



1896



1946

Fiftieth Anniversary

"SERVICE WITH A SMILE"

Postmaster General of the United States



ROBERT E. HANNEGAN

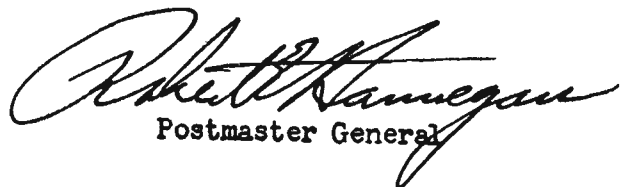
THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT SALUTES THE RURAL SERVICE

As a pioneering project fifty years ago, the Post Office Department sought to bring to rural America the same blessings of postal service enjoyed by urban areas today. In the face of dire predictions as to the outcome of such an experiment, Postmaster General Wilson chose three small villages in Jefferson County, West Virginia, to begin rural free delivery service in the mountainous terrain of his own native state.

With immediate success, the idea spread rapidly until similar routes were established in practically every state in the Union, but the R. F. D. soon found itself in a changing world, where the horse and buggy were to give way to the automobile, the zig-zag trails and unimproved roads destined to become pleasant country lanes.

Gradually the manual tasks of the rural carrier were to grow a little easier, but even though he had conquered the frozen wastes, the tropical swamps, the mountains and the deserts, there still remained the high goal of pleasing the rural people, of maintaining the integrity and steadfastness of purpose traditional with his patrons. The growing problems of the age, even with the advent of modern means of travel, had not lessened, but in fact had intensified his need for consecration.

Through war as well as peace, in good times as well as hard, in all kinds of weather, from the shores of New England to the waters of the Pacific, the good offices of the kindly rural carrier are still greatly needed. In recognition of his contribution to the welfare of America, and fifty years of loyal service, the Post Office Department congratulates the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association on its well earned Golden Jubilee. We salute the rural carriers!



Postmaster General



JESSE M. DONALDSON
First Assistant Postmaster General

Introducing the Four Assistants to the Postmaster General

Although you have seen their pictures on numerous occasions before, throughout the pages of *THE NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER*, and read of their many contributions to the progress and welfare of our Association, on the 50th anniversary of the rural service, in our Golden Jubilee celebration, we would like to present the Assistants to the Postmaster General to you in person.

One of our proudest achievements in the history of the rural service is our friendship with the officials in the Post Office Department. Without their cooperation and endorsement of our aims and goals, we could not hope to progress.

Those entrusted with charting the course of the Post Office Department as it widens out into the future years, are not only continuing our domestic means of communication, but are enlarging our influence among the nations, in our common desire to promote understanding and peace.

In this age of rapid transit and the spanning of great distances so miraculously, the delivery of mail by air influences even the remotest country lanes. It brings our home localities in contact with the nations of the world, who are eagerly awaiting this new, swift means of communication, and who are admittedly looking to America for leadership in improved mail service. We can be glad, indeed, that our Post Office Department merits the faith of all the other nations.

The rural carriers of America look to Washington and the office of the Postmaster General for direction in their course and salute Robert E. Hannegan, Postmaster General of the United States, Jesse M. Donaldson, Gael Sullivan, Joseph E. Lawler, and Walter Myers, the four Assistants of the "General," who maintain the high ideals of our postal service.



GAEL SULLIVAN
Second Assistant Postmaster General



JOSEPH E. LAWLER
Third Assistant Postmaster General



WALTER MYERS
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General

Loyalty

To the Membership of the
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

Some forty-three years ago a group of fine and loyal rural carriers met to form the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. With a clear vision of the future and aware of the need of an organization, they bravely launched out into the unknown and untried. With a deep sense of responsibility for the rural carriers, they established the democratic principles and sound policies of our great Association.

These pioneers placed in the hands of those who followed a beaming torch of loyalty and faithful service. That their efforts shall not have been in vain, we are challenged to keep the torch held high. Thinking not of self, they labored for the creation of an organization which would benefit those who followed them. Their visions became realities, their hopes fulfilled, their labors fruitful. This is proven by the miraculous growth, progress and usefulness of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Most of these men have passed to their reward, but their voices still speak through the Association which they founded. They placed their confidence in the adequacy and permanency of the Association. Their loyalty and devotion is above reproach. Today this same loyalty and devotion, manifested by 32,000 rural carriers, is revealed by the achievements and progress of our organization. True loyalty and sincere devotion have carried us to goals of worthy accomplishments.

Thus, today, the Rural Letter Carriers' Association membership finds itself entrusted with a responsibility to preserve that heritage so nobly established in 1903 by daring men. Today, the membership of our organization is called upon to pledge their devotion and allegiance, in order that the accomplishments and benefits which have come to them shall be available for those who follow. Thus, in a spirit of mutual understanding and sincere desire to progress, we are cemented together and our future is assured.

When the Rural Letter Carriers' Association enters in the life of the carrier, its doctrines, its fellowship, its friendliness, its democratic principles actually become a part of him. He will resist every effort by rival groups to absorb him and destroy all identity as a rural carrier. We are determined to champion and maintain the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. We will exert every effort to pass on to those who follow the benefits and the



B. A. WINQUEST

President, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

blessings which have been ours.

The unmatched record of our Association over the past 43 years is a reassurance to the rural carriers of its security in the future. It was based upon a sound foundation. Its structure was built to withstand storms of strife and attempts to destroy and obliterate.

Our course has been set by those men who loved their fellow carriers, men who placed the welfare of the rural carrier above all else, men who were true and devoted to their group, men who could not succumb to pressure and stimulation from false friends, men who have proved their true loyalty and sincere devotion.

Sound thinking rural carriers will not be stampeded or overwhelmed by statements that our Association cannot continue as an independent organization. It has proven its ability to do that for 43 years. Our membership still believes in the priceless right of free speech, free thought, free initiative and free opportunity. We deeply cherish the privilege of conducting our own conventions and selecting those whom we choose. We do not wish our leaders to be appointed by officials of other organizations. We do not intend to be swallowed up by an organization in which our individuality will be destroyed.

For 43 years we have made notable progress and achieved greatness as the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. To relinquish or surrender the name or any principle of this Association would be a violation and renouncement of the trust and confidence re-

posed in our membership and leadership.

Such action would bring dishonor to our praiseworthy Association. It would deprive the rural carrier of the opportunity to distinguish himself as a member of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Your National Board pledges its sincere loyalty to the 100% membership of our beloved organization. Our 1947 slogan is: **THE NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION MARCHES ON!**

B. A. Winquest, President.

Florida State Board Selects Tampa as Site for 1947 National Convention

Mr. Willard L. Manning, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, informs us that in a recent meeting of the State Board of the Florida Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Tampa, Florida, has been selected as the 1947 National Convention City.

The Florida State Board has already appointed National Convention Committees and their enthusiastic efforts assure the Rural Carriers of America that they will be heartily welcomed, royally entertained, and adequately housed. Here is the opportunity for a grand vacation in "The Land of the Sunshine."

Golden Jubilee Edition

This edition of **THE NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER** includes the proceedings of the national convention for both the Association and the Auxiliary, as well as a section devoted to the Juniors. With its historical account of the birthplace of the R.F.D., its pictures of scenes at the Golden Jubilee convention, its tribute to rural carriers who served our country in the past war, and its homage to those who have contributed forty years or more to the rural service, this unusual document becomes your memento of the 50th Anniversary.

It has required months to gather the material. The magnitude of the work involved in the printing and binding alone is impressive. That it required 152 pages to do justice to the 50 years of R.F.D. serves to prove the importance of that branch of the postal service. This is your book on the Golden Jubilee. Treasure it. Keep it!

The National Rural Letter Carrier

Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 4, 1928, at Post Office at Washington, D. C., under Act of March 3, 1879. A weekly for the 32,049 Rural Letter Carriers; temporary, substitute and retired carriers; the Juniors and Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

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The purpose of The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and its Official Organ is to improve the methods used by the rural mail carriers, to co-operate with the Post Office Department and the public for the good of the service, to promote a fraternal spirit among the members of the Association, and to benefit their conditions of labor.



Harris and Ewing

GWENDOLYN M. AABERG

A New Book,

Entitled

"The R. F. D."

Commemorates

50th Anniversary

of

Rural Service

Weekly Bible Quotation: "And he spake a parable unto them to the end that men ought always to pray and not to faint."—Luke 18:1.



Golden Jubilee Cachet Stamps

After considerable study as to the most appropriate design for the 50th Anniversary cachet stamps, it was decided that the horse-drawn mail cart was the most typical of the early days of the R. F. D.

In its oval-shaped frame, printed in red and blue, it made an attractive decoration for any envelope, for personal or business use. Some 257,000 of the stamps were sold, as fast as orders could be filled, as well as about 100,000 envelopes, featuring the cachet design.

As in ancient times, the approach of the king was announced by the runners who proclaimed the news in advance, so the arrival of the Golden Jubilee was heralded by the publishing of these meaningful little stamps, foretelling a worthy event, the Golden Jubilee of the R. F. D.

With the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of rural free delivery of the mail, there was released a new book, known as "The R. F. D.", by Gwendolyn M. Aaberg. As indicated by its name, the author outlines the history of the "post office on wheels" from its origin on October 1, 1896 in three small villages in West Virginia, down through five decades of achievement.

A reader from Mason City, Iowa, imagined the book would be "rather dry reading, about a very ordinary activity, but on the contrary found it quite lively, reflecting the great interest of the author, and WHAT interest!"

How the experiment began in a modest way, but from the very first succeeded; how the carriers met in Chicago in 1903 to hold their first convention, at a great personal sacrifice, on their salaries of \$50 a month; how they battled the dirt roads, extreme weather, lack of privileges and other obstacles makes a tale of lasting interest. There is no other branch of the postal service which is more a part of the saga of America than the R. F. D., and the stories of the heroes of its early days reflect the pioneering spirit of our nation.

In spite of their troubles, they wrote little poems about their adventures, delivered the bulky seed catalogs, the baby chicks and the boxholder mail, struggled with pennies in the box, and sometimes had strange encounters with animals along the way, from the horse and buggy days down to the present time.

From the days of talking machines, Kalamazoo ranges and parlor organs, to the era of modern improvements as we know them today, the R. F. D. continued to grow. The mail carts and buggies, with their charcoal heaters, their fur lap robes and other paraphernalia, gave way to the horseless carriage and the modern streamlined car, yet rural free delivery remained essentially the same, with its motto, "Service with a Smile." During two World Wars, when the going was particularly hard for them, the rural carriers proved of invaluable help to America.

"For 50 years," writes Postmaster General Hannegan in the Foreword, "devoted men and women of the rural mail service have done the job, in fidelity to our principle—'The Mail Must Go Through.' It is these devoted public servants who deserve the praise and the plaudits, as Americans in 1946 observe the golden anniversary of rural free delivery."

Charles Town, Home of the R.F.D.

by

Gwendolyn M. Aaberg

While today the rural postman glides down the country lanes in a motor car, in yesteryears the trip was made by horseback, a buggy or two-wheeled cart. The pioneers who braved those early days of the rural service, over rough, dirt roads and winding trails, knew adventure, indeed, and met with many an obstacle that does not even exist today.

In the fifty years since the establishment of rural free delivery of the mail on October 1, 1896, in three small villages in West Virginia, it has spread from its modest beginnings to all 48 states, as well as Hawaii. Today, according to the official report of the Post Office Department on June 30, 1946, rural carriers travel the amazing distance of 1,441,538 miles a day, and serve at least 29,641,772 patrons along America's country lanes.

As you might imagine, in the early years rural service was not organized as it is now, and each day's travel presented an array of serious problems, challenging the carrier. Instead of the uniform type of mail boxes we expect to be neatly arranged along the right side of the road today, they were likely to be any kind of a contraption, varying from a cigar box to a lard pail, placed at uncertain points on either side of the road, so that delivering the rural mail was always inconvenient and sometimes even hazardous.

Harry C. Gibson, who claimed to be America's first rural carrier, counted 63 farm gates that he had to open and close on one day's work on the route. Sometimes he met with unfriendly animals, and on one occasion was savagely attacked by a dog belonging to one of his patrons.

But, fifty years ago, delivering the mail was something of a novelty, and, as today, it was an honor, too. Not one of

the carriers would have flinched from his duty, regardless of what it entailed, for it was a distinction to be appointed to serve the route. Unlike the system we have today, they were chosen in a rather personal manner by Captain Flagg, then the postmaster at Charles Town.

Around a table at the dignified Rouss Memorial Hall, on September 17, 1896, gathered a group of the prominent citizens of Charles Town, including Captain Flagg, as well as Colonel Thos. G. Marche, Chief Clerk of the Free Delivery System of the Post Office Department in Washington, to arrange the details for the first rural routes in the history of America. Had roll call been taken, the room would have resounded with such historic names as those of Colonel H. B. Davenport, Samuel J. Boyd, S. Howell Brown, both Robert and Colonel R. P. Chew, Gustav Brown, George W. Haines, Colonel John T. Gibson and George W. Washington, from typical families in the vicinity of Charles Town.

With due ceremony, when the recommendations of Postmaster General Wilson had been presented, and orders were read creating five rural routes in that neighborhood, Captain Flagg was asked to choose the men to serve as the first rural carriers, three for Charles Town, and one each for Halltown and Uvilla.

On route No. 1, Charles Town, he assigned Harry C. Gibson, who, from boyhood had been interested in the delivery of mail and had, in fact, been serving the families in that community without pay during parts of the two months just previous, in an effort to realize his dream of rural service for Jefferson County. On route No. 2, the postmaster placed Frank Young, and on route No. 3, John W. Lucas.

T. Keyes Strider was selected for the route at Halltown, while Melvin T. Strider was picked for Uvilla, although at the time he was so young that, in order to comply with the regulations he was obliged to serve a week without pay, until he reached his sixteenth birthday!

Even though the five appointees all started out on the same day, October 1, 1896, and the records at the Post Office Department credit them all alike, Mr. Gibson always claimed that he was the first rural carrier because he had begun a few weeks prior to the actual authorization of the R. F. D.

America's First Rural Carrier

Like many another boy of his time, back in the 1880's, Harry C. Gibson trudged slowly along the country road twice every week to get the mail at the post office at Charles Town. For various youthful reasons he didn't like to go, and with an eye for the practical, even at that early age, imagined what a boon it would be to his local community, and especially to himself, if there could be rural delivery of the mail.

He had never traveled far, but like his parents, John W. and Mary Trussell Gibson, seemed quite content with Charles Town, and spent his entire life in Jefferson County, although one day in 1896 young Mr. Gibson did make a trip to the "big city" of Washington on business, and chanced to notice a fellow with a curious looking leather pouch on his shoulder. At first Mr. Gibson supposed the man to be passing out samples, although later on he learned it was a city letter carrier!



Rouss Memorial Hall, where the First Carriers Were Appointed.



Fitzpatrick Studios

"Happy Retreat" or "Mordington," home of Charles Washington.

Greatly interested in postal matters in general, while in the capital city, Mr. Gibson made bold to visit the Postmaster General, also of West Virginia, and while in Mr. Wilson's office unfolded his dream of rural mail service for his home community. Mr. Wilson was noncommittal, although he listened attentively and later, on a visit to his native state, looked Mr. Gibson up for the purpose of inquiring about how many rural families could be served on one day's travel.

With this encouragement, but without any commission, during parts of August and September of 1896, Mr. Gibson experimented by visiting all the homes he could in one given day. His manner was so pleasant, and the idea of rural delivery as he presented it seemed so feasible, that the would-be patrons were greatly pleased. Before long they were asking him to bring their mail if he came along that way again, or sending their letters with him for posting. A few even wanted him to take funds to the post office to send money orders.

Prior to Mr. Gibson's unofficial experiment, several appropriations had been made by Congress, totaling \$40,000 in all, for the purpose of trying out the idea of rural free delivery of the mail. A few years before, Postmaster General Wanamaker had made a study of the plan, and included his findings in his annual report for 1891. Although as yet there had been no official authorization, there was a growing demand for such a service. The money was then in the treasury waiting to be used, by late summer of 1896. Mr. Wilson had watched the Gibson experiment with no little interest, and, all things considered, it was not surprising that as a result, orders were issued for the establishment of the five rural routes in Jefferson County.

During the first nine months after rural service was established in West Virginia, it spread to 82 routes, operated from 43 post offices in 29 states, and despite many serious obstacles it continued to grow until on June 30, 1946, there were 32,197 routes served. In 1925 it had reached the all-time high of 45,189 routes. Today we learn that the newest branch of the rural service is likely to be started in Puerto Rico, where several routes are contemplated on the island.

Each of the original five carriers averaged about 20 miles a day on horseback, and was to receive a yearly salary of \$200. At the end of the first month of rural service, Postmaster Flagg made out a report showing the extent of the delivery of mail from the Charles Town post office, which revealed that the three carriers had served 87 families, with a total of 2,226 pieces of mail, consisting of 1,167 letters and cards, plus 1,059 newspapers and packages.

The First Home of the R. F. D.

In choosing Jefferson County for the birthplace of rural service, Postmaster General Wilson selected a scene of colonial dignity in keeping with American tradition. A West Virginian, himself, he was, of course, well acquainted with the history and background of his state, and knew that it possessed great lasting qualities. Indeed, down through the years, it has changed but little, and few places have managed to keep more of their original charm.

Charles Town, especially, has always retained the quiet even tenor of its way, living up to the high ideals of its founder, Charles Washington, the youngest brother of General George Washington. The people of Jefferson County were, for the most part descendants of aristocratic Tidewater families of Virginia, of noble lineage of England. Later had come Germans, Scots and Irish, all of whom had a valiant record in war as well as in peace. Jefferson county had played an important role both in the War of 1812 and in the Civil War.

It even had connections with the history of the American Revolution, for in 1770 Charles Washington had secured a grant of land in territory then known as Virginia, for the purpose of founding a home when times permitted. Later on he had it surveyed, platted and named after himself. He kept a watchful eye on the general design of the village, centered around the beautiful site of his colonial mansion called Happy Retreat, but now known as Mordington. The Washingtons made a strong impression on the growth of the community, and encouraged education in the rugged terrain of what we now call West Virginia.

As early as 1787 there was established the Charles Town Academy for Boys, which continued to offer instruction in classical subjects of Latin and Greek until in 1905. In addition there was also a seminary for girls, so that Charles Town was, indeed, a center of learning of the day, and it has always remained a purely residential community, refusing to become commercialized, even down to the present. Curiously enough, for many years its main industrial centers were its two old grist mills!

It was near Charles Town, at Harewood, the impressive home of Colonel Samuel Washington that, according to the account given in the *Writer's Program for West Virginia*, Dorothy Payne Todd "plighted her troth to a stout little bookworm, James Madison," who later became the fourth President of the United States.

It was reported that the famous "Light Horse Harry" rode to the wedding on one of his favorite horses. Many other celebrities were present, and there was considerable gaiety when some of the guests cut off most of the ruffles from



Courtesy of Public Roads Administration

The Shenandoah River.

James Madison's attire, to save for souvenirs of the occasion. Because "Dolly" and her sister Lucy had both married outside the Quaker church, they were finally dismissed from the Society of Friends, but Dolly remained a vivacious character, credited with having introduced the first of the inaugural balls at the White House.

In addition to its social importance, however, Jefferson County had witnessed other events of great moment. There was, for example, the conviction of the abolitionist, John Brown, after his trial for treason in the county court house at Charles Town. At the head of 17 white men and 5 blacks, he had captured the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, at the junction where the Shenandoah River merged with the Potomac. He was seized by the militiamen and executed in 1859, and down through history has come the song, "John Brown's Body," by the composer Steffe.

During the Civil War, Charles Town was besieged on every side, and among other buildings, Market Hall was burned to the ground. Later it was rebuilt, named for Charles Washington, and for a time served as the post office at Charles Town. It was at this two-story brick edifice which had been painted gray and was now known as Charles Washington Hall, that, fifty years ago, on the morning of October 1, 1896, the first rural carriers reported to receive their orders for the day from the local postmaster, Captain Flagg.

From early times every large estate prided itself on raising fine horses. Indeed, racing was considered a very genteel pastime, but after the war it became a business, so that today, in much the same manner of Louisville, Kentucky, with its Derby, Charles Town is noted for its spectacular racing events several times a year.

In the fertile farmlands it was found that, among other crops, apples grew abundantly, and became one of the principal kinds of produce, so that today from the "mountain state" come choice apples, many of which are exported. In addition, from the processing plants originate a score of apple products, amounting to a large volume of business.

Both of the Virginias were well endowed by Nature with scenic caves. In West Virginia, about forty years ago, an underground and mirror-like body of water was discovered at Charles Town. It was later developed and known as the "Lakeland Caverns," although it is not open to the public today.

Any month from April through October finds the region of the Shenandoah with many wildflowers in bloom. There are likewise numerous hardwood trees, so that in the autumn it is fairly ablaze with all shades of gold, russet and crimson, contrasting vividly with the green of the conifers.



Courtesy of Public Roads Administration

Alleghany Front, elevation 2725 feet, West Virginia.



Fitzpatrick Studios

MELVIN T. STRIDER

Charles Town, W. Va.

One of the first five rural carriers.

Tribute to West Virginia

Probably none of the rural carriers starting out from those five original routes that day in 1896 actually realized at the time how eventful the occasion was, or that fifty years hence the scene of their faithful labors would be considered something of a shrine for America's thousands of visitors, but such are the curious turns of history.

In 1932 a ceremony was held in Charles Town in honor of the development of the rural delivery system, which had expanded in its 36 years up to that time, from the original five rural carriers to a total of 41,000, serving every state, as well as one of the territories. In the presence of several hundred people, the Jefferson County Historical Society erected a bronze plaque on the grounds of the new post office (the location of the old county court house), commemorating the founding of the R. F. D., and conceded first place to Mr. Gibson, who was present at the ceremony, and unveiled the monument, himself.

He had spent his entire life in Jefferson County, and died at his home at Wheatland, three miles south of Charles Town, on April 19, 1938. He would have been 66 years of age had he lived until June of that year. Mr. Gibson served as rural carrier until the time came when the automobile took the place of the horse and buggy, twenty-one years previously.

Present and also honored at the ceremony in 1932, were Melvin T. Strider, who had started carrying the mail officially on the same day as Mr. Gibson, and the former Postmaster General, Wm. L. Wilson, a native of Middleway.

In 1946, the Golden Jubilee year of the rural service, the Post Office Department authorized a special cancellation to be applied to covers at the post offices of Charles Town and Halltown, in West Virginia, from August 13 to October 1, as well as at Des Moines, Iowa, where the rural carriers held their 42nd national convention. A special cachet, featuring a historic horse-drawn cart, and reading

1896-1946

Fiftieth Anniversary

Rural Free Delivery Inaugurated

West Virginia, Oct. 1, 1896

spread the news throughout the nation that this was the Golden Jubilee for the R. F. D.

At the national convention in Des Moines, Congressman Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, recommended, and a resolution was adopted, authorizing the erection of a marker on the grave of Harry C. Gibson, the first rural carrier, at Charles Town. A special committee, consisting of

Congressman Jennings Randolph, Chairman

Rural Carrier John J. Eby, and

Postmaster Perry Thornton

was appointed to carry out the details of the memorial ceremony.

Also, at the Des Moines convention, tribute was paid to Melvin T. Strider, the only living carrier who began serving the route on October 1, 1896, and who today resides in Charles Town. The carriers voted to send him a floral tribute, as an expression of their pride in his record.

"Service with a Smile"

The fifty years of R. F. D. have witnessed many changes in our economic and social life, from the horse and buggy days to the age of the motor car, from the era of kerosene lamps to that of electric lights and all the other conveniences of modern living. The rural carriers, meanwhile, have blazed the way through drifts with tractors or snow cars; covered the snow banks with skis, or delivered the mail with boats in case of floods. They have taken their problems courageously. Sometimes as they journeyed over the hills or across the prairies they made homespun rhymes to laugh away their troubles, as they reflected philosophically on the day's adventures.

They were helpful to their patrons in matters of business, farming, gardening, hobbies, arts and crafts. They ran errands of mercy, befriended the needy and the sick. They performed the seasonal business of delivering seed catalogs, with their brilliant illustrations, early in the spring, and rendered countless other services that have gradually become almost a part of the R. F. D. Down through the years the essential nature of the rural service has changed but little, and probably never will, for the heart and soul of the carrier's job is well summarized in the national slogan, "Service with a Smile."—With acknowledgments to *A History of Jefferson County, West Virginia*, by Mildred K. Bushong.

Memorial Service, Charles Town, West Virginia

October 1, 1946 was ushered in with a chill and piercing wind, that rapidly heightened the color of the autumn leaves on the mountain sides of West Virginia, as groups of rural carriers from all the neighboring states made their way to Charles Town, in Jefferson County, to commemorate the establishment of rural service there just fifty years before. Amid the celebration throughout the country for a number of months, many rural carrier families had wanted to visit the historic scene, where the R. F. D. was born, so when Congressman Jennings Randolph of West Virginia suggested at the national convention in Des Moines that it would be highly appropriate to erect a marker at the grave of Harry C. Gibson, first rural carrier, the plan was immediately adopted by the Association.

With Congressman Jennings Randolph as chairman of the arrangements committee, assisted by John J. Eby, rural carrier at Charles Town, and Postmaster Thornton T. Perry, Jr., a very appropriate memorial service was planned for October 1st, to honor Melvin T. Strider, the only one of the first rural carriers now living, and to erect a monument at the grave of Harry C. Gibson, who is credited with being the very first rural carrier at Charles Town, West Virginia, since he began his duties a few weeks prior to the actual inauguration of the R. F. D.

The news of the historic event spread rapidly by means of radio, telephone and the press, so that rural carriers within driving distance (actually from 13 states), and about 200 in all, arrived in due time for the ceremonies. In addition, there were postmasters, editors of newspapers, and others interested in paying tribute to the rural service.

At the luncheon at the Jefferson Hotel, Melvin T. Strider, as the guest of honor, told of the amazing problems he faced when he started out, fifty years ago, to serve his 20-mile route on a bicycle. On one day's travel he had to open and

shut 63 farm gates!

"Chick" Garney, who served as clerk in the post office in 1896, told of how he helped the first rural carriers in making their initial trips.

Likewise honored at the luncheon were Mr. "Bud" Gibson, brother, and Miss Estelle Gibson, sister of the first rural carrier, as well as Wm. L. Wilson, Jr., nephew of Postmaster General Wilson, who established the rural free delivery service in West Virginia.

After the luncheon the group made its way to a little cemetery, where at 3:00 P. M., a memorial service was held at the grave of Harry C. Gibson. After the Invocation there was group singing of "Onward, Christian Soldiers." There were words of praise, reminiscent of the heroic struggles of the pioneers. There were acknowledgments of the responsibilities of those now entrusted with the task of maintaining the rural service, and finally there were the quiet, earnest words of President Winquest, followed by the unveiling of the monument, bearing the inscription:

Harry C. Gibson
June 8, 1876
April 19, 1938
Carried First Rural Mail
in the United States
Oct. 1, 1896

Then came the benediction.

Thornton T. Perry, Jr., Postmaster at Charles Town, was master of ceremonies for the day. Thos. G. Walters, Past President of the Association, introduced the speakers, and B. A. Winquest, President of the National Rural Letters Carriers' Association, presented the monument.

Because of the chilling wind, a few watched the ceremonies from nearby cars, while the little group gathered around the grave of Harry C. Gibson listened with rapt attention to the address of First Assistant Postmaster General Donaldson, who gave a clear account of the growth of rural service, starting with the pioneering days of the carriers.

Congressman Jennings Randolph spoke eloquently of West Virginia's importance in postal affairs, of the great contribution of rural free delivery to America's welfare, and of its obligations in the future.

It was very regrettable that one of the speakers, Senator Thos. G. Burch, former Chairman of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, was unable to be present.

In the midst of a busy, modern world, a group of earnest people had paused to pay tribute to one of America's finest achievements. They had come from far and near to honor Melvin T. Strider, the only living member of the first rural carriers, and Harry C. Gibson, now a part of history. For all those present it was a profound experience, for, looking backward, they could relive the days of the early carriers, while viewing the future from this important milestone, they could envision the years to come. Essentially, rural service would always be the same, but strengthened and ennobled by its inspiring observance of its 50th anniversary.

"The Post Office Department, in its ceaseless labors pervades every channel of commerce and every theatre of human enterprise, and, while visiting, as it does kindly, every fireside, mingles with the throbbings of almost every heart in the land. In the amplitude of its beneficence, it ministers to all claims, and creeds and pursuits, with the same eager readiness and with equal fulness of fidelity. It is the delicate trump through which alike nations and families and isolated individuals whisper their joys and their sorrows, their convictions and their sympathies, to all who listen for their coming."—Inscription on the main Post Office Department Building, Washington, D. C.

What the Associated Press Said About the Golden Jubilee

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—It was on Oct. 1, 1896 that the first experimental rural free delivery mail service was established, in three West Virginia communities.

Now 29,641,772 persons are served by 32,126 rural mail carriers. The carriers travel 435,209,975 miles a year.

Today no one questions the value of R. F. D. But in the 90's violent opposition arose to the proposal to deliver mail free of charge to rural communities.

Opponents in and out of Congress talked of bad roads, of cost, of money being spent for the benefit of just one class. Only after a long fight did Congress consent to appropriate a small sum for the first experiment.

Postmaster General Hannegan says "the success of the experiment went far beyond the dreams of the early advocates of rural free delivery, for the new service did more than offer convenience."

In a foreword to Mrs. G. M. Aaberg's book, "The R. F. D." official golden jubilee book of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Hannegan adds:

"Amazingly, rural free delivery bound farmer to city dweller and shattered the isolation which had been threatening healthy American rural life. It opened and set in motion a flourishing new commerce. It proved an extraordinary force in unifying the nation."

Actually the idea of rural delivery was not new. England had introduced it earlier. But Hannegan notes that "no precedent existed for the gigantic task undertaken in America, for here the problem was to span a continent from ocean to ocean, to conquer mountains and deserts, frozen wastes and tropical swamps."

The groundwork was laid in 1891, when Postmaster General Wanamaker in his annual report made the first official suggestion.

Rep. O'Donnell of Michigan on Jan. 5, 1892, introduced the first bill in Congress to set up the service. It carried an appropriation of \$6,000,000 but failed to pass.

Finally Congress on March 3, 1893, passed a bill proposed by Rep. Watson of Georgia. It set aside \$10,000 for experimental rural delivery. The postmaster general considered this sum inadequate to introduce the service. So on July 6, 1894, another \$20,000 was made available, and the further sum of \$10,000 on June 9, 1896.



WILLIAM L. WILSON
Postmaster General in 1896.

The first experimental service was set up in West Virginia. Three routes operated out of Charles Town, one out of Hamilton and another out of Uville. They averaged about 20 miles. Each of the five carriers was paid \$200 a year.

82 Routes In Year

By 1897 there were 82 rural routes, covering 1,843 miles at an annual cost

of \$14,840. On Sept. 1, 1946, there were 32,197 routes with a total mileage of 1,441,438. Rural delivery cost \$107,-046,080 for the 12 months ending June 30, 1945.

The first complete county rural service was established Dec. 20, 1899, in Carroll County, Md., the Post Office Department says. Latest available figures show that 1,583 of the nation's 3,070 counties have R. F. D. service.

Rural routes vary in length from six to nearly 100 miles. The longest is 99.80 miles out of Edinburg, Texas. The average length is 44 miles.

Many present day rural carriers zip along in automobiles, but in early days carriers had rough times. Many had to have charcoal heaters to ward off wintry blasts and specially designed buggies with enclosed fronts.

In "The R. F. D." Mrs. Aaberg recalls that the earliest rural carriers wore navy blue uniforms with specially designed, vizored cap. Later Congress approved a bluish gray which would not show dirt so easily. Finally the carriers abandoned the uniform idea and wore whatever was best suited to the climate in their areas.

"The R. F. D." also recalls some of the carriers' early tribulations. One was money. Another was roads.



Photo by Fitzpatrick Studios

Oct. 1, 1946. Standing in front of the post office at Charles Town, West Virginia. From left to right: Mr. John J. Eby, Mr. Thornton T. Perry, Congressman Jennings Randolph, Mr. Melvin T. Strider, Miss Estelle Gibson, Mr. Jesse M. Donaldson, First Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. William L. Wilson, and Mr. B. A. Winquest, President, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Rural Mail Delivery Extension of Remarks of Hon. Melvin Price of Illinois

In the House of Representatives,
Monday, July 8, 1946
(From the *Congressional Record*—
Appendix)

Mr. PRICE of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the rural free delivery branch of the United States postal service this year observes its golden jubilee.

No service of the Government comes closer to the lives of millions of our citizens than rural-mail delivery. We have been so accustomed to it in the recent years that we give little thought to the fact that, although a half century old, it is a comparatively new service. Many are the early settlers in areas throughout our Nation who can recall the days when they were without this important service.

The rural mail carrier is possibly the most popular of all Government employees. He knows everyone on his route by their first name. It is a pleasant job and one in which the carrier feels with great satisfaction the important work he is performing.

Former Congressman Edwin M. Schaefer, of the Twenty-second Illinois District, was always greatly interested in extending the benefits of rural-mail delivery to more and more families in
(Continued on page 21)



Photo by Fitzpatrick Studios

Unveiling the Monument. From left to right: Congressman Jennings Radolph, Mr. "Bud" Gibson, Miss Estelle Gibson, Mr. B. A. Winkquest, President of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Mr. Melvin T. Strider, Mr. Thornton T. Perry, Jr., and Mr. Jesse M. Donaldson, First Assistant Postmaster General.

