

EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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WELFARE ASSOCIATION HELPS IN EMERGENCIES

In the previous article on the USDA Welfare Association we discussed the general purpose of the organization - "to provide proper ways for the welfare and mutual improvement of employees." One way is by the grant of loans without interest to USDA employees to meet serious emergencies.

It is interesting to note that the Welfare Association was formed many years ago for the sole purpose of providing this service. At that time money for this work was secured by members selling candy and Xmas cards from desk to desk, holding benefit performances, etc. In time a system of selling memberships in the Association for 25¢ a year was used. Now the Association loan fund is financed by the cafeteria operations.

During all this time other ways of assisting employees were incorporated in the organization structure but the original purpose still remains - to provide financial aid for emergencies. In fact during the two years 1945 and 1946, 295 loans totalling approximately \$17,400 were issued to USDA employees without interest charges. Each was a hardship case and in each instance the employee could not secure the money immediately from any other source.

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STAMP COLLECTORS PLAN PROGRAM

The first meeting of the USDA Stamp Collectors was held Thursday May 15 to discuss the possibilities of establishing a permanent club. A group of collectors representing a good cross section of the hobby, from beginners to various specialists, attended and decided to organize on a permanent basis. Mr. Schimmack exhibited one of his albums and gave an interested talk about it.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28 at 6:15 PM in Room 107 Admin. At that time it is planned to have reports on the May 26-31 Exhibition in New York, a discussion of good collecting habits, and a showing of collections.

It is the aim of the club to encourage beginners and to stimulate the advanced collectors. An exhibition is planned later in the season. All those interested are invited to attend the next meeting. Please drop a note to Mr. August Schimmack, PMA-FISCAL, room 6759.

The immediate contact for an employee in need of aid is the bureau or office welfare committee. (If you don't know who the members of your welfare committee are call Miss Conahan X2537). The applicant's request is studied and processed to the Board or its representatives where final action is taken. This procedure seems time consuming but actually it is speedy.

The Board's action is governed by the By-laws and from it we quote:

"Loans and gratuities shall be allowed for hospitalization and for use in meeting expenses due wholly and necessarily to sickness, death, accident or unforeseen misfortune to the applicant or members of his immediate family; for aid to employees who due to no fault of their own, have failed to receive salary checks promptly; for living expenses in cases of extreme emergency; for other emergencies which in the opinion of the Board are worthy of assistance. Loans for payment of doctors' and dentists' fees are allowable only when a substantial reduction in the fee can be obtained by prompt payment or in emergencies when the employee concerned is unable to get necessary professional service unless paid for in advance or at the time rendered."

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE CLUB CONTINUES

The Beginners' Bridge Club has extended its instruction course to 5 more weeks. At the close of the original course many members wanted to continue and arrangements were made. Problems relative to playing out a contract and defensive play are being studied under the direction of C. A. Lyons.

Membership in the club is still closed. However, so many requests have come in for Bridge instructions that plans for more classes in the early autumn are being made. Watch for the announcements in the E. N. B.

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MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT TO DANCE

The Spring Dance at the Shoreham Hotel, Sat. June 7th 9-12 PM. is being sponsored by the National Capital Detachment Marine Corps League. Admission \$1.20 tax included. Tickets can be secured from Lillian M. Sawyer (P&O).

see "AUNT TILLIE GOES TO TOWN"-auditorium-May 21 & 22

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR USDA BOARD OF REVIEW ON EFFICIENCY RATINGS

The USDA Employee Election Committee will receive nominations of candidates for the employee member of the USDA Board of Review on Efficiency Ratings until May 23. The person elected will represent all USDA employees on the 3-member Board for a one year term ending June 30, 1948.

Nominations are made by petition. Each petition must be signed by at least 50 employees. All department employees may nominate and vote for the candidate of their choice. No specific form of petition is required. The following may be used: "The undersigned employees join in nominating _____ as the employee member of the USDA Board of Review on Efficiency Ratings for the year ending June 30, 1948."

