, sausages and ham, great mounds of delicious potatoe salad, baked beans, chilled sliced tomatoes and other delicacies too numerous to mention. Dr. Boemer being away on vacation, the lucky stiff, our ex-champion rib consumer George Jordan gave proof that he was a good champion and only gave way to L. C. and Bob Kelley during the reunion because youth will be

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served. After the luncheon was over we sat around exchanging insults, discussing such weighty subjects as Einstein's theories, the atom bomb, finances and politics. Some even made so bold as to bring into the discussions—life in the army. You probably can guess the climax.

The afternoon found us scattered into little groups—some just lolling about telling untruths, others at the bridge table and the more sturdy engaging in swimming and fishing. Shorty Kimbrel, the lone angler, came fully equipped with the necessary paraphernalia for any sort of fishing one might encounter anywhere. On the way we stopped to purchase black worms and minnows. What Shorty expected to catch in Rig river we'll never know but it seemed to this uninformed and disinterested writer that he came prepared to handle any situation which might arise from shark and pompano in southern waters, to blue fish in the north, muskellunge and sturgeon in Canada, bass in the Rocky Mountains streams and even tuna and baracuda off our western shores. And what do you think he caught? You guessed it. After hours of struggle in the broiling sun he strode up the long, steep path to the cottage a sadder but wiser man. Down the road, whistling cheerfully, tripped a small barefooted boy equipped only with a willow pole and using a nail for a hook, with a mess of bass sufficient for even the Silberberg family.

During the afternoon the crowd grew in numbers and the quiet surroundings soon turned into a typical Rouen Post setting. The "silent one" was dragged from a downy couch to answer the demands of the thirsty picnickers. Suddenly the tranquillity was charged with the spirit of the 21sts, somewhat resembling our outings at Dr. Ernst's MD ranchhouse, although the number was smaller. Came time for supper and who should come along but Drs. Edwards and Kelley. We soon learned why Bob Kelley was the runner-up to Dr. Boemer in May. Jordan was just a retired champion.

After getting the supper "mess" cleaned up most of us were content to relax. But not so with those three bundles of energy—Francie Ward, Edna Kelly and Edna Haase. After sufficient time had elapsed they donned bathing suits and proceeded to the river

the rest of us following as though we had never seen shapely girls in bathing suits disporting themselves in the cool waters of Big river. Finally we trudged back to the cottage, gave Forney a good workout and ended the day and night about midnight. It was a glorious day for which we give praise and thanks to Edna Haase and her helpers.

THE 21ST G. H. FIRST REUNION

By Dr. John F. Patton

The reunion was in May but the memories shall linger long.

It was a successful affair, and those of us here in St. Louis enjoyed it to its fullest extent. We hope you who travelled distances to be here enjoyed it as much. The only regret was that all of you weren't present. At that, a large number signed in, coming from such far away points as Texas, California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Elsewhere in this issue is a list of those who were present. Our mailing list for the enlisted men is less complete than any other, hence the reason for them not being better represented. Those who were here contributed much to the success of the reunion.

Telegrams and letters of regret were received from many members and were read at the banquet on the first night of the reunion. These included messages from Col. Robert E. Thomas, who is now commanding officer of the General Dispensary in New York, and a telegram from Brig. Gen. G. H. Beverly, patient No. 1 in Bou Hanifia. Other messages were received from John Ray Powers, Father Fleishell, Jean Friend of Seward, Alaska, Alice Thompson of Jefferson, Iowa, Jennie T. Nadler of Springfield, Mass., Kathleen McMurrich of San Francisco, Carl Goldman of Memphis, Charles Winterbower of California, and a tearful message of regret from Dorothy McLeod, Bill Dann, Abe Bolotin and Alice and Wendell Dove all of Dallas. Pinky Maroon sent regrets and announced she was married now and her name is Mann. Gretha Knudsen cabled from Copenhagen where she was on a tour of Europe and old haunts of the 21st. A letter of regret was received also from Maudie Morris who is now in Honolulu, and a telegram from Col. C. H. Lohr, C. O. of the 70th General, expressing best wishes.

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See September issue following immediately for identification of events and persons.

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The presence of Colonel Cady made the reunion complete, and his endearment to the unit was expressed in a rousing ovation on the night of the banquet.

The program opened with a Memorial Service at Christ Church Cathedral, in which Chaplain C. H. Hook took part. Then cocktails and the banquet at Hotel Coronado. Entertainment included selected numbers by L. C. Boemer and his sextette, and lantern slides of scenes in Africa, Italy and France prepared by Webb Gurley and Earl Shepard. Sidelights included Sgt. Willis presenting Major Wedig with a can of salmon from the officers' mess. Someone announced a 500-bed expansion and there followed a mad rush for the bar.