Salary Low in 1902

In 1902 the rural carrier's salary was \$50 a month. In 1915 the pay of a carrier serving a route 24 miles or over, six days a week, was only \$1,200 a year.

Those early carriers were so short of funds, Mrs. Aaberg reports, that in 1903 only 14 of 15,000 carriers promised to attend the first R. F. D. carriers' convention. But it was held, and about 90 showed up.

According to "The R. F. D." the delegates as their third resolution recommended:

That the R. F. D. News (a weekly magazine) be requested to change its heading, "which now shows a mail wagon drawn by one horse, to a wagon drawn by two horses, as one horse is not sufficient to draw a covered mail wagon."

The editor carried out the suggestion.

In the early 1900's roads often became impassable in muddy weather. Some carriers, says "The R. F. D." experimented by using bicycles. In 1906 the postmaster general authorized the use of cars, and by 1908 the motorcycle was being advertised for use by carriers.

* * *

As long as there are postmen, life will have zest.—William James.

Today the rural carrier is a post office on wheels. He furnishes his patrons the same services offered by a post office. He also obtains livestock statistical reports for the Agriculture Department.



Photo by Fitzpatrick Studios

Memorial to Harry C. Gibson, First Rural Carrier. Erected at Charles Town, West Virginia, October 1, 1946, by the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.



"A Pioneer Carrier"

Golden Jubilee

By Ralph H. Littick, Editor, *The Ohio Rural Carrier*, Adamsville, Ohio.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

A half a hundred years ago
Around the countryside
The first rural carrier
With his letter bag did ride.
He would drive a two-wheel cart,
Sometimes an open sleigh,
Sometimes he rode the horse's back,
I've heard my grandad say.
And if the roads were very bad,
Or drifted high with snow,
He'd take his letters on his back,
And go by heel and toe.

The pay was poor, the going hard;
His toes were often cold.
It was a job, back in those days,
That made a young man old.
We do not pause today
Cruel hardships to recall;
But progress to celebrate,
And to give thanks for it all—
Fifty years of progress,
In things, to us, worth while;
Fifty years of giving,
GRAND SERVICE WITH A
SMILE!

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America and to the
Republic for which it stands, one Nation,
indivisible, with liberty and justice
for all.

BE YOUR OWN BARBER

One hair cut saved pays for Safe-T Trimmer. Adjusting comb-blade combination easily cuts hair any length. Neatly trims back of neck. Removes hair from legs or arms. Send 75c today for Safe-T Hair Trimmer. Simple directions furnished. Satisfaction guaranteed.



SAFE-T Trim Company

Dept. C

39 East Delavan Ave., Buffalo 8, N.Y.



Successful Farming presents bronze plaque to B. A. Winquest, President, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. From left to right: Mr. Kirk Fox, Editor, *Successful Farming*, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Everett Mitchell, Farm Director, Radio Station WMAQ, Chicago, Illinois; Mr. B. A. Winquest, President, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Washington, D. C.

R. F. D. Broadcast on the Farm and Home Hour

It was "a beautiful day in Chicago," we heard as usual over the NBC network on Saturday, September 28, at the beginning of the National Farm and Home Hour, featuring the special observance of the 50th anniversary of rural delivery of the mail.

Under the sponsorship of *Successful Farming*, it was arranged for B. A. Winquest, newly elected President of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, to come to Chicago to receive an award as the representative of all the nation's rural letter carriers. Over the air waves came a short history of the R.F.D., with a tribute to the thousands of friendly rural carriers who, rain or shine, carry mail—the letters, papers, magazines, and packages—to the nearly 8 million farm families along Rural Free Delivery routes in the United States today. Then came the voice of Mr. Winquest, gratefully accepting the beautiful bronze plaque, which bears the inscription:

"Awarded to the N.R.L.C.A. by *Successful Farming* Magazine in honor of the thousands of friendly rural carriers who, rain or shine, carry the mail to 8,000,000 families in the U. S. The 50th Anniversary of Rural Free Delivery. October 1, 1946."

In an accompanying article in the October issue dedicated to the rural service, *Successful Farming* asserts that they have a very special interest in the R.F.D., since more than 85 per cent of their subscribers live on rural routes, As a typical rural carrier, featured

prominently on the cover page, they chose Harold Lynn VanVoorhis, of Dallas County, Iowa, as he delivered the morning's mail to a little girl in a colorful sweater and bright red skirt, standing in front of a rural mail box. The little girl was Sandra Jacoba, one of the patrons on Mr. VanVoorhis' 38-mile route, as you will discover from reading the illustrated article, beginning on page 6 of the October edition of *Successful Farming*.

The mailman is as typically American as the newspaper he sticks in the mailboxes every day. Although he's just the *mailman* by name, he is, nevertheless, the watchword in every rural community.

"He has done a full share in breaking the isolation of country living," the article further states. "Even before the widespread use of the telephone and the coming of the radio, the rural letter carrier was reaching out daily from town and city post offices, carrying the news far out in the country with a service equal to urban areas."

In its observance of the 50th anniversary or Golden Jubilee of the R.F.D., it was very fitting that the voice of the rural carriers should be heard over radio, as well as throughout the press. To have the opportunity to tell something of their fifty years of achievement, and to be honored publicly on a nationwide hookup was in itself proof of the great contribution of rural carriers, and of the *National Rural Letter Carriers' Association*, to our American life.

Hon. Melvin Price

(Continued from page 10)

his district. As his secretary, it was my pleasure to assist Congressman Shaefer in this work. As a result there have been several thousand families added to the rural delivery service in St. Clair, Bond, Madison, Washington, and Monroe Counties in the past 10 years.

Since I began my service as Congressman last year I have had the opportunity to resume my interest in the rural-mail service. In the past 2 years I have worked to further extend this service to more families and have been successful in adding considerable coverage throughout the five counties in our district. At the present time I have petitioned for several extensions of routes and I am hopeful that within a reasonable time my recommendations will be approved.

I believe the people living in the rural areas of our country are entitled to this service and I, as a Member of Congress, will exert every effort to foster continued improvement in the operations of rural-mail delivery. In my own district I will not cease my efforts until I am assured that every family in the rural areas have adequate mail service.

Under leave to do so, Mr. Speaker, I include with my remarks a very fine editorial which appeared in the Belleville, Ill., *News-Democrat*, Friday, July 5, 1946, in commemoration of the Rural Free Delivery Jubilee. It follows:

R. F. D. JUBILEE

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Herodotus, 484-424 B. C.

Modern couriers, making their rounds by automobiles, are a particularly welcome sight to more than one-fifth of the Nation's population, mostly rural residents, who depend upon these men and their cars for delivery of letters, newspapers, and packages.

United States rural mail carriers covering one and one-half million miles daily by cars and trucks live up to the Herodotus creed winter and summer on more than 32,000 rural mail routes.

Every working day they provide service to about 30,000,000 people.

This year the rural free delivery branch of the United States postal service is observing its golden jubilee.

This great contribution to the culture and domestic economy of this Nation was authored and sponsored by the late Thomas E. Watson, Representative in Congress from Georgia, elected as a Populist.



Charles Washington Hall, Charles Town, West Virginia, which served as the post office during the early days of the R.F.D.

It is somewhat astonishing, now that rural free delivery has proven itself such a boon, to recall that Congressman Watson encountered the fiercest kind of opposition when he proposed that \$10,000 be appropriated for an experimental free delivery of mail in rural communities other than towns and villages.

The idea was termed "a craze" by President Cleveland, who said the estimated cost of delivering mail to persons off the rail routes would be prohibitive.

The Georgian finally got his measure through, and the Postmaster General in 1896 tried the system first in Maryland.

It proved such a success that appropriations were steadily increased from year to year until rural free delivery became universal throughout the country.

Some day a historian will write a history of country living in terms of the RFD boxes that stand along hundreds of thousands of miles of roads.

No one who lives in cities and towns where the gray uniformed men trudge up to the door to hand out the mail can fully appreciate the meaning of the RFD box on a country road miles away from town.

It is a cosmopolitan sort of a box. It has a range of style as comprehensive as the fashions that adorn the feminine form.

There are some RFD receptacles that will hold a half bushel of newspapers,

magazines, and mail-order catalogs.

On these capacious boxes that sit on posts before big prosperous-looking farms, one often sees the name of the farm in big red letters.

In the last few years art with a capital A has come to the rural-free-delivery containers.

There are cute little bungalows and birdhouse styles; some like to use copies of old-time stage coaches; a favorite is a replica of Uncle Sam in his star-spangled claw-hammer coat and red and white striped trousers invitingly holding out a box for the reception of mail.

But the real, genuine, honest-to-goodness RFD box is a humble, everyday sort of affair.

It is just plain galvanized iron with a red metal flag attached which is put up to notify the carrier there is mail to collect.

Through that plebeian gray box has passed part of the heartbeats of a nation.

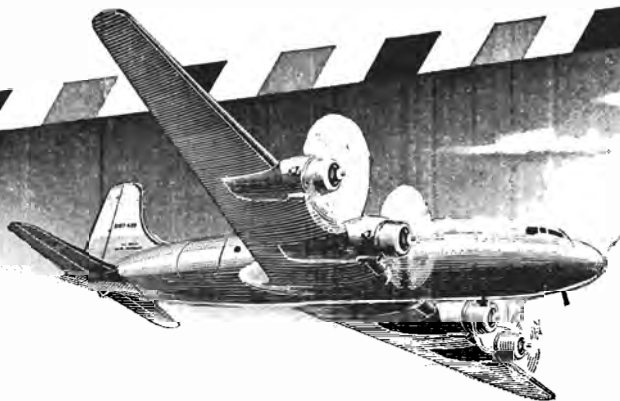
Farm boys and girls write for the things that interest them.

The family far from urban centers may use the mail-order firms for the things needed by humans and the farms.

Boys and girls who have left home for jobs in the big cities write letters that come through it.

And when the country boys are away fighting freedom's battles in foreign
(Continued on page 21)

Why it pays to promote **5¢ AIR MAIL**



THE American public has long desired 5¢ Air Mail. And Postal authorities are convinced that the reduction in rate, effective October 1, means increased mail volume, with consequent lowering of unit delivery cost to a point where a substantial Post Office Department profit will result.

Since Air Mail is capable of returning a "profit," it is a service in which every member of the Department can well afford to take a personal interest and to help promote to the public.

The extensive Air Mail promotion program being undertaken by the Post Office Department

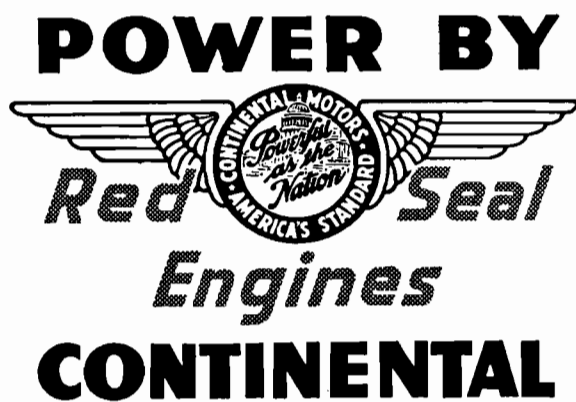
merits—and will need—the help and coöperation of every employee. The Airlines, for their part, have also initiated a vigorous nationwide campaign to bring the news of 5¢ Air Mail to the American Public.

Air Transport Association of America, 1107 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C., representing the Airlines of the United States, which carry the nation's air mail, air express and air passengers.

This advertisement is sponsored by the nation's airlines and leading manufacturers in the aviation industry

National Air Mail Week—Oct. 27-Nov. 2

THE AIRLINES OF THE UNITED STATES
LEADING THE WORLD IN AIR TRANSPORT



Look for the Red Seal.

It identifies the finest

products in every field of power

Continental Motors Corporation

DETROIT AND MUSKOGON

Rural Carriers'

Provident Guild

ANNUAL REPORT FOR

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1946

* * *

The Executive Council of the RURAL CARRIERS' PROVIDENT GUILD met in annual session in the Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 3 and 4, 1946.

The meeting opened with the invocation by the President, Carl V. Martin, after which the minutes were read and approved.

The Secretary-Treasurer read his preliminary report and presented the following applications for settlement of death claim. Number 17, Certificate No. 181, \$10.00 class, Mrs. Bessie Bowers, Oxford, New York; and Claim No. 18, Certificate No. 98, \$4.00 annual dues class, Clarence Obetz, Mendon, Missouri. The claims having been approved by the Executive Committee, motion was made to pay H. Leslie Bowers, Oxford, New York, beneficiary claim number 17, \$1000.00, and Mrs. Winifred Obetz, Mendon, Missouri, beneficiary, claim number 18, \$400.00 in full payment.

The sum of \$2,022.00, being the unexpended balance in the Annual fund,

was ordered transferred to the Reserve Fund. The salaries and expenses of the officers were ordered paid according to the provisions of the Organic Law. The auditing committee audited the books of the Secretary-Treasurer and found them correct and in balance.

The officers submitted a report of their activities during the year which indicated an increase of 41 new members since the last report, with a total membership of 441 being spread over 38 states. Nine state associations have adopted the Rural Carriers' Provident Guild as their official death benefit department—Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

Reports of state directors were read and discussed. E. P. Waggoner of Columbia, Kentucky was appointed state director for that state. (Note—Arthur L. Ward, Rosehill, N. C. has since been selected as state director for North Carolina, succeeding Kenneth Taylor, who was elected to the Executive Committee of the National R.L.C. Association at the Des Moines national convention.)

The bond of the Secretary-Treasurer was ordered increased from \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00 and any surplus funds ordered placed on interest in Federally

Insured Building and Loan associations.

Officers for the coming year are as follows: PRESIDENT, Carl V. Martin, Perryville, Kentucky; VICE PRESIDENT, L. J. Steinbrecker, Mt. Healthy, Ohio; SECRETARY-TREASURER, Hobart L. Baker, London, Ohio; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Bennette O. Trout, Chn., Hamersville, Ohio, Kenneth Taylor, Magnolia, North Carolina, and Clifton J. Brown, Franklin, Tennessee.

STATE DIRECTORS: Wylie J. Roberts, Conway, Arkansas; Maurice E. Clark, Exeter, Calif.; William Scholer, Hampshire, Illinois; John Wallace, Deputy, Indiana; E. P. Waggoner, Columbia, Kentucky; Ralph Pearl, Detroit, Maine; Giles Hollenbeck, Erin, New York; Arthur L. Ward, Rosehill, North Carolina; Russell M. Landis, West Alexandria, Ohio; Bert Ratliff, Ada, Oklahoma; Arnold Reber, El Campo, Texas; John W. Phillips, Cameron, West Virginia; and Theo. B. Domke, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

(Continued on page 21)

ATTENTION RURAL LETTER CARRIERS
AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS
100 Thank You Cards, suitable for any occasion\$2.00
200 Letterheads, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 100 envelopes to match\$2.00
100 Calling cards\$1.50
Birth announcements, wedding invitations, lodge notices,
church or civic notices, preserving labels, any kind of
printing. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send for prices or
samples.
SAMOSET PRESS, Dept. 1, PLYMOUTH, MASS.

A REAL GOLDEN JUBILEE SALUTE TO RURAL MAIL CARRIERS

The following firms salute the rural mail carriers for the excellent service given during the first 50 years! Whenever in the neighborhood of these firms, a visit to any of them is a "must" on your trip.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Men's Social Service

For Trucks—Call

CAdillac 7478

Detroit

Michigan

Globe Pattern Works

constructors of
Wood and Metal Patterns
& Aluminum Match Plates
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Copco Steel and Engineering Co.

14035 Grand River Ave.
Detroit, Michigan

A. M. TODD COMPANY

1717 Douglas Ave.
Kalamazoo — Phone: 3-1363

FAIRALL TRUCKING COMPANY

2014 Philomene Ave.
Lincoln Park, Michigan

ROMA RESTAURANT

Fine Food
3401 Riopelle St., Detroit, Michigan

C. J. LEGGERT PLUMBING AND HEATING COMPANY

20547 FENKELL AVE.

RE. 2167

DETROIT, MICH.

BRUCE E. DEWEY

● Electrical Machinery ●
1204 American National Bank Bldg.
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Phone: 7707

Standard Bindery

411 Russell St.
Detroit, Mich. — CA. 3395

JURY ROWE COMPANY

— House Furnishings —
81 W. Michigan Ave.
Battle Creek — Phone: 8135-6

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Detroit 26, Mich.

CARTERO RURAL RURAL CARRIER

We offer perfect Sheets of 100 of these beautiful rural carrier semi-postal stamps of Spain, showing a Spanish rural carrier on his rounds—limited supply—\$1.00 per sheet, 55c for 1/2 sheet. 25c for 15 stamps, 10c for Blox of 6, plus stamped addressed envelope.

ORDER TODAY—(WE BUY R. F. D. CANCELLED ENVELOPES)

THE BESTAMP COMPANY

BOX 92, DETROIT 31, MICH.



RHEUMATISM

ARTHRITIS-NEURITIS-SCIATICA
If you suffer the agonizing pains of these diseases when the usual remedies have failed, learn about a new, trustworthy, modern, non-surgical treatment method. This marvelous treatment is completely explained in the Ball Clinic's FREE Book. Write today. No obligation.
Ball Clinic Dept. 549, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Postal History

History tells us that every ruler, both in the Persian and Roman empires, from the time of Cyrus down to the Middle Ages, devised some scheme for postal communications. However, the service both in these ancient and medieval periods was for the sole benefit of the government and its officials and the general public did not share in its operation in any way.

Here in America use of a system of posts for parcels was made by the Aztec Indians, who occupied what is now southwestern United States. Mention of this is contained in Prescott's "Conquest of America," which relates that the Aztecs employed this means of distributing the fish they caught to the various Indian villages of the tribe.

It is a generally accepted fact that the first real postal system was established in France in 1450 under Louis XI. He employed regular postal messengers, each of whom announced his approach with blasts from a golden horn, and this system was later adopted throughout most of Europe.



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\$1756 to \$3021 YEAR

Many Early Examinations Expected. Prepare NOW! Veterans Get Special Preference! 32 Page Civil Service Book

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Mail
Coupon
Today
SURE

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Dept. B55
Rochester 4, N. Y.

Gentlemen: Rush to me, FREE of charge, list of U. S. government big pay jobs. Send FREE 32-page book describing salaries, vacations, hours work, etc. Tell me how to prepare for one of these jobs.



Name
Address Vet?....

Rural Carriers Who Served in the Armed Forces in World War II

In grateful recognition of those who have sacrificed to bring honor to our country, we list the names of rural carriers who served in the last war. Doubtless, there are other carriers, who be-

long on this roster, but whose names we have failed to receive. To all those who contributed to this great cause, we humbly pay our tribute.

<i>Name and permanent address of Rural Carrier</i>	<i>Branch of Service</i>	<i>Entered Service</i>	<i>Discharged from Service</i>
Admiral D. Carter, Prospect Station, Tenn.	Army	February 24, 1941	September 4, 1946
Wendell Benson, R. L. C. 1, South Londonderry, Vt.	Army Air Corps — Radio operator and gunner on B-25 Bomber	February 23, 1944	January 24, 1946
C. Mark Foster, Stewartsville, New Jersey	Navy	July 30, 1943	November 6, 1945
John S. Fornal, 32 Russell St., Taunton, Mass.	Army	September, 1943	July 6, 1945
Richard J. Koepke, North Windham, Conn.	With 17th Base P. O.	October 14, 1943	January 12, 1946
John L. McGreal, 123 S. Frederick, Rantoul, Ill.	Navy — 3/c Mailman	April 24, 1944	July 17, 1945
Eugene Miesner, Royalton, Illinois.	Army Mailman	July 8, 1943	October 27, 1945
Wallace Huffman, Leeburg, Indiana		April 12, 1941	November 7, 1945
James E. Harris, R.L.C. 1, Dalton, Kentucky	Army	May 12, 1943	February 4, 1946
William H. Riopelle, R. L.C. 1, Blackfoot, Idaho	Army	October 13, 1943	October 6, 1945
Paul E. Ley, R. L. C. 3, Kewanna, Indiana	Navy	July 4, 1942	September 30, 1945
Carl Anderson, R.F.D. 1, Toms River, N. J.	Navy	August 1, 1943	November 19, 1945
Layton G. Murray, R. L. C. 2, San Luis Obispo, Calif.	Army Air Corps	October 24, 1942	July 7, 1945
Carl C. Allen, R.L.C. 1, Nezperce, Idaho	Navy	October 21, 1942	September 23, 1944
Rue R. Wesley, R. L. C. 3, Somerset, Kentucky	Navy	April 8, 1944	February 4, 1946
Sylvester B. Fleig, Hunt- ingburg, Indiana	Army	Dec. 22, 1942	July 19, 1946
Georgiana K. Peet, R 1, Waac Ithaca, Michigan		March 23, 1943	October 13, 1945
Bryant S. Willett, Ocilla, Georgia	Army	February 1, 1943	July 20, 1946
Hampden Sugden, R2, May's Landing, N. J.	Army	March 25, 1941	November 29, 1945
Thomas J. Carter, R. L. C. 5, Bakersfield, Calif.	Marines	August 10, 1942	March 23, 1945
Clayton C. Smith, P. O. Box 25, Hatfield, Ark.	A.S.N.	April 3, 1944	November 17, 1944
Jerome Bruce Eason, Jr., R.F.D. #2, Hickory, Va.	Army (cook)	April 7, 1944	October 1, 1945



IMPROVED DELIVERY WINDOWS
for all cars. Full vision. Maximum large opening for parcel deliveries. Semi-automatic operation. Installed or removed momentarily. New swinging door type for all cars. Sliding type for Model A Fords. Price completely assembled window, \$5.00 to \$5.75 each, plus postage. Model A Fords \$5.50 each, plus 12 lbs. postage. State year and body type of car.

DOOR GUARDS TO PROTECT YOUR
car door, available for all cars. State year and body type of car. **WRITE FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE.** Kleinsasser Mfg. Co., Freeman, South Dakota.

Heirlooms of the N.R.L.C.A.

Deep down in the files of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association is a tiny booklet, one of the first sets of the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Rural Free Delivery Carriers' Association of the United States," adopted at Meadville, Pennsylvania, on December 11, 1901.

In 1922 it was given to William H. James, Carpinteria, California, former National Vice-President and for seven years a member of the National Executive Committee, and 20 years later, on June 13, 1942, Mr. James presented it to the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, as a "relic of former days."

This little booklet has unusual significance when we realize that it was printed two years before the organization of the Association in 1903, and that it represents the first trial steps taken to form an organization that has proven enduring and commanded the respect of the nation throughout its 43 years.

Miserable with backache?

WHEN kidneys function badly and you suffer a nagging backache, with dizziness, burning, scanty or too frequent urination and getting up at night, when you feel tired, nervous, all upset . . . use Doan's Pills.

Doan's are especially for poorly working kidneys. Millions of boxes are used every year. They are recommended the country over. Ask your neighbor!

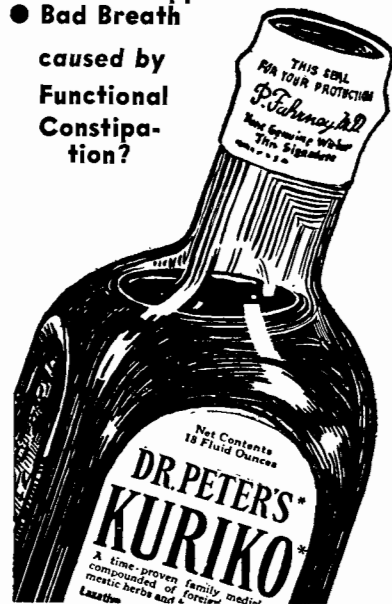
DOAN'S PILLS

David D. Donohoo, Ore- gonia, Ohio	Chaplain- Army	March 12, 1946	
Alden Bullman, R.C. #1, Wick, West Virginia	Navy, MaM 1/c	July 28, 1942	December 17, 1945
Thomas L. Holland, R.F. D. #4, San Fernando, California	Navy-Store- keeper 2/c	October 29, 1943	February 1, 1946
Robert R. Peveler, Salis- bury, Missouri	Navy - MaM 3/c	March 2, 1944	December 15, 1945
George L. King, R.F.D. #1, Camdenton, Mis- souri	Navy (A i r Corps)	April 17, 1942	August 4, 1944
Thomas J. Karaus, Owa- tonna, Minnesota	Army - Pos- tal Unit	October, 1943	January 22, 1946
Harold E. Bassett, R.C. #1, Maud, Oklahoma	Ar m y Air Corps Postal Officer	September 16, 1940	January 24, 1946
George A. Wheeler, R.L. C. 1, Greenville, New Hampshire	Navy	March 2, 1942	November 11, 1945
Charles H. Grove, R.R. #1, Monticello, Illinois	Navy Spec. (M) 1/c	December 13, 1942	August 15, 1945
Charles E. Sanders, R.C. #1, Rockaway, New Jersey	Army	October 28, 1943	October 14, 1945
Francis B. Murphy, R.C. #1, Tampa, Kansas	Navy	July 28, 1943	February 3, 1946
Walter J. Spitzmiller, Ironton, Missouri	Army - Capt. Infantry	December 23, 1940	March 3, 1946
A. N. Cacek, R.C. #1, Belvidere, South Dakota	Army	June 18, 1942	July 28, 1945
John W. Emeigh, Roar- ing Spring, Pennsylv- ania	Navy	February 1, 1943	February 1, 1946
Walter Lloyd Miller, R. C. #1, Curtis, Nebraska	Navy - Mail Clerk	April 12, 1943	January 2, 1945
Wm. F. Volk, Brewster Street, Browns Mills, N. J.	Army - Pos- tal Service	July 6, 1943	November 4, 1945
Joe O'Hern, Barnum, Iowa	Army	May 7, 1942	November 14, 1945
Raymond A. Kelm, R. C. #1, Derby, N. Y.	Army	March 5, 1942	December 1, 1945
Marshall C. Busser, R.D. #1, York Haven, Penn- sylvania	Ar m y Air Forces	February 21, 1944	November 5, 1945
Roscoe P. Steen, R.L.C. #1, Kelly, La.	Army	August 10, 1942	December 1, 1946
Henry S. McNair, Pat- rick, S. C.	Army Navy	June 20, 1941 August 12, 1942	November 23, 1941 November 27, 1945
John G. Bacon, R.C. #4, Fairmont, W. Va.	Red C r o s s Asst. Field Dir.	September 2, 1945	January 31, 1945
Mark W. Salt, R.C. #1, Berthold, N. Dak.	Amphibian Force	March 8, 1917 December 24, 1920 May 29, 1942	September 15, 1920 December 22, 1923 December 16, 1944
L. Roy Jordan, R1, Bates- ville, Ark.	Navy	December 30, 1942	October 17, 1944
George Misk, R 2, Friend, Nebraska	Mail Special- ist Coast Guard	October 24, 1943	February 5, 1946

WHY SUFFER from

- Upset Stomach ● Headache
- Indigestion ● Gas and Bloat
- Loss of Sleep ● Nervousness
- Lack of Appetite
- Bad Breath

caused by
Functional
Constipa-
tion?



Caution: Use only as directed.

Get Dr. Peter's time-tested **Kuriko**. More than a laxative, it is also a stomachic tonic medicine compounded of 18 of Nature's own medicinal roots, herbs and botanicals. **Kuriko** puts sluggish bowels to work and aids them to gently and smoothly expel clogging waste; helps drive out constipation's gas, gives the stomach that splendid feeling of warmth. If you again want to know the joy of happy relief from constipation's miseries and comfort your stomach at the same time, get **Kuriko** today.

If you cannot buy it in your neighborhood, send for our "get acquainted" offer on **Kuriko** and receive—

EXTRA 60c Value— Trial Bottles of

DR. PETER'S OLE-OLD LINIMENT—antiseptic—brings quick relief from rheumatic and neuralgic pains, muscular backache, stiff or sore muscles, strains and sprains.

DR. PETER'S MAGOLO—alkaline—relieves certain temporary stomach disturbances such as acid indigestion and heartburn.

MAIL this "SPECIAL OFFER" Coupon—Now

- ☐ Enclosed is \$1.00. Send me post-paid regular 11 oz. \$1.00 bottle of **Kuriko** and—extra 60c value—trial bottle each of **Ole-Old** and **Magolo**.
- ☐ C.O.D. (charges added).

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256 Stanley St., Winnipeg, Man., Can.

Jeff Barta, R1, Dante, So. Navy Dak.	June 20, 1942	February 20, 1946
J. Joseph Egan, R 1, Navy Shinglehouse, Pa.	September 1, 1943	April 3, 1946
Vernon R. H. Wilson, R Army 1, Hazel Run, Minn.		
Alton W. Jeffus, Sr., R1, Navy MaM Stratton, Neb. 1/c	April 2, 1943	December 26, 1944
James T. Rhineberger, Army R3, Cardington, Ohio	March 20, 1943	October 16, 1945
Ervin Hardin, Jr., Grand- Air Corps field, Okla.	April 6, 1942	October 23, 1945
Henry A. Blood, R 2, Na v y, SK Clam Falls, Wis. 1/c	March 28, 1941	April 28, 1945
Howard L. Burch, R 1, Army Fayetteville, Ga.	January, 1944	February, 1946
Clare A. Ruffner, Mason, Navy Ill. MaM 2/c	December 15, 1943	October 26, 1945
Burney Burger, New Cas- Army tle, Va.	December 30, 1942	January 11, 1946
Geo. V. Calhoun, R 1, Navy Long Beach, Wash.	November 12, 1942	April 25, 1945
J. K. Stambaugh, New Army Florence, Mo.	April 22, 1944	February 14, 1946
W. H. Beville, R 1, De- Navy MaM Witt, Va. 2/c	October 9, 1942	July 2, 1945
Francis J. Smith, Col- Army chester, Conn.	March 4, 1944	December 8, 1945
Leath L. Butterfield, Army Grays Lake, Illinois	October 1, 1944	November 1, 1946
T. C. Lamb, Arlington, Navy Virginia	September 9, 1941	September 12, 1946
Woodrow Young, Span- Army gle, Washington	March 31, 1945	August 16, 1946



Photo by courtesy Library of Congress

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TEST THIS FREE

Don't disturb your sleep by getting up many times nightly due to irritation of Bladder or Urinary Tract. Learn now about PALMO TABLETS—and try them at our own risk. All you do is simply test 20 tablets FREE out of the full-size package we send you. If palliative relief doesn't surprise and delight you, return the extra tablets and you pay nothing for the trial. No C.O.D. or postage. SEND NO MONEY. Mail name and address today and we will send your PALMO TABLETS at once—postpaid! H. D. POWERS CO., Dept. 1079, Box 135, Battle Creek, Mich.

Early Postal Service

Histories of both ancient and modern civilization disclose the existence of some sort of a postal service which was employed as a means of communication among those who inhabited the earth during those early periods of development. The "swiftness of the posts" is mentioned as early as the year 1520 B. C. in the Book of Job in the Bible, and there are numerous other references in the Old Testament to the sending of letters by the posts, and by messengers and couriers on horses, mules, camels and other forms of animal transportation. Herodotus, the famed Greek historian, in the sixth century, B. C., tells how messages written on tablets of bronze were carried by men astride fast horses, who were relieved at regular intervals by other messengers. From the dawn of history, the motto of the postal couriers has been worthy of the words of Herodotus, written 2,500 years ago, and which today are familiar to postal workers everywhere: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."—From *"A Brief History of the United States Postal Service,"* Information Service, Post Office Department.

* * *

The postal service is the Government's kind hand, protecting and promoting the correspondence of its people.—John Wanamaker.

Dangers of Associated Conditions Told in FREE BOOK

The pain and annoyance of Piles, Fistula and other Rectal and Colon disorders are not the only concern.

Write today for a copy of a 40-page FREE BOOK which explains these and associated stomach and other chronic conditions. It may save you time and trouble. Address Thornton & Minor Clinic, Suite 1045, 926 McGee St., Kansas City, Mo.



MR. IRVING G. CLARK
South Lyon, Michigan



MR. PERCY L. HALE
Upper Sandusky, Ohio



MR. ERWIN BAKER
Baldwinsville, New York

Pioneer Carriers

In compiling the list of rural carriers with 40 or more years of service, we came across the names of many who were just on the borderline, with 39 years-plus. As hard as it was to draw the line of distinction, we omitted mention of those who were approaching their 40th year as of October 1, but they, too, deserve recognition.

We received photographs of several 40-year men, but, there again, in fairness to all, found it necessary to select only those with an unusually long service record.

In some cases, following a "lead," we were mistaken and requested detailed information from carriers who informed us that they had not quite completed their 40 years, but who, nevertheless, were very generous in giving us interesting accounts of experiences on their routes.

One such carrier was Frank Earle, of Watertown, New York, now past 88 years of age, who wrote (or rather, as we guessed, had some youthful member of his family print) a seven page letter, relating the unusual happenings on his route.

To contribute even 30 years of one's life to a worthy cause is no small achievement, but to go far beyond the allotted years, giving "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over," deserves particular praise.

Whether their names appear in the Golden Jubilee list or not, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association wishes to honor and to express gratitude to those "Deans of the Rural Service" for their outstanding contribution.

