

**CIVILIAN MECHANICS  
BEAT SOLDIER RIVALS**

One of the most interesting features of the Air Circus recently held at Crissey Field, California, was the contest between civilians and soldier mechanics in stripping army cars down to the bare frame and reassembling them.

The cars selected were two Dodge Brothers cars, standard equipment in the U. S. Army, built in 1917. The contest rules allowed ten men on each team, but the winning civilian crew—from the service station of the J. E. French company, the San Francisco Dodge Brothers dealer—numbered only eight men and a foreman.

**Cars Dismantled**

Each crew stripped its car right down to the bare frame. Engine, transmission, clutch, battery box, fuel tank, radiator, front axle, fenders, running board, tires, springs and body were removed.

The civilian crew from the J. E. French Company took the lead from the start, dismantling the car in 16½ minutes.

In reassembling, each crew put in a new engine, new rear axle, new front axle, new fenders and running boards, new tires and new springs. Cotter pins were installed wherever required and lockwashers were used on all other nuts. Inspectors watched each crew to see that every detail was performed in a workmanlike manner. Following the building up, each car was driven across the finish line 200

yards away to demonstrate that it was in running condition. The car of the winning team crossed the line 78 minutes after they started to disassemble it.

**Knowledge and Experience**

"They knew their job and they did it," is the way Fred Ehlers, Jr., service manager for the San Francisco dealer expressed himself.

"The fact that a team made up of men from an approved service station won this test so easily," says C. M. McDonald, local Dodge Brothers dealer, "is a clear demonstration of the advantage to owners of taking their cars to approved service stations."

"It is only natural that skilled workmen with labor saving tools and accustomed to servicing one make of car exclusively can be depended upon to make adjustments and repairs properly in less time than can mechanics outside of the approved service station."

**Combustion Fuel Concern  
Opens Branch in Wilmette**

The Combustion Fuel Oil Burner company of Milwaukee has opened a factory branch office at 1177 Wilmette avenue, Wilmette, in charge of L. L. Torgerson and C. A. Sargent, both factory trained engineers.

Owners of "Combustion" Fuel Oil burners on the north shore from Evanston to Lake Forest will be given service through this branch and contracts for new installation are made through responsible heating contractors in the district.

**Perhaps Little Stars  
Knew About Christmas**

The stars shone brightly overhead. Below, the snow was covering up the hard ground, which did not seem to understand Christmas. It was much too hard for that. It was better that Old King Snow should come along and cover it up, giving the people a white Christmas.

The stars shone down upon a little farm house. It was not a palace. It was not even a beautiful house. But the stars shone very brightly.

Perhaps they knew, bright little stars that they were, that in that house, as in many another house which is neither a palace nor a beautiful residence, there was great happiness and glorious celebrating of the beautiful Christmastide.—Mary Graham Bonner.

(C. 1924, Western Newspaper Union)

