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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Personnel  
Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

VOL III

July 17, 1946

No. 9



USDA Moonlight Cruise, Wed. July 31  
S.S. Potomac chartered for excursion  
WELFARE ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR GALA  
AFFAIR

Wed. July 30th USDA Moonlight Cruise will  
top the social calendar for members of  
Dept. of Agriculture. The Welfare Association  
has chartered the S.S. Potomac for the  
exclusive pleasure of USDA employees and  
their friends. The Agriculture Players are

planning to entertain you with something  
special in the line of entertainment.

Dance music by a popular orchestra will  
be furnished for couples who are not too  
busy gazing into the Potomac or looking at  
the moon. There will be music on the top  
deck also for couples recovering from the  
city heat and for the non-dancers in the  
crowd. Below deck, refreshments, including  
hot dogs, pop corn, candy, and thirst  
quencher will be on sale.

This cruise affords an excellent opportu-  
nity to get your office gang together and  
have a real party without worrying about  
entertainment or refreshments.

Your bureau contact officer has the tickets  
for 85¢ (74¢ plus 11¢ tax). As you know the  
boat's capacity is limited and, therefore,  
the number of tickets is limited. Purchase  
yours early and meet us at the dock before  
8:30 on Wed. July 31: Let's have an evening  
of fun and get acquainted with more Agri-  
culture people.

ELECTIONS

In a run-off election with four candidates  
in the field, departmental employees in  
Columbus, Kansas City, New York and Wash-  
ington have elected Rex Van Atta as employee  
member on the USDA efficiency rating Board  
of Review for the next 12 months. Van Atta,  
a veteran employed in the Office of Budget  
and Finance, succeeds Richard A. Hollis,  
Office of Information, on the three-man  
board, Hollis, a candidate for re-election,  
was elected second alternate member this  
year. James E. Horton, an attorney in the  
Office of the Solicitor, polled 541 votes  
to become first alternate member.

Voting was light but decisive for Van Atta. He polled 532 out of a total of 2,333 votes cast in the original election on June 17, which was 246 votes short of the one-third of the total votes needed to win. In the run-off election required by civil service rules to be held in such cases, the top four candidates in the original election polled votes as follows:

Rex W. Van Atta 797  
 James E. Horton 541  
 Richard A. Hollis 500  
 William J. Biggins 425  
 2263

Horton and Hollis succeed Tyler F. Haygood, Office of the Solicitor, who was elected as alternate to Hollis on last year's Board. The difficulty of bringing members together at appropriate times to consider appeals of employees dissatisfied with their ratings and a desire to speed up the work of the Board were behind the decision to elect two instead of one alternate employee member this year.

Names of members of the Board whom the Secretary and the Civil Service Commission appoint annually to represent, respectively, the Department and the public have not yet been announced.

Arrangements for voting and supervision of the election this year was in the hands of a committee of five designated by T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel, from various of the bureaus as follows: Perry H. Colman, chairman, Field Service Branch, FMA; Phyllis R. Read, Secretary, Inf; WM Richardson, Tobacco Branch, FMA; C.E. Schoenhals, ARA and Rawleigh L. Tremain, Sol.

#### AGAIN WE DID IT!

Employees of the Dept. were informed Friday, June 28 of their opportunity to donate funds to aid the starving and famine-ridden countries abroad.

Although this drive was scheduled for

just one day, Agriculture employees responded in their usual spirit and contributed \$ 3,193,52.

The money received from this drive was given to the Washington Food Conservation Committee and was one of the many contributions of local headquarters in the U.S. These funds are sent to the Nat'l Hdqts of Emergency Food Collection Committee in New York City.

This Committee goes out into the market and purchases food in whole-sale quantities. The food purchased from funds obtained during this drive do not interfere with UNRRA's present allocations, but supplement UNRRA's operations and extends aid and assistance to those countries that are not now included in UNRRA's program.

Your wholehearted interest and support in this humanitarian effort is sincerely appreciated.

We know we may depend upon your continued cooperation in the conservation of food.

#### D.C. INFORMATION CENTER MOVES TO NEW LOCATION AT 11TH & PENN. AVE.

After three years of operation of the D.C. Information Center at the booth at 1321 Penn. Ave., the Greater National Capitol Committee of the Washington Board of Trade will move this portion of its activities to a new location in the lobby of the Evening Star Building, 11th and Penn. Ave.

The Capital Transit Company, which has maintained an information clerk at the old addition, will continue operations of a bus and streetcar information service in the new quarters. The Center will be open week-days from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It can be reached by telephone through the Greater National Capital Committee switchboard, District 3535.

Although all residents in the District are invited to use the facilities of the

Center, its primary purpose is to serve the visitor and the newcomer to this city.

Questions are answered daily and information is available to all inquiries concerning both the U.S. and District governments, sightseeing, recreation, sports, transportation, vacation resorts, concerts, drama, churches, theaters, radio broadcasts, where to eat and where to shop.

#### USDA Welfare Association Officers

Dr. Harold G. Clark (PMA-ESB) has resigned as President of the Board of Directors of the USDA Welfare Asso. and as a member of the Cafeteria Management Committee. Dr. Clark is leaving the Department to accept a position as professor of vocational guidance at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

James H. McCormick (INF) succeeds Dr. Clark as president of the Board, and Ralph Koebel (SOL) succeeds Mr. McCormick as first vice president. Miss Lois Monie (PERS) was elected to fill the vacancy on the Cafeteria Management Committee.