Honor List of Carriers With 40 or More Years of Service on the Route

* Over 45 years of service

In response to a request for the names of all rural carriers who have 40 or more years to their credit in the R. F. D., over 170 were received. Several had as many as 45 years' service to report. To these "Deans" of Rural Free Delivery of the Mail, we pay tribute. Listed alphabetically, they are:

Anderson, James W., Bedford, Indiana
Anderson, John P., Springdale Arkansas
Ashmore, Frank H., Manor, Texas
Bagley, Jas., Alpharetta, Georgia
*Baker, Erwin, Baldwinsville, New York
Baldwin, Frank M., Deerfield, Michigan
Barker, Steward E., Mora, Minnesota
Barton, Charles R., Taylors, South Carolina
Bauguess, Jesse Y., Densmore, Kansas
Beneke, E. W. H., Hamburg, Minnesota
Bentley, Claude C., Stewartville, Minnesota
Blaine, Fred A., Mount Vernon, Iowa
Blakney, W. T., Kennedy, Alabama
Blick, Vernon H., Lawrenceville, Virginia
Brand, Raymond, Osborn, Missouri
Bristow, J. Clarence, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Brodbeck, Walter J., St. Marys, Ohio
Brodie, George, Somonauk, Illinois
Brown, Charles E., Anthony, Kansas
Brown, Clarence B., Orangeburg, Pennsylvania
Brown, Ernest C., Robbinston, Maine
Brown, Lloyd, Martin, Georgia

Bullen, Ray L., Mason, Michigan
Bush, J. L., Bradyville, Tennessee
Butler, Creighton E., New Haven, Indiana
Cain, Raymond R., Williamsburg, Indiana
Canfield, Isaac F., Chana, Illinois
Cannon, Herbert S., Loogootee, Indiana
Carstens, Ferdinand, Durant, Iowa
Chandler, R. L., Fayette, Alabama
Chilcote, Frank N., Newman, Illinois
Church, Fred, Loyal, Wisconsin
*Clark, Irving G., South Lyon, Michigan
Cleveland, Wm. L., Iron City, Georgia
Coles, John P., Clayton, Alabama
Collins, Alvin, Commerce, Georgia
Coon, George F., Ashley, Michigan
Davidson, Cecil C., Campbell, Minnesota
Deen, Harry S., Port Royal, Pennsylvania
Detwiler, Henry M., Denton, Maryland
Dorathy, John, Prophetstown, Illinois
Doze, Victor M., Norwich, Kansas
Epley, J. G., Leipsic, Ohio
Fenton, Clarence R., Richmond, Michigan
Fordham, Lee W., Gibson, Georgia
Forrest, Ben W., Ogilvie, Minnesota
Garbee, Albert., Billings, Montana
Gardner, David B., Swansea, Massachusetts
Gillock, Albert H., Lexington, Virginia
Gilmore, A. R., Sulligent, Alabama
Green, B. H., Dexter, Georgia
Greenbeck, John H., Minooka, Illinois
Gwinn, Roy, Bolivar, Missouri
Haggerty, O. P., Hillsboro, Ohio
Halbert, Miles G., Bowling Green, Ohio
*Hale, Percy L., Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Hamersley, W. L., Randolph, Virginia
 Harmer, Francis H., Dodge Center, Minnesota
 Harner, Chas. W., Murdock, Kansas
 Harrington, Phineas M., Groton, Massachusetts
 Hartgrove, J. W., Shelby, North Carolina
 Hartwell, Wilford, Iuka, Mississippi
 Hawes, Leon B., Hector, Minnesota
 Heldt, Robt. O., Bucher, Illinois
 Hicks, Willard, Thomasville, Tennessee
 Hill, Harvey A., Hilltonia, Georgia
 Householder, George, Erie, Michigan
 Hoy, J. Bert, Wauseon, Ohio
 Hoynes, W. E., Mapes, North Dakota
 Hungerford, Herbert J., Evansville, Wisconsin
 Hutchinson, Chas. L., Barrington, Illinois
 James, Wm. H., Carpenteria, California
 Jenkins, Robert F., Munnerlyn, Georgia
 Jewell, Ernest, Marietta, New York
 Jonas, Perry A., Vale, North Carolina
 Kaiser, Augustus B., Bessemer City, North Carolina
 Keown, Walker A., Coosa, Georgia
 Kinslow, Jasper T., Myakka City, Florida
 Kipfer, Geo. W., Bremen, Indiana
 Knott, A. C., Mt. Solon, Virginia
 Kurtz, Martin M., Davis, Illinois
 Lambert, James L., Plainfield, New Jersey
 Lareau, F. S., Beaverville, Illinois
 Latham, A. D., Lawley, Alabama
 Lester, Wm. Lee, Midlothian, Virginia
 Lilly, Archer A., Westfield, Iowa
 List, Emil A., Frankenmuth, Michigan
 Longcor, Howard F., Wheeler, Michigan
 Lowry, W. Clyde, Jefferson, South Carolina
 Lynch, Lawrence E., Denton, Maryland
 Lyons, Delbert E., Romeo, Michigan
 McBride, Matthew M., Washington, Indiana
 McDill, R. S., Atoka, Minnesota
 McDonald, John W., Blackstock, South Dakota
 McDonald, Pryor A., Elk City, Oklahoma
 McFall, W. H., Mt. Solon, Virginia
 McGarrah, W. L., Franklin, Pennsylvania
 McGrew, A. P., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 McLaren, W. Walker, Moravia, New York

McMillan, Thomas, Jefferson, South Carolina
 Mann, Jesse A., Lamar, Missouri
 Masters, James F., Sheffield, Illinois
 Matthews, Thos. P., Villa Rica, Georgia
 May, John A., Jefferson City, Tennessee
 Merrick, Irvin I., Fort Covington, New York
 Moore, Pleasant W., Lathrop, Missouri
 Morgan, Harry, Sandusky, Michigan
 Moroney, John L., Upton, Massachusetts
 Morrissey, Tom, Pecatonica, Illinois
 Motley, Frank G., Richmond, Illinois
 Mundy, John A., Hodges, South Carolina
 Nickel, John R., Tiffin, Ohio
 O'Connor, Patrick J., Colchester, Connecticut
 Odell, Volney, Moravia, New York
 Odom, Houston H., Gordon, Alabama
 Ordemann, Charley T., Menomonie, Wisconsin
 Parker, Pearl E., Walnut Grove, Missouri
 Patmos, Joe, Hudsonville, Michigan
 *Patton, Robert F., Goodlettsville, Tennessee
 Petersen, Peter, Sheffield, Illinois
 Pipkin, James M., Athens, Tennessee
 Polski, Peter, St. Paul, Minnesota
 Porter, Merton A., Lathrop, Missouri
 Powell, J. Roscoe, Inman, South Carolina
 Preston, Howard W., Franklin, New York
 Priddy, Harry H., VanWert, Ohio
 Pyron, Reece T., Blossom, Texas
 Ragan, Wm. R., Palmyra, Illinois
 Rahn, Harry B., Lanark, Illinois
 Randall, C. E., Huron, Kansas
 Rice, Harry C., Anthony, Kansas
 Rinehart, David, Union Bridge, Maryland
 Ristow, Arthur J., Genoa, Wisconsin
 Ritchie, Ernest, Ritchfield, North Carolina
 Robbins, Nathan, Orange, California
 Rogers, Ernest, Brenham, Texas
 Ross, George W., Brodhead, Wisconsin
 Rudy, Earl R., Covington, Ohio
 Salmon, F. R., Atlanta, Texas
 Sellers, John T., Jefferson, Texas
 Shank, John N., Big Spring, Maryland
 Sharp, Jas. W., Seymour, Tennessee
 Smith, George L., Webb, Alabama
 Soule, Ernest G., Tyre, Michigan
 Stanley, F. Ray, Bosworth, Missouri
 Steltzner, C. H., Rice Lake, Wisconsin
 Stewart, Clyde, Hartford, Kansas
 Stites, Percy, Wauseon, Ohio
 Storick, Norman W., Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
 Strange, F. E., Bangs, Texas
 Sullivan, Herschel, Baltimore, Ohio

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EVERYWHERE

Endorse the SUPERIORITY of



Not a Paste!
 Not a Powder!
 No Heating!
 Easy to Apply!

Griplate

The Original PLASTIC RELINER For Pink Plates

TIGHTENS LOOSE FALSE PLATES
 Save money! Re-line your loose plates at home—quickly, easily—

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

with the original, professionally developed, patented (user endorsed) GRIPLATE. No mess—spreading—heating! Tasteless, odorless, pure, harmless, non-irritating! Molds to gums—won't injure plates. The dental plastic strip that blends into an actual part of your present pink plates. Lasts for life of the plate. PROOF—"I think GRIPLATE is the finest thing offered the public so far for tightening loose plates." Mrs. W. F. S., N. Y. "Received your GRIPLATE and have applied same with good success." W. I. J., Mich.
 SEND NO MONEY—Prove GRIPLATE By Actual Trial. Pay only \$2.00, plus postal charges for GRIPLATE for BOTH upper and lower plates or \$1.00 plus postal charges for GRIPLATE for either Upper or Lower. Your order postpaid if you enclose remittance with order. POSITIVE SATISFACTION OR MONEY BACK.

THE GRIPLATE CO.

6754 Sheridan Road, Dept. 135, Chicago 26, Ill.

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 Tate, Charley F., Chandler, Arizona
 Tharp, Geo. W., Fairview, Illinois
 Thorvig, Henry J., Spicer, Minnesota
 Tibbit, William B., Hudsonville, Michigan
 Tomhave, Lewis F., Fergus Falls, Minnesota
 Tucker, Lawrence J., Perryville, Missouri
 Turner, F. L., Ridgway, Virginia
 Udseth, Arthur J., Hendricks, Minnesota
 Vermilion, W. R., West Alexander, Pennsylvania
 Warnement, Leo C., Tiffin, Ohio
 Webb, Wm. E., South Windham, Maine
 Whitbeck, Jay G., Kinderhook, New York
 Whitehead, H. A., Brownville, Tennessee
 Wilkins, W. C., Strasburg, Virginia
 Williams, Ray C., Holland, Ohio
 Willis, H. Allan, McColl, South Carolina
 Youmans, Jos. B., Emmett, Arkansas

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By the time this ad appears, we expect to have ready for the market Reversible Chenille Rugs in widths from 27 inches to 12 feet, any length. Write for full information.
 OR RUG CO., DEPT. BW, LIMA, OHIO

ATTENTION CARRIERS

Cowhide Kits, Brass Label Holders, Enamel signs, Stamp Books, etc. Send for Cat.

Bishop Sales Co., Clyde, Ohio

Rural Carriers' Provident Guild

(Continued from page 14)

FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE—Cash in RESERVE FUND July 1, 1945	\$3,509.25
Disbursements for fiscal year	700.13
	\$2,809.12
RECEIPTS:	
Entrance fee's, re-instatement fee's, interest, etc.	87.15
Annual dues for year ending June 30, 1946	3,422.00
DEATH CLAIMS PAID:	
Clarence Obetz, Mendon, Missouri \$4.00 class	\$ 400.00
Bessie Bowers, Oxford, New York \$10.00 class	1,000.00
	1,400.00
Total	2,022.00
Transferred to Reserve Fund	\$4,918.27
BALANCE IN RESERVE FUND June 30, 1946	
RECEIPTS: for annual dues, entrance fees, etc., to date of Sept. 10, 1946 for	
fiscal year ending June 30, 1947	3,710.00
	\$8,628.52
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	
(Signed) HOBART L. BAKER,	
Secretary-Treasurer.	

carried between the colonies and the mother country on a monthly schedule. The population of the country was scattered, the roads were poor, and the distances were great, but despite these obstacles Franklin made the Postal Service an efficient and reliable system of communication among the colonists.

On account of differences with the British Ministry, Franklin was dismissed from his office as Postmaster General for the colonies at the end of January, 1774. But after Lexington and Concord, he was again appointed head of the American Postal System, this time by the Continental Congress, and so, on July 26, 1775, became the first Postmaster General independent of the British Crown. Franklin's salary was \$1,000 a year, and he served until November 7, 1776. The country is greatly indebted to Franklin for his appreciation of the necessity for an extensive system of post offices and post roads, and for his sagacity and determination in organizing such a system on an efficient basis. The foundation which he laid survives to this day and to a considerable extent the policies which he developed still control administration of the Postal Service in United States.

In his time Franklin was a great exponent of thrift, in private life and in public undertakings. Within 10 years of his appointment by the British Government as Postmaster General for the colonies he not only had greatly extended and improved the colonial Postal Service, but he had placed it in what, considering the time, was a high state of efficiency.

During the period of the Revolution, the postal department was a very insignificant part of the Government that had been established. The total number of post offices in operation in 1776, was only 28, 14 of which were in Massachusetts. Following the ratification of the Constitution, our present Postal System succeeded the continental post office system on September 26, 1789, when Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts was appointed Postmaster General by George Washington. The Postal Service was then subordinate to the Treasury Department and at that time there were 75 post offices and the mails were carried on 1,875 miles of road. It was not until 1829 that the Postmaster General became a member of the Cabinet.

Hon. Melvin Price

(Continued from page 10)

lands, fathers watch from the fields and mothers from the kitchen windows for the RFD man.

In many of these boxes in late years has been left that fateful communication from the Adjutant General beginning with "I regret to state—."

The mail box sitting alongside the country road is a link of the chain that binds this Nation into one people.

The history, traditions, and esprit d'corps of the rural mail carriers are worthy of the Nation which boasts the most efficient postal service in the world.

The effect of their work in terms of education and enlightenment, not to mention the improvement of rural media of communication, is beyond estimate.

Benjamin Franklin First Postmaster General

In 1753, Benjamin Franklin was appointed joint postmaster general for the north British colonies in America, a position which he held until 1774, when he was dismissed by the Crown because of his sympathies with the cause of the American colonists.

During this period, notwithstanding the fact that his many other responsibilities required him to be abroad a great deal of the time, he brought the colonial Postal System to a state of high efficiency. He personally visited and inspected nearly every post office in the country. He increased the frequency of the service between New York and Philadelphia from one to three times a week in summer and from twice a month to once a week in winter. When he left office just before the outbreak of the Revolution, post roads were running from Maine to Florida and from New York to Canada, and the mail was being

HERE'S HOW YOUR CAR CAN

Make a Fool out of Old Man Winter



WE PAY FREIGHT

USE ONLY Free Flowing

WEARPROOF MOTOR OIL

Order DIRECT By MAIL—TODAY

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PRIMROSE PETROLEUM CO., Inc., DALLAS, TEXAS

CARRIERS SUPPLIES

Quality All Leather Supply Kits. Size 7/16 x 2 3/4 Brass Card Holders, Parcel Post Calculators, Statement envelopes, parcel post labels. The new snow order circulars, new postal rates, notice blanks, forms (stamp should be affixed circulars), stamp books, etc. 32nd year supplying R.L.C. supplies.

Bargain list and samples free.

THE STAR PRINTERY

421 W. Cherry St. Bluffton, Indiana

First R. F. D. Route in Michigan

BY HIL F. BEST

The first Rural Free Delivery route in Michigan started at the Climax Post Office, December 3, 1896. W. C. Pond was the postmaster; Willis L. Lawrence and Lewis A. Clark were the first Michigan R. F. D. carriers. These two have perhaps the only pictorial record of starting the first rural route, a fine picture taken by Frank Hodgman of the *Rural Advocate*.

Erected in the village square in Climax, is the famous Climax Rural Free Delivery Memorial now serving as a base for the traffic light in the main street. The memorial is unique—nearly 300 farmers who receive mail on the three rural routes out of Climax each contributed one stone from their farms to build this monument.

These farmers erected it in appreciation of James H. Brown who helped start Rural Free Delivery in Michigan, and who designed and constructed this monument. It was Brown's idea to have Michigan's first Rural Free Delivery route start from Climax, his home post office at that time Brown being associated with the *Michigan Farmer*.

Thus, on December 3 of this year, 50 years of Michigan Rural Free Delivery will be celebrated in Climax. It is interesting to note that the first Michigan route was exactly two months and two days after the first route in the United States—Rural Free Delivery started in the United States at Charles Town, Halltown, and Uvilla, West Virginia, on October 1, 1896.

A most interesting book on R. F. D. written by G. M. Aaberg is available.

The rural carrier with a pleasant smile
Delivers news to you.

Through storm and flood,
Through snow and sleet and mud,
He always brings it through.

The rural carrier makes a lot of friends
Along his daily route,
By doing many little kindly deeds
He never talks about.—From "Service
With a Smile."

* * *

There is nothing which is not helped
by the post office *** the Good Samaritan,
omnipresent in all the highways of
the land.—Charles Sumner.

OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

supplying DDT and other profitable products
to farmers. No experience or capital required.
Must have auto and good references. Permanent.
Write or wire.

MCNESS COMPANY

Dept. 726, Freeport, Illinois



Lyle Tyler Studios

"DAD" KILDOW, Whitewater, Wisconsin

"Dad" Kildow, Senior Carrier at National Convention

The distinction of being the oldest rural carrier at the Golden Jubilee convention at Des Moines, Iowa, was accorded to Willis G. "Dad" Kildow, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, who was at the time looking forward to celebrating his 86th birthday on September 22.

Mr. Kildow appeared on a broadcast at the national convention, over WHO, on the farm hour, and there related that he had been in the postal service all his life, for at the time of his birth his parents lived in the same building as the local post office.

Although born in Green County, Mr. Kildow became a resident of Whitewater in 1901. He carried the rural mail for twenty-five years, beginning with 1904. Always active in the Association, he was elected Vice-President of the Wisconsin R. L. C. A. in 1924, and then served as President for two years.

His slogan was, "Always a Fighter, Never a Quitter."

Pioneers' Club for Retired and Active Carriers

All retired and active carriers and substitutes with 25 or more years of service are eligible for membership in the Pioneers' Club.

A type of mutual insurance is being considered and will be known as the Pioneer Retired Rural Letter Carriers' Benefit Fund.

Plans are already under way for an interesting program for the Pioneers at the national convention in 1947.

Address M. A. Detwiler, Secretary and Treasurer, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Buttons, 25c and membership also 25c. You are invited to join!

Numerous orders have been received for buttons and for membership. Watch THE NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER for news of further developments. Keep the memberships coming! The Board of Pioneers extends a friendly invitation to all eligible to join the Pioneer Retired Rural Letter Carriers of the United States. JOIN NOW!



**"RURAL CARRIERS!
HELP ME LICK THE
SOAP SHORTAGE!"**

**"YESSIR! THE SOAP SHORTAGE
CAN GET WORSE UNLESS EVERY
WOMAN SAVES AND TURNS IN
MORE USED FATS!"**



**Every time you get a chance, tell the women
on your route the only extra source of used
fats to help make soap is America's kitchens!**

YOU'LL be doing a good turn for everybody, yourself included, if you make it a point to talk to the women on your route about the soap shortage. Used fats are needed to help make soap and other peacetime products, and the only extra

source of used fats is America's kitchens.

Get after these women. But, most particularly, get after the women who have stopped turning in used fats. Tell them the soap shortage may get much worse unless everybody gets back on the job!



GET THE WOMEN ON YOUR ROUTE TO TURN IN MORE USED FATS!

PROCEEDINGS
GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENTION
NATIONAL RURAL LETTER
CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION
August 12-16, 1946

Hotel Fort Des Moines
Des Moines, Iowa

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION
August 13, 1946

The Opening Session of the Golden Jubilee Convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, held in the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa, August 13-16, 1946, convened at nine-twenty o'clock, H. G. Courtney, Iowa State President, presiding.

Chairman Courtney. The Convention will come to order. We will have the advancement of the Colors.

The Colors were advanced by members of the Ex-Servicemen's Club, after which the audience recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" and sang "America."

Chairman Courtney. We will have the invocation by Reverend Bys of Norwalk.

Reverend Ivan C. Bys. Oh, God, our Heavenly Father, we come to Thee again, thanking Thee for this and the other opportunities in our lives. We come congregated together in this place, not only thinking as coming to this State of Iowa, not only thinking of coming to its capital, but rather thinking of coming into Thy presence, praying that Thou wouldst guide us and direct us in all that we think, say and do.

May all that we do, Oh, God, be in accordance with Thy will, for Thy Kingdom's sake. Amen.

Chairman Courtney. We will have an address of welcome by the Governor of Iowa. This state, we think is the greatest State in the Union.

The governor is a man whom I have found to say what he means and mean what he says. Governor Blue.

Honorable Robert D. Blue (Governor of Iowa). Members of the Rural Letter Carriers Association, it is indeed a pleasure to have the opportunity this morning to welcome you to the great state of Iowa. This year, Iowa, the 29th state admitted to the Union, the first free state carved out of the Louisiana Purchase, is celebrating her Centennial birthday. And so as you gather here on this Golden Anniversary of the founding of Rural Carrier Service in the United States, we are happy to have you join Iowa on this auspicious occasion.

During the years that have intervened since rural carrier service was first established, the world has moved most rapidly in the fields of science, of communication and of transportation. Today we have the telephone and the radio in nearly every farm home. Today, in place of the old horse and buggy as about the only means of carrying the letter to the home, we have the automobile. We are rapidly approaching the day when the airplane may be a means of transportation of mail to the home of the individual receiver of mail.

In all of the fields of life, perhaps nothing is of greater social or economic importance to the people of a community or a nation than their means and methods of transportation. The coming of rural mail service to the people of rural sections in America revolutionized the life of those people. The

coming of newer means of communication to people who live in isolated sections of the country is rapidly again changing their lives.

Today you have a great opportunity and a great responsibility in this post war period of American life. You bring not only the mail, but you bring a way of living to those whom you serve. And I am sure that the members of this organization are looking beyond the mere delivery of mail, so far as the service of their patrons is concerned. They are trying to serve the people upon their route in a larger and a broader way. Just as the man in a drug store who hands out the "coke" or the soda to the boy or girl who comes into his store has an opportunity of helping to mould and direct the lives of the young men and young women in his community, so you, because of the intimate contact that you have with the people along your route, have the opportunity, day by day and week by week, to sow the seeds of greater vision, of better life, of better opportunities for those who reside within your community.

I am sure that you have all been availing yourselves of those opportunities of building a better community in which to live.

We have here in Iowa a motto: "Of all that is good, Iowa affords the best." So today I am happy to welcome you to Iowa on our Centennial birthday, and of all that is good, we hope that you shall enjoy a sharing of those good things with us during the period that you are here. The door of Iowa and the latch-string on that door always hang out to the rural mail carriers of both the state and the nation.

So this morning, I bid you welcome. I hope that your Convention is a great success and that you will have an unusually splendid and profitable time at this, your Golden Anniversary Convention. Thank you.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Governor Blue.

We now come to a man of considerable prestige locally. He really carries a big stick down around the municipal building. The Honorable John McVicar, Mayor of Des Moines, Mayor McVicar.

Honorable John McVicar. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Last night I saw in the papers that you too have your troubles—automobiles and good roads. About a month ago when the Iowa Rural Carriers had their Convention they had their troubles. It was at that time that Miss Johnson was sitting on their pay checks. She was afraid that they would bounce back for lack of funds. That little worry disappeared, and so will yours.

As to the automobiles, we in Iowa don't think we can help you very much. We do not grow automobiles. But on good roads we are with you 100 per cent; and I ask you to come back here four years from now, eight years from now and twelve years from now and watch our progress. We spend all our gas tax money on our roads.

If times are normal twelve years from now, we will have a surfaced road to every farm house in the State of Iowa. When that happens, you can give service. You can deliver the mail to their front porches; and when you do that some of us city fellows are going to move out into the country to get away from the atom bomb.

This morning it is my privilege to welcome you to Des Moines on your Golden Jubilee Anniversary. We want you to like Des Moines. We want you to come back. We want to do everything to help you.

Thank you.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Mayor McVicar.

It is a great personal privilege and pleasure for me to introduce and present to you a most charming and gracious lady; one who is not only my friend, but a friend of every postal worker in the state of Iowa, Miss Edith Johnson, Postmaster of Des Moines.

Miss Edith M. Johnson (Postmaster of Des Moines). Mr. Courtney, Governor Blue, Distinguished Guests and Friends: I am extremely pleased to welcome you to the grand state of Iowa, the land of the tall corn. I know that you have come from every other State in the Union, and we are glad to show you what Iowa looks like during August and early September, when the corn is tall.

Now that hostilities have ceased it is in good order to hold Conventions, and we in Iowa favor holding Conventions. It gives us an opportunity to discuss the postal service, to better our work in many ways and to give us an opportunity for the interchange of thought. All of which makes for better postal service, and all of us in this room are interested in better postal service. Also, it gives us an opportunity to renew friendships and to make new friends, and I know of no group in the postal service who are friendlier than the rural carriers.

I have met with you a number of times and with other groups too, and I say that from experience. After a Convention is over you know each other by your first names and you keep that contact from year to year, and I think it is a good thing.

We are pleased to have so many states represented here today and we hope this Convention will be filled with enthusiasm, enough to last the whole year.

This year you are recognizing your 50th Anniversary, and I offer you my congratulations and I am pleased to say "Happy birthday," as well as "Welcome to our State."

The Rural Delivery Service was established 50 years ago under President Cleveland, at the home of the then Postmaster General. The opponents of rural free delivery at that time stated that the delivery by the government of rural mail to the home of the farmer would demoralize farm life. I wish they could see the rural free delivery service now. It has not destroyed farm life but it has brought many advantages we would not have been able to enjoy otherwise. It has brought better roads to us; it has brought better education; it has increased postal receipts; it has increased the price of farm land, and it has given us many other advantages.

So I am pleased to extend to you birthday greetings as well as a hearty welcome. Again a hearty welcome to our grand state of Iowa, and we hope you will come again.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Miss Johnson.

We have heard how pleased the Governor and the Mayor and the Postmaster are to have us here. Now let's turn over the page and tell them how pleased we are to be here. To do that we have chosen one of the gentlemen from our own ranks, in our Association, one who needs no introduction to you. You know him either personally or through the columns of the paper, Mr. J. Paul Myers, Chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. Myers.

J. Paul Myers (Chairman, Executive Committee). Chairman Courtney, Distinguished Guests and Officers of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association and Auxiliary and Friends: To have the privilege of saying a few words of response to these fine and generous words of welcome which you



Golden Jubilee Convention

Des Moines, Iowa

August 13-16, 1946

From top center: Special Committee—N. B. Custer, Wolsey, South Dakota; H. G. Courtney, Norwalk, Iowa; H. V. Shepherd, Newton, Iowa; B. C. Pascoe, Newark, Arkansas; W. B. Lindau, Murtaugh, Idaho.

Time and Place Committee—Left to right—J. A. Marc-
eau, Valley Falls, Rhode Island; W. L. Snyder, Clarks-
ville, Virginia; B. L. Burrill, Corinna, Maine; Standing,
left to right—F. R. Nelson, Pomfret Center, Connecti-
cut; Andrew Hintz, Max, North Dakota.

Constitution and By-Laws—Left to right—C. H. Oster-
hout, Delmar, New York; Oran T. Gray, Florence,
Texas; S. S. Neher, Wenatchee, Washington; Roy E.
Mills, China Grove, North Carolina; C. D. Barnes,
Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

Mileage and Per Diem Committee—First row left to
right—C. Coigay, Orange Cove, California; Bruce
Johnson, Elwood, Indiana; Ernest Robertson, Alex-
andria, Louisiana; Second row left to right—Marvin S.
Bennett, Gilmarion, New Hampshire; Presley J. Bragg,
Orlando, West Virginia.

Credential Committee—Left to right—Milton Miller,
Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania; F. H. Cranor, Owensboro,
Kentucky; Standing, Percy Vought, Loyal, Wisconsin.



have just listened to is one of the most happy privileges of my life. We have listened to these words of welcome and we truly believe that each word spoken in welcome to our group is a true expression of the feelings of the people here in Iowa; and despite the long hours of work, energy and expense that have been gone into in order to make these fine preparations for us, we still are of the opinion that you are truly happy that we are with you today, and so I can only express the very deepest appreciation to the carriers of the State of Iowa, to the City of Des Moines and to all who have contributed in making this the most memorable Convention of our history.

You know, I was going to say that we are doubly grateful today for this opportunity to meet in your state, but I should say triply grateful, because I just had the information that this is the 100th Anniversary of the State of Iowa, so we have really three good reasons for celebrating. One reason is the fact that this is the first opportunity that we have had to meet in a regular Convention for five long years due to the most horrible conflict which the world has ever seen. We certainly hope that it will be many long years or forever until such a thing will happen to this nation again. Also because today we are celebrating our Golden Jubilee Anniversary; 50 years of progress in the history of the rural delivery service of America. We believe we have progressed a long way in that time.

Again, we are very happy to participate in the 100th Anniversary of the State of Iowa, and we wish you more success than ever in the next 100 years of your life.

During the war it was the duty of the National Board to select the State and City for the Convention or the Delegate Meetings which we held. The State of West Virginia was the logical place for holding a Golden Jubilee Celebration because of the fact that the rural delivery service was inaugurated in that state. However, no city could be found in West Virginia where the hotel facilities were sufficient to house our Delegates.

For several years it has also been the understanding that St. Paul, Minnesota, would have the first Convention following the war. That too was impossible this year due to the lack of hotel facilities in that state. When we were in Board session in Washington, it was a great feeling of relief to receive a telegram from your President, Harley Shepherd, stating that Iowa would be very happy to entertain us in Des Moines this year.

At that time there was less than six months notice, and I am sure that each of you can see the wonderful things that have been done to entertain us and make us comfortable in your fine city here.

My first experience in Iowa and in Des Moines, was in the fall of 1918 when I was sent out here to Camp Dodge during the first World War. I was just a young fellow then from the State of Pennsylvania, but I will always have a very warm feeling for the people in Des Moines because of the very fine friendly spirit. I can also remember when we left here on the first day of January, 1919, it was about ten degrees below zero; so it can also get cold here.

Your Convention Committee and all of those carriers and Auxiliary members of the State of Iowa who have contributed to the success of this meeting have done a wonderful job and deserve our very warmest congratulations and commendation, and we certainly hope that this Convention will turn out to be the very highest type in the history of our Association.

I realize fully the tremendous amount of

work, energy and sleepless nights that this Committee must have spent in these preparations, because I know what the Convention Committee went through in Portland in 1939. So we cannot express our appreciation too strongly to this fine Committee which has put on this Convention.

The Headquarters hotels have been very generous and courteous at all times and I am sure they would appreciate it very much if we will express to them the fact that we were happy to be here and that we appreciated the service they have given us.

It was mentioned here that perhaps if we shot someone they would take care of us. I am sure we will not do anything of that kind because I know and sincerely believe that the Delegates and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association and the Ladies will conduct themselves in such a manner at all times that Des Moines and Iowa will be glad that we have been here and that they will sometime invite us to come again. We certainly appreciate this fine generosity on their part.

It is meetings together, such as this in our general assembly here this morning, the very fine meeting we had last night, where the men and ladies can meet together and enjoy old friendships, renew others; that to me is the most important part of our Convention. At all times, the thing that we strive for is cooperation.

It reminds me of a little story that perhaps illustrates sometimes the little extra help that one may get from a friend. It is a story about a man walking down the street. He wanted to find the post office. He inquired of a friend or an acquaintance as to the street. He said, "Pardon me, sir. Can you tell me where the post office is located?" The man said, "Yes. You are now standing on the intersection of State Highway 65 and U. S. Highway 86; State Highway 15 and U. S. Highway 34." He said, "You follow State Highway number 65 and U. S. Highway 86 and go straight ahead. There is a filling station on your right and a sky scraper on your left. You go straight ahead. North is straight ahead. East is on your right, West is on your left and South is behind you."

He said, "There is a theater on your left, and there is a fire hydrant on your right. There are four street car tracks in the center of the street. You go straight ahead. Cross over the street to the opposite side of the street, and there is a sharp curve. There is a lawn with a fountain on your right, and a large stone building with a flag on your left. You turn right and there is a sharp curve. You go straight ahead, up those concrete steps, through that revolving door, and there you are."

The fellow said, "Wait a minute until I write that down." The other fellow said, "Never mind. See that building across the street? That is the post office."

To the Convention Committee, to the Chamber of Commerce, to the Officers and Members of the Iowa Rural Letter Carriers Association and Auxiliary and to everyone who has done or had any part in the preparation for this Convention, our most sincere thanks.

We accept your generous welcome in the very same spirit in which it was given.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Mr. Myers.

We now have a very charming lady who attended our State Convention, and while here she got herself into a pack of trouble. She invited the Convention to their place on a fishing trip and we are not going to let her forget it, Mrs. Ed J. Harriges.

Mrs. Ed J. Harriges (Chairman, Auxiliary

Executive Committee): Chairman Courtney, Distinguished Guests, National Officers of the Rural Letter Carriers Association and Auxiliary members of the Rural Letter Carriers Association and Friends: It is a distinct pleasure to respond for the National Auxiliary of the Rural Letter Carriers Association to such sincere addresses of welcome delivered by the Honorable Governor Blue, Mayor McVicar and Miss Johnson of the Post Office.

Your genuine cordiality has been evidenced by your every act since we have been guests in your lovely capital city of Des Moines. We appreciate this reception and accept your most gracious hospitality.

We have assembled here from all sections of the United States to counsel together and to plan for the future. Coming together is beginning. Thinking together is progress. Working together is service. May we think and work together conscientiously and consistently so that when we return to our homes we may carry in our hearts a deeper, greater love for each other and for Him whose blessings are upon us.

This is our Golden Jubilee year. You have given us a golden welcome. Now we look forward this week in your city to golden hours. We thank you.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you very much.

This is, I believe, the hardest part of the program so far as I am concerned. I find myself at a loss for the words to describe the charm and tact and ability of this lady who, along with her husband, has attended so many Conventions in the State, County and District for so many years that we do not like to think of it. But I will let her speak for herself. Mrs. H. J. Hannasch, President of the Iowa Ladies Auxiliary

Mrs. H. J. Hannasch. I am most happy to have the privilege and the honor of presenting to you our National President. She is most gracious and efficient. She is a rose who comes from the State of Roses, and I want to present to you, Mrs. J. Paul Myers, of St. Helens, Oregon.

