

EIGHTH DIST. LEGION ANNUAL CONVENTION

Held at Veterans Hospital, North Chicago, Aug. 3; Attendance and Interest Notable

By Dan Hunt

Because of the excessive heat the formal program of the annual convention, eighth district American Legion, was abandoned. A short and snappy business program wound up the affairs of the convention, which was held at U. S. Veterans Hospital No. 105, with Dr. Henry E. St. Antoine, the medical director, as host, Sunday August 3rd.

Veterans and their families inspected the hospital and grounds, and throughout the visiting period groups were conducted through the various units of the huge institution. Many commendations were heard regarding the handling of patients and general condition of patients and grounds. The cheerful atmosphere of the institution was a revelation to the visitors

and bore evidence of the good work the doctor and his staff are doing the disabled ex-service men there.

Plan Golf Course

Among other things a nine-hole golf course is under construction and the promise of a "Tom Thumb" or miniature course to be laid out in the near future. A large, well equipped picnic ground is near the course. Athletic events are well taken care of by the expertly laid out athletic field and recreation house. Construction of many other buildings of various uses is now under way that will make the North Chicago institution one of the finest of its kind anywhere. A visit by post delegates to this hospital will encourage them to enlarge activities for its betterment.

Preceding the convention proper a luncheon was served by Dr. Henry E. St. Antoine to district and state officers of both the American Legion and Auxiliary taking part in the program. Between luncheon and convention the Fort Sheridan Army Band entertained the gathering with selections on the lawn before the recreation building.

The first speaker introduced by County Commander Charles C. Kapschull was Mrs. George M. Kellogg, state president of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Kellogg urged Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary to visit more frequently and encourage the men there, letting them know that their former buddies had not forgotten them even tho' the war was eleven years past. She announced that the auxiliary was ever ready to co-operate in aiding the needy ex-service men and aid posts in their efforts for community improvements.

Preparedness and Patriotism

Mrs. A. B. Middleton, state vice-president of the Auxiliary, then spoke enthusiastically on the subject of preparedness. Calling attention to the fact that the Reds or Communists were poisoning the minds of children, she urged the formation of active chapters of Sons of the Legion and Junior Units of the Auxiliary to inculcate patriotism in the minds of the coming generation.

Mrs. Grace Tibbals, rehabilitation officer, then gave a brief resume of activities in her department; follow-

ed by a similar report from Mrs. Harry M. Brown of Lake Forest, the eighth district committeewoman. Mrs. Brown extolled the spirit of co-operation between the posts and their auxiliary units in the district and urged the "bachelor" posts to organize their eligible women members into active units to aid the Legion in its great work.

Other Speakers

Among the other speakers of note were Jack Poorman, vice-commander of Illinois; William C. Mundt, state adjutant, who gave glowing accounts of the coming convention and the state fair; Commanders of Districts Schlott, 1st; Schlupp, 5th; Paxton, 9th; Benson, 11th; Runnels, 12th; and Nelson, 13th. Mr. Paxton spoke at length on the case of a great many ex-service men needing hospitalization and entitled to it, but refusing to go because no provision had been made for his family while there. He stated that this provision was in the bill President Hoover vetoed, but expressed the hope that this necessary measure would be taken care of in another bill soon to be presented.

Reports of committees were given by Mancel Talcott on graves registration, finance by Leonard Hook, membership by Bruno L. Henderson, child welfare by Monty Rasmussen, public relations by Frank Elwell, athletics by Archie Maplethorpe, followed by a report from County Commander Kapschull, who commented on the progress of the district and spirit of co-operation existing in the county.

Three silver cups were awarded as follows: For the post doing the most constructive Legion work during the year, Homer Dahringer post of Waukegan, Bruno L. Henderson, commander; to Harry M. Brown of G. A. McKinlock Jr. Post, Lake Forest, as most valuable adjutant in the district; and to Stupey-Smith post, Highwood, Eggert Carlson, commander, for getting a one hundred per cent increase in membership.

Led by the Hospital Drum and Bugle Corps the large gathering walked to the athletic field to watch the patients take part in the field meet.

The evening closed with a picnic dinner on the grounds north of the hospital.

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