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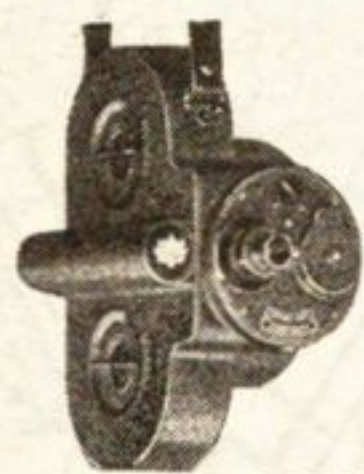
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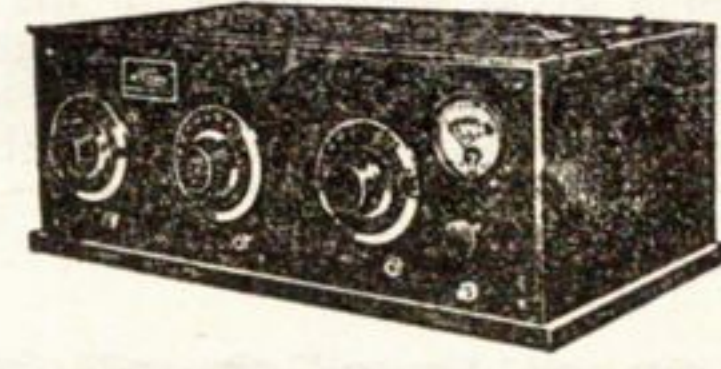
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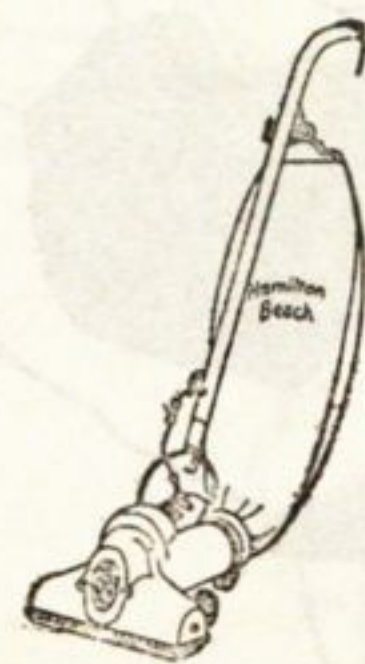
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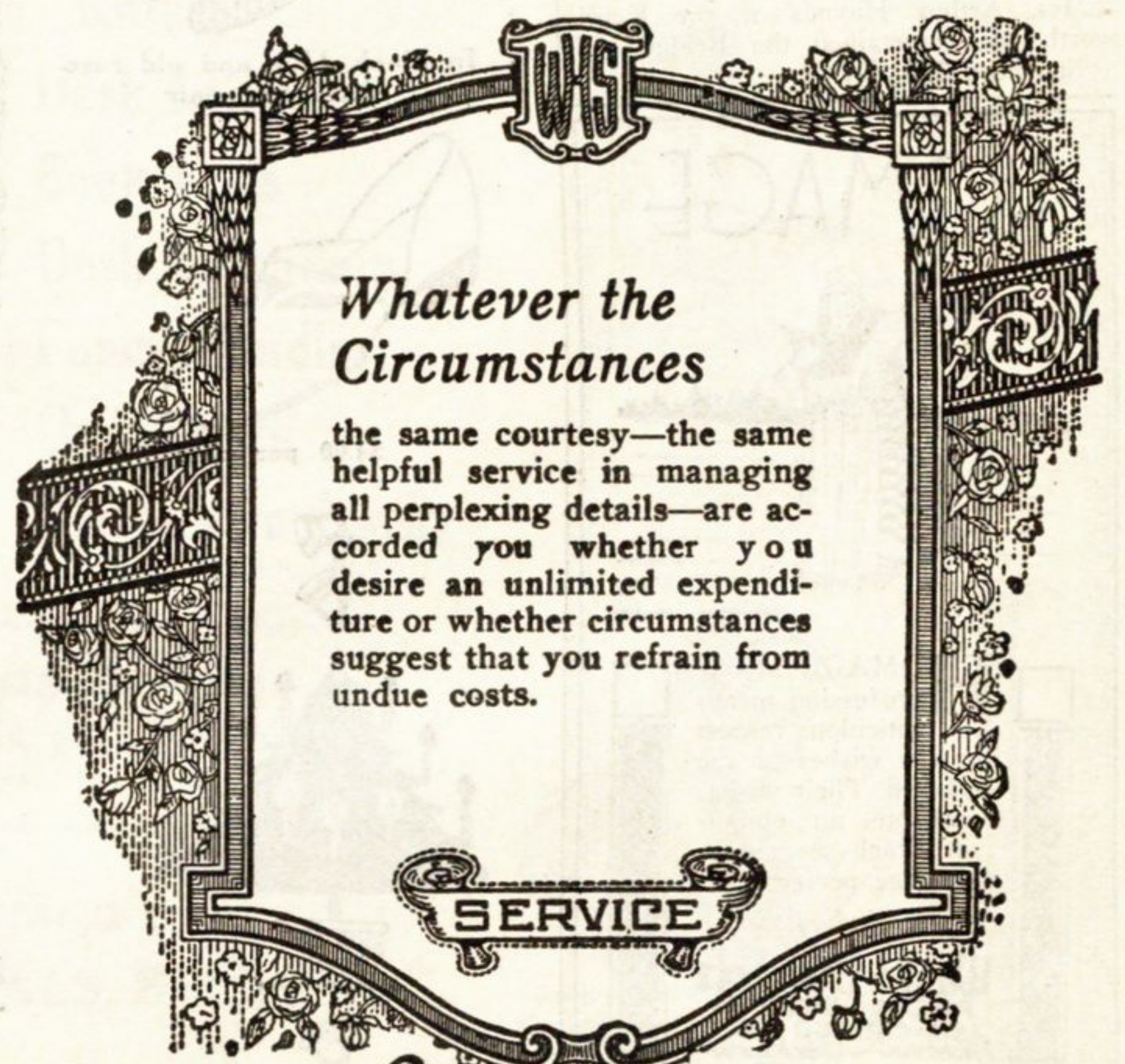
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