Mrs. J. Paul Myers (national Auxiliary President): Mr. Chairman, Postmaster Johnson, National Officers, Rural Carriers and Friends: Isn't this a wonderful day? It is a day that you and I have been looking forward to for a long time and now it is here. Your President said that I came from a state of roses. It is true; but as far as being a rose this morning, I feel like a very wilted one after the wonderful time last night.

I would like to add a word of gratitude to the welcomes and the responses to the welcomes that have been given here this morning. We do appreciate more than words will ever tell you this opportunity of meeting with you this morning. You are a grand group. I am happy to represent the Auxiliary at this time.

Before presenting my Board to you, a little jingle presents or expresses my thoughts better than any other way, and it goes something like this:

"One alone the load cannot pull,
Against the storm and weather,
But with all shoulders to the wheel,
We can move along together."

I am most happy this morning to present my Board to you. We are all here, 100 per cent, but a few weeks ago we doubted if we would be here 100 per cent. At this time, I am going to ask the girls if they will stand at their places and take a bow as I call their names. Mrs. R. J. Vandenberg, our Vice President from South Dakota. Mrs. H. C. Myers, our Secretary from Lexington, North Carolina. Mrs. Charles N. Stafflinger our Treasurer, from Youngs-

town, New York. Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges, Chairman of the Executive Committee from Random Lake, Wisconsin. Mrs. George H. Harries, Secretary of the Executive Committee from San Antonio, Texas. Mrs. J. R. Winter, member of the Executive Committee from Winterville, Georgia.

We are all here and at your service and we hope you enjoy this as much as we do. Thank you.

Chairman Courtney Thank you, Mrs. Myers.

Lest I forget, on behalf of the General Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of every Committee who had anything to do in the preparation for this Convention. We have had the wholehearted support of every rural letter carrier in the State of Iowa, and for this we give our humble thanks.

We have with us now one whom we had hoped to have earlier. He is a man who has recently returned from the Pacific where he witnessed the atomic bomb tests, and I don't know how explosive his words may be, so hold on to your seats. This much I do know as far as we are concerned, he is the right man as a member of the Senate Post office and Post Roads Committee.

Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa.

Honorable B. B. Hickenlooper (U. S. Senator, Iowa):

Thank you, Mr. Courtney, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I first apologize for being late but I had quite a distance to drive. I called yesterday to see if it would be all right if I got here about ten o'clock this morning rather than nine. Mr. Walters and Mr. Courtney kindly said that it would be all right.

I do not feel that I am a stranger in this group. I have met with the rural letter carriers from time to time in our own state, and I believe once with the National Association, in the past. I have enjoyed the very friendly relations with you, both here and in Washington. I assure you that one gets to know people and especially his constituents in government service when he serves, as I have had the privilege of serving, on two of the Committees that most vitally affect public service and the civil service, namely the Post Office and Post Roads Committee and the Civil Service Committee of the Senate. I believe, and certainly I hope, that I have been able to get a much clearer picture not only of the problems, but the hopes and aspirations and the progress of the public employees of this government of ours, which is by far the biggest thing in a business way in the world today.

Mr. Courtney announced the fact that I just came back from the South Pacific where I witnessed the two atomic bomb tests, the air burst and the under water burst. It was quite a blow up, I assure you, and quite an experience.

Just yesterday, after I had returned, I received a telegram from a couple of friends of mine down in Atlanta, Georgia, who I think sit up evenings thinking up funny things to wire me about.

The telegram read: "DEAR SENATOR: HOW WAS THE WIZARD'S GIZZARD?" (Laughter.)

I have not decided upon a suitable reply as yet but I am thinking of replying, "It has Merlin curlin'." (Laughter.)

Not being able to be present through your sessions here, I am not at all certain just what course your discussions have taken. I do want to say to you, however, that the results of your deliberations and the program that you lay out for the best interests of the public service which you represent I am sure

will be presented to us later in the year or early next year; and I shall for one, welcome a study of your suggestions and your recommendations in your service. After all, public service, when it is public service and not public dictation or domination, is perhaps the most satisfactory of all services with the exception of humanitarian service.

There is satisfaction in doing a job that year by year raises the confidence, increases the acceptance and increases the support of the general public that is being served. Too often we confuse the word service with the word control in public activities. I said a moment ago that it is a pleasure to be in a branch or a part of government that serves and that does not attempt to order or dictate or regulate or control the destinies of the people whose servant it should be.

You belong in the postal service to one of the early—in fact, one of the earliest of the pioneering experiments of governmental services to the people. The mail service and the delivery service, whether it be rural or city, when it was first established was looked upon with doubt by many people. They thought the government had no business going into that kind of activity. But as the years have gone on—and I shall not review it because you are more familiar with the history than I am—as the years have gone on, the consistent and the reliable and the progressive service that the entire postal system has brought year by year to the public has made it an indispensable part of our government and our social and economic life, and for that you are to be congratulated.

I think, as I have said often to organizations of this kind, that meetings such as this where the members of the organization get together periodically in their local, state and national meetings to inquire how they can better serve, are the very backbone of your progress that your Association is accomplishing.

I am sure as a citizen of Iowa that I can join with all the other citizens of our state, public and private, in giving you another hearty welcome to the state where the tall corn grows. You are especially welcome this year, because you can participate in our 100th anniversary of statehood, and we are happy to have you here at this time.

It was suggested to me that for a few minutes I try to describe this atomic bomb explosion. Therefore, if you will permit, I would like to give you a very short picture of this great genie that has been allowed to escape from the bottle and is now stalking the world, either for good or evil, we know not which. We hope it is for good, and we shall do, all of us, you and I and everyone else, everything to see that the power of this new magic will be used for the benefit of humanity and the public generally, rather than for destruction of mankind.

In the first place, atomic energy as we know it now in a practical usable form is still nothing but a big explosive. It is a bomb. This country started out in the present war with the fear that our enemies might develop the atomic bomb before we did. Our scientists, knowing what its power might be, were very apprehensive indeed that if an enemy nation did develop that power, it would destroy us or lose the war for us. So we devoted unbelievable energy and scientific brains over a period of about three years, reaching out farther and farther into the unknown, grasping for this thing science had thought possible for many years but had never been able to accomplish; that is, the splitting of the atom, releasing solid matter back to its ultimate energy from which it was compressed to form solid matter.

I can't give you the step by step description of the process, but only the results of that search. In about 1944, we accumulated, if you please, through the most intensive and extensive combination of scientific effort and industrial and engineering skill that the world has ever seen, material made from uranium, which in turn, if placed in certain combinations and circumstances would blow up with the biggest explosion that the world had ever seen. We did create material which put together under certain circumstances would re-expand itself back from a solid material to its ultimate energy—not gases, but to the ultimate energy that goes into making up the little atoms which in turn make up gases and other matter.

It is an extremely complicated problem. I do not pretend to be a physicist, and I do not understand all these figures they put on the board when they describe what happens. But I did have the opportunity of serving, being appointed and serving on the Senate Special Atomic Committee that was appointed last October. We worked for five months trying to learn something about this subject in order that we might write—considering the fact that it is a new field, and an unknown field—that we might write and recommend to the Congress and to the people, legislation that would, as far as we could see it, and as far as science could see it now, be acceptable and proper domestic legislation to try to harness this genie that we had turned loose.

That experience gave us, all of us, I am sure, who served on that Committee, an unusual opportunity to hear the stories of the scientists and the engineers, to picture as laymen this thing as it unfolded from the beginning when it was nothing but a hoped for result, to the day when the test bomb went off and the explosive power of atomic energy was proven.

In the first place, I do not know how big these bombs were that they dropped over Japan. That is one of the things we did not ask, and we were not told, and it was not one of the things that was necessary for us to know as a Committee member. But I know that it is a pretty good sized bomb and a big bomber carries it. The actual material in the bomb is small indeed. The amount of material that actually blows up I believe you could carry around. But the mechanism that goes into it is very heavy and of considerable size.

That is occasioned from two or three things, as I understand it. They have to create a bomb that will drop in true flight from the airplane so that the bomb sights and calculators can be more reliable. Then inside this bomb there is considerable mechanism, delicate instruments; that, after the bomb is dropped, must operate perfectly in order to do the things that have to be done, when that material blows up. The exact method of blowing it up is one of the secrets.

Nevertheless, after these bombs were dropped on Japan, we and the world realized that we had an enormous power, and it is just like building a new battleship or a new automobile or any other new and expensive device, if you don't take it out and test it; if you don't take a ship out on a shake down cruise; if you build a new cannon and don't fire it under controlled conditions to see what its power actually is, then you make mistakes that will be paid for later and at great cost. And that is the reason it was deemed advisable by the government and the administration, the Army and Navy and Congress to test out this new power under controlled conditions.

So these tests were prepared. The first test was held in the lagoon of Bikini Atoll on

July 1. It is about 175 miles northwest of the base of Kwajalein in the South Pacific. The Atoll is about twenty miles long and 17 miles wide. It is the rim of an old volcano whose top blew off. Into this lagoon the target ships were taken. Most of them that were chosen to go into the target area were ships that were obsolete. If we have another war—and I will say to you after a while what I think of another war—but if we should get into another war these ships would be discarded because they are outmoded. Their structures are sound however, and, therefore, they were proper ships for the test, and they were used. Instead of cutting them up for scrap steel they were used in this test, and a great many of them will be taken back now for the scrapping operation.

They furnished ideal tests so far as naval installations were concerned. They were put around in a definite pattern in this lagoon area and I would say they averaged 500 to 1000 yards apart. The center ship was the old battleship Nevada. It is 39 years old, I guess, and they had it painted a peculiar orange-color and set it in the center of the area. It made it a distinctive target.

They were afraid that clouds might cause a postponement of this first test, but they did not for the day was almost perfect. Those with whom I was associated were on a ship about 18 miles from the lagoon and of course, at that distance we could not see the target area because it was over the horizon. But the bomb burst several hundred feet in the air, so we were able to see that when it occurred.

There was quite a feeling of tension on the ship before the bomb went off. We had read a lot of stories about the earth or sea blowing up and other dire predictions, but those of us who had listened to the scientists in these meetings knew that would not happen, but we were apprehensive as to how far the force of the explosion would reach and what it would do. As the hour of 9 o'clock approached, however, there was that feeling of tenseness on the ship. Right on the dot, because the weather was perfect and conditions were very good—right on the dot there came the word from the airplane flying at great height that the bomb was on the way. From that time on there wasn't anything to do but wait. It was going to blow up, so whatever was going to happen would happen; and within a few seconds after we got that word we saw this brilliant ball burst on the horizon.

We wore very dark glasses. If I put them on on this stage I could not see anyone in this audience under this light. The reason for the dark glasses is that this burst is brighter than the sun and if you should look at it even from a distance of 18 miles, it would put a couple of blind spots in your eyes for three or four minutes; like looking at the sun and then looking at something across the street. Your vision would be stopped by these two brilliant light spots in front of your eyes.

We were told that probably no permanent injury would result from viewing the burst with naked eyes at that distance, but if you wanted to see anything clearly for a time after the burst, you would have to wear these glasses. Well, we did, and I think, perhaps, that so far as the display is concerned, most of you who have seen a movie of that first burst saw it better than we did at 18 miles distance. We heard a rumble and did feel some of the air pressure of the blast 18 miles away. It was not very great, but we felt the pressure and there was some indication of the heat flash at that distance. I was too much interested in other things to get excited over the heat, but some did get a reaction from this heat.

We went into the harbor about six hours

after the explosion occurred, and after they had taken samples of the water. They used radio operated boats, with nobody in them, and after the explosion the radio control operators sent those boats into the lagoon, and they automatically took samples of this water; Then the radio operators brought the boats out and they tested the water. They found that it was not too radio active for safety. So the ships all went into the harbor that same afternoon and the next day it was safe enough so that we could go in small boats around among the ships lying in the lagoon and look at the damage.

There were five war vessels sunk in that first air blast and seven others put out of commission so they could not operate. Out on the high seas these seven would have been put completely out of action. I understand that the general impression of that first air burst, through the radio and news reports, was that it was not very great.

Let me say that one burst of a small amount of material in a small bomb several hundred feet in the air that will sink five war vessels and put out of commission seven others is no Fourth of July firecracker. No ordinary explosion ever came close to doing that damage. Not even by the wildest stretch of the imagination has any other type of bomb, regardless of size, done that or come close to doing it.

We spent the next several days going on the ships. A lot of these ships were radio active after this burst. The radio activity of these ships and of the water comes as a result of the scattering of myriads of minute particles that make up this bomb, which in turn, i.e., each particle, is radio active itself, and wherever these particles concentrate, you have an area of radio activity. You can have a spot half as big as that platform that would be radio active because, for some reason, the concentration of these particles occurred there. But two feet away from that area you might not be in any danger at all. You would have to be on the infected area itself to be in danger and it would not emanate rays for any great distance.

We found that most of the radio activity left these ships within a day or two, and there were only a few remaining spots where it was dangerous. They had some goats and pigs and some rats and chickens on board the various ships. They have discovered, as I understand it, and I get this from the news releases that were made from headquarters, that many of these animals were killed by the radio activity. They seem to have died or suffered injury in direct proportion to their distance away from the burst. The closer they were to the explosion the sooner they died. There were some that were at substantial distances away that did not get enough of this radio activity to affect them. The effect on them was about as science had predicted, and according to the degree of radio activity. This radio activity seems to affect the bone marrow and other portions of the physical anatomy of humans and animals.

We inspected these ships for several days. We saw the bent and broken superstructures, the buckled deck plates, the evidence of great heat, and altogether I was very much impressed by the power of the bomb and the damage it had done. We were anxious then to see the results of the second bomb burst. It was to occur in this lagoon at some depth. I do not know how deep. That was one of the things that they guarded carefully, the exact depth at which this second bomb was to be set off.

The ships were in about the same general pattern for the second test as the first. For

the second test I was able to fly. I was in the air for the second test about seven miles away and 7,500 feet in the air. We were permitted to look at that test without colored glasses because the flash occurred under the water, and it was the flash that you needed the colored glasses to protect yourself against. And this time there would not be any flash. This bomb was set off by electric time clocks, and, of course, right on the predetermined instant the bomb exploded, and from the air the first thing we saw was a tremendous column of water and the mushroom cloud that you have seen newsreel pictures of in the last two or three weeks. It was the most awful and spectacular sight that I have ever seen. The column of water started with a bubble, rising and spreading out in a perfect circle until it reached four or five thousand feet in the air—a mile in the air, almost, and at least a mile to a mile and a half across.

It kept constantly climbing and climbing with a cloud cap over it, and as it stretched out it engulfed the ships. Ship after ship went into this column of water and disappeared and it was some ten minutes, maybe fifteen before this cloud began to lift and the water settle enough so that we could see the target area and the remaining ships.

During this period we were watching for what might be a tidal wave, that some of the "Jules Verne" writers talked about. The scientists told us that they did not think there would be a tidal wave of great size, and that it would dissipate itself very rapidly, so we watched for this wave to come out of the burst area. I counted four waves, but there may have been more. These waves, however, were only three or four feet high and they dissipated themselves rapidly, a lot like the ripples formed by throwing a stone in the center of a pond. The first wave was fairly big, the largest of all, but I assure you there was nothing dangerous about the waves created from this underwater blast; they were really below expectation.

As soon as the clouds lifted sufficiently, the pilot of our plane took us down quite low, flying around the edge of the target area, cautious not to fly into or too near the atomic cloud because it is supercharged with radio activity, and, as the scientists say, it was very "hot" indeed. So we kept at a reasonable distance, using what is called the Geiger counter to detect the presence of radio activity. This Geiger counter is a little box, about ten inches long and about three inches wide. It has a delicate mechanism and a set of earphones, and you carry that around listening for clicks or buzzes that indicate radio activity. It is a very comforting piece of equipment to have around under such circumstances.

We had about an hour and a half airplane flight around the area after the explosion, circling, getting lower, and going over different areas, as we viewed the wreckage. We thought we noticed the absence of five or six warships, including the old battleship Arkansas and were certain they had been sunk. We later checked and found that is about what happened, but before the end of the next day sixteen vessels had sunk, and I have not seen the latest figures, but I think that the total will exceed twenty war vessels of various kinds sunk by his one blast under water. That does not mean that the blast under water was more powerful than the blast in the air, however. Water as you know, is not compressible, and a blast going off under water transmits a tremendous shock against the hulls and the sides of the ships in the area; and, of course, those are the forces that they wanted to measure.

The general damage of the second bomb

was about the same as the first so far as bent structures, steel plates, and masses were concerned. The ships near the center of the target appeared to have taken quite a beating, according to what we could see. The water was colored with various shades of green from the coral, and it was very likely that if there had been human beings on many of the ships they would have been killed, or they would have been so affected with the radio active water which was splashed over the ships that it would have eventually caused their death. We won't know for some time what the calculated results might be, but they undoubtedly would have been serious.

That is about all there is to tell. I am not arguing for or against the use of the atomic bomb; but I do say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that I believe we in this country have the basic secrets of the atomic bomb, alone. I don't believe that there is another country in the world that can make an atomic bomb today. They may be able to make one sometime in the future. I am not inclined to think that it will be in the immediate future, because it is extremely complicated. But we have the secret of how to make the atomic bomb, and I will say to you that until this world of ours and the nations make reliable, proper and satisfactory pledges for future peace coupled with ample proof in the years to come that they intend to and will carry out those pledges for peace, then I am not going to give the secrets of the atomic bomb to anybody, anyplace. (Applause.)

I do not have the entire say about whether or not it is given away, I have only one vote, but so far as my efforts and my vote are concerned, there will be no disclosure of any atomic bomb secrets until we have had adequate, public and satisfactory proof over a period of time that nations will not use it for destruction and for war.

Just one other matter. I do want to mention some of the more optimistic things about atomic energy, because I believe in science it is one of the greatest developments of all time, including the development of electricity.

I said to you at the outset that today it is only a bomb. That is the accomplished proven use of atomic energy; but we have other uses that seem practical in public health, in industry, in agriculture. The use, the utility of the principles of atomic energy are so vast that no scientist can fully envision it as yet.

You have read articles about the treatment of cancer. Yes, there is that reasonable hope. The trained men who have been in this field say that it is a reality, wanting only time enough to conduct new experiments in the light of the knowledge they now have about atomic radiation. They say that it is a proven fact that this great scourge of cancer can be attacked more successfully and that suffering can be greatly alleviated by new methods of treatment. There are other ailments of the body that will lend themselves to treatment through using the discoveries of atomic energy. Perhaps the energy itself may not treat those diseases, but it will be the means and indicator that will tell the scientists and physicians how to immediately and effectively treat these other ailments; these developments will come along shortly.

In industry the new scientific facts that have been developed will give us far better materials of all kinds in the future, and scientists tell us that we may look forward to startling new tools and equipment of all kinds, and made of all sorts of materials. And then in agriculture, by the use of this new science, not only can production be increased but perhaps new species will be developed.

Through this new science one can find out

how to grow better seeds, better stalk, better roots, and how to produce better plant life of all kinds including agricultural products; how to increase production where it is needed; how to produce where heretofore it was thought impossible.

This is only the dawn of the industrial use of this great new science and it would be foolish for anyone to predict its limitations. But suffice it to say that there is a great change seen in the future by those who know most of what it will do, of the tremendous benefits to humanity, if we use it peacefully, if we use it for human good, and if we, along with other nations of the world can somehow prevent it and other mass weapons of destruction from being used for the killing of people tomorrow.

I want to say to you this about the atomic bomb: Great as it is and terrible as it is as a weapon, you may rest assured that if ever again the nations of this world choose up sides and fight it out on the battle fields, there will be weapons that will be far greater in their destructive power and far more awful than the atomic bomb. Terrible as the atomic bomb is, thousands of times more terrible in proportion than TNT, yet there will be other methods such as biological warfare which will destroy plant and human life to a much greater extent than the bomb.

And that is why, with rapid means of communication wiping out barriers and distances; with people and nations coming ever closer together, that is why I say that we, you and I, the American people, must assume a tremendous obligation to work for a lasting peace.

The time has come when the American people must exert leadership to the end that we are never again subjected to a world conflict; because another world conflict in another generation might well mean that civilization as we know it might be substantially destroyed. It cannot help it, because tomorrow's war will be fought with every weapon of destruction that the scientists can devise and they will produce some awful ones.

The obligation and the duty upon free people, God fearing people, is tremendous to see that somehow, some way, peace is assured as a heritage of mankind in the future, and that never again will civilized people, who want nothing but comfort, who want nothing but freedom, who want nothing but progress, be subjected to the destruction that can come out of the awful secrets of science and of men's minds. This destruction may be visited upon us if we do not discharge our obligations and if we do not see clearly, act courageously and discharge our obligations humanely and decently for the good of mankind.

If we allow ourselves or any other group to be drawn into a holocaust of war in another generation, we may then well say that civilization probably has failed, at least for a season, and that barbarism has again gained control of progress.

Thank you.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Senator, and I am sure that we all have received information from your address.

Mrs. Myers, I will ask you to present the Junior Officers. Friends, this is Mrs. Gladden, from Ohio, your Junior Sponsor.

Mrs. R. V. Gladden. Mrs. Myers, and our very distinguished Board of Rural Letter Carriers and the Auxiliary and you friends: I am surely happy to serve in this capacity, but I do not believe that I have any of the officers here. I am sure that we will have a wonderful time with your support, and I thank you very much.

Chairman Courtney. Thank you, Mrs.



BEN F. OSTERGREN,
Vice-President,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gladden. Now this is kind of a laugh. Who am I, to introduce or try to present to you our National President, Thomas Gordon Walters? Thomas, it is a great pleasure to present you with this gavel.

President Walters. Mr. Courtney, Postmaster Johnson, Mrs. Myers, Delegates to this Convention, Auxiliary and Juniors: I accept this gavel, feeling the full responsibility which it carries, realizing full well that with every honor and public trust there also goes a public duty. It will be my purpose to wield this gavel in justice to all Delegates and visitors to this Convention.

I am happy at this time to present to you the co-workers of your National Board, and we will ask them to stand as their names are called. B. A. Winquest of Holdrege, Nebraska, Vice President. Glenn W. Folkers of Illinois, National Secretary. George M. Ellis of Massachusetts, National Treasurer. J. Paul Myers of Oregon, Chairman of the Executive Committee. Walter D. Gray of Ohio, Member of the Executive Committee. Willard L. Manning of Florida, Member of Executive Committee.

At this time we will give Mrs. Myers, the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary an opportunity to name the Committees of her organization. Mrs. Myers.

Mrs. Myers announced the appointment of her Committees. Refer to Auxiliary Proceedings.

President Walters. Through the cooperation of the Postmaster, Mrs. Edith Johnson of Des Moines, and the Post Office Department in Washington, a special cachet has been prepared and all mail dispatched from the Des Moines office during this Convention only will carry to the world the history of rural service. So I suggest that all those who are mailing cards and letters back home be sure to affix thereto a cachet stamp and in cooperation with the Post Office Department of Des Moines this mail that you send back to your respective friends from this Convention will perhaps increase in value as the years move on. This office and the post office in West Virginia where the service was inaugurated will be the only places in the United States where the post office department will permit these special dies to be used. And I

am sure that you agree with me that the third Assistant Postmaster General and his co-workers were most lenient to permit the special dies to be used in the cancellation machines in the Des Moines Post Office; and the press release that was put out to the public stated that "recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of rural free delivery service, the Post Office Department announced today that a special cancellation will be applied to covers at the Post Office at Des Moines, Iowa, during the week beginning August 12th. The National Convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association will be held in that city from August 13th to 16th."

So I am sure that you will cooperate with the Post Office Department in this plan. I would like, at this time, to name the Committees that will serve throughout this Convention.

Resolutions Committee

Chas. E. Kellogg, Niles, Kansas, Chairman.
James C. Myers, Taneytown, Maryland.
Harvey Gugisberg, Gibbon, Minnesota.
Stanley Dorey, Skillman, New Jersey.
L. S. Griffin, Central, South Carolina.

Credentials Committee

Frank H. Cranor, Owensboro, Kentucky, Chairman.
Milt Miller, Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania.
Percy Voight, Loyal, Wisconsin.

Special Committee to Look After Invited Guests

Harley V. Shepherd, Newton, Iowa, Chairman.
H. G. Courtney, Norwalk, Iowa.
Byron C. Pascoe, Newark, Arkansas.
Wm. B. Lindau, Murtaugh, Idaho.
A. B. Custer, Wolsey, South Dakota.

Mileage and Per Diem Committee

Bruce Johnson, Elwood, Indiana, Chairman.
Gabriel Coigny, Orange Grove, Calif.
Ernest Robertson, Alexandria, Louisiana.
Marvin S. Bennet, Gilmanston, Iron Works, N. H.
Presley J. Bragg, Orlando, West Virginia.

Next Convention Committee

W. L. Snyder, Clarksville, Virginia, Chairman.
Andrew Hintz, Max, North Dakota.
Freeman R. Nelson, Pomfret Center, Conn.
Byron L. Burrill, Corinna, Maine.
James A. Marceau, Valley Falls, R. I.

Auditing Committee

Wm. Van Hartesvelt, Jr., Fennville, Mich., Chairman.
G. C. Harris, Clanton, Alabama.
Herman Winterfeldt, Stigler, Oklahoma.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Oran Gray, Florence, Texas, Chairman.
Carl D. Barnes, Crystal Springs, Miss.
Clarence H. Osterhout, Delmar, New York
Roy E. Mills, China Grove, N. C.
S. S. Neher, Wenatchee, Washington.

Postmaster General, Assistants, and Question Box

C. C. Sullivan, Lexington, Tenn., Chairman
A. J. Walker, Higley, Arizona.
Walter M. Bashford, Wray, Colorado.
John L. McCammon, Huntley, Montana.
Lyndal C. Hayman, Delaware.

I hope that this Special Committee will begin to function immediately and see that our invited guests and speakers are looked after as you would desire to be looked after if you were visiting some friend in a far away state or land.

The tellers will be B. A. Tillman of New Mexico, Wm. O. Kent of Vermont, and the principal Delegate from Wyoming whose name I do not have at the present time.

Announcements

President Walters. We will convene promptly at one-thirty this afternoon and are making all these announcements now so at the close of the Memorial Service we still stand adjourned. We are going to ask the Iowa Delegation to have change of the song service and the invocation at that time. We hope that the song leaders of this state will be here promptly at one-thirty and give us a couple of numbers and somebody will give the invocation and then we will go into our Business Session.

I trust the Ladies' Auxiliary of this State will reproduce the program they put on at the State Convention so we may be able to get some pictures for this historical edition of our paper.

We will ask the Special Committee named by Mrs. Myers to handle the sale of RFD Books and the cachet stamps to come forward, and we are going to ask the members of the Board to join with that Committee and to pass among you at this time with the RFD Books for about ten minutes, while they are preparing the stage for the Memorial Service, and we hope that you will buy a book, because we believe that as time moves on you will be happy to have in your possession one of these books. Buy one to give to your local library or some friend who is interested in the rural letter service.

They will be on sale out at the desk, and I respectfully urge that you use these cachet stamps, especially on your mail leaving Des Moines this week. If that Committee will come forward and take charge for about five or ten minutes we will handle that quickly while they are fixing the stage for the Memorial Service.

Please remain in the hall for the Memorial Service, and immediately after that we will stand adjourned. The books are \$1.00 each, so get your money out and here comes the ladies and gentlemen with the books among you. The Centennial Stamps for the state of Iowa are also available to be used on the mail dispatched at this time.

Floy E. Beezley has been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Memorial Service

... Processional of Ladies in white floor-length dresses to the stage to form a cross while Mrs. N. Clark of South Carolina sang "The Old Rugged Cross."

Mrs. Harriges. This is a tender hour of recollection, not meant for tears and sadness, but for loving thoughts of pride and thankfulness for those qualities and achievements which endeared our loved ones to us. Remembrance is a blessed thing, gentle and sweet. This occasion gives us the sense and realization of the eternal companionship of those we love, respect and remember. It gives us a glimpse of the immortality of mankind, brings us peace and permits us to join hands with the dear ones of happy past association; to walk with refreshed and peaceful hearts.

We pause for a few minutes in our deliberations to pay tribute to those of our group who have passed on to a land of peace and rest. To each home that has lost a loved one we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

Mrs. Mike Schafer (Chaplain). Dear Lord, upon the altar I place this scroll in memory of the departed Rural Letter Carriers and their loved ones. May we the living, hallow their memory by worthy service. And be ever mindful that when all is gone, that eyes can see there still abides these Holy Three, Faith,

Hope and Love, beyond the sunset to the dawn.

Our Father, we humbly beseech Thee for the grace to fulfill the duties we owe to each other and to Thee. Direct us in all our doings and favor us with Thy continual help to serve Thee in the spirit of Him who has taught us to do Thy will on earth as it is in heaven. That we may follow Thy teachings and that we, with those who have departed, may be reunited in the land where death comes not.

Mrs. Harriges.

*Death does not rob us of our loved ones,
Though mourned, they are not lost.
Nor are they hid behind closed doors;
It is only that Earth's eyes, dazzled
By unwonted, celestial radiance
Cannot look on glorified splendor.
Nothing is lost that is sent to God;
Though our loves go to Him by way of the sod,
Their beauty like seeds, increases a hundred fold.
There is no Death; the leaves may fall,
The flowers fade and pass away;
They only wait through wintry hours
The coming Spring in May.*

Chaplain Mrs. Schafer. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yea, sayeth the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

Mrs. Harriges. And now in tribute to our loved ones of the active carriers who have left our midst this year, flowers are placed in the memory urn.

... Mr. Paul Benson of Missouri placed the flowers in the memory urn ...

... Mr. Glandon of Michigan sang "Face to Face," and flowers were gathered from part of the cross during the solo ...

Mrs. Harriges (As the organ softly played "The Bells of St. Mary's").

*Here is an old time legend, the tale of the twilight bell,
A message to comfort the weary hearts, a story sweet to tell.*

'Tis said at the hour of twilight, when the whole world seems to wait

That a bell making exquisite music is swung from Heaven's Gate.

*Then if all who are weary with striving, who are bent with some burden of care,
Will pause and look up for a moment, they will hear some music rare.*

These flowers are placed in the memory urn in tribute to those who have left us from the ranks of the Auxiliary.

... Mrs. J. Brummel of Iowa sang "When they Ring Those Golden Bells" ...

Chaplain Schafer. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the Valley of Death, I will fear no evil for they are with me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Mrs. Harriges (As the music played "The End of a Perfect Day").

Hear of the wonderful story that day after day is revealed;

Up there is rest for the weary, and hearts that are broken are healed.

Hands that were toilworn and tired shall be folded in peace on each breast,

And feet that were bruised in climbing shall pause in the field's of the blessed.

Each wish, each hope, each desire that was missed by you on the way

Will be waiting up there for your coming at the end of some radiant day.

In tribute to those retired carriers and

wives who have come to the end of a perfect day, flowers are placed in the memory urn.

... Mrs. Wm. Stevens of Maryland placed the flowers in the memory urn as Mrs. Clark sang, "In the Garden" . . .

Chaplain Schafer. And Jesus said, "I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman" and "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Mrs. Harriges.

*Death is Heaven's black gardner
Who grafts on an evergreen bough,
Earth's choicest buds and blossoms
For reasons we know not now.*

E'en for the dead I will not bind my soul to grief;

*Death cannot long divide,
For is it not as though the rose that climbed
my garden wall*

*Death doth hide,
But not divide.*

They are but on Christ's other side.

They are with Christ and Christ with me;

In Christ united still are we.

Please place flowers in the memory urn in tribute to our loved ones the Juniors, being especially mindful of those who dedicated their lives to the service of our Country and who have entered Christ's garden of Love.

... Miss Darline Grace of Iowa placed the flowers in the memory urn as Mr. Truman Hahs of Missouri sang "No Night There" . . .

Mrs. Harriges.

They never quite leave us, those who have passed

Through the shadow of Death to the sunlight above;

*A thousand memories are holding them fast
To the places they blessed with their presence
and love.*

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind,

In those whom they have loved, the

Light of their spirits lives again,

And shall live throughout the years.

... The lights were dimmed and the candles were lighted, as Mr. Hahs sang "Lead Kindly Light" . . .

Mrs. Harriges. Now, please rise, and in the name of the Master who has taught us to pray,

Our Father which art in Heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

In earth, as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts, as

We forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom,

And the power and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

... The candles were blown out and the women left the stage . . .

... The meeting adjourned at twelve o'clock . . .

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

August 13, 1946

The meeting reconvened at one-forty o'clock, President Walters, presiding.

President Walters. Let us all stand, and I am going to ask Brother John McBurney to give the invocation.

Brother John McBurney. Our Loving, Heavenly Father, we are thankful to Thee

this beautiful afternoon for the privilege of coming to this gathering. We pray, Dear Lord, Thou will bless us in our deliberations as we come together and seek to do the best things for our great organization. We thank Thee, Dear Lord, for this land and nation of ours, as it stands for good and righteousness, and we pause at this time to invoke Thy divine blessing upon us. We pray that Thou will bless the officers and officials of this great organization, that we may do and say the right things in the right places, to honor and glorify Thee. We ask Thy help, as we have come together, men from every state in the Union, men from every walk of life, men from every creed. As we come together, may it be for the one purpose of bettering our organization and doing the things that will please Thee.

