

TRIP TO EUROPE OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS

Writer in National Journal in Plain Words Points Out Some Silliness

Never before did the Quartermaster General of the Army have a job like this—personally conducting five or six thousand women on a European trip, says a United Press dispatch from Washington.

The Quartermaster General's office has all arrangements completed for the pilgrimage of Gold Star mothers to France this summer. Only the money for the trip is lacking, and that will be provided in the first deficiency bill which goes through Congress. The first boatload should sail some time in June.

And when you consider that of the five or six thousand women who have signified their desire to make this pilgrimage, the majority average 65 years of age and the oldest is 88, you can imagine just what the job means.

\$800 Average Cost

Eight hundred dollars will be the average cost per individual. But no individual pilgrim will handle any of her expense money, except between her home and New York, coming and going. From New York to France and back again, she won't have to spend a nickel; everything will be done for her and everything arranged for her.

Even such details as the morale of the various parties have been considered by the efficient Quartermaster General's office, in working out plans for the trip. An Army officer will be in charge of each group, on each boat—not very large in any case, as all must travel first class under the law authorizing the expenditure.

Part of his job will be to see that the pilgrims get acquainted and have something to think about besides seasickness and the sad journey on which they are embarked.

All Details Planned

The trip will be broken so that none of the elderly women, most of them unused to travelling, will be taxed beyond her strength. If they need to rest in a New York hotel before sailing for France, that will be arranged. In Paris they will have two days to recuperate from the boat trip before starting to see the graves of their dead; and on the way back will have five days' rest in Paris before sailing for home.

The trip to the cemeteries will consume seven days and will be made by bus and carefully handled. Each bus party will be routed to the large town nearest the cemetery it has come to visit, and from that town as headquarters, individuals will be taken to the graves of their war dead. An army officers, carefully instructed for the work, will be in charge of each bus.

No Sight Seeing

There will be no sight seeing, either there or in Paris. The trip is a pilgrimage to the graves of the war dead, and will be handled as such. Arrangements have been made in Paris so that the ministrations of Catholic priests, Jewish rabbis

Protestant ministers Jewish rabbis and Catholic priests will be available to such of the pilgrims as desire them.

The total cost of the pilgrimage, figured at \$800 per person, will be about \$4,500,000

Mrs. Caroline A. Heydecker, widow of the late Christian T. Heydecker, and a resident of Waukegan for more than half a century died at her home in that city last week, after an extended illness.

The Waukegan city waterworks, regarded as one of the most modern plants of its kind in the world and which has attracted the attention of engineers in all parts of the nation, is again to be copied in the building of a new water purification in connection with the waterworks in Burlington, Iowa.

Colored war veterans of Lake county met last week in Waukegan, at the court house for the first regular organization meeting to form a colored post of the American Legion.

A recommendation asking that the sum of \$304,000 be appropriated for the improvement and enlargement of the Waukegan harbor, was made to congress last week by the war department at Washington, according to news dispatches from the national capital.

Mrs. Maren Jensen died recently at her home in Winthrop Harbor at the age of 92 years. She was born in Denmark, December 30, 1837. Her husband passed away 19 years ago.

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