Address all nominations to: Mrs. Naomi R. West, REA, Secretary, Employee Election Committee, Room 4032, South Building. BE SURE TO HELP NOMINATE YOUR CANDIDATE! Voting will take place on or about June 4, 1947 --Employee Election Committee, Jack L. South, Chairman.

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GOLFING NEWS

The Federal Golf Association announces the date of the Annual Tournament - June 16 and 17 at the Prince Georges Country Club. Competition is being arranged for all 3 classes - A, B, and C - on individual and team basis.

Prizes will be awarded on low gross and low net scores in each class. For entries and information call D. Hevener X2916. The Association Match Play in Classes A and C started the week of May 12 th. Class B play begins the week of May 19th. A total of 48 teams are entered in the 1947 match play.

Arrangements have been made for all members of F.C.A. to play on the Bannockburn Country Club at reduced rates. Mon. through Fri. rates are cut from \$1.00 to 50¢ and Sat. Sun and holiday rates from \$2.00 to \$1.25. Incidentally, it costs \$1.00 to join the Federal Golf Ass'n.

GOING TO IOWA?

Luella F. Dever X5635 is driving to Keokuk, Iowa. Departs May 23 and returns in 3 weeks.

CREDIT UNION LOANS

It occurred to us that employees would be interested in knowing about the cost of Credit Union Loans. Accordingly we asked at the Credit Union Office, and received the following information. The cost is based on repayment of principal in equal monthly installments.

AMOUNT OF LOAN.	TOTAL INTEREST COST FOR INDICATED NUMBER OF MONTHS.			
	3 months	5 months	10 months	12 months
\$ 50.00	1.00	1.50	2.75	3.25
100.00	2.00	3.00	5.50	6.50
150.00	3.00	4.50	8.25	9.75
200.00	4.00	6.00	11.00	13.00
300.00	6.00	9.00	16.50	19.50

You can find out how to get a loan, if you need one, at the Credit Union Office Room 5433, any time between 10 A.M. and 1:15 P.M., Monday through Friday.

STELLAR PLAY MARKS LEAGUE PENER

Dazzled by the softball demonstration in the preliminary ceremony, AIC and REA team proceeded to duplicate the quality of play in a game which was reminiscent of mid-season form. Both teams exhibited talent which forecasts many good ball games to come. AIC won 6-5.

In the preliminary, "Fireball" Brannon, "Spike" Wickard, and "Slugger" Donovan put on a display that amazed all including their manager-trainers, Luna Diamond (Sec) Margaret Leavy (Sec), Gaynelle Leachman(REA) and Hilda McDaniel (AIC). Joe Bertolini (PMA) was the ceremonial umpire. The opening game program was handled by the committee of D. Knode (P&O), F. Arrotta(AIC), M. Linn(REA) and J. G. Scherlacher.

LEGION MEMBERSHIP REACHES PEAK

Membership of the USDA Post 36 of the American Legion now totals more than 800 members and is the largest since the Post was established in 1934. Post officers headed by Commander Wallace A. Jones are mostly World War II veterans.

Meetings of the post are held regularly at the American Legion Clubhouse 2437 15th St., N.W., on the second Friday night of each month. Luncheon meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in room 6962 South. Veterans interested in joining the American Legion should contact Acting Membership Officer, Harley J. Bennett, X4167.

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BOOKS FOR THE WOUNDED

The USDA Branch of the American Veterans Committee is collecting books for the wounded in memory of those who died. Old books, new books, pocket size or otherwise will be given to patients at Walter Reed, Bethesda Naval, and Mt. Alto Hospitals on Memorial Day. Boxes will be placed from May 19 to May 28 at various entrances of the Dept. to receive books. A book you have read may mean hours of enjoyment to a veteran fighting his way to health. Remember the dates and bring the books.

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Helen Boyden, 2852 Ontario Rd. N.W. is blind. Operates a Snack Bar at 1724 F St, N.W. Mon. through Fri. Desires transportation to work. No assistance needed beyond stop at entrance of building. Willing to pay. Call Dupont 2148.