Grant, our Father, as we go back to our work, that we may carry with us the spirit of love and of mercy and of helpfulness to those whom we come in contact with, realizing that the world is in a torn-up condition, and we are fortunate in being in this country of ours.

We ask that the Lord bless us now as we think and pray together, the prayer that Thou hast taught us to pray, saying: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

President Walters. Is the Credentials Committee ready for a preliminary report?

Mr. Cranor. Read the partial report. (Full report appears hereafter.)

President Walters. You have heard the partial report. What is your pleasure?

Edgar Gordon (Illinois). I move that the report be received and the delegates seated, and that we proceed with the meeting.

Odell Howerton (Virginia). I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? If not, all those in favor, say, "aye"; opposed "nay." Motion carried.

Friends, in order that you might know Mr. Stone from the Post Office Department, I am going to ask him to come around now and take a bow and let you know who he is so you can come up and talk to him and begin to tell and unload some of your troubles. You have heard tell of a troubleshooter. Now here he is. (Applause.)

President Walters. Thank you.

To those of you who have been transferred into the service in the last four or five years, since we have not been able to have good old time conventions like we are now having, I would like to present to you—there is no need to present this man to the rest of you folks here because you have known him since way back yonder—I would like to present Superintendent J. Ed Cooper to come around and say a word. He is on the program, but I know you want to hear his voice. Superintendent Cooper.

... The audience arose and applauded . . .

Brother J. Ed Cooper (Supt. Division No. 3 Post Office Service). How are you folks? How are you all? (Laughter and applause.)

President Walters. Thank you.

Everything that has happened since I have been in Des Moines has been uplifting, happy and glorifying except one thing, and that was when we received a message that our long-time friend and public servant Thomas G. Burch could not be with us due to the illness of Mrs. Burch, and I felt that message very

keenly. I had looked forward with much personal pleasure for you people to know Mr. Burch as I feel I know him. And the day that I invited Mr. Burch to come to this convention, he told me that if the Lord permitted him to do so, he would be here. He had never been privileged to attend one of our national conventions, and he seemed highly elated over the invitation. But it was not our pleasure to have him here. He did send a message to this group, and I am going to ask Walter Gray to read that message that was mailed to us with the request that it be read to the delegation.

Walter D. Gray (Executive Committee-man, Wooster, Ohio). The address of the Senator is as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"I am always glad to meet with the rural carriers of the United States, and especially so at this time to celebrate with you the Golden Jubilee Convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association here in Des Moines.

"We have come a long way since the first experimental rural delivery service was established at Charles Town, Halltown and Uvilla, West Virginia in the year 1896, with each route averaging about 20 miles and the carriers receiving a salary of \$200.00 per annum.

"Men of great vision and courage sponsored the rural free delivery service and fought valiantly for its establishment. Although they were severely criticized as impractical dreamers they continued the crusade and overcame obstacles which at first seemed insurmountable. Today we sing their praises and acknowledge our debt of gratitude for having pioneered in a field of service which has more than proved its value.

"In the first nine months of its operation, the rural free delivery service expanded to 82 routes, emanating from 43 post offices, in 29 states. By June 30, 1915, the service developed rapidly until it covered 990 counties. According to the last annual report of the Postmaster General, the 32,134 rural delivery routes today provide service to approximately 29,500,000 patrons and require a total daily travel by rural carriers of 1,435,059 miles.

"The Postal Establishment is one of the nation's largest business enterprises and the rural service is one of its most important branches. This enormous enterprise increases each year in volume of business and character of service. It belongs to the people and its patrons should be served with that in mind. It is my opinion that most postal employees and especially the rural carriers realize this and are serving with fidelity, industry and ability, and are meeting the trust reposed in them in an admirable manner.

"In your Constitution and By-laws, you have stated that 'The purpose of this Association shall be to improve the methods used by Rural Mail Carriers, to cooperate with the Post Office Department and the public for the good of the service, to promote a fraternal spirit among its members, and to benefit their conditions of labor . . . ' I congratulate you upon having achieved that goal.

"The Postal Service should not be used as a revenue-producing agency. It should be conducted as an organization for service only. Each class of mail and special service should carry rates and fees commensurate with the costs of handling and throughout my legislative career in the Congress I have tried to stress this fact.

"When I think of what the Post Office Department means to the public, I am reminded of the famous quotation of Dr. Eliot, former President of Harvard, which as you know, is

engraved on the front of the Post Office in Washington, D. C.:

"Carrier of news and knowledge, instrument of trade and industry, promoter of mutual acquaintance, of good will among men and nations; messenger of sympathy and love, servant of parted friends, consoler of the lonely, bond of the scattered family, enlarger of the common life."

"When I was first sent to Congress in 1931 I was assigned to membership on the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, which serves in the capacity of Board of Directors to the Post Office Department, so to speak. I held membership on that Committee until I was appointed by his Excellency, the Honorable William M. Tuck, to the United States Senate on May 31, 1946. It has been my pleasure as a member of the Committee to sponsor and support measures designed to improve the rural service and the welfare of the letter carriers."

"Time will not permit a detailed reference to all of the worthwhile laws which have been enacted for your benefit since I have been on the Committee but I will mention a few:

"I recognized the need to adjust, on an equitable basis, the salaries of rural carriers on heavy routes and I sponsored that legislation, which has been generally referred to as the Burch Heavy Route Act."

"When I became Chairman of the Committee in January 1943, we were successful in putting through a bill to increase your equipment allowance to six cents per mile."

"In view of the rapidly mounting living costs we deemed it only fair and proper that the salaries of postal employees should be increased. We first enacted into law the temporary increase of 10% to cover the brief period until Public Law 25 was enacted granting a \$300 yearly increase from May 1, 1943 to June 30, 1945."

"Then an attempt was made to pass legislation providing for a \$400 increase to supplant Public Law 25 but it failed of passage in the Senate late in December 1944 and there were many who considered it a great disaster."

"In January, February, March and April of 1945, a most extensive study of postal legislation was considered, as it was the desire of the Congress and the public to give all postal employees a substantial salary increase. I felt that what was really needed was a genuine salary reclassification and I sponsored the Salary Reclassification Bill, which was later enacted into law and is now known as Public Law 134."

"The details of the bill were worked out after many conferences with the officials of the Post Office Department and the representatives of the various postal groups. It was my personal desire to see that all regular postal employees receive approximately \$400 per annum increase and that the reclassification bill have a future, and that it would give to all regular employees automatic promotions. It was not the desire of the Post Office Department to change the method of paying rural carriers, but in their recommendations to me, as Chairman of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, they recommended that rural carriers be paid \$70 per mile for the first 30 miles and \$20 for each additional mile above 30, and 6 cents equipment maintenance. That would have meant that your salary would have been \$300 more than in the past, and approximately \$100 per year equipment maintenance, with no automatic promotion."

"Your Washington representative, Mr. Thomas G. Walters would not agree to this proposal. He made some very valuable and helpful suggestions, and after weeks of conferences, we agreed to give all regular rural

carriers a \$400 salary increase, plus automatic promotions. The years of service had nothing whatsoever to do with the reclassification bill. The word 'longevity' does not appear in this legislation. It was simply a start in the right direction to give to rural carriers a salary bill with a future."

"If we had attempted to give all employees a \$400 increase and then to give credit for the years of service, it would have increased this bill to such an extent that no one would have been interested in sponsoring the legislation."

"Public Law 134 gave all employees in the field service of the Post Office Department approximately 18½% increase. The War Labor Board recommended that the President veto the legislation on the grounds that it exceeded the Little Steel Formula."

"If all employees had received credit for their years of service and the new employees received \$400 per year increase, this would have brought about approximately a 40% increase in salary, and of course, if Congress had passed such a law, the President would have no doubt immediately vetoed it. It was hard going to persuade the Department and the Congress that rural carriers' method of pay should be changed, after the old method had been in operation for 49 years."

"Rural carriers are the only group that are eligible for salary grades 12, 13, and 14. As time moves on, the benefits of Public Law 134 will unfold. One of the great benefits will be the increase in annuity for employees that must retire in the near future. The \$84 per annum automatic promotion is something new in the rural service, and it will prove a blessing financially."

"Recognizing still further the increased living costs, I introduced H. R. 5059, which was enacted into law on May 21, 1946 as Public Law 386. It provides additional compensation at the rate of \$400 per annum, retroactive to January 1, 1946, for rural carriers and other postal employees."

"In closing I want to compliment every member of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association for the excellent service you are rendering which is in keeping with your motto 'Service With a Smile.'"

"I extend my commendation to your Ladies Auxiliary whose official motto is 'Cooperation Means Success' and the R. L. C. A. Juniors whose motto is 'We Help to Serve.'"

"Your State and National officers deserve a vote of thanks from you for their diligent and untiring efforts in your behalf, and the officials of the Post Office Department from the Postmaster General on down through the ranks are doing a great job to improve the rural service and make it the great servant of the people envisioned by its founders."

"You devoted public servants deserve the plaudits of the public in this the Golden Anniversary of rural free delivery."

"Thank you."

President Walters. I am sure that you have enjoyed this article, but you would have been thrilled if you would have had the pleasure of hearing and seeing Mr. Burch deliver it in person. Those of you who have not had the opportunity of meeting and knowing this Christian gentleman have missed a great deal in life."

Al Houston (Minnesota). I move you, Sir, that this Convention send a wire to Senator Burch, expressing the following message: Our appreciation to him for his efforts on behalf of the rural service; also our appreciation to him for this message which we received from him, and best wishes to his wife for an early recovery, and our sincere regards to him."

Howerton. I second that."

President Walters. You have heard the motion and it has been duly seconded. All in favor please stand. (The entire delegation arose.)"

Harry H. Larson (Wyoming). Why not add orchids for his sick wife?"

President Walters. There will be no objections to that either, I assure you. We will send some flowers."

For many years, most rural carriers have been extremely interested in roads. That has been my pet hobby for 20 years, and it has always been my belief and my policy to attempt to become acquainted with as many people who were interested or were highway users as was humanly possible. So I feel that we, as an organization, are most fortunate to be able to be permitted to work with the National Highway Users Conference. It is true that we do not always see eye to eye. They do not see our plan and we don't see their plan, but we have been able to meet on a common ground and to reach a common understanding and to move forward in road legislation."

We are happy to have with us this afternoon, a gentleman who comes from the State of North Carolina, who is known by the majority of the rural carriers of that State and by a great many rural carriers elsewhere—P. D. McLean, Assistant Director of the National Highway Users Conference, who will now speak to us."

Mr. P. D. McLean (National Highway Users Conference). Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and Distinguished Guests:

I bring you greetings from Mr. Arthur C. Butler, Director of the National Highway Users Conference who was unable to attend this auspicious occasion."

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to appear on your program at your Golden Jubilee Celebration and annual meeting. Quite seriously, Gentlemen, I have come to regard the Rural Letter Carriers as one of the greatest institutions in America. They are symbolic of the early Americans who hewed a great nation out of the forests; who clung with determination to their convictions as you men continue to cling to your convictions."

Those are not idle words. They grow out of the depths of many years of my experience and association with national and state officers of the Rural Letter Carriers organization. For many years now your national President has been a member of the Administrative Committee of the National Highway Users' Conference. Past President Coombs was the first President to serve as a member of our Administrative Committee. Each of your succeeding Presidents has continued in that capacity including President Tom G. Walters, my good personal friend and congenial business associate. In that capacity these men work with the leaders of other organizations interested in the development of highway transportation in the public interest. Not only do they serve as members of the Administrative Committee, but they are always welcome guests at meetings of the Conference Board of Governors of which Mr. Alfred P. Sloan, Chairman of the Board of General Motors, is Chairman."

They are respected because their judgment is sound and their views are sincere, and their convictions firm. They are respected also because they represent one of the greatest segments of highway users in the whole country."

Now, I have another reason for feeling honored by being on this program, and that is my association with many of you present

in the Southeastern States when I was field representative for the Conference in that territory.

The National Highway Users' Conference was organized in 1932 and from that time up until the beginning of the second World War it did some outstanding and noteworthy things in research, public education and in organization of State Highway Users Conferences. When war came along Conference activities were curtailed and as people began to think about the post-war period the question was asked as to the place of the Conference in the future of highway transportation.

A special committee appointed by Mr. Sloan made a minute study of the Conference activity, nationally and in the states, and recommended that the Conference structure be more closely knit and its policy and programs more clearly confined.

As a result of this committee's work and recommendations the National Highway Users Conference has been completely reorganized, revitalized and its activities greatly expanded.

Referring to the organization structure of the re-energized and expanded National Highway Users Conference, we have the Board of Governors which is composed of "principals" from the member organizations numbering about thirty. These organizations include such user groups as the American Automobile Association, the American Trucking Associations, the National Association of Motor Bus Operators, the large farm and shipper organizations and those interested in manufacturing or purveying of products used by highway transportation.

The Board of Governors is the policy-making body and is presided over by Mr. Sloan in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference.

Then we have the Administrative Committee made up of paid executives of member organizations of the Conference. This Committee functions as an operating committee in an advisory capacity both to the Board of Governors and in the implementation of the policies of the Conference.

Working off from the Administrative Committee there are several special committees, some of which I will mention. The Legal Committee is composed of legal specialists who meet and discuss projects of the Conference and the legal work of their own organizations. The chief of the Legal Section of the National Highway Users Conference is secretary of the Legal Committee and that plan also is carried out in the Public Information and Research or Fact-finding Committees.

The first of the Conference policies covers the Conference position on highways and states: "The people of the United States must have roads suitable for the movement of peacetime and wartime traffic with safety, economy and facility. Their use should be free from tolls and laws or regulations not in the public interest.

"These roads should, in every instance, be predicated on traffic needs. Planning surveys undertaken cooperatively by the Federal and State Governments should point to current and future needs. Every State should have a long-range program of highway development. Each program in all its phases should be consistent with and measured by taxpayers' ability to pay."

Incidentally, I would like to point out that the phrase "ability to pay" was used by the Conference for a good many years before it came into rather unfavorable light in labor controversies and it may be that later we can

translate it into language that is more acceptable.

The Conference has a new and definite position on highway safety. In the past the Conference had cooperated with other organizations in the development of traffic safety, but had no directive of its own. Now, the Board of Governors has approved the statement that: "Highway safety is of paramount concern to the public. Highways should embody every necessary, practical safety aid. Highway safety should be promoted through sound enforcement policies and educational programs for drivers and pedestrians."

I would like to call your attention to the statement that "highways should embody every necessary, practical safety aid." There have been many unsound proposals for elaborate highway design and expensive lighting of long stretches of rural highways where such projects are uneconomical and would not contribute materially to the safe and economic use of the highways.

Human failures are responsible for more than 85 percent of traffic accidents and it is upon this phase of accident prevention that the emphasis should be placed. Enforcement and education are the most effective tools at hand with which to work for greater highway safety. Roads should be built in accordance with highway transportation needs and sound engineering practices will dictate that safety factors will be incorporated in their design.

On Federal cooperation in building highways the Conference policy states: "The benefits of highways to the Nation, States and communities, the national defense, the general welfare, delivery of the mail and interstate commerce obligate the Federal Government to contribute to the cost of highways from sources of general taxation. All control of Federal highway expenditures and related matters should be centered in one competent agency of the Federal Government designated by the Congress. The Federal Government should not make direct grants to the States for the construction of highways other than those roads lying within or providing access to areas held or owned by the United States Government. Improvement of such roads is a responsibility which rests with the Congress and the cost should be met from Federal funds."

This simply states that we should not have a return to the wasteful practices of W.P.A. and that we should preserve this principle of Federal-State cooperation in road building which has given us the finest network of interstate highways in the world.

Reference to those roads lying within or providing access to areas held or owned by the United States Government means Federal roads in national parks, forests, etc.

On the matter of taxation the Conference policy states: "Motor vehicle use taxes constitute the principal sources of revenue that have given America the finest system of highways in the world. To carry forward maintenance and necessary expansion of this program all motor vehicle use taxes should be reasonable and equitable in amounts and incidence. They should be limited to two forms: (a) a registration fee; (b) a motor fuel tax. The levying of motor vehicle use taxes should be reserved to the several States. It should not be practiced by the Federal Government nor any political subdivision of the States."

As you doubtless know, there are many different kinds of motor vehicle taxes in existence, such as mileage taxes, wheel taxes, etc., and every legislative season brings forth many proposals for imposition of these "third

structure taxes." These efforts to unduly tax highway transportation result in a great expenditure of time and effort in opposing them and in some cases they become law. We feel that the tax for highway use should be confined to two forms: (a) a registration fee; (b) a motor fuel tax. The Federal Government should retire from this tax field as should many counties and cities in some states.

Currently there is agitation for motor vehicle tax increases in many of the states in which regular legislative sessions will meet in 1947. Some of this agitation comes from official sources and from states which practice unsound use of highway funds for non-highway purposes or wasteful dissipation of motor vehicle revenue to disperse to local units of government.

It is incumbent upon you as motor vehicle owners and taxpayers working with the other organizations within your State Highway Users Conference to examine closely any proposals in your states for increasing motor vehicle taxes. You should make sure that present highway revenues are being spent in accordance with sound public policies in order that your own motor vehicle operation and that of the public be not unduly burdened with unnecessary taxes.

It is not up to me to pass judgment on tax increase proposals in your states but I do feel it my duty to urge you to take a firm position on these proposals after close and careful scrutiny of all the facts.

On the question of highway funds diverted to non-highway purposes the Conference policy states: "The growing highway needs of the Nation demand that all revenues derived from motor vehicle use taxes be spent solely for highway purposes. The misuse of these taxes for non-highway purposes is contrary to sound public policy, and burdens the motor vehicle user with unfair multiple taxation. The expenditure of motor vehicle use taxes on highway projects not in accordance with traffic requirements is uneconomic and deprives the public of facilities which are needed for maximum safety and economy of vehicle use. Those States which permanently have dedicated highway revenues solely to highway purposes by amendments to their constitutions should be commended. All other States should adopt similar amendments."

I am not going to attempt to call the roll of the 18 states that have adopted such amendments, but I will call attention to the fact that our host state, Iowa, two years ago, adopted such an amendment. I know the rural carriers are interested in such campaigns and their organizations work diligently with other groups to secure permanent dedication of state motor vehicle taxes to highway purposes.

During the 10-year period, 1934-1943, more than \$1,700,000,000 of special motor vehicle taxes collected by the states have been used for purposes entirely unrelated to highways. This means that you as letter carriers are being burdened with more than your share of the cost of general government and that your contribution for this purpose is measured not by your ability to pay or the benefits received from general government but by your use of the highways.

There have been some \$2,800,000,000 in the last ten years—not the immediate past ten years, but the last ten-year period for which the figures are available—turned over to county and city governments with no accounting as to what happened to it. Undoubtedly, some was expended wisely and soundly on highway projects, but some was used without relation to the purpose for which you paid the tax.

On the question of motor vehicle reciprocity we favor elimination of highway barriers and the Conference policy states:

"Freedom of trade and commerce between the States is a basic principle of American democracy. The States should eliminate highway barriers by entering into reciprocal agreements concerning motor vehicle use taxes and regulations. A vehicle properly registered in and complying with the licensing laws of the State in which it is domiciled should be permitted to travel in all other States without the imposition of additional fees."

We mean by that, that we don't want American states building up a wall between sister states against the movement of vehicles.

Now we come to the economic regulation of the people who operate vehicles for hire over the highways. I want to say that while they apply to commercial vehicles, they are of tremendous importance to the areas and the people served by you men. You know that 98 percent, or not quite 100 percent of all farm products, move somewhere along the line from farm to market or processing plant, along the highways. A great deal of the farm products of this section of the country, and in the nearby dairying areas, move to market not in the farmer's truck, but a for hire truck affected by these adverse regulations.

When economic regulation becomes so burdensome that it increases the cost of transportation then you as consumers and the farmers whom you serve pay the freight even though you yourself may not ship a single item in a for hire vehicle.

So on this question of the economic regulation, the Conference policy says: "Government should foster sound development of highway transportation to promote social and economic progress. Regulation of motor vehicle operation should be held to a minimum necessary to assure the public safety. It should be in the public interest and not for the benefit of any competing form of transportation."

As you no doubt know, there are many proposals advanced during every legislative season for regulation of highway transportation in the interest of competing forms of transportation, some of which have been enacted into law, increasing the cost of transportation to the American public, and certainly increasing it to the American farmer.

On the matter of motor vehicle sizes and weights, which again is a matter of tremendous importance to the agricultural and rural areas of America served by you men, we say: "Transportation of persons and property by buses and trucks has produced numerous economies and conveniences for the public. Laws and regulations governing motor vehicle sizes and weights should be based upon sound engineering facts. They should conform with safe and economic use of and preservation of highways and bridges. Excessive wartime use of inadequate highways and effects upon competing forms of transportation should not be limiting factors."

I would like to call your attention to the fact that there is nothing in any of these policies that is to the direct benefit of anyone who sells tires, who makes or sells automobiles, tires or parts; who refines or sells petroleum, or otherwise purveys to the consuming public. These are policies in behalf of the public and those who use the highways, which certainly is a large segment of the American public, when you consider that 50,000,000 people have licenses to drive in this country.

Now we have the policies, and I am going to tell you briefly just a few things we are going to try to implement those policies. We

have a staff of ten field representatives. Those men are service men to your organization and to the 1,000 other organizations participating in the State Highway Users Conferences.

In the past you may not have seen Conference field representatives very frequently because their territories were so large and it was impossible for them to get around. Now that we have an expanded field organization we hope that we can serve you more effectively and provide the type of State Conference machinery that will bring the greatest results to you and the public.

Our Washington staff does basic research work, makes special studies, conducts legal and legislative reporting services and produces public information which is often dramatized in the form of publications, slide films, radio recordings and other means. This material is available to you through our regional representatives and your State Highway Users Conference to be used in the furtherance of your own highway transportation programs.

We have organized a highway users conference in every state except California and we hope to see one there soon. Some of these Conferences have been dormant in recent years but with the expanded field organization we hope to assist in reviving and re-energizing them.

There are approximately 1,000 organizations in these State Conferences. If you people in these organizations recognize your common interest in the sound development of highways, equitable and reasonable motor vehicle taxation, no diversion of highway funds, highway safety and the other matters upon which I commented you can become a mighty voice working for the best interest of your community and the nation. But let me emphasize that these things cannot be done by some outsider—they cannot be done without your interest.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

President, Mr. Walters.

President Walters. Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association in Convention Assembled at the 42nd National Convention of the Rural Carriers of the United States of America: This is my second report to you as your President. We reverently lift our eyes toward the Heavens and offer a silent prayer to the God of all people, expressing our thanks and appreciation for being spared and permitted to assemble in this, another convention, in the heart of the great Middle-West and in the section of our country commonly referred to as the "food basket of the world." To the rural carriers of Iowa and to the good people of Des Moines, we are indeed happy to be here.

We rejoice that we are able to welcome back to our ranks as regular carriers and as members of this organization, a goodly number of rural carriers who answered the call to the colors during World War II. To those who answered this call and who paid the supreme sacrifice, we desire that their loved ones know that the rural carriers sympathize with them in their days, weeks and months of sorrow and will ever be mindful that they died that democracy might live.

Due to world conditions beyond our control, we were not permitted to hold a national convention last year. From time to time we made application to the ODT for a permit to hold a national convention. This information, along with the replies from the ODT, was transmitted through the medium of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER to our

members. We also mailed several letters to state officers asking for their opinion and for a vote on what we should do. In all cases we followed the mandates of the majority of the state officers on the question of postponing the national convention.

During the past two years, we, as all other individuals and organizations, have experienced many hardships, found many obstacles that must be overcome; but with the support and cooperation of the members of your National Board, the state officers, and district, county and individual members, our work has been made much easier and the results much more profitable.

To Barney Winquest, Glenn Folkers, George Ellis, Paul Myers, Walter Gray and Willard Manning, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their support and cooperation. We would be ungrateful if we did not also publicly express our appreciation for the support of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Members of Congress have told me that a letter received by their office and signed by a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of this organization was always seriously considered. I am of the opinion that letters from the Auxiliary during our legislative campaigns in the Nation's Capitol during the past two years were worth a great deal, and we will ever owe a debt of gratitude to the Auxiliary.

I would be ungrateful if I did not publicly express my appreciation for the untiring efforts put forth by the employees in our Washington office and our Baltimore office. It is not unusual for our employees to be called upon to work late at night, and on many occasions have worked on Sundays.

The financial cost of your Washington office has steadily increased. In fact, every item that goes into the operation of the Association office and the publishing of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER has increased, but our revenue, insofar as per capita tax is concerned, has not increased at all. But under these financial conditions, we have been able to keep our finances on a sound basis. Our cash and cash assets are more today than at any time in the history of our organization.

As your Washington representative, we have spent more money in the city of Washington than any other National President. We believe that we have spent this money wisely and that we have received full value for all the money spent during our tenure of office. The only increase that I have received personally is the increase granted by legislation. This is the same amount that the average rural carrier has received, less the equipment maintenance. In addition, the Board has paid me \$35.00 per month as Editor of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER. The expense for the living quarters of the National President are less today than at any time since we opened a Washington office. We are paying \$75.00 per month for an apartment, including garage. At my suggestion and recommendation, the Board purchased approximately \$600 worth of furniture in January of 1945. We have saved enough on rent to pay for the furniture.

This being the 50th anniversary of rural delivery service, we have endeavored to give this as much publicity as possible. We have cooperated with the Third Assistant Postmaster General in preparing cachets to be used during July, August and September. We also purchased dies to be used in the cancelling machine in the Des Moines office and in the office in West Virginia where rural service was first inaugurated. We have prepared many articles for other magazines publicizing this great event. We have printed

250,000 cachets stamps. These are being distributed at the very low cost of 25 cents per hundred. Although this enterprise required a great outlay of money and time to prepare drawings and cuts and dies to have these stamps printed, we have been able to do this without costing the treasury too much.

Tentative plans have been made to put out a special edition of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER on October 5th, this being the 50th anniversary of the rural service. This special edition will consist of 100 or more pages. Much of the material has been put together but much more work remains to be done. In cooperation with the officials at the Post office Department and with the Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., we have been working and the preliminary work has been completed to make a film of the rural carrier from the time he leaves home in the morning until he returns in the afternoon. It will take some 60 days to complete this work. This is an educational film and will be shown primarily in schools, libraries and civic organizations.

Cooperation of Postal Representatives:

Over the years I have stressed the value of postal groups cooperating and combining their numerical strength on legislation. Never in the history of the postal service have we been privileged to witness the value of united organizations in a more forceful manner than during the recent salary legislation, when the House of Representatives considered two pay bills on succeeding days. When H. R. 5059, the postal pay bill, came on the floor of the House, it had the united support of all postal organizations, and although the average salary increase was 18%, it was approved by the House overwhelmingly. Next day when the government employees' bill for a 14% increase was brought before the House it encountered much trouble in becoming law. No one argued that the government employees did not deserve a salary increase, but the President and the Members of Congress stated that white collar workers were not nearly as well organized as the postal employees.

In my opinion, we must continue to maintain a strong, individual, independent organization, but at the same time it is most essential that all postal groups work together, hold meetings of the postal representatives in Washington, discuss our problems, and then appear before Congress with a well thought out program which has the full support of all postal groups.

I am hopeful that at an early date the Washington office will find time to establish a card system of each individual rural route. Of more immediate importance, however, is the establishing of a card file of each Member of Congress. On this card should be maintained the service record of each individual member of Congress so that at a moment's glance we would know what to expect of any particular member of Congress. By making a study of his past record we could almost predict his future.

Percentage of Membership:

In 1944 I recommended that some changes should be made in our National set-up to work out a plan of percentage of regular carriers who are members of the state and national association before any state would be eligible to be paid money for a national delegate. I have not relented any in my views on this question. For example: A state that is not able to enroll as members at least 60 or 65 per cent of the regular carriers should not be eligible to draw money from the na-

tional treasury for delegates to the national convention. I trust that serious thought will be given to this subject.

State Conventions:

Due to the pressure of legislative activities in the summer of 1945, I attended only one state convention. This year, by making fast train and plane trips, I was able to attend the following state conventions: Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa and Georgia. At these conventions I found that enthusiasm and interest ran very high. The officers in charge were well versed in the activities of the Association and keenly interested in promoting not only the interest of their state as a whole, but the interest of each individual member.

Salaries:

The salaries of rural carriers have in less than 10 months been increased by legislation by approximately 39%, with 1 cent additional equipment maintenance. We feel sure that if changes had not been made in the Senate and House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, perhaps this Congress would have granted rural carriers an additional one cent equipment maintenance. The two salary bills—one becoming effective July 1, 1945, and the other, January 1, 1946, increased the rural carrier's base pay on an average of approximately \$900.00 per annum. This amounts to approximately \$75.00 per month. This, of course, does not include the average increase in equipment maintenance of more than \$100 for each route. This \$900.00 salary increase is reflected in the expense of your national office in Washington. Counting salary and expense, it is costing the Association approximately \$7500.00 a year to keep a representative in Washington. I have tried to give full value for the amount of salary that I have received. I call this gross amount to the attention of the delegates so that in considering any future plans or enlargement of the Washington office, you will have an idea of the approximate amount of cost.

You will recall that just after the President signed into law H.R. 5059, our good friend, Mr. Burch, was forced to leave the Chairmanship of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee to accept an appointment as U. S. Senator. Senator Kenneth McKellar, due to the death of Senator Glass, was appointed Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Therefore he, of necessity, had to resign as Chairman of the Senate Post Office and Post Roads Committee, so within a period of less than one week we had two new Chairmen, and also much controversial legislation before the House and Senate. Therefore, no legislation except that which was termed "must" was seriously considered by either House or Senate.

Special Delivery Fees:

All rural carriers are now eligible to be paid fees earned on the special delivery mail. You will recall that the Comptroller of the Post Office Department ruled in July 1945 that rural carriers were not eligible to be paid these fees. We immediately appealed this decision, and after several weeks we were rewarded by a reversal in this decision.

Military Credit:

We strongly supported S-405, a bill which granted to the returning government veterans full credit for all military service without making a deposit to the retirement fund. We also supported H.R. 3256, legislation making it possible for former government employees who were disabled while in the armed forces to make application for civil service disability without returning to an active pay status.



GLENN W. FOLKERS,
Secretary,
Mokena, Illinois

Annual and Sick Leave:

Shortly after enactment of Public Law 134, the Comptroller General of the United States ruled that rural carriers and postmasters were not eligible for the benefits offered in Section 6 of this bill. Believing strongly that the Comptroller General was in error, we made application to appeal this decision. This was the first time in the history of the rural service that a representative of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association ever attempted to question the legality of a decision of the Comptroller General. Most of the people whom we have talked with advised us not to make this appeal because it would be a waste of time and effort, but we were determined to see it through, and are happy to report to you that the Comptroller General did issue a decision admitting that his first decision was in error.

Public Law 134:

We feel that Public Law 134 is so comprehensive and covers so many angles, such as salaries, retirement, etc., that it is most difficult for any of us to visualize the full benefits derived from this legislation. Some rural carriers were dissatisfied with Public Law 134 because they were under the impression that it was a longevity measure, and that they should have been placed in salary grades according to their years of service. Nowhere in this legislation is the word "longevity" used, but two things were kept in mind at all times: (1) All regular employees would receive approximately \$400 salary increase; (2) The average postal employee would have a chance over the years to increase his earning capacity to approximately \$3000.

No employee in the Post Office Department was given credit for his length of service in establishing his salary under Public Law 134. The reason why most rural carriers were placed in salary grade 8 was simply because, by adding \$400 to their old base pay, it placed them in salary grade 8.

The first draft of the Reclassification Salary Bill presented by the Post Office Department definitely stated that rural carriers were to receive \$70 per mile for the first 30 miles, and \$20 for each additional mile, and 6 cents equipment maintenance. From this formula we were able to bring about the provisions that Public Law 134 contains.

Other postal groups were not so successful as we in changing the language that was first drafted in the Postal Reclassification Bill. The first language also provided that substitutes and temporary carriers serving in lieu of a regular carrier would be paid in salary grade 1. We were able to have this changed and today substitutes and temporary carriers serving in lieu of the regular carrier is paid at the same rate as paid the regular carrier.

Public law 134 also provides that after one year of satisfactory service, rural carriers will be promoted until they reach salary grade 11. Then after serving in grade 11, you are promoted to 12, and to 13 and to 14. Some questions have been asked as to why rural carriers received \$84 per year increase, and some other postal employees received \$100 per year. The reason is simply this: Clerks and letter carriers' entrance salary, under P.L. 134, was \$1700, while the average entrance salary for a rural carrier is \$1860. A rural carrier and a clerk or letter carrier appointed the same date, when they reach grade 11 will receive approximately the same amount of money, and their salary in grade 11 is approximately the same amount.

If postal employees had been permitted to be placed in salary grades according to their years of service, the average increase per employee would, under P.L. 134, have been approximately \$1000. No Congressman would have desired to sponsor such costly legislation.

Comptroller General's Decision:

On May 24, 1946 the Comptroller General rendered a decision that was most heart-breaking to a small group of our members, and most encouraging to another group. Public Law 134 provides that after one year's satisfactory service you can be promoted. The Comptroller General ruled that an employee on extended leave without pay cannot be promoted. This decision directly affects any rural carrier who is on leave without pay. This decision also affects a goodly number of our members who are GI's, and who are on leave without pay to attend school. It also affects your Washington representative because under this ruling my route at Toccoa, Georgia was not promoted to salary grade 9 on July 1st. Under our present plan, whoever is your Washington representative will lose his salary promotion. Over a period of years this will cost a great deal of money.