Dr. Clark has served as a member of the Board since 1944, first as a director and since January of this year as president of the Board and a member of the Cafeteria Management Committee. Under Dr. Clark's leadership, the Welfare Board this year has embarked on a greatly accelerated employees' activities program.

The present membership of the Board is as follows: President, James H. McCormick (INF); First Vice-President, Ralph Koebel (SOL); Second Vice President, Joseph McKericher (BPISAE); Third Vice President, Lois Monie (PERS); Secretary, Meldanette Metcalf (BDI); Treasurer, Ennis A Almond (B&F); Directors: Hazel F. Stiebeling (HNHE) and Arthur B. Thatcher (P&O). Secretary's appointees of the Board serving on the Cafeteria Management Committee: Verna C. Mobergen (SCS); Eunice Heywood (EXT); Frank H. Spencer (P&O), Chairman of Cafeteria

Management Committee and Perry B. Hinkelmann (FS).

#### CHORAL GUILD

The Department of Agriculture Choral Guild climaxed a successful season with a party given by the Director, Dr. Walter Bauer, and his wife at their home in Arlington. The highlight of the evening was the playing of a recording made of the Guild's radio performance over Station WWDC.

As usual, the group has disbanded for the summer months but will get together again in September -- probably the week following labor Day. It is hoped that in the not too distant future the Guild will reach again its prewar size of almost 100 members, since this would make it possible to widen as well vary the scope of activity, to include such performances of symphonic choral music as have been given in the past together with the Department Orchestra.

Those interested in joining the group may contact Mrs. Norma Henneberry on Extension 6237.

#### USDA Welfare Association

##### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Cafeteria management would like to explain the necessity of price adjustment on milk.

Our OPA ceiling prices of 5¢ on  $\frac{1}{2}$  pts. and 8¢ on pints were based on costs of  $04\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and  $.07\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ respectively. The removal of Federal subsidy on milk resulted in increased costs and we now pay .05¢ for half pts. and  $.09\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for pints. The new prices 6 and 10¢ maintains the same margin of profit as before.

#### DO YOU WRITE POETRY?

Or do you like to try? Amateur versifiers among government workers have organized a "Bookfellows Club". They meet about twice a month in each other's homes, to enjoy each other's attempts to create either laughable, or beautiful verse, and to improve their own styles through study and comparison with classical examples.

It is their purpose through cooperative effort and practice, and the stimulus of friendly competition, to become sufficiently familiar with poetic forms and meters to equip themselves with tools at hand for a moment of inspiration. Even good free verse needs to follow patterns of rhythm. It is felt that the present movement is away from loosely written verse and toward an acquaintance with technique.

There is a marketing committee, through which, if you desire, you may transmit your poems for sale to the publications to which they seem best suited. Of the magazines using poetry, we have compiled extensive lists in the different categories.

"The Bookfellows", a magazine of original writings by members open to all, first released last December, was well received. The fifth issue is now being distributed (price 25¢).

Employees of all government departments are eligible for membership.

For further information, call Ext. 3105 or Eames Macveagh, Commerce, Ext. 425.

#### ANOTHER OUTING

The Welfare Association of the Plant Industry Employees (OPISEA) held a picnic on Saturday, June 15th.

A soft ball game, the Scientific employees versus the Administrative employees, opened the picnic. The final score was 14 to 8, in favor of the scientific group.

Horseshoe and volleyball games followed. Later a picnic lunch and "sunset sing" concluded the program.

A large number attended, all admitted having a good time and are looking forward to another before very long.

#### BARGE TRIPS

The Government Services, Inc., is sponsoring horse-drawn barge trips along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal every Saturday and Sunday, leaving Georgetown at 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Features of natural and historical

interest will be pointed out along the route by a Park Service historian or naturalist. Barge tickets are available in advance at the Capital Transit Company offices at 1416 "F" Street, N.W.

#### SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

An index of summer camps has been prepared by the Councils of Social Agencies in cooperation with the American Camping Association as a service to parents and children. If you are interested in a camp for your child, call Extension 3105.

#### RED CROSS TRAINING CLASSES

The American Red Cross points out that First Aid Training and instruction in Accident Prevention is just as desirable now as it was during the war years due to the general health conditions and the frequency of accidental injuries. District residents are urged to form adult community classes at convenient locations to train and also to retrain in First Aid procedure.

The Red Cross also teaches a course in Accident Prevention. This course is designed to make students safety conscious and to make the home safe without taking the joy out of life. Contact the Red Cross by calling RE 8300, x489 or 95 if you wish to register in one of the classes.

#### HAINS POINT

Have you discovered the Hains Point area picnic grounds, swimming pool, golf course (regular and miniature), and tea house? If not, it's an excellent place to go with the crowd or with the family to spend a pleasant afternoon out-of-doors. If you want to rent a bicycle, rowboat, or a canoe, they are available. Buses leave every half-hour between 9:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday from 15th Street, South of the Treasury Building.

#### WANT RIDES

Dora Oliver, Riggs Road at Riggs Riding Academy Ext. 5957.

Eliz. Abromovitz, Arlington Farms, Ext. 2387