

Let's Take a Look

By

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(Special to The Highland Park Press)

So Long, 1946

New Year's morning, 1946, found the writer and other correspondents waiting in the beautiful, panelled conference room at Pacific Army headquarters in Honolulu.

We were waiting for Secretary of War Patterson. Although he didn't know it at the time, he was to tell us how little he knew about the human side of demobilization.

We who were stranded in the Pacific at war's end thought we would never get home after hearing the disheartening words of Mr. Patterson — a right nice man, by the way.

BEGINS BLEAKLY . . .

After all, we Stars and Stripes writers figured, if the War Department's No. 1 official knew nothing (comparatively) about speeding men back to civilian life, when would we get home?

So, 1946, you started out in a discouraging way. And, generally speaking, you weren't the best year we Americans have known.

YOU FAILED, 1946 . . .

Yes, 1946, many of us came home during your days. And there were thousands of happy reunions; relieved parents; happy wives. But you failed in lots of other ways, 1946.

Your editorial writers were high in their praise for you. They thought you had great possibilities; thought you were going to bring peace — complete peace, that is, not China, Palestine and Russian troubles; thought you were trying to solve many problems.

But, 1946, you disappointed us. Your record is not good.

Despite reunions, there were more divorces during your days than at any other time.

And juvenile delinquency skyrocketed.

And the Atomic Bomb was a horrible weapon, yes, but you and your unpredictable people weren't too concerned about it.

USHER IN UNNECESSARY STRIKES . . .

You ushered in hundreds of nonsensical, crippling strikes that almost put us back a decade.

You were an odd year, 1946.

Your abilities were unlimited — but you dissipated them into uncreative channels.

You were a year with lots of conferences — and little action.

You were the year directly following the worst year in history — yet a state of emergency existed during your 365 days.

NO HOMES; COCKTAIL LOUNGES . . .

And we, the people living during your time, can be just as ashamed of our record as you should be of yours.

We had plenty of money and time for race tracks, cocktail lounges and other idle spending.

But we had little time and money to build homes for the men who saved our country.

You were a year, 1946, when we couldn't make up our minds whether to be one world or not. We vacillated. We staggered.

We insisted on putting first things last.

No, 1946, you didn't know where you were going — and you didn't seem to care.

You were not a year that saw crowded churches and empty criminal courts.

That's for sure.

SECOND YEAR OF ATOMIC AGE . . .

You were a year, 1946, that the historians should almost write off as a flop.

Yes, you had redeeming factors. Who doesn't?

At times you tried hard to improve — but then there would be speeches and more speeches.

But no action.

And you who claimed the imposing title (or maybe not), "The Second Year of the Atomic Age!"

So, 1946, you're getting ready to leave.

That's okay with us.

We hope 1947 is a saner, finer, brighter year.

It can be.

It must be.

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK . . .

By birth and belief the writer is a confirmed optimist. I know that if we Americans put our minds to it we can be a wonderful nation — spiritually, mentally, morally as well as scientifically; the nation we should and must be if we are to survive.

We must get Christianity into our every living hour.

We must do "right" — and if you don't know what "right" is, then it's time for you to leave this world.

If we think a "good" and "right" future, we'll have it. If we begin trusting more in our Spiritual Leader, and let Him do the planning, there will be harmony in our lives. And harmony brings peace of mind. And peace of mind is what we all need and want. It's up to us. I think we'll be heading towards our goals in 1947.

PARTING THOUGHT . . .

Whether each day of your life shall give happiness or suffering rests with yourself. —George S. Merriam.

John Fowler Completes Course at Purdue U.

John H. Fowler of Ashland Pl., Highland Park, will complete the basic course in life insurance marketing at Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 21. Members of the class will be assigned to field work in their agencies, under university supervision, until April 5, at which time they will return to Purdue campus. The entire course consists of 15 weeks of intensive study at Purdue, alternating with 37 weeks of supervised field work. Fifty-two men are enrolled; another class will start the basic course Jan. 6.

John E. Cairns Based at Norfolk

John E. Cairns, chief machinist's mate, husband of Anne C. Cairns of Vine avenue, Highland Park, is stationed at the naval air station, Norfolk, Va.

Cairns, who entered the naval service Sept. 27, 1917, received recruit training at the U. S. Naval Training center, Gt. Lakes.

Room for 150 Yanks At Yankton College

Uncrowded, normal peace-time living quarters will be provided for 150 veterans who wish to enter Yankton college, at Yankton, S. D., the second semester beginning Jan. 25.

Yankton is a fully accredited, long established senior college with a nationally recognized scholastic standing and is approved by the Veterans Administration. Officials stated that despite a greatly increased enrollment, classroom facilities were adequate to maintain small classes. Construction of a new \$300,000 gymnasium and fieldhouse will begin this month.

In addition to a complete curriculum in liberal arts, the college offers pre-professional training for all major vocations, such as medicine, law, dentistry, nursing, business administration, and many others. Modern dormitories, a conservatory of music, and a strong dramatics department are other features. Enrollment for the term was close to 500. Applications for admission to the second semester are now being accepted.