The Comptroller General also ruled that temporary carriers serving routes that are vacant cannot be promoted because they are not regular employees. He ruled that under the law those rural carriers serving routes under the Burch Heavy Route Law, or under the \$180 Protective Clause, or those who are in a special salary group, are entitled to be promoted from one grade to another, in accordance with the language of Public Law 134.

H.R. 5059:

For many months, with other postal representatives, we continued to remind the Members of Congress, officials of the Post Office Department, that due to the cost of living we were entitled to an additional salary increase, basing the argument on the fact that in September and October of 1945 most overtime work in the Post Office Department was eliminated, therefore the employees' take-home pay was decreased. After pursuing this argument for several weeks, Mr. Burch, Chairman of the Post Office and Post Roads Committee, introduced H.R. 5059. The bill, as you will recall, was first introduced as a temporary measure and provided for a \$300.00 increase, but through the long and

tedious procedure of hearings, sentiment was built up for permanent legislation and for an increase in the amount. So this legislation was amended to make it permanent legislation, and the figure of \$400 per annum. It is now known as Public Law 386, and increases the annual salary of rural carriers \$400.00.

One of the unusual features of this bill was the five (5) months retroactive feature. We deeply appreciated the invitation from Postmaster General Hannegan to be present in the White House when President Truman approved this legislation.

Auxiliary Help during the Christmas Holidays:

The Post Office Department spent more money for auxiliary help during the Christmas holidays in 1945 than ever in the history of the Department. Any rural carrier who believes that he is entitled to extra help during the Christmas rush should contact his postmaster during the month of October and ask the postmaster to make a request of the Department to set up auxiliary help for his particular route during the Christmas rush.

Disability Retirement Improved:

Public Law 536 brings to a successful conclusion legislation that we have been actively sponsoring and supporting for some time. Employees retiring because of disability and who later recover, but are unable to secure re-employment in the Federal service, will retain continuing or future benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act.

Such employees become eligible for retirement annuities in the same manner as those who are involuntarily separated from the Federal service.

Congress to be Reorganized:

August 2, the Reorganization Bill became a law. This reorganizing reduced the number of Senate Committees from 33 to 15 and the House committees from 48 to 19. The Post Office and Post Roads Committee and the Civil Service Committee will, under the reorganization, be consolidated.

This measure also permits members of Congress past 62 years of age to retire on annuity after six years of service, if they make their contributions to the retirement fund. This should and will, in our opinion, strengthen the Federal employees retirement division. This legislation also increased the salaries of members of Congress \$2500 per annum.

For two years, this legislation has been in the making and we have consistently supported some of the items that were contained in this Reorganization Bill.

New Congress:

In the past, when one Congress adjourned and a new Congress convened, postal legislation could be re-introduced and started all over again, but this condition is going to be changed in a new Congress, because legislation was passed streamlining Congress and consolidating the Post Office Committee with the Civil Service Committee and will be known as the Civil Service and Post Office Committee. Just what effect this change will have on our legislative objectives remains to be seen, but it is certain to make our efforts more difficult due to the many new men who will be on the Committee who necessarily will have only a limited knowledge of postal affairs.

Visit to the White House:

This year your Washington representative has been permitted to attend several press conferences at the White House. We feel that this is of great benefit to our organization. All the contact that we can possibly

make with men in authority can well be listed as assets.

H.R. 4481:

At our suggestion, Congressman William C. Cole of Missouri, a member of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, and a very strong friend of the rural carriers, introduced H.R. 4481 to establish the methods of advancement for rural carriers in the Field Service of the Post Office Department. This was our first attempt to enact legislation that would grant by law seniority to rural carriers. We were sorely disappointed over the support that this legislation received from the field. It also received an adverse report from the Post Office Department, and up to this time no action has been taken by Congress.

Rural Carriers in the Armed Forces:

In September of 1945 the Comptroller General ruled that all routes of the rural carriers in the armed forces were technically vacant, therefore the temporary carriers serving such routes must revert from salary grade 8 to salary grade 1. We feel keenly that this was another unjust ruling, so we appealed to Congress and to our friends in the Post Office Department, and in cooperation with other postal groups, H.R. 4652 was introduced by the Honorable Thomas G. Burch. This legislation became law, therefore the Comptroller General's decision was eliminated and some 500 temporary rural carriers received approximately \$40.00 per month increase in salary that was retroactive to July 1, 1945. This law only benefited a small group, but involved a cost of approximately \$240,000.

In June of 1946 the Comptroller General issued a ruling that makes it mandatory for the Department to pay auxiliary carriers in salary grade 1. These are carriers that are appointed when a route is divided during the winter months, and in some resort centers during the summer months. We feel that this is another unjust ruling.

Legislation Costs Money:

For the past two years we have been engaged in a most active and strenuous legislative campaign, and have of necessity spent a great deal more money than was ordinarily spent by the Washington office. We are happy to say, however, that this money was not spent in vain but has paid great dividends. Each and every item that goes into the operation of the Washington office and the printing of the National Rural Letter Carrier has increased, with the exception of the per capita tax from which all expenses are paid. Taking into consideration the additional expenses and the increased cost of production and labor, and with no increase in the per capita tax, we are able to report that our finances are in good shape. The Association today has more cash and cash assets than ever before in the history of our organization.

During the past year we have participated in several testimonial dinners in the city of Washington. At the Mid-winter Board conference, the members of your Board were privileged to attend a hearing before the Senate Post Office and Post Roads Committee where salaries were discussed. During this conference we were able to arrange, through Senator Mead's office, for a luncheon to be given in honor of Senator Mead and Congressman Burch, and we invited the representatives of the postal organizations located in Washington. This luncheon was served in the Vandenburg Room, which is one of the most exclusive dining rooms in the Senate side of the Capitol. We also arranged through Congressman Burch's office to give a luncheon for all members of the House

Post Office and Post Roads Committee. This luncheon was served in the Speaker's Dining Room. It is most unusual to be permitted to have a luncheon in the Speaker's dining room. Present at this luncheon were some members of Congress with 10 years of service as Congressmen who stated that this was their first opportunity to be served a meal in the Speaker's dining room. We hope the reference will not be publicized in the press, because it was through our contacts with these individual members that we were permitted to participate in these luncheons. In fact, the luncheons were given legally by Mr. Burch and Senator Mead, but we paid the bill. (Laughter).

During our mid-winter conference, conferences were held with Postmaster General Hannegan, First Assistant Postmaster General Donaldson and his deputies, the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Harrison Parkman, Congressman Jennings Randolph, Chairman of the House Civil Service Committee, and members of the House and Senate Post Office and Post Roads Committee, and other government officials and agencies.

A few weeks ago in cooperation with Solon Ware of Georgia, we shipped some fifty baskets of peaches to key members of Congress and officials of the Post Office Department. We believe this way of expressing our friendship and appreciation is worthwhile, and for your information I will read excerpts from a few of the letters received after the peaches were delivered. We have followed this plan for the past three years.

"July 16, 1946

"National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
541-542 Munsey Building
Washington, D.C.

"Gentlemen:

"In the absence of the Postmaster General I wish to acknowledge receipt of the delicious peaches which you sent him. They were sent out to Mr. Hannegan's home and were thoroughly enjoyed by his family.

"Sincerely yours,
Frances C. Conn
Frances C. Conn
Secretary."

(Signed)

"July 14, 1946

"Mr. Thomas G. Walters
National Rural Letter Carriers Association
Munsey Building
Washington, D.C.

"Dear Tom:

"Mrs. Mead is still singing your praises, even after a day spent in canning the most perfect fruit she ever saw.

"Many, many thanks from all of us.

"Sincerely,

(Signed)

Jim
Jas. M. Mead."

"July 15, 1946

"Col. Thomas G. Walters,
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association,
541-2 Munsey Building,
Washington, 4, D.C.

"My Dear Tom:

"I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your sending me the basket of wonderful, luscious Georgia peaches and I hope you will convey my sincere thanks and appreciation, too. Words fail me to describe how much I have enjoyed this best of all fruits, for until I had sunk my teeth in one of this Georgia variety all others were lacking in taste, looks and flavor. For my money there is nothing to compare to a Georgia peach at its best and that is the opinion of my friends who have sampled the ones you sent me. Picked tree ripe as I am sure they were, each

one was in perfect condition when I opened the basket and their coloring was a sight for sore eyes.

"With kindest personal regards, and hoping the Georgia peach industry may continue to thrive as long as our civilization lasts, I am,

"Sincerely Yours,
(Signed) Ike Gregg
Director — Press Relations,
U. S. Postoffice Department."

"July 16, 1946

"Dear Mr. Walters:

"I want to thank you for your kindness in remembering me with a basket of delicious Georgia peaches. They arrived Saturday in first-class condition and are being thoroughly enjoyed.

"With best personal regards, I am

"Very truly yours,
(Signed) Harrison Parkman
Harrison Parkman."

"July 13, 1946

"Mr. Thomas G. Walters
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
541-542 Munsey Building
Washington, D.C.

"Dear Mr. Walters:

"I want to express to you and through you to the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association my sincere thanks and appreciation for the basket of Georgia peaches which I received today.

"The peaches arrived in fine condition and they are truly delicious. They bear out in every respect the reputation which Georgia has so long enjoyed of producing the World's finest peaches.

"It is very kind indeed and most thoughtful for the Association to remember me in this delightful manner and again I thank you for the peaches.

"Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Nelson B. Wentzel
Deputy Third Assistant
Postmaster General."

\$1440.00 Exemption:

We have strongly supported legislation that would exempt the first \$1440.00 of the employees' annuity from taxation, and also have supported legislation that would increase annuities at least 15%. Some progress has been made at this time on legislation, but so far no relief has been granted to those who are on the retired rolls. Your Washington office is supporting and will continue to support 30-year optional retirement and widows' annuity, as well as 1 cent additional equipment maintenance.

The Post Office Department will be millions and millions of dollars in the red this year, due to the tremendous amount of money received by employees in the way of increased salaries, therefore we are not too optimistic about Congress passing any legislation that involves a great deal of money.

Social Security:

During the year we were confronted with the same old question of social security attempting to coordinate the Civil Service retirement with Social Security. We joined with other postal groups and vigorously opposed this measure. We are happy to report that we were again successful in defeating the attempt of Social Security.

Assistance of Purchasing Agent:

Too much cannot be said about the service rendered to rural carriers in locating replacement parts for their automobiles during this emergency. During the months of October, November and December of 1945

the requests for this type of assistance greatly decreased because rural carriers believed that they would soon be able to purchase new cars, but immediately after Christmas requests again increased and have continued to increase. The purchasing agent, the Honorable Harrison Parkman, and his most efficient Secretary, Miss McKrae, have been most helpful in contacting and locating replacement parts, tires and in some instances, new cars, for rural carriers. This service alone has increased the work of the personnel in the Washington office by 25 per cent. We have handled thousands and thousands of requests of this nature during the past three years.

Board's Recommendation:

During the mid-winter conference your national board decided to make three recommendations to our membership:

1. The members of your National Board favor the incorporation of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. This question did not originate with this Board or with any other Board, as far as I know. It is a question that has been before our membership for a long time. The members of your present Board, after making a study of this question, reading the proceedings of many past national conventions, reading the opinions of several attorneys that were employed by the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association from time to time, and reading the resolutions that were adopted by a vast majority of the states favoring incorporation, we decided that we, as a Board, should recommend incorporation. We do not make this recommendation for any special motive, or for any special reason, except that we feel it is in keeping with better business policy and would eliminate any possible financial liability to any member of this Association.

As we understand this question, only two things are involved: By incorporating we remove the financial liability from individual members, and it will cost \$52.00 per annum. This is a question that the delegates must settle. We do not believe for one moment that if we do not incorporate we are heading for financial ruin, nor for a financial crisis, but four or five well established attorneys have all rendered the decision that we should be incorporated. As far as we know, no attorney ever employed by the National Board made an adverse report on this question. In the February 23rd issue of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER we outlined the Board's position.

The only reason that I voted to recommend incorporation was simply to follow the instructions as outlined by the lawyer that we employed and to follow what we believed to be the opinion of the majority of our members. On April 30 of 1943, I made the statement, by letter and orally, that personally, I was opposed to incorporation, but as President of this organization, I felt it my duty to follow the advice that we obtained from the lawyer we employed to represent you.

2. The members of your National Board feel that under the present system of payment of dues, sometimes the old faithful members are penalized because they pay a full year's dues, while some other rural carriers, in January or February, may persuade the Secretary to accept his or her dues on a pro-rated basis. We do not believe in appeasement, therefore we strongly recommend that the constitution and by-laws, as now printed on this subject, be followed.

3. The members of your National Board recommend that the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association withdraw from the Na-

tional Legislative Council. Several years ago officials representing four (4) organizations got together and formed what was known as the National Legislative Council. Mr. Barrett, who represented an organization of post office clerks, was named President. Mr. Stewart, who represented an organization composed chiefly of civilian government employees, very few of whom were field employees of the Post Office Department, was named legislative representative. The President of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association was named Secretary and Treasurer, with no voice or participation in the taking down or transcribing of the minutes of the meetings. When the meeting was held, a secretary from Mr. Stewart's organization was designated to take the minutes and then at the next meeting these minutes were placed before the secretary and treasurer, who was the President of the N.R.L.C.A., and he was told to read the minutes.

We have never believed that this organization was worth one iota to the rural carriers because only a small percentage of postal employees were members of the Legislative Council. The Postal Supervisors, who have approximately 7000 members, were affiliated with the Legislative Council. The Clerks' organization, headed by Mr. Barrett, has approximately 20,000 members, while the National Rural Letter Carriers Association has approximately 30,000 members. So, at the most, we never had more than 60,000 postal employees in the National Legislative Council. More than that, I will state that if any person will prove to me that the National Legislative Council has ever been worth financially one dime to the Rural Carriers of this nation, I will immediately resign as President of this organization. (Applause).

With approximately 440,000 postal employees in the field service, you can begin to see what a small percentage of the postal employees was represented in the Council.

As far as any member of this Board has any knowledge, the President and Legislative Representative of the Council have never been of any value to the rural carriers, but we can point to a few instances where they were opposed to rural carriers receiving an increase in salaries.

When the joint resolution granting a 10 per cent increase to Federal employees was prepared and presented to Congress, rural carriers were not included. Since this had to be a unanimous vote by Congress, Mr. Riedel, who was then President, called your present Washington representative to Washington, where we were able to prove to the Committee that some member of Congress would oppose this resolution if rural carriers were not included. Mr. Stewart, Legislative Representative of the Council, in attempting to persuade Mr. Riedel and myself to withdraw our objections, stated that some provision would be made to pay rural carriers additional compensation by giving them extra work, such as washing windows! When the bill was passed, rural carriers were included!

During Mr. Riedel's administration he and I attended a farewell dinner party that was given in honor of Senator Bulow of South Dakota by the joint council of Postal Representatives in Washington. Mr. Bulow, you will recall, was retiring from the Senate and was Chairman of the Senate Civil Service Committee. Shortly after your Washington representative attended this testimonial dinner, members of the Legislative Council severely criticized them for attending this dinner because the sponsors did not belong to the National Legislative Council.

Shortly after I was elected National President I was told emphatically by some mem-

bers of the Legislative Council that if I associated or sat around the conference table where all postal representatives were present in an effort to work out ways and means to increase rural carriers' pay, I could not associate with members of the Legislative Council. So from this type of background and tactics, we do not feel that it is to the best interest of rural carriers to be associated with an organization that does not care to work in harmony with other postal representatives.

Several weeks ago the National Association of Supervisors withdrew from the National Legislative Council. We feel that if we withdraw from the National Legislative Council and continue to cooperate and work with all postal groups in Washington, and will operate as an individual and independent organization, we will be far better off from the standpoint of obtaining results for the rural carriers than if we continue to be tied up with the National Legislative Council.

The President of the National Legislative Council has had many conflicting arguments with members of the Post Office and Post Roads Committee. We believe that this is detrimental to the rural carriers' cause. We could point out many other instances that prove conclusively to your Board that we would be much stronger traveling alone.

It has been and will continue to be my policy to support a plan that calls for monthly meetings of all postal representatives in Washington to sit down around a table and, by compromise, work out a program for all postal employees. During the early stages of the \$300.00 salary increase bill, the Vice-Chairman Congressman Wheelchel of the House Post Office Committee, addressing his remarks to several post office representatives, made a statement that ran something like this:

"This morning we open hearings that we hope will eventually give postal employees a salary increase, but after hearing the statements made by some of the postal representatives here this morning, I am convinced that it would be better if all the postal representatives would go from here and get into a room, around a conference table where they can iron out their differences and support a unified workable salary plan. I feel sure the members would support it."

The Vice-Chairman continued by stating that in his opinion the postal employees would have received a salary increase several months before if it had been possible for the postal groups to agree.

After these remarks, the vast majority of the postal groups went into a conference and agreed on a \$300 salary increase bill. We, the rural carriers, were the only group of the National Legislative Council who participated in this conference. When we returned to the hearings, other members of the National Legislative Council made wild recommendations, but those postal representatives who had agreed on the \$300 bill were united, and the Committee followed their suggestions.

With this information, we hope you will endorse the Board's recommendation.

Postal Bulletin:

The May 16th Postal Bulletin carried information that all postmasters should prepare and mail rural carriers' pay vouchers three (3) working days before pay day.

Better Roads:

We have devoted much time and effort in molding sentiment in favor of better roads. We have tried to work with all groups who are interested in road legislation, always endeavoring to see that a specific amount of all

moneys appropriated by law is allocated to the backwoods roads.

Highway Safety:

We were honored by being asked to serve as a member of the committee for the preparation and entertainment of the President's Highway Conference, which was attended by more than 1400 delegates. Plans and programs were made to make our highways and streets safer for the American people.

We have also been honored by the National Highway Users by having your Washington representative named to the Advisory Committee of this great organization.

Postmaster General:

Shortly after Mr. Hannegan became Postmaster General we were invited to accompany his party to Gainesville, Georgia to be present and to participate in the Truman Day celebration, this being Mr. Hannegan's first public appearance after becoming Postmaster General. The official photographer of the Post Office Department, Mr. Alexander, stated to us that the members of our National Board were the first postal group to have their pictures made with the Postmaster General.

Activities in your Washington Office:

During the past year we have been asked by several members of Congress to prepare information and material that they could use in addressing rural carriers meetings. This we were very happy to do.

By invitation recently, we attended dinners in honor of Congressmen and Senator Burch and Senator Mead. Also we were invited to be present and address the Regional Conference of National Highway Users.

During the spring we were invited to address the Road Gang, an organization made up of people who are interested in roads, and also to address the Washington organization of the Grange. The theme of our discussion at these two meetings, as well as many others, has been the 50th anniversary of Rural Free Delivery.

Annual Leave:

During the past year much has been said on the question of annual and sick leave. Congress granted annual leave, believing that employees should have a period of relaxation each year, but the basic law provides that annual and sick leave shall be accumulative. We do not recommend that rural carriers accumulate large amounts of annual leave. We do realize, however, that during this emergency it has been impossible to obtain substitutes. So we would suggest that you immediately take some of your annual leave and bring it down to a reasonable number of days.

Special Road Legislation:

In cooperation with county commissioners, anticipating that at some future date we may have a depression, we contacted Congressman Gathings of Arkansas and asked that he introduce legislation that would grant the authority to the Postmaster General to allocate money for the improvement of rural route roads. Congressman Gathings did introduce such legislation and it is known as H.R. 5957. We hope that Congress will approve this legislation even though we never have a depression. It is our opinion that if such legislation had been available in the early days of the WPA, we could have improved thousands of more miles of roads during the depression than we were able to improve.

We have endeavored from week to week in the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER to print excerpts from letters for the purpose of

notifying others of the type of service that the Washington office is performing. From these excerpts the Washington office has received hundreds of letters that were prefaced with these words: "After reading where you furnished help to a rural carrier in locating replacement parts. . ."; or, "After reading where you helped some rural carriers have their salaries corrected, I am requesting that you assist in this or that type of work, etc." We have endeavored to supervise the work of the office in an effort to be of service to the greatest number of rural carriers.

If any rural carrier failed to receive his automatic salary promotion on July 1st, he should notify the Washington office. The automatic promotion is only one of the many benefits that are contained in Public Law 134. As we move into a few years hence, rural carriers will be referring to \$1600 or \$1700 retirement as we have in the past referred to \$1200. This is largely brought about by Public Law 134.

Paper Report:

I have attended night school three nights per week attempting to better equip myself as editor of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER and I feel it is my duty to make a report of the activities of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the cost of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER has increased from time to time since we purchased the paper in September 1943. We are happy to report to you that although we owed approximately \$45,000.00 on the paper, we have liquidated this debt, and have money in the treasury of about \$6,000.00. We have operated the paper on a business basis and have used the formula of the contract that was used several years by Mr. McDevitt. We have not appropriated any money from the national treasury for the purchase price or for the operation of the N.R.L.C.

After the membership cards were moved to the Washington office we were unable to find some one who was interested in handling this tedious work, so we persuaded Mrs. Walters, with the assistance of part-time help from Miss Hynson, to handle the membership cards, changing the addresses and other work connected with maintaining and keeping up to date the mailing list of some 32,000 names. We have increased from time to time the salaries of our other employees—not in keeping, however, with the salary increases that Congress has granted to rural carriers. I have received some criticism because Mrs. Walters was employed in the Washington office on a per diem basis, at \$5.00 per day. We have endeavored to replace Mrs. Walters with someone else, but to do this would have cost \$6.00 or \$7.00 per day, even if we could find someone who desired to consume their time in handling, counting, transferring and changing membership cards.

Knowing the extent of certain increases in the operation of the paper, I am most happy over the financial condition of the paper fund and of the National Association.

Since we purchased the paper, I have directly or indirectly prepared or supervised the preparation of most editorials and articles that appeared in the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER.

Following is an itemized monthly list of the amount of money received in the Washington office for ads and non-member subscriptions:

September, 1945.....	\$ 704.25
October, 1945.....	456.61
November, 1945.....	782.11
December, 1945.....	885.71
January, 1946.....	525.90.

February, 1946.....	725.75
March, 1946.....	932.97
April, 1946.....	556.06
May, 1946.....	791.25
June, 1946.....	791.73
July, 1946.....	1084.77
August, 1946.....	1406.69

The Associational year 1944-45 we reported and mailed checks to National Secretary Folkers in the amount of \$6,688.65. This Associational year, we have mailed checks in the amount just listed, which makes a total of \$9,643.80. This is a net increase over last year of the following amount—\$2,955.80.

When your Board recommended the purchase of the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER, we stated that, in our opinion, it would take five (5) years to pay off the debt, but by keeping the cost of operating the paper to a minimum, we have now paid the complete debt without taking any money from our general office. We have endeavored to use the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER as an open forum, to print all letters that are signed by members of this organization, and to let each and every member have free access and speak his or her mind.

In the early days of the war, when everything began to increase in cost, Fleet-McGinley, Inc., the printers, told us, and later told the Board, that it appeared that the printing bill would have to be increased at least 10 per cent. Finally the printers offered a plan which, if accepted, they would be enabled to continue for an indefinite time without increasing the price of printing. In this plan, we were to use larger type, cut down the margins, and make a few other changes that would save some paper and some labor cost.

Upon our recommendation, supported by the members of the Board, we agreed to plan No. 2 because we were most anxious to pay the paper debt. We could now go back to smaller type but the paper shortage is more acute today than during the war, and it is impossible to purchase additional paper.

In November of 1945, the printer did increase the price of printing by 6½ per cent. With this one increase, we are paying the same rate per thousand that was paid 10 or 12 years ago, so the change in the appearance and make-up of the paper were made to off-set a 10 per cent increase in the printing bill.

The New Book—"The R.F.D."

Several years ago Mrs. Aaberg and I decided that some type or form of permanent history of the rural service should be prepared and printed in the form of a book. Mrs. Aaberg became intensely interested in this research work. This book is now on the market. The biggest obstacle that we have had is the fact that we were unable to have as many copies printed as we desired. Due to the paper shortage, the printers were simply unable to purchase the type of paper needed for this type of work. We have in the Washington office hundreds of letters from outstanding citizens in all walks of life, expressing their approval and appreciation for the type of material and the arrangement of this book. It is my opinion that rural carriers 20 years from now will value this book—"The R.F.D."—much more than they value it today, because as time moves on, any history book becomes more valuable.

Even though we feel that the Associational activities in the past few years have been somewhat successful, we must not for one moment relent or rest on our accomplishments. There is yet much work to be done. We must continue to have an aggressive and progressive program. Some of the things

that should be our immediate goal are:

1. 30-year optional retirement.
 2. 1 cent additional equipment maintenance.
 3. Widows' annuity, making all widows eligible to participate.
 4. Permanent relief for heavy routes.
 5. All-weather roads for all rural carriers.
- Some day we may be called upon to be on the defensive rather than the offensive. To fight an aggressive battle or to withstand aggression, we need a strong and united membership.

In conclusion, I desire to express from the depths of my heart my appreciation for the support and the confidence of the membership that makes up the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. I also desire to again publicly express my appreciation for the support of the Auxiliary. Without reservation, I have endeavored to give my all, mentally and physically, in support of legislation and working for the benefit of the individual members of this organization. If, by my feeble efforts I have made life a little happier for one member of this organization, I feel that my efforts have not been in vain. God has been wonderfully good to me by giving me good health, courage and ambition. I hope, trust and pray that my actions in Washington have increased—at least by a few points—the value of our stock in the estimation of the members of Congress, officials of the Post Office Department, and heads of other government agencies.

I realize that I have made many mistakes, but one thing I am proud to state: I have endeavored to be honest, fair and to work for the best interest of our members.

For many years, I have tried to live with the following as my guiding star: A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

I thank you.

. . . The audience arose and applauded . . .

Chairman Winqest. You have heard the splendid and complete report of your National President. What is the desire of the Assembly?

Brother L. S. Griffin (South Carolina). May I say that our President covered this thing from A to Y, but in my mind, Z is omitted. The punch that he hasn't mentioned, keeps many of these states from being 100 per cent, and without that help, you won't be. Can you tell us what you can do for the retired carrier, Brother Walters?

President Walters. I can tell you what we have tried to do.

Griffin. In all your reports, you haven't mentioned what you could do to help the retired carrier. The \$100.00 that I got 13 years ago is worth considerably less today. That is a very complete report, complete as anyone here would want, with the exception of the Z contingency.

Andrew J. Walker (Arizona). I move that the report be accepted.

William Van Hartsvelt (Michigan). May I have the honor of seconding that motion?

Chairman Winqest. You have heard the motion and the second. All those in favor, signify by saying, "aye"; contrary, the same. The motion is carried.

. . . President Walters resumed the Chair.

President Walters. Thank you, Gentlemen.

. . . Announcements . . .

President H. alters. We now come to that place on our program for the report from your Vice-President, B. A. Winquest.

Vice-President B. A. Winquest. To the Officers and Delegates of the 42nd Convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

Greetings: This year is the Golden Anniversary of the Rural Free Delivery. We assemble to celebrate this eventful birthday and conduct the business of another National Convention.

It is very fitting and appropriate to convene in the beautiful and progressive city of Des Moines. Also to meet in the great state of Iowa situated in the very heart of our great nation. We salute the Rural Free Delivery and its fifty years of existence. As Rural Carriers we are proud to share in the commemoration of this notable occasion.

This convention has a special significance. It is the first National Convention since 1941 that we have been able to attend without hearts heavy for fear for sons, brothers, husbands, fighting a terrible global conflict. We pay our tribute therefore, in this first peacetime meeting, to the men and women who carried our flag to every quarter of the globe in the greatest war against arbitrary power.

Our hearts are filled with sincere gratitude for the opportunity of greeting our brother carriers again, for the pleasant warm handshake and the renewing of that wonderful fellowship that exists among the Rural Carriers and their families.

The period intervening since our 1944 convention has been one of great importance to every Carrier. Then we definitely were dominated by the war. Today we are in a period of transition which we hope and pray will bring about an everlasting peace and the return to normal conditions in our country.

All of this has exerted a direct effect on the responsibilities and working conditions of the Rural Carrier. It means that any war-time emergency programs must be revised in favor of policies and a course of action which will fit the peacetime and post-war program.

Yet despite the handicaps imposed by the war and its after effects, your National Association has made progress, has added another year to its splendid record. That progress has been made in the affairs of your organization and is attested by the fact that today it stands stronger than at any time in its history extended over a period of 43 years.

This achievement and progress did not happen by mere chance. It is the result of the loyal support and manifested interest of over 30,000 members who love their Association and for what it stands. The great service performed by State, District and County officers, the splendid cooperation of the Ladies Auxiliary have played an important part also.

The outstanding service performed by National President Walters, his sincere devotion to his task, his keen knowledge of the requirements of the Rural Service, the unity of purpose exemplified by your Board of Control, all these too, have made the past year's record one of which all of us can be justly proud.

Today you and your officers can point with justifiable pride to the fact that the progress in beneficial legislation has been continued despite the adversities of war. In fact, the past year has witnessed salary increases of approximately \$800 to every Carrier. Also, our equipment allowance is now permanent legislation.

President Walters in his annual report has

provided in detailed form the many accomplishments of the past year, therefore it will not be necessary for me to repeat them.

However, the accomplishment which cheers us most of all is the announcement that within a period of three years, the entire indebtedness assumed by the purchase of the Official Publication has been entirely paid. This goal achieved in two years less time than anticipated surely thrills every one of us. No longer do we have the millstone of the paper debt around our necks.

In my humble opinion the above gains represent achievements unequalled in any similar field of Postal organization. That we have come through a most hectic period in the history of our country and our Association reporting such progress is sufficient proof of the worth of our excellent organization.

These achievements, with many others have been attained through the purely democratic form of our organization. An organization which for over forty years has built itself upon the fundamental principles that every member has a voice in the affairs of the Association. We firmly believe in the concept that the membership has enough wisdom and judgment and understanding to forge their own ideals of how our great Association should be operated.

The 1944 Convention at Cincinnati laid down a forward moving program for your National Officers to follow. It is my sincere belief that these officers have striven continuously to attain the objectives set by that convention. Everything humanly possible has been done to conform with the mandates of the delegates as expressed there.

Meeting now in the first post-war convention, I am thoroughly cognizant of the manifold problems with which we are confronted. We are convening here for the express purpose of bringing our thoughts to harmony and establishing new phases of a program for future guidance. What the decisions of this convention will be, remain to be seen, but I am confident that they will be wise, far-seeing and of a nature in which all of us may take the utmost pride. Whatever the decision, I know too, that the membership will give them their support for the common good. We all desire to do the right thing as we meet.

Whatever is right can be achieved through the irresistible power of an awakened and informed membership opinion. Our object therefore, is not to inquire whether a thing can be done, and if it ought to be done, but to so exert the forces of true information that the membership opinion will compel it to be done.

From the splendid accomplishments of the past we endeavor to gaze to the unpredictable future. Your National Association is an institution involving business transactions of approximately \$100,000 annually. Our growth has been phenomenal. No doubt some changes in the operation of our organization are necessary. In consideration of the proposed changes it behooves the delegates to give each proposal most serious attention. Let us not venture into unknown and uncharted waters in a hasty decision with the possibility of striking unseen and dangerous rocks.

At the present moment we have no knowledge of all the proposed changes in the operation of our Association which may be considered by this convention. However, in the last analysis of any change, I trust every delegate will cast his vote not for what he or his particular state may gain, but cast his vote to assure the greatest benefits to the majority of the Rural Carriers which he represents. Let us preserve in the future

the sound ideals and policies of operation and administration which have enabled us as an Association to progress so far in the past.

No annual report would be complete without mention of the friendly and cooperative relationship that exists between the Post Office Department and your Association. Many times during the past two years it became necessary to protest against the rules, regulations or orders from the departmental officials. In each case your officers were accorded a sympathetic hearing, mutual problems discussed and in most cases adjustments accomplished. Not a day passes without departmental contacts being made in the interest of individual carriers.

One of the greatest contributions to the success of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association is the interest and activity of the State Associations. They are performing a splendid service and their importance deserves to be mentioned. State organizations are an indispensable factor and an invaluable asset to the National body. They embrace the fundamentals upon which our great body was established. The sincere spirit of helpfulness and interest of these state groups has served to strengthen the National group.

To the State, District and County Officials, these loyal and hard-working men who have contributed much by making our record an enviable one, we express our gratitude.

The Ladies Auxiliary has repeatedly proved its worth to our National Association. Time and time again our ladies have come to the front in an all-out effort to obtain beneficial legislation. Their cooperation in the recent salary legislation campaign was instrumental in bringing it to a successful conclusion. Their activities in furthering the benefits of the Rural Carrier and his family deserves recognition by our entire membership.

The leadership of the Ladies Auxiliary has been capably administered by a competent Board of Officers. They have performed faithfully in your best interest. I strongly recommend that we pledge our cooperation and renew our efforts to assist in the further progress of this worthy and helpful organization.

The past year I have attended every Board meeting called by National President Walters and have endeavored to the best of my ability to take an active part in the program confronting each meeting. It has been my constant desire to keep informed of all the responsibilities of my office and to render every service possible to the Rural Carrier body.

I have contacted many members of the House and Senate Post Office Committees either personally or by correspondence endeavoring to persuade them of the necessity of bringing about more favorable working conditions for the Rural Carrier. This type of contact has proven very interesting to me and has clearly revealed the interest members of Congress have for our particular group.