Saturday included a reception for the nurses given by Miss Spalding at her home—then the cocktail party and buffet supper

REUNION IMPRESSIONS

By Chaplain Cornelius H. Hook

In retrospect, the recent reunion of the 21st was a grand success. The various committees functioned in a flawless manner. Minutest details were carried out in the arrangement of program, activity and social intercourse. Sociability, laughter and conviviality ran at high water mark. Three days of fun with blood pressure perhaps soaring to new heights with some of the brethren.

Not having seen the members of the old unit for more than a year, one of the things which impressed me greatly was the happy and cheerful facial expression of former tired and overworked members—notably that of Edmund Alvis and Oscar Hampton. Likewise I might mention in this connection our good friend Hagelshaw whose esprit de corps in fellowship and relaxability gladdened our hearts beyond measure.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the music of the Acappella Chorus—under the able and talented leadership of L. C. Boemer during the banquet hour. It seemed perfectly amazing how quickly a man with ingenious ability can whip together raw recruits and render musical numbers which plum the depths and scale the heights of human emotional ecstasy.

The Needle Point Club held no special session, altho the rust was removed and Brother Wedig obtained high honors in the

jobs received.

I hastily touched upon a few things that otherwise might have gone unnoticed. I might add that I enjoyed the reunion very much, even in the light of flying birds and lipstick decorations.

When do we meet again?

PRESENT FOR THE REUNION WERE

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Anschuetz, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Agress, St. Louis
Mr. Spencer Allen, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. C. Ray Ashby, Marion, Ill.
Dr. Edmund B. Alvis, St. Louis
Miss Helen A. Bowen, St. Louis
Miss Elizabeth Brooks, St. Louis
Miss Geneva Book, Topeka, Kans.
Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Breuer, San Antonio, Tex.
Mr. H. C. Bonham, Jr., Shoals, W. Va.
Dr. E. M. Bricker, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Sim F. Beam, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Bishop, De Quincy, La.
Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Boemer, St. Louis
Mr. Horace Barker, Oblong, Ill.
Mr. Elmer Bowman, East St. Louis, Ill.
Miss Lucille D. Brown, Wood River, Ill.
Mr. Clifford Bindner, St. Louis
Mr. Glenn Brasel, Hoopetown, Ill.
Dr. and Mrs. Russell J. Crider, St. Louis
Dr. Richard F. Crouch, Farmington, Mo.
Dr. James B. Costen, St. Louis
Miss Estelle Claiborne, St. Louis
Miss Margaret Conochie, St. Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Conrath, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Adolph H. Conrad, Jr., St. Louis
Col. and Mrs. L. D. Cady, Dallas, Tex.
Miss Flora M. Clelland, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Harold M. Cutler, St. Louis
Dr. Benjamin Charles, St. Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Depke, St. Louis
Miss D. M. Dugan, Circleville, Kans.
Mr. H. W. Dunham, Dallas, Tex.
Mr. and Mrs. Forney Dixon, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Truman Drake, St. Louis
Miss Virginia M. Dyer, St. Louis
Dr. Ken Drown, Seward, Nebr.
Mrs. Frances Banks Dickerson and husband, Abington, Ill.
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Edwards, St. Louis
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Engel, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Ernst, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. Eyerman, St. Louis
Miss Lena Fabick, St. Louis
Miss Tiffany Farrell, Richmond, Va.
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Fischel, St. Louis
Dr. Virgil O. Fish, St. Louis
Dr. Roland Fisher, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Mrs. Olive D. Flynn, St. Louis
Dr. Harold Freedman, St. Louis
Miss Emma E. Frohbeiter, St. Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Garner, St. Louis
Dr. Allan A. Gilbert, Fayetteville, Ark.
Mrs. Mae Auerbach Gluck, St. Louis
Mrs. J. D. Glunt, Gainesville, Fla.
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Goldberg, Chicago, Ill.
Dr. and Mrs. Leo Gottlieb, St. Louis
Miss Mabel Gray, St. Louis
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Greene, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Z. J. Guilbeault, Festus, Mo.
Dr. and Mrs. Webb Gurley, St. Louis
Miss Edna M. Haase, St. Louis
Dr. G. L. Hagelshaw, Bay City, Mich.
Miss Ernestine Hageman, St. Charles, Mo.

(To be concluded in September issue)

BILL ENGEL