Nancy Williams Wins Honors at Illinois

URBANA - CHAMPAIGN, ILL. Dec. 22.— Nancy Nelson of Flora Pl., Highland Park, is one of 25 University of Illinois women selected for membership in Terrapin, honorary organization for swimmers.

Membership in Terrapin is based upon skill in swimming and diving tests conducted each year.

Graduates from College

John T. Sloan, Laurel avenue, is among the five graduates of the college of Chicago university who received their bachelor's degrees, last Friday.

To All Our Friends

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1947



GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

- ★ Old days
- ★ Old times
- ★ Old friends

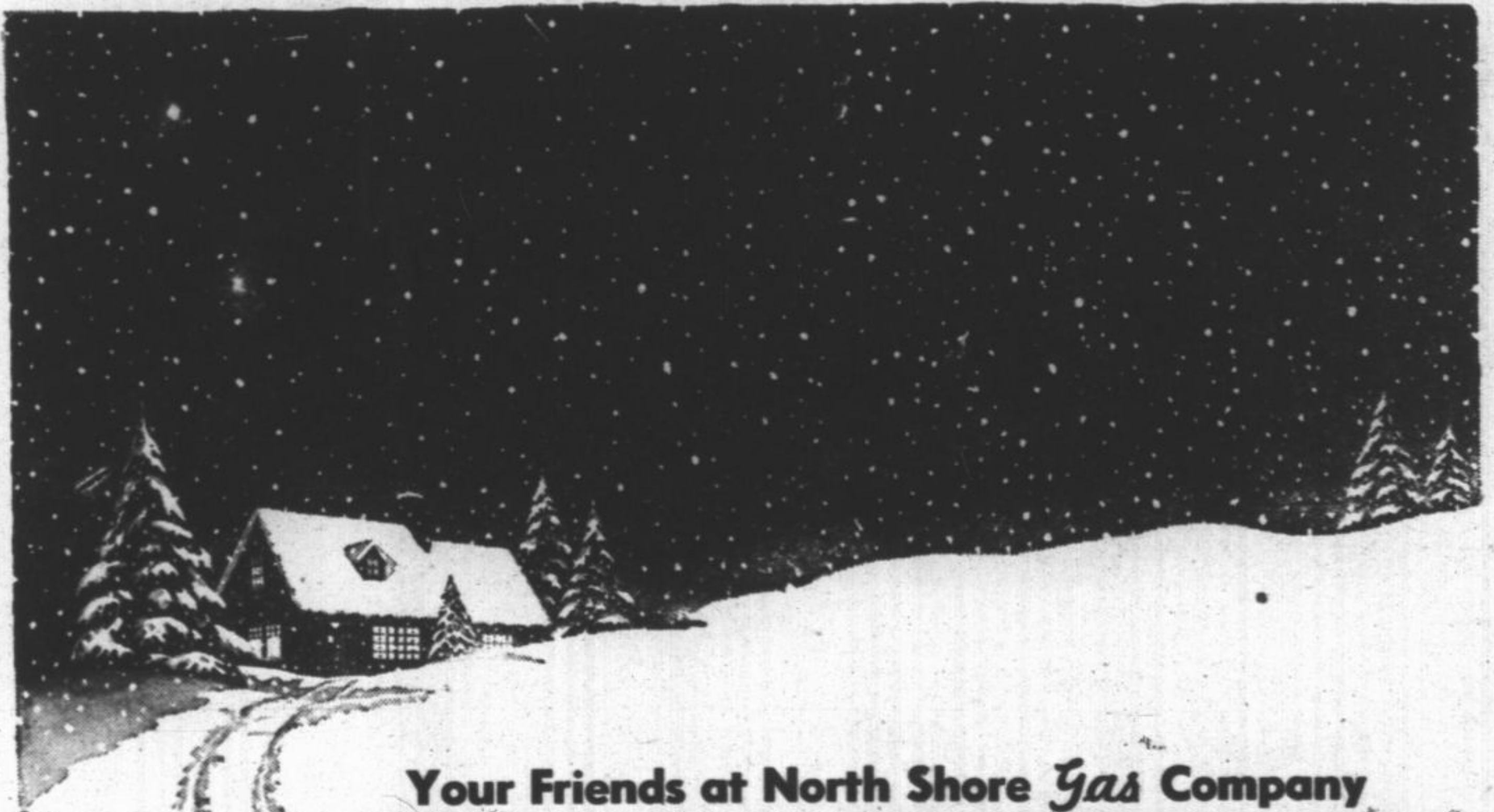
For auld lang syne we bring you this cheery New Year message.

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- EARL STRANGER
- LEE TUVESON
- JOAN VARNEY
- JOHN WILLNER



Welcome the NEW YEAR

Flying in safety after a stormy 12-month journey, 1947 promises to be a big year for all Americans and we extend our heartiest wishes to every one of you for a year filled to the brim with good cheer, prosperity and health.

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