My State Convention assignments took me to Nebraska, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Wyoming, Michigan and Louisiana. In all of these state meetings I was accorded the most cordial welcome and friendly hospitality. Delegates were alert to the problems confronting the Rural Service at the present and those problems that might appear in the post-war period. In every instance the State Leaders are performing their duties in a most excellent manner and they are to be lauded for their splendid leadership they are providing for their respective states.

Be assured that it has been a most pleasant experience to serve with my fellow Board Members. Their sincere desire to be helpful

to the Rural Carriers of the nation certainly impresses me very much. Out meetings have always been filled with the spirit of unity and cooperation to achieve that goal which will benefit mostly our fellow carrier. Their mutual kindness and understanding will be treasured in my book of memories.

With a heart overwrought with gratitude for the opportunity of serving as your National Vice-President for the past four years, I trust that I have in no way failed to merit the confidence imposed upon me by your selection of me to this office.

Let me say to you, in closing this year that I know full well that no virtue or special ability within me has brought about the remarkable record attained by our beloved Association. It was your work and your devotion to the organization that made our Association what it is. I am profoundly grateful that it has been my good fortune to share with you the joy of achievement and progress.

I have only one message for you now and that is "Success is never ended." May we all accept the solemn responsibility of maintaining and preserving our wonderful Association. May we pledge to be the best American citizens and Rural Carriers possible today, and then be a better American citizen and better Rural Carrier tomorrow.

May I take the liberty to close with this familiar verse of poetry:

"Build thee more worthy mansions Oh
my soul
As the swift seasons roll,
Leave thy low-vaulted past,
Let each new temple, nobler than the last
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast
'Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine out-grown shell
by Life's unresting sea."

Thank you very much for your patience.

President Walters. You have heard this wonderful report here by your Vice-President. What is your pleasure?

J. D. Clark (Georgia). I move the acceptance of this splendid report, with our thanks.

Ernest Robertson (Louisiana). I second that.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? If not, all in favor, let it be known by standing.
... The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded ...

President Walters. Next is the report of the National Secretary, Glenn Folkers.

Secretary Glenn Folkers. To the Officers and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. Kindest Greetings: We give thanks for the privilege of assembling in convention, with all war-time restrictions removed and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Rural Mail Service. We give thanks that the principle of democracy still prevails in this great land of ours, guaranteeing the option of peaceful assemblage where we are privileged to gather to discuss our several problems and plan for the future; a heritage which every American should exert his every effort to perpetuate and maintain.

We are celebrating fifty years of definite progress in the Rural Mail Service and forty-four years of progress in our National Association. From the horse and buggy days of the early 1900's, through the mechanized period of the 20's and 30's, and we are now

entering the unknown scientific and Atomic age which could prove to be the greatest step forward for mankind or could be used for the utter destruction of civilization.

Our organization has kept pace with the changing times all through the years, has corrected and amended our governing rules and regulations, a tried and true document, our Constitution and By-Laws, with the result that our Association has made definite advances in the efficiency of its operation and its prestige throughout the Nation. This has been brought about by faith of our members and officials, sacrifice and determination, and unselfish devotion to the ideals and principles of truthfulness, fairness and helpfulness to the membership and to the Post Office Department.

Our Association and membership is unique as organizations are concerned; we have a very high moral reputation, our members are mostly Christian individuals, God-Fearing, with down-to-earth policies and principles, respected citizens in our respective communities, home-loving, solid and unpolished, real diamonds in the rough. Therefore I deem it a privilege and distinct honor to be associated with folks like you and for the opportunity of serving you as your National Secretary the past four years, and herewith present a report of the activities of my office for the past year:

I was present at an official Board meeting of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, held in Washington, D. C., September 3 to 13, 1945, in lieu of the annual National convention which was cancelled due to war measures, and was privileged to participate in all the sessions to establish a working program for the year and to formulate policies and procedures accordingly, for the best interests of the Association and the members.

Immediately following this meeting, due to the fact that most State conventions were curtailed to the limit and many County and District meetings were discontinued entirely in the several States, causing a very decided drop in our total National membership up to that time, I made a special effort and appeal to the officers and members of the several States to immediately start a campaign to secure the membership of all delinquent and new members so that we could continue them on the membership rolls of our Association. This appeal met with outstanding results with a total of 3,611 delinquent and new members being added to our 1945-46 membership records after the close of the year's business. I have always been vitally interested in the membership of our Association, primarily because I firmly believe that the success of any organization lies in the number of active and interested members which compose that organization, and that the revenue derived from that membership is secondary in importance, but necessary to continue a working and progressive organization.

I attended the annual Mid-winter conference and Board meeting in Washington, D. C., January 22nd to February 13th at which time the membership files were transferred from my office in Mokena, Illinois to the Washington office, by order of the National Board, with the hope of being able to expedite the handling of changes of addresses and the correcting of mailing lists of the paper more efficiently and expeditiously at the end of the year. I attended several hearings on legislative matters, and conferences with officials of the Post Office Department and other Governmental agencies on behalf of the Rural Carriers of the Nation. I tried my best to add to the discussions of vital



BURDETTE W. PLAYFOOT,
Treasurer,
Horseheads, New York

problems confronting the Board at this time with respect to Association affairs and legislative procedure, always trying to look at these problems through the eyes of the members in the field, who placed me in a position of trust and to serve them as their servant as an officer of their Association, which I have always tried to do to the very best of my ability.

I have on one occasion reversed my opinion on a very important subject. After giving further and more minute study and seeking the best advice possible from several sources and therefore being convinced in my own mind that there is the element of doubt as to the possibility of our National Association receiving the desired benefits from this contemplated and recommended proposition, and not being able to convince myself that this recommendation, if adopted, would benefit or protect the Association and the members to any great degree, if any, beyond the protection now prevailing in the wording and intent of our present Constitution and By-Laws, and the uncertainty of the continued present form of operation in the several States, I respectfully requested, through a letter to each member of the National Board, that my name be withdrawn from the unanimous recommendation that the National Association be incorporated. (Applause.)

I was privileged to attend State Conventions in Delaware, South Dakota, Colorado, Indiana, Virginia, Wisconsin and Illinois. I am pleased to report that in all cases, I was received with the greatest courtesy, friendliness and hospitality found only where Rural Carriers gather. All of the conventions were fairly well attended and the interest and enthusiasm manifested the desire of all to bring about continued success of the Association and the benefits derived from its prestige and influence in legislative matters and Departmental regulations as pertaining to the Rural Service and the individual Rural Carriers.

Since our legislative activity has been handled exclusively and very efficiently and successfully by President Walters, in cooperation with several other Post Office Employee organization representatives, my work has been confined entirely to my office duties, except for the two National Board meetings

and the several State convention assignments.

I have tried to operate my office as efficiently as my limited ability and intelligence would permit, on as economical a basis as possible, doing most of my office work after serving my route each day. It may be of interest to the membership to know that I have furnished all of my office equipment, consisting of two typewriters, adding machine, desk and chair, cabinet for office supplies and a secretarial table for wrapping and storing supplies to be sent to the State Secretaries. The Association has furnished me with a small hand-operated mimeograph and a wood filing cabinet.

The duties of your National Secretary are manifold and I have given my best for the proper conduct of this office at all times. I have tried to keep all my correspondence on a current basis when at all possible, tried to be courteous and prompt in answering all letters and immediately upon receiving per capita remittances from the State Secretaries, I return an official receipt, properly numbered and make an entry in my record books, and am reporting all per capita received, on individual report sheets, to our Washington office.

Several of the major duties of this office are: keeping a complete and accurate record of all receipts and forwarding same to the National Treasurer periodically; issuing statements to be duly authorized by the Executive Committee for vouchers to be drawn on the Treasurer for the payment of all bills, salaries, rentals and sundry items which must be met currently and a complete and accurate account of each voucher issued for expenditures; receive and bank all checks and other forms of remittances; required to make four separate tax reports to the Internal Revenue Service and the District Unemployment Compensation Board each quarter. (Incidentally, during my tenure of office the tax rate of the District Unemployment Compensation was reduced from 2.7% to .001% or one-tenth of one per cent, a very decided saving). Keep separate and accurate accounts of the Association and the Official Publication; prepare a complete and accurate report of the financial transactions of this office for publication in the Official Organ each National Association quarter; keep an accurate record of the names and addresses of all State officers in the several State organizations and provide the National office with any changes or corrections, and a multitude of other duties necessary for the proper functioning of an office that is doing over \$100,000 business annually, in my "spare" time. I take a certain pride in my books and welcome and request any or all of you to inspect the records of your Association and Publication any time during this Convention.

I have written periodical Board letters to the members of the National Board with suggestions and questions as to the most efficient policy to follow in our several complicated and necessary forms of procedure for the best possible results for the gradual progress of our Association; have written several articles for publication with the prime purpose in mind of trying to stimulate interest in membership of our Association and have tried to answer all correspondence as speedily as possible and in a businesslike manner. Have tried to keep in close contact with the State Presidents and Secretaries by sending out form letters at intervals during the year, trying to encourage them and making suggestions which I thought may be helpful to them and to the Association. Have tried to keep the State Secretaries supplied with material and supplies to continue our

work on a uniform basis throughout the several States.

When the National Convention held in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1942, saw fit to select me as National Secretary, I assumed, together with the other members of the National Board, that it was the wish of the Convention that we take definite steps with respect to correcting a situation which apparently had become a rather controversial topic at most National Conventions of previous years—that of the operation or contractual basis of supplying our members with a copy of the Official Organ at that time—and realizing that we were expected to correct a certain custom which did not appeal to many of our members, we, as a Board, made plans and endeavored to bring about certain changes with respect to our publication and during the year (1942-1943) a recommendation was formulated and presented to the next National Convention, advocating the purchase and operation of our own publication, which meant that we would be required to assume an indebtedness of approximately \$45,000. After many months of study and securing figures of the estimated cost of operation of a publication, I felt that we could safely go into debt to secure the ownership of the Official Organ and with good business management and being as conservative as possible, that we could retire this indebtedness in approximately four or five years, while continuing to operate on a current basis as near as possible. This we have been able to do and I am most happy to report at this time that every dollar of the assumed indebtedness has been retired and all current bills paid to date, with not one dime being spent from the general Association account for this purpose, therefore I am privileged to report to you, in the well known military term: "Mission has been accomplished." (Applause).

The work of the National Secretary is most interesting and it has been a source of pleasure and exceptional experience for me during the past years and I am most grateful. As God is my Supreme Judge, I have given this position my very best efforts at all times.

In closing permit me to thank President Walters and the members of the National Board for their many courtesies and their many acts of kindness and assistance in making this office a success this past year.

To all retired Rural Carriers who after all were the real pioneers, conceiving the idea of formulating and perfecting this Association through the years, my deepest respect and admiration; to the Past Officers of the Association, who carried the torch from one to another, all contributing their best efforts for the continued upbuilding of our organization, steadily being built on solid ground, slowly and permanently, not as a mushroom growth of one day's duration and the next to be withered and destroyed, but permanently and solidly, my sincere thanks, Gentlemen! To the State and County officers and all members, who after all compose the real foundation and framework of our Association, your splendid cooperation during the past years is deeply appreciated by this office and may this same fine spirit of cooperation continue, guaranteeing the continued forward march of our great Association.

Permit me to recognize the State of Alabama as the first 100% membership State in the National Association this year, with Rhode Island, South Dakota and North Carolina running very close in second, third and fourth positions. To all of the States that are displayed on the Honor Roll of 100% States, may I congratulate you for your splendid work, and the States that were not

as fortunate, I know that the officers and members worked hard to reach the goal but apparently conditions prevented them from the accomplishment of reaching their goal. However, I do appreciate the efforts of all in making our total National Membership very near 100% numerically.

Georgia is recognized as the largest percentage increase in the 100% plus States; Illinois as the largest membership State, with Texas a very close second.

At this minute, I am most happy to report that we have a grand total of 31,366 members for this year. (Applause).

I shall, at a later hour, present to you my final financial and membership report of the year, and I trust that you will be well pleased.

In all sincerity and graciousness, I am happy to have had the privilege of laboring as your servant the past several years. Thank you again, and may God's bounteous blessings be yours in the years to come.

President Walters. You have heard this most wonderful report by Secretary Folkers. What is your pleasure?

J. M. Gates (Tennessee). I move that this report be adopted and made part of the record.

Lyndal C. Hayman (Delaware). I second the motion.

President Walters. It is moved that this be adopted and made part of the record. All those in favor let it be known by standing.

. . . The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded . . .

President Walters. Counting the number of vacant routes in the United States, we can declare to the world that the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association is 100% plus in membership.

We will now have the report of the National Treasurer, George M. Ellis.

Treasurer George M. Ellis. In National Convention, Des Moines, Iowa, August 13, 1946. To the officers and members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

Two years have elapsed since it was my privilege to stand before you to render a report, and it is a real pleasure to mingle with you once more, renew the pleasant friendships that have been made in years gone by, and we hope we can enlarge our list during the few days we can be together in this Golden Jubilee Convention.

We hear many people say, "We are living in a changing world," and I often wonder, do we take such statements for granted, or do we stop to analyze conditions and draw our own conclusions upon the extent of the changes, or how numerous they have been? It is human nature to take the easy road and I fear we too frequently see them only as they pass before us from day to day.

So many people have said to me since I arrived in this city, "My, how your children have grown." To those who have seen them day in and day out, the change has not been too noticeable, but those who have not seen them since our last National Convention marvel at the change. So it is with our world changes, our Association changes. If you could but roll back the intervening space, and see how you and your Association were situated on August 13, 1944, and compare that with your situation today, you too would marvel at the difference you would find. The living, working, and financial conditions of the rural carriers have undergone a great revision, and as a result, rural carriers and

their families are enjoying the fruits of their Association labors.

It is nice to reminisce if one has the time, but we cannot live in the past and make progress. Changes will continue to come. Some we will like, and some we will not like. Some will be forced upon us, and some will be of our own making. We believe the time has come when we should make some changes for our own good and for the good of our Association, either in this convention or by the National Board, and each change should be undertaken only after serious and thoughtful consideration. May I dwell briefly upon three or four of them?

When I became a National Officer, our National President, with one employee, took care of all the business of the Washington office. I do not recollect of ever hearing any President make the claim that he could not find enough work to keep him busy, so I believe we can assume that in former years, two people were kept busy with the work of the National office.

From that picture of supervising the work and one employee, see what we have today. Twice the office space, five times the number of employees (with part-time additions when needed), an aggressive legislative program, an enormously increased correspondence, the publication of our weekly paper, and other minor duties, and we still put the burden of management upon one man primarily, our National President. His is a long, heavy day, day in and day out, including many nights and Sundays.

"At times, one pair of ears and eyes

Appear to be too few

To concentrate on all the things

That should be done for you."

It is time that you and I gave some attention to this overload condition. I hesitate to remind you that we permitted one faithful, hard-working President to go home, broken in health. To my recollection he was the first. I bring this subject before you today in the hope that something may be developed so that another like instance will not blacken the record of this Association.

What to do is the question. I have not talked the subject over at length with anyone, but I have given a lot of individual thought to it, and my first reaction is that the load must be shared. It has been mentioned that both our President and Vice-President might be kept in Washington. Others have suggested a Legislative Representative to handle our legislative program while the President handled all other Association work. Another group has mentioned keeping our National Secretary in Washington. All these have some merit, but at the moment I am not ready to commit myself or recommend any one of them. There may be other plans developed which better suit our purpose. This question will no doubt fire the imagination of many of you and stir your vocabularies to great heights, but please remember that what we want most is results.

I can dislike a man, disapprove of his policies, but if he can deliver to me results which I cannot obtain for myself, then for my own good I should overlook my dislikes. A title adds prestige to any job, but too frequently the employee spends too much time living up to his title and not enough time doing his work. It is more important to have a worker who can and will produce results, than to provide him with a title.

Then there is the question of length of service. The results produced have a direct relation to the experience of the producer. Experience comes only from service. We can-

not expect the best results by putting inexperienced help on the job every little while. We must have some degree of permanence in our Washington set-up if we are to continue to make great progress.

For years prior to 1943 we always had a degree of permanence in Washington in the person of McDevitt. He was a strong tower for those whom we selected to serve as President to lean upon. He showed them around, gave them confidence, made necessary contacts with and for them, contacts so necessary to the success of their efforts. His knowledge and permanence in the Capitol City made all this possible, and helped to school or educate our representatives in their work in the shortest possible time. Discuss the subject if you will. Its far-reaching effects, its additional expense to the Association, and other items, cause me to believe that even a two or three day discussion here would not do justice to the subject. In the last analysis, it is a question of policy or management, and if you expect your Board to show continued progress, they must in turn be responsible for questions of policy and management. Your discussion should make an excellent foundation upon which a decision could be based. A change is essential and it should not be put off.

Some changes to better protect our financial structure might also be in the best interests of the Association and its members. When we took over the paper, we also took over the practice of pro-rated memberships. After a lengthy study of the subject, the Board decided that pro-rated memberships should apply only to new carriers who joined the rural service after July 1st each year. It now appears, beyond a reasonable doubt, that old carriers are being signed up as new carriers, and that either through ignorance or intent, the Board policy has not been followed in many cases. You and I paid the full price for our membership. Why should an individual who quibbles over the cost, or delays payment for three to six months, buy his membership for 25 or 50 per cent less? Such a policy is not fair, nor is it good business. For our own good we must get down to the basis of one price for everyone. We must abolish the practice of approaching prospective members with kind offers, with cut rates, with appeals or appeasements, as inducements to join our Association, and substitute therefor a real sales talk that will leave no doubt in the non-member's mind that dues in our Association is about the best investment he can make. Most of them will be glad to pay the price if you will let them, and as for getting his money's worth, if a man was appointed to serve only the last six days in June, 1946 he earned enough extra money over what he would have earned had he worked the same period in 1945, not only to pay a full year's dues for the remaining six days of last year, but also enough to pay his wife's dues in the auxiliary, and then he would still have enough of that extra money left over to pay his dues in full for the next year. The new man can pay full dues and still get a big return on his money. The only fair business policy is to have one price for everyone, and I sincerely hope this convention will approve the recommendation of the Board, that we adhere strictly to the Constitution and By-Laws in regard to per capita.

Another change recommended by the Board concerns the National Legislative Council. Up to the time I became a National Officer I had no close connection with the Council nor did I know any of its officers. I draw my conclusions from my personal contacts with them. We could go into lengthy detail in support of the recommendation of

the Board, but it would not be good publicity for the Council. Without our group, not over 3% of all the postal employees in the country are affiliated with the Council. Instead of adding other postal groups I understand they have been losing the support of some postal groups formerly affiliated with them. In so far as postal personnel is concerned, I believe the Council might be termed a decaying organization. It seems to me that its leadership is dictatorial, bigoted, and uncooperative. Assuming my views are correct, by what stretch of the imagination can such an organization be beneficial to our Association? I liken them to a dragging anchor. The greatest advancements this Association has ever made have been made without the help or cooperation of this Council, and I am firm in my belief we can do better without them. I sincerely hope this convention will cut the rope and let the anchor go.

It is a source of pleasure to study these questions and have many of them work out to your satisfaction. I was a member of the Board which studied the so-called paper question. I supported the recommendation to purchase the paper. I took just pride in signing the check which completed the purchase. I have carefully watched the progress of debt reduction and rejoiced with you in each annual report. But the real thrill came a few weeks ago when I signed another check which paid the last cent on the paper debt. Today we can shout with glee, "It's our baby," free and clear, and we can be justly proud of the accomplishment. But my friends, let me remind you that we can say, "It's our baby" in a much more solemn voice, which should drive home the thought that we have a great responsibility. We have this new venture which can make us money or can cost us money, a paper which can be the pride of every carrier or the curse of the Association; it can be best used for the welfare of the Association and its members or devoted to other interests. Our responsibility is to give it the loving care which a baby is entitled to, watch it closely, be interested in its cost, appearance, and its copy, for by so doing we can be better assured that it will continue a profitable enterprise, be looked forward to each week by the carriers and their families, and ever be devoted to the interests of the Association.

In my deliberations with the other Board members I have always tried to keep the Association foremost in my mind. I have at times disagreed with some of the others, or they with me, but it has always been a friendly disagreement, and when a decision was reached we have all graciously abided by it. This sort of cooperation brings pleasure to the work, and I am indeed grateful for the fine spirit which has prevailed among us.

My convention assignments were seven in number—Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kansas. By mutual agreement, I foisted the Massachusetts assignment upon Vice-President Winquest, who was covering the other Northern New England States. We did not want him to pass by the best state, or miss the best convention, and we also felt that my co-workers in Massachusetts would like to see and know "Barney" better. Not unlike the mailman who took a walk on his vacation, I have visited unofficially the state conventions in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Missouri. There was a fine spirit at all these conventions. Generally speaking, attendance was down, membership was up. The officers and members were most hospitable and in each and every case made my stay with them most pleasant. I shall ever be grateful to them all.

I do not need to remind you that living costs have gone up. It is just the same with the operating costs of your Association, with possibly one exception—the living quarters of our National President, which are as low now as they ever have been, as a result of a new policy of this board. Our per capita or income remains the same. Therefore you might expect there has been a greater drain than usual upon our Treasury, but such is not the case. In spite of higher costs, in spite of excessive activity and its resulting expense, good management and sound business policies have made it possible for my financial report, which will be submitted later in this convention, to show that our financial condition is excellent and our assets are the highest it has ever been my privilege to report. During the year we have purchased one \$5000 Government Bond, carried as an expense in the Association account, but nevertheless it is an investment. We have continued the sum of \$9000 in two depositories, and have received \$130.00 interest thereon, which item will appear in the receipts of the Secretary. We have kept our correspondence up-to-date at all times and endeavored to write and mail all checks promptly upon receipt of vouchers.

I deeply appreciate the confidence you expressed when you permitted me to serve you as Treasurer. It has been a real privilege and pleasure, as well as an honor, to fill this important office, and we feel justly proud of the humble part we played to bring about the signal successes of the past year. Opportunities still lie before us, and it is my prayer that we can think right, act right, and be right, and thus make the most of them.

Respectfully submitted, George M. Ellis, Treasurer.

O. C. Leathers (Kentucky). I move you that the report of the Treasurer be accepted with thanks.

W. J. Cotton (North Carolina). I will second that motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second, that we receive this splendid report from our National Treasurer, with our thanks. Any discussion? If not, all those in favor of the motion, let it be known by standing.

The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded . . .

. . . Announcements . . .

President Walters. We will now have the report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee—J. Paul Myers.

J. Paul Myers (Chairman, Executive Committee). To the Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

It is indeed a happy occasion to again be permitted to greet you in a regular National Convention and to submit to you some of my activities as Chairman of the Executive Committee during the past year. Since it was impossible to meet last year, due to war restrictions, we are all so happy now that the shooting has stopped and we can again meet in our annual convention.

The world is so busy now with that probably more important task of winning the peace. This struggle has been long and hard, but I am sure the battle will be won with the nations of the world deciding that it is better to compromise and "live together" than to "perish together" in a new Atomic war.

During the past year I have endeavored to work for the best interest of all our members and sincerely believe the combined

efforts of all has resulted in an advancement being made in each of the four aims of our Association as set forth in our Constitution and By-laws, that is, (1) to improve the methods used by rural carriers—some improvement must have been made in this respect because today, despite the difficulty in obtaining adequate equipment, we are covering more miles and serving more patrons than ever in our history; (2) to cooperate with the Post Office Department and the public for the good of the service—I am sure rural carriers, as a rule, are doing just that, and while there are many inequalities which must be adjusted and corrections made, still our motto—"Service with a Smile"—is just as appropriate today as ever; (3) To promote a spirit of fraternity among our members. To me this is one of the high privileges of our Association and it has been my earnest endeavor during the past year, to promote as many meetings and get-togethers as possible. It is this meeting together, by both Association and Auxiliary members, which brings results for our group. We must all work together for "In union, there is strength"; and (4) To benefit our conditions of labor. More has been accomplished along this line during the past year than, perhaps, in any other one year, since we were fortunate enough to secure two pay raises during the period. Many other worthwhile things have been attempted and accomplished as you can easily see by reading our list of accomplishments. The efforts of our Association to make these aims come true has really been wonderful and if my small efforts have been of any value, I will be most happy, indeed.

President Walters, in his excellent report, has given you a detailed description of the workings of your National Office and of the many things which your National Board has attempted to do during the past years. He has explained in detail the three recommendations which the Board has endorsed for consideration at this convention. I shall not dwell at any length on any of these recommendations, but suffice it to say that I heartily recommend the adoption of all three.

First, Incorporation. I believe this to be a step forward in the progress of our Association, and to adopt the corporate form of management would not only provide financial protection for all of us, but would provide a more "up to date" method of doing business.

Many said, we should not purchase our official organ but I am sure you will all agree that was a good move. I am convinced that to "incorporate" would be just as much a step in the right direction as the purchase of our paper.

Whatever may be your decision in this matter, let us all work together, stronger than ever, for the good of the Association.

Second, full membership dues should be collected from every carrier, no matter at what time of year he joins, because the faithful members should not be penalized for paying year after year in advance, while some uninterested carriers get by with perhaps a half-year's dues and it usually develops that the state and local units get nothing.

Third, I favor withdrawing from the National Legislative Council because it has proven to be more of a liability than an asset to us in recent years. Its leaders have shown no inclination to aid us in securing much needed legislation by working with all postal groups in presenting a united front to Congress and, in some instances, have offered testimony detrimental to our best interest.

It was surely a most happy moment when each member of your National Board was

privileged to go before the State Conventions and report that the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER was entirely free of debt as of that date. I am deeply grateful that I have been permitted to serve as a member of the Board during which time our Official Organ has developed into a "going concern" instead of being continually many thousands of dollars in the "red."

President Walters assigned me to attend the following State conventions: California, Washington, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota and Oregon. Due to a change in dates of the Minnesota Convention, I was also privileged to attend their very fine meeting at St. Paul.

While a considerably larger number of carriers should have been in attendance at each of these conventions, much interest and enthusiasm was shown by those present and the officers in each State conducted the business sessions in a very efficient manner. I wish to express my appreciation to the officers and members in each of these States for a wonderful time and delightful experiences which were mine while visiting your convention.

Prominent guests and speakers were present at each meeting and many topics of interest and problems of the future were discussed. At our own State convention, we were very fortunate to have Honorable Harrison Parkman, Purchasing Agent of the Post Office Department, as well as Dr. Hedlund, Postmaster of Portland, Oregon, with us during the entire session. We cannot express too highly our appreciation for the wonderful effort put forth, during the war, by Mr. Parkman and his staff to keep our cars in working condition.

I attended the two meetings of the Board in Washington, D. C. The first was called in September 1945, at which time the books of the Association were closed and audit made to close out the business of the preceding year since no National meeting had been held.

Many conferences were held with Congressmen and other officials concerning our salary legislation and it is surprising to note how much they favor the combined efforts of all the postal groups being presented to them as a unified plan upon which the various branches of the service have reached an agreement before presenting their testimony. It was especially brought out that our salary adjustment would probably have occurred several months earlier if the various groups could have agreed upon a workable solution which was fair to all.

Plans were made for the new year and many other problems, common to all of us, were discussed and efforts made to solve them if it were at all possible.

The Mid-winter meeting and Conference with the Post Office Department was held in January and February and I am certain that the efforts of your National Board, under the splendid leadership of President Walters, has resulted in many benefits to every member of our Association. It has been a happy privilege to have been permitted to serve in such a group, composed of as fine a bunch of fellows as I have ever met.

During a week in May, my wife and I traveled approximately 2000 miles on a trip over a good portion of our State. Sometime within the year we have visited every district in the State with the exception of two and these were unavoidable. This trip was a wonderful experience and I am sure it helped immensely in practicing that spirit of fraternity among our members.

Too much praise cannot be given the Ladies' Auxiliary for the wonderful cooperation and assistance they have given us in our efforts

to secure beneficial legislation, in sponsoring the sale of "The R.F.D.," and in the many, many other ways in which they have assisted and lent their support to the things we were attempting to accomplish. They are our best helpers and I am certain our Association would not be in the favorable condition that it is today were it not for the loyalty of our Auxiliary. Let us support them more than ever by always seeing that our wives' dues are paid when we pay our own.

My wife, who is honored by being President of the Ladies' Auxiliary this year, is very happy that you have contributed so generously towards the purchase of good books in the "book giving" contest which has been sponsored by the Auxiliary during the past two years. Several thousand dollars worth of good books have been presented to libraries, hospitals, and individuals by these ladies and each one contains a sticker representing the Auxiliary and signed by the donor. Also, your response in the sale of our own history, "The R.F.D.," has been most gratifying. She is indeed grateful to all of you for this loyal support.

As Chairman of the Executive Committee this year, it has been my duty to renew the Bonds of the National Secretary and Treasurer and to see that they were kept in a safety deposit box, and I have endeavored to take care of some of the other properties of the Association or see that suitable storage was provided. I have attempted to perform the duties of this office to the best of my ability, and trust that my efforts have been of some value to you.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the officers and members and to the Ladies' Auxiliary of each of the seven states in which I was privileged to visit this year. I had a most wonderful time at each convention and only hope that I may have been of some small assistance to you.

It has been a great privilege and a pleasure to serve on your National Board during the past three years when our country was engaged in the most terrible conflict in history, even though travel conditions were such that every one was urged to stay at home and it was almost impossible to obtain hotel facilities. It is my sincere desire and expectation that this wonderful Association of rural carriers may go forward as never before, and to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your very fine support and the many courtesies extended.

President Walters. Thank you, Paul. You have heard this good report by the Chairman of the Executive Committee. What is your pleasure?

Joseph J. Nicholas (Florida). I move that the report be adopted with thanks.

John J. Eby (West Virginia). I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second. Any discussion? If not, all in favor, let it be known by standing. . . . The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded . . .

Solon W. Ware (Georgia). I would like to call your attention to the new state added to this honor roll, and I would like to see that right side filled up like the left side—New Hampshire is on there. Let's give them a hand.

President Walters. How many does that make now?

Solon Ware. 29. Who will be 30?

President Walters. Solon Ware has been raising sand for about two years for something like this to happen, so you keep on going, and somebody will do something after awhile. So Glenn Folkers did a wonderful job in having that thing fixed.

I remember the last National Convention. He came before the Board hot and bothered, worried almost sick. He didn't know this was made until he got here.

Let's have the report of Willard L. Manning, Member of the Executive Committee of this organization.

Willard L. Manning. Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

In the splendid reports given by the preceding officers, the financial, legislative and other fields of work of your National Board have been fully covered, so I shall not burden you with a repetition of them. Suffice it to say that I have endeavored in every way possible to contribute my bit in every way possible.

In this, our first full scale Convention since 1941, and the first since the cessation of hostilities, we have much to be thankful for. There is yet the peace to win so let us individually and collectively exert all our influence that we will have a just and lasting peace, that the Golden Rule will be the rule and guide in future dealings with men and nations. If this can be accomplished then peace can and will reign everywhere.

I have attended all Board meetings since my last report. One in September last year when the work of the past year was closed and plans made for the new year's activities. The mid-winter conference in January-February during which we had the privilege of meeting with the First Assistant Postmaster General and his Assistants in discussion of many problems facing rural carriers. I feel that much good came from this meeting. Then a short Board meeting prior to the opening of this Convention where we closed the year's business in order that the books would be in readiness for the Certified Public Accountants.

Upon assignment of President Walters, I attended the following State Conventions in the order named: Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. In all these meetings a fine spirit of cooperation was shown and all the Officers showed their splendid abilities by the work accomplished. Four of these States were 100% in membership at the opening of their meeting. One other has since reported 100%.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the many courtesies and considerations shown me in each State visited and shall ever remember the friendships formed at these meetings.

I am indeed happy over the fine membership record this year. No better "thank you" could be said to your Board for the work we have done this year than that of making the National Association 100% in membership.

Under the energetic and capable leadership of President Walters, your Board has been able to work together for the things we believed to be for the best interest of the carrier body. It is my opinion that whatever success this Board has had, has been due to its ability to work together in harmony.

This has been a good year for rural carriers and a great amount of the credit for results accomplished is due to the local and State organizations and members. Had it not been for your cooperation and support the efforts of your Board would have gone for naught.

We are celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of Rural Delivery this year and in so

doing let us not forget to pay tribute to those pioneers of long ago who laid the foundation, amid untold difficulties, of the organization we all love and support today.

Let me again express my deep appreciation for the honor of serving you as a National Officer. I sincerely hope my feeble efforts have met with your approval and I pledge anew my very best efforts in your behalf.

Respectfully submitted, Willard L. Manning.

Harry J. McCully (Florida). I move the adoption of this report.

S. S. Neher (Washington). I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and second that we accept this wonderful report of Willard Manning, and it become a part of our official record. Any discussion? If not, all in favor, let it be known by standing.

. . . The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded . . .

President Walters. It is unanimously adopted. We will now have the report of our Executive Committeeman Walter D. Gray, of Ohio.

Walter D. Gray. Mr. President, Officers, Delegates and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

It is a great pleasure for me to greet you at this first post-war convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and I wish to express my deep appreciation for your loyal cooperation during the past year. I shall not burden you with a lengthy report, since you have had a detailed report on the state of the Association from the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

During the past year I attended three Board meetings; the Fall meeting and the Mid-winter meeting at Washington, D. C. and a meeting in this city just prior to the opening of this convention.

President Walters assigned me to the following state conventions: New Mexico, North Carolina, Maryland, Ohio, Minnesota, Arkansas and Texas. On account of illness in my family, I was unable to attend the North Carolina and Maryland conventions. Minnesota changed the date of their convention and I had to cancel my visit there on account of conflicting dates with another of my assignments. These meetings were very interesting and from the discussion on the floor, I am sure the carriers have a mighty fine knowledge of Association affairs. I was well received and I shall never be able to repay these folks for their fine hospitality. I can assure you that it will linger in my memory as long as I shall live.

For us rural carriers the past year is one that will go down in history. It gave us many things, foremost of which was two salary increases and the complete and final payment of all indebtedness against our National paper. The National paper indebtedness of approximately \$45,000 was paid in less than three years. I am proud of the fact that we accomplished so much in such a short period of time.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with other members of the Board. They are fine Christian gentlemen doing the things they believe best for the members of the Association. While we have not always agreed on all matters, each have respected the other fellow's ideas and suggestions. The results of our close cooperation, under the able leadership of President Walters, speak for themselves.

During the coming years thousands of rural carriers will be appointed. The future success of our Association will depend a great deal on these new appointees. It is our duty, yours and mine, to contact these carriers so they may become active members in one of the greatest organizations today, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

My report would not be complete if I did not mention the Ladies' Auxiliary. I am sure we all recognize the fine work they are doing. Our Association would not be so successful were it not for them. They did a fine job during the past year in contacting members of Congress on behalf of pending legislation.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve you and again I thank you deeply for your loyal cooperation. May God bless you abundantly.

Respectfully submitted.

President Walters. Thank you, *Claud V. Murphy (Mississippi).* I move the adoption of the report, and tell my brother Ohioans that he is a member of the Mississippi Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Paul J. Rollins (Kentucky). I second the motion.

President Walters. Motion is made and seconded that this report be adopted and become a part of our official record. Any discussion? If not, all in favor let it be known by standing.

... The Assembly unanimously arose and applauded.

President Walters. It appears to be unanimous and I declare it adopted.

Announcements

President Walters. Does any member know of anything that should come before this meeting before we adjourn? If not, if the members of the Ex-Servicemen's Club will come forward—Let's all stand.

... As the audience arose, the Colors were retired.

President Walters. Promptly at nine o'clock tomorrow, the Texas delegates will have charge of the opening of the meeting. Let's all be here and operate on schedule tomorrow.

I declare this convention adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

... The Convention adjourned at five-fifteen o'clock.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

August 14, 1946

The Convention reconvened at nine-five o'clock, *President Walters*, presiding.

... Advancement of Colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Walters. The Texas delegation will have charge of the opening of the convention.

J. E. M. Hamilton (Texas). Friends, this thing is a little out of the ordinary, and we haven't done much practicing. We got together last night for a little rehearsal. I don't know how we will make out. We will do the best we can with it under the circumstances.

We are not making any rash promises about what we are going to have. First, this morning, this bunch is going to get in and sing "Home on the Range," with Brother Ed Hesse, from Central Texas, at the piano. That will be our first attempt. If we get by with that, we will try something else.

... Vocal selection.

J. E. M. Hamilton. "The Eyes of Texas" will be next. Maybe we can do a little better with it.

... Vocal selection.

J. E. M. Hamilton. We have one man with us in our delegation who is at a National for the first time, and he lives way down in Central Texas. They had to run him twenty miles before we got his shoes on to get him out here. He lives on the river down there, and 95 per cent of his patrons are negroes, and he makes his own regulations and rules on his route. This is the old boy right here.

Jimme Earle. I have a little tune here I am going to try to sing to you. It is called "Talking Blues." I have kind of changed it a little bit to fit you fellows.

... Brother Earle sang a parody on "Talking Blues."

Earle. That is about all of my repertoire. ... He sang several more verses.

J. E. M. Hamilton. Friends, that just about completes our program. If you will stand, we will have the invocation.

We thank Thee, Dear Lord, for this privilege of meeting in this Assembly this morning. We thank Thee for each one of these men who are present and in the service of this great Government of ours. We thank Thee for the privilege of having a small part in being a mediator between our great Government and our patrons. We would ask Thy richest blessings for this meeting this morning, and may all that is said and done, meet with Thy approval. Protect and keep our loved ones at home while we are away, and may they keep in the health that they were when we left them. Go with us now through the further services today, and may each and every one remember that Thou art the great Postmaster General of this Government for us. Watch over us and protect us and forgive us of our many sins. We ask this in Thy name. Amen.

President Walters. How about singing "America."

J. E. M. Hamilton. All right.

President Walters. Everybody stand now and join with them on this number.

... The Assembly joined together in singing "America."

President Walters. Everybody that enjoyed that this morning, give these Texas boys a hand.

Solon Ware. Mr. President, before we begin the regular proceedings here, we have a new addition to the Honor Roll this morning, and we would like to see this go down the line. This is Number 30. We want 31. Who will be 31? Let's give Nebraska a hand, Fellows.

President Walters. For some time, in cooperation with the Committee of the State of Iowa, we have been trying to arrange for something a little special for the ladies for tonight, and we are happy to report that through the graciousness of the airlines of the United States, we have enroute, 500 gardenias and 10 orchids that should arrive around five o'clock this afternoon. So pass the word out to your lady friends.

Now, since this went over so well this morning, we are going to ask the Tar Heel boys—and they don't know anything about it

and didn't know until now—to have charge of the opening exercises in the morning, and Thursday afternoon we are going to ask the New England States to have charge of the song service and the invocation.

President Walters. Delegates to this Convention: The man who is going to address you at this time, needs no introduction to any rural carriers gathering, whether it be State or National. As you know, he served for a great number of years, as a rural carrier, served this organization in the capacity of Treasurer, Vice-President and President. Since that time, in my opinion, he has rendered his greatest service to the Rural Carriers in his capacity as an official in the Post Office Department in Washington.

For a good number of years he served as Superintendent of Rural Mail. After the reorganization, he was appointed Superintendent of Division 3, which includes this State along with several others.

So, I am happy to present to you my friend and your friend, and the friend of all rural carriers, J. Ed Cooper, who now has the floor to say whatever he might have on his mind. Superintendent Cooper.

... The audience arose and applauded.

Superintendent J. Ed Cooper. Mr. President, Officers and Delegates and Ladies and Gentlemen: I am indeed happy for the privilege of coming again to the city of Des Moines, which is located in the neighboring state where I grew up, and the place where I had the opportunity to make very many pleasant visits to your conventions, and to make the acquaintance of very many estimable members of your organization and their families.

I am also pleased to renew my acquaintance of long standing with many of you boys with whom we labored together so valiantly in the past. I am also happy to make the acquaintance of many new visitors who are making their first trip to the National convention. I am likewise glad of the opportunity to have Mr. Stone, who is Assistant to the Special Administrative Assistant to the First Assistant to the Postmaster General here. Mr. Stone has been delegated to come and assist in answering your questions.

I appreciate the authority Mr. Donaldson gave, that both of us might be here to visit with you. He sent us with the hope that we might be beneficial to you. If there is anything that either of us might do to enlighten you and help solve your problems, we will be very glad to do so.

Now, I think the large difference between individuals is the power of expression. Taking the musical field, we have those who specialize in voice, those who specialize in instrumental pieces of various sorts. Going over to the postal services, we have men who specialize in collection, clerical, finance, delivery. But you boys are a combination of all of those. You are messengers, delivery men, collectors, money order clerks and stamp salesmen. So you have a unique position in being employed in the great rural service. I am glad that you will have the opportunity of meeting the First Assistant who arrived this morning, and I am anxious for you to meet him and have him know you better. He is a very estimable gentleman, very sincere in his administration of our service, and very able and qualified, and I think the best First Assistant we have ever had.

This assembly has been arranged for a specific and varied purpose by your officers and local committees. It is well to take into account that the privilege to enjoy a meeting like this dates back to the wise foresight

and broad vision of the founding Fathers who when framing the fundamental laws of the most beneficent and glorious Government ever attempted by man guaranteed peaceful assembly to all who so desire to congregate.

It is assumed that, among other things, you propose to take an inventory of your situation both individually and collectively, and at the same time weigh your problems with reference to their relation to the Government as a whole. You are to be congratulated on your attitude and record of the past 50 years of constructive thought, the application of good service to the people whom you serve, and your good conduct meriting the approbation of the Post Office Department officials and public as well.

Living as we are in an atmosphere of Democracy where the governed are in reality those who govern, it is not only a duty incumbent upon all the employees of that government but a privilege far greater than can come to an individual in any other clime. The Post Office Department is proud of you as individual employees and also proud of your generous cooperation as an organization which enables us to better perform our obligations to the public.

You no doubt have many conflicting ideas, which you are going to openly discuss and then decide which are to be proposed and applied. So long as you apply the rule of thoughtful reason, submitting to law and the will of the majority, so long will you continue to be a constructive segment of this great Republic which we fervently hope will endure to the end of time. The sacrifices made by those who have toiled in the past to leave us the great heritage that is ours to enjoy and to perpetuate, deserves the best that is in us. No liberty loving citizen can thoughtfully consider the brilliant achievement and progress made by our forebears and not be genuinely thrilled in the glory of American History. When observing you in your daily work and your annual assembly such as this, I know that you experience the same thrill of pride in your position and the advancement and progress of our Nation which comes to me each time I am permitted to join with you in our mutual relations.

Your concept of duty, your relation to those you serve, your contribution to society as a citizen should always be based on most thoughtful and painstaking reasoning to an end that will reflect credit to you and honor to the Postal Service.

The Post Office Department has always been the Federal agency that has the most and closest contacts with the people, contacts which have been multiplied by every stroke of progress made by the foresightedness of men who have inaugurated the policies to be followed. Perhaps, this is the reason it is one of, if not the most, efficient, economical and satisfactory of all the Federal agencies. Open relations with the public are safety valves for efficiency in any Government activity. If committed to some huge, especially organized corporation, its activities might be carried on at less cost, but the correspondence of the people, the missives through which their business is conducted, and intimate exchanges made of confidences and information, are not to be entrusted to private hands.

The following information will serve to enlighten us on the extensiveness of the Service: On June 30, 1946, there were 32,161 rural routes in operation. In your daily rounds you travel 1,441,438 miles, giving service to 29,641,722 patrons, at the cost last year of approximately \$117,340,000. There were 3,215 extensions added to existing service

with a combined mileage of 4,158, benefitting approximately 15,400 families. Under authority of the Burch Act 1,248 carriers have been afforded auxiliary assistance. There were 57 consolidations placed into effect during the past year; and let me deviate far enough to say that there is a vast difference between 57 consolidations last year, and some previous years when they totaled more than 2000. So there isn't much to worry about from the consolidation standpoint any more. 953 carriers retired; 232 resigned; 240 deceased, and, in my opinion, a record has been established as to the minimum number of removals for cause during the year which totaled only 20. (Applause) The amount expended for Christmas allowances last year was \$209,705. There are 31,705 men carriers and 385 women carriers. (Applause)

When the Rural Service was established half a century ago, it was placed under the jurisdiction of the First Assistant Postmaster General. In 1903 it was transferred to the Fourth Assistant and remained in that Bureau until 1929, when the First Assistant again had charge of it until 1934, at which time it was assigned to the Second Assistant. Nine years later in 1943, it was transferred again to the First Assistant, where at this writing it still remains, having been under the supervision of each of the Assistant Postmasters' General except the Third. In 1943 the First Assistant's Bureau was reorganized. The Division of Rural Mails as well as the other divisions were abolished as such. Four geographical divisions were established to handle the work and were given the appellation of "Post Office Service." Mr. Fred Mills is Superintendent for Division No. 1, which has approximately 4,100 routes; Mr. Clifton Garner is Superintendent for Division No. 2, with approximately 10,000 routes, and, as you know, I am in charge of Division No. 3, which has approximately 9,700 routes; and Mr. John Leahey is Superintendent for Division No. 4, which has approximately 7,200 routes.

When the office of the First Assistant became vacant June 30, 1945, Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan very wisely selected Mr. J. M. Donaldson to be the First Assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Donaldson entered the service many years ago as city carrier, became a clerk, post office inspector, inspector-in-charge, Deputy Second Assistant Postmaster General, Deputy First Assistant Postmaster General, Chief Inspector, and now First Assistant Postmaster General. The many years of service, the gradations through which he has so efficiently served has brought him merited approbation and well deserved honor. You will have the privilege of meeting him and hearing his address to be given at the banquet this evening.

He was Deputy Second Assistant at the time I entered the Department. However, on that date he was made Deputy First Assistant and during the time Rural Mails was assigned to the First Assistant's Bureau, I worked under his authority. I learned very quickly to admire his ability and fairness, to respect his judgment and knowledge. It is with genuine sincerity that I tell you all of us are fortunate in having him as head of our Bureau. I trust you will give him such a welcome that he will know you appreciate his kindly interest and efforts in your behalf.

As you all know, you are now working under what is known as Public Law 134, which became effective July 1, 1945. This law provides for automatic promotion depending on the length of service of each employee, and the grades range from 1 to 14.

"Promotions: Rural carriers shall be promoted successively at the beginning of the



WILLARD L. MANNING,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
Ponce de Leon, Florida

quarter following one year's satisfactory service in each grade. Carriers who perform faithful and meritorious service shall be promoted to Grade 12 after three years of such service in Grade 11; and shall be promoted to Grade 13 after five years of such service in Grade 12; and shall be promoted to Grade 14 after seven years of such service in Grade 13."

It is desired to point out that carriers who are in a non-pay status in excess of 90 days during the year will not receive the automatic promotion until they have completed a full year of service. It is also possible that employees whose services have been unsatisfactory may lose the benefit of advancement.

"Saving Clause: Carriers in the service on June 30, 1945, who were receiving in excess of \$60 per mile because of the Saving Clause of the Act of June 25, 1934, had their salaries adjusted July 1, 1945, on the basis of paragraph G of section 17 of Public Law 134."

"Heavy Duty Allowance: No carrier can receive a heavy duty allowance in excess of the difference between Grade 14 for a route of his mileage and \$3400. Heavy duty allowance may not be granted for routes 45 miles or more in length.

"Substitute and Temporary Carriers: Substitute and temporary carriers serving during the absence of a regular carrier on leave either with or without pay shall be paid at the same rate of pay as the regular carrier. A temporary carrier serving a route on which a vacancy exists shall be paid at the rate of Grade 1.

"Public Law 317 authorized the pay of a temporary rural carrier serving a route during the vacancy created by the induction of the regular carrier in the military service at the same rate as the regular carrier would have been paid except at the beginning or ending of the period of employment.

"Public Law 386, effective January 1, 1946, provides for \$400 compensation to be added to the base pay of all regular carriers in the service on that date."

Section 979, Postal Laws and Regulations: "The official duties of rural carriers shall be the delivery into and collection from boxes on their routes of mail matter of all classes; serving of post offices with mail whenever such service is authorized; sale of stamp sup-

plies; receiving and receipting for matter presented for registration; delivery of registered, insured, and C.O.D. matter; the handling of registered matter in transit over their routes; taking of applications for money orders and the money therefor; the acceptance of parcels for insurance, the acceptance of C.O.D. parcels, the forwarding of mail addressed to their patrons, and the transfer of mail of former patrons whose addresses have been changed to other routes; the erection of United States collection boxes; and the performance of such other duties as may be required of them by law and the regulations of the Department.

"The services of rural carriers may be utilized by postmasters at offices where either city delivery or village delivery service is in operation to deliver fourth-class mail addressed to patrons of either of these services and to relay bundles of mail to be deposited in collection boxes or other suitable places for subsequent delivery by city or village carriers. However, they shall not be required to take such fourth-class mail or mail to be relayed in quantities in excess of the reasonable capacity of their conveyance after making provision for the loading of the mails for the rural routes, nor make any additional trips or travel, nor leave their conveyances out of their sight or at a greater distance than 50 yards in order to perform this work."

In the performance of these duties it becomes necessary many times to exercise good judgment when circumstances not specifically covered by regulations arise. You have the opportunity to greatly enhance your prestige by not ignoring the abstract elements which sometimes transcend the material. A large store house of good will from your patrons will pay you good dividends.

We have the privilege of living in the most marvelous age of all time, enjoying the conveniences of all descriptions and kinds produced by the genius of man within our grasp. The opportunity to broaden our intellect, to serve more usefully the purposes for which we were created. In looking about with sincere ambition to fill our place in life to the best advantage; it would be better to regard every problem we face as an opportunity rather than every opportunity a problem.

Since the Postal Service was established as a service to the people, that naturally is the basis from which to start and from which as we proceed, other factors are considered, such as the human element, cost and time. As a whole, we believe that as a result of our relationship, through your officers, a better understanding exists between the Department and your organization. We believe that the strong-arm tactics of coercion are out of place and instead the rule of reason and fair play will inure to the best results of all concerned.

Your organization has served a useful purpose throughout the course of its existence. It has enabled you to gain a wider knowledge of the many and varying attributes of your service. It has made it possible for you to congregate from every quarter of the Nation wherein you discuss and learn of the problems of each other. The fact that your knowledge has been broadened, your sphere of acquaintance enlarged, the understanding acquired has enabled you to become more efficient employees and as a result thereof you no doubt are much more appreciated by your own community and by those whom you serve. You are well represented by a group of fine men who are well qualified to present your problems. Your President, Mr. Walters, permits very few days to go by without calling at the Department in the interest of some carrier. The other members of your

Board, Vice-President Barney Winquest of Nebraska, Secretary Glenn Folkers of Illinois, Treasurer George Ellis of Massachusetts, Committee members Walter Gray of Ohio, Paul Myers of Oregon, and Willard Manning of Florida, are likewise attentive to your problems. They all present their cases with understanding, courtesy, reasonableness and effectiveness.

By using these attributes more gratifying results obviously may be expected than by demands. We are pleased to deal with them on those terms and we feel that you are pleased to have them do so. Of course, the Department may not be in a position to grant every request made but it meets them on common ground and agrees to as much as it is able to do, considering all the facts it has upon which to base a conclusion. As a result of conferences with your Board of Control changes have been inaugurated to alleviate many of your difficulties.

"Stand off by yourself in your dreaming
And all of your dreams are vain;
No grandeur of soul or spirit
Can man by himself attain.
It is willed we shall dwell as brothers
As brothers then we must toil,
We must act with a common purpose
As we work in a common soil.
And each who would see accomplished
The dreams that he's proud to own,
Must strive for a goal with his fellows
For no man can do it alone."

Seven years ago on February 19, 1939, my attention was attracted to an article in the Washington Sunday Star, written by Frances Newton, entitled "Why Are They Stars?". Due to the unsettled condition of world affairs and the obvious need for tolerance and understanding it was considered appropriate that this article be quoted to your Convention in Portland, Oregon, in August 1939, and in view of the unrest throughout the world following the great conflict of arms that has now subsided and the difficulties permeating the great struggle for universal peace, it is not considered inappropriate to again refer to the article, which to me is so ably written and expresses in such understanding language the importance of our country and the principles it represents.

"I haven't been here very long. Technically, I am a foreigner—a friendly foreigner from one of the friendly countries. And I have married an American.

"It is not likely that I shall ever live in my own country again and, following the custom of my people, I must accept the laws and traditions of my husband's country and become a citizen.

"Changing one's nationality, however, is for the mature person something that is not lightly undertaken and I felt that I should not only examine myself, but the country whose citizenship I was to embrace.

"Where should I begin?

"It seemed simple. First, I should have to swear allegiance to the American Flag.

"I looked at it, flying high in the breeze over Fifth Avenue. Stars and Stripes! The stripes didn't seem particularly significant, but the stars did.

"Stars in the Flag!

"Why stars? I wondered. Did they have some special significance, some symbolism?

"My friends explained. 'There is a star for every state and there are forty-eight states.'

"But why stars? I asked.

"They looked a little puzzled, as people will when pressed for an explanation of something they think they have always known, and told me again that each star represented

a state. They thought this answer should satisfy me as it had satisfied them. I asked the children I knew. They gave me the same answer . . . 'A star for every state'.

"I went to a public library. Even in that storehouse of knowledge, no one could answer the question any better than my friends or the children.

"Knowing something of this country's struggle for democracy, I couldn't believe that the stars had just happened in the Flag. Knowing also that in ancient Egypt, India and Persia, the star was a symbol of sovereignty and dominion, it did not seem possible that they could mean the same thing in the American Flag. Neither 'sovereignty' nor 'dominion' seemed democratic to me.

"At last I found the answer. And though I have found it since in other volumes, I am sure that nowhere is it interpreted so simply and movingly as between the covers of a little book 'The Flag of the United States, Its History and Symbolism,' by Col. James A. Moss.

"The reason why our Forefathers placed stars in our National Emblem is given in the Congressional Act of June 14, 1777, which adopted the Flag and which prescribed 'that the Union be thirteen stars in a blue field representing a new constellation' . . . symbolizing as previously stated, stars in the heavens . . . signaling to mankind the birth of the first nation on earth dedicated to personal and religious liberty; a sanctuary to which men and women the world over, oppressed because of religious and other beliefs, might take refuge and enjoy Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.'

"All other nations had been formed for power, for aggrandizement. This one was for Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

"It was a star moving ever westward that led the Shepherds and the Wise Men to Bethlehem, to the birthplace of Him who was to teach the world a new philosophy and give to men a new moral code, a code of love and kindness in place of cruelty and greed.

"It was a star by which mariners set their course across troubled seas to discover this new land . . .

"It is a star that Heralds dawn and twilight.

"Thirteen stars in a blue field representing the rise of a new constellation in the Heavens, signaling to mankind the birth of the first nation on earth dedicated to personal and religious freedom.

"This was the answer to my question. 'Why stars in the Flag?'

"When Congress wrote the words of the Act, they were a challenge to the old world and a promise to the new. Today, they remain a challenge and a promise, more timely than ever. In a world gone mad, the symbolism of the stars pledges that in one country, at least, sanity and decency shall prevail.

"To me the Flag is no longer just a gallant arrangement of colors, the insignia of a great and powerful people; it is a magnificent expression of exalted human aspiration.

"Before I knew what the Stars meant, I faced the emotional upheaval of naturalization with foreboding. What did I really know about this country? What did I know of American ways? Would there be dark days in which I could not share a belief, inconsistencies with which I could not agree?

"I thought about it for a long time. I read again of the Founding Fathers and their dream of passing down to their children a Constitution that would stand the test of time. To their task they gave wisdom culled from experience of an old world, but they

gave ideals and hopes, too; ideals as high as the Stars, yet not beyond the reach of the humblest man.

"And they had given so greatly, that I was suddenly filled with the desire to give, too; not just in the technical matter of signing naturalization papers, but to give something of myself, in gratitude to the Founding Fathers and the promise of the Stars.

"What could I, a new citizen, bring to this country that was not already here? Suddenly I knew that I was not really forswearing my own country, with its beloved happy ways, but rather bringing a gift of such things to the spirit I most loved, to this new land of my husband's.

"It won't be difficult now to swear allegiance to the American Flag. Whatever happens to me in this new country, whatever I may find, the symbolism of the Stars will remain.

"And if dark days should come, if ahead there should lie some period of doubt, I will look up at the Flag again and remember an old Astronomer's word to his pupil Galileo:

"Why should we who have so loved the stars
Be frightened of the dark?"

Thanks for your attention, cooperation, loyalty, and most of all for your friendship.

Good luck and good health, happiness and prosperous ways.

The audience arose and applauded . . .

President Walters. Thank you very much.
. . . Announcements . . .

President Walters. Those of you who have constantly read the NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER have been informed from time to time that your Washington Representative and your organization has supported many activities during the year that were not included in the annual report because of the length of these reports, but due to the conditions that exist at this time, and to the man who has honored us by coming to this convention to address us, I feel that it is nothing but in fairness to him and to all concerned to make just a brief mention of the legislation with reference to retired employees.

Your organization and other postal organizations have consistently supported legislation to exempt the annuity checks from taxation, and if I was in the habit of making predictions, I would predict that within the near future, such legislation would be approved. We have also supported legislation to increase the annuity of the retired employees. Something may be done along that line. But this morning, we have with us a man who for a number of years—and that could apply today just as well—is better informed on retirement laws and rules and regulations than any man living, to the mind of the members of Congress and to those who know him best.

After serving a great number of years in Congress, other and wider, broader fields of activity called him. But wherever he goes, I am sure that his memory will always go back to his association with postal employees. He, like Superintendent Cooper, needs no introduction to rural carriers, because his name is on the lips of all postal employees and civil service employees.

I am delighted to present to you a fellow Georgian, a man that I have known for a number of years, and I am happy to call him my friend and your friend, the Honorable Robert Ramspeck, of the Air Transport Association of America. Mr. Ramspeck.

The audience arose and applauded . . .

Mr. Robert Ramspeck. Mr. President, Members of the National Association of Rural Carriers, the Women's Auxiliary and Visitors: I thought when I was a member of Congress that I was in a pretty busy game. For the past seven months, almost eight now, I have been in another game. I have flown 20,000 miles so far this year, since I went to work for the Air Transport Association.

It reminds me of the story of a widow who died and went to heaven. St. Peter let her in and told her to make herself at home, and asked if there was something he could do for her. She said, "I would like to see my husband who preceded me a few years ago." He said, "I will try to find him for you. What is his name?" She said, "Smith." He said, "We have hundreds of thousands of Smiths up here. That doesn't help me very much. What is his first name?" She said, "Willie." He said, "We have a lot of Willie Smiths up here. I don't know how we will find him for you." He said, "We keep a record of the last words of people when they pass away. Do you remember the last words of your deceased husband?" She said, "I remember quite well. Just before Willie passed away he said to me, 'Darling, if you ever kiss another man after I am gone, I will turn over in my grave.'" He said, "I remember that fellow. We call him 'Whirling Willie' up here." (Laughter) This air transport game I have gotten into makes me feel like "Whirling Willie".

It is a high privilege to have a part in this great occasion celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the rural free delivery service.

It is a personal pleasure for me to be here, also, because your leader and National President is a fellow-Georgian and a personal friend for whom I have a real affection.

It has been my privilege to see him at work in your behalf. He has been diligent, persistent and effective, always faithful to the trust you have placed in his hands. He has made a host of close friends on Capitol Hill. They have faith in him. I congratulate you upon the fine quality of leadership he has given to your great organization.

Your President typifies the old saying that some men grow and others swell. Gordon Walters, as I call him, has grown; he hasn't swelled. I believe in organization. If I were a rural letter carrier I would belong to this organization and take part in it actively.

It is the way you get things done. It reminds me of the old colored philosopher down in Georgia who I thought very wisely expounded this doctrine. He said, "When I pray the Lord to send me a chicken, I hardly ever gets a chicken; but when I pray the Lord to send me after a chicken, I always gets a chicken." (Laughter and applause) So when you boys put these 30,000 rural letter carriers to praying the Lord to send you after some legislation, you generally get it. (Applause)

Seven years ago it was my privilege to join with you at your convention held in the beautiful State of Oregon. At that time I was a Member of the Congress and therefore in a position to have a voice in your pay and working conditions. I also was dependent upon votes for holding my position.

Now I am out of politics. I have no voice in your salaries or conditions of employment. I come to you as a friend—one who will always be interested in good government, and in good pay and working arrangements for those in the employment of our Nation.

I am reminded there of a story about three Congressmen who were discussing what they had, or what they would do if they suddenly came into possession of a million dollars. One said, "I have always wanted to travel." If I had a million dollars, I would buy a good automobile and travel wherever I wanted to go and stop when I wanted to and go on when I wanted to." The second one said, "I love to fish and hunt. If I had a million dollars, I would spend my time doing that."

The third one said, "Well, if I had a million dollars, the first thing I would do is go back to my District, and the first so-and-so who came up to me and said, 'Say, do you know who I am?' I would say, 'No, and I don't give a damn.'" (Laughter and applause)

Having divorced myself from the public payroll by my own action, I don't have to worry now about whether I recognize you fellows or not when you come to see me. (Laughter) Nevertheless, I am glad to see you and I hope you will come up and shake hands with me and make yourself acquainted. I am still interested in what you are doing and what is done to you.

Fifty years ago an experiment was commenced. It was the free delivery of mail in the rural sections of our country. When first proposed, many Members of Congress hooted at the idea. They said it would be too expensive. They opposed it.

Time has proved them to be wrong. It has paid dividends—perhaps not so much in money as in ways more important. Life in the country has been greatly benefitted. Property values have been increased. Loneliness has been pushed away. General knowledge has been advanced. People have been made happy. Such things count more than money.

I congratulate you and your organization for your part in this great step forward. You and the rural mail service have contributed to the building of a finer and better country.

The end is not yet in sight. Many of us will not live to see some of the improvements to come, but I have no doubt that the service for our people, received from its Postal System, will continue to advance and to improve. The day may even come when mail will be delivered on rural routes by air. Certainly we will see the day when Motor Postoffices will traverse many of our highways, thus rendering improved service to our people.

When our forefathers fought for an won their independence they adopted a policy for the postal service. It was established by Benjamin Franklin, a man of great vision.

Under England, the postal service had been used as a means of taxation. Franklin and the new Nation rejected that policy. A policy of service was adopted.

The historic policy of our postal system is based upon three principles:

1. The mails shall be transmitted by private enterprise.

2. The newest and speediest means of communication and transport shall be actively encouraged and made available for postal patrons.

3. The object of the Postal System shall be service, regardless of cost.

It is true that as far back as 1799 the government operated stage coaches, but this was abandoned soon and private enterprise was encouraged by payments for carrying the mails.

The Government first operated the telegraph, but soon left it for private enterprise.

Our Postal Service has promoted travel by many means. As I have said, it assisted private enterprise to establish stage coaches. It helped establish steamship routes to foreign countries. It paid the railroads sums far in

excess of the postage received, to assist in the establishment of that means of transport, in the early days of railroad construction.

Thus the first two principles have been followed down through the years by the Postal Service.

Many battles have been fought to change the third principle. However, today the postal service renders some services at less than cost, because it is believed that this practice contributes to the general welfare.

Many services at first operated at a loss have later become profitable. I would like to speak briefly to you about one of those.

When I was approached with a proposal that I resign from the Congress to enter private employment, one of the considerations that persuaded me was that the position offered made it possible for me to continue my close association with those in the postal service.

The Air Transport Association is a trade association. It represents about twenty-five scheduled airlines. They carry the air mail. I am therefore quite interested in the postal service.

Air Mail was first inaugurated 28 years ago when an initial appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars was made available. It was largely due to the efforts of Senator Kenneth McKellar that this money was appropriated.

Just as the proposed rural delivery service was hooted at, so did the skeptics in the United States Senate oppose Senator McKellar's proposal. They said no airplane could carry mail; that it would not be even a seven-day wonder, that it would be a waste of money.

Yet last year, the profits from domestic air mail alone, repaid the initial appropriation three hundred times.

It might interest you to know that in 1943, the profits from domestic air mail were over 18 million dollars; in 1944, over 29 million dollars; and in 1945, over 30 million dollars. The six cent air mail that we had delivered to the boys in the camps and overseas, made a profit of 20 million dollars in 1944; and in 1945, that rose to 53 million dollars. The total profit for 1943, '44 and '45, on air mail, domestic and going to the soldiers, was 152 million dollars plus.

Like the early stage coach days, the first air mail was carried by government operated planes. This was abandoned and the task turned over to private enterprise.

Like some other services of the postal system, air mail failed to pay its way for a number of years. The Government spent large sums encouraging this new method of transport, just as it had done for the railroads in their early history.

In the past several years, however, the profits from air mail have repaid all of those expenditures, and more. Today, the most profitable operation the postal service has is air mail.

The rate of postage for domestic air mail will be reduced to five cents—a nickel—on October first. Even at that rate, a pound of air mail will yield a greater profit to the postal system than a pound of first-class mail transported by surface with three cents postage.

Here once more, we see the historic policy of the postal service in operation. First it was used to encourage and develop a new means of transport—by air.

At first the cost—to the Postal Service—exceeded the revenue. Now it is profitable in a money sense, even at the new nickel rate.

However, I want to point out some of the more valuable incidents resulting from this

historic policy, this wise policy proved to be wise throughout the years.

Just as in the case of your service—the rural free delivery—air mail has brought intangible benefits to millions of people. It has brought greater security to our nation. It has brought people closer together from the standpoint of time.

Millions of parents, wives, sweethearts and friends used air mail during the recent war to communicate quickly with their sons, husbands, sweethearts and friends scattered over this old globe. It helped the morale of the troops and kept up the courage of the loved ones at home. That was worth more than money.

There was another, and perhaps an even greater beneficial result of this wise policy of encouraging the development of a new and faster means of travel and communication.

When we entered the war, our army was without adequate air transport planes. The air lines, at that time, had about 359 planes. One-half of these were turned over to the Army. With them went trained pilots and ground crews. Thus was the Army Transport Command started.

When the Japs landed in the islands near Alaska, these planes were used to rush troops, guns, supplies and equipment to the danger zone. The Japs were stopped. Perhaps an invasion of our own country was averted. Who knows?

When Rommel was winning in Africa, Montgomery, of the British Army, needed ammunition for anti-tank guns. It could not reach him in time by surface transport. These planes took the ammunition to Montgomery. Rommel was stopped. The war was shortened. Many thousands of lives were saved—how—why?

Because, a few years before, the historic policy of the postal service had encouraged the development of a new and faster means of transportation—air transportation. It was done by paying private enterprise to carry the mail. Yes, paying them more than the service returned in postage. It pays now; Who would now deny that this policy was wise?

The postal system had a net profit of about one hundred and sixty million dollars at the close of the fiscal year 1945. At the end of the year 1946—June 30th this year—this profit was gone, and a deficit of a larger amount had been created.

This change was brought about by two factors. First, Congress gave you two salary increases. I think they were justified in doing so, and I voted for the first one. If I had been in Congress when the second was considered I would have voted for that also. (Applause)

Those two salary increases for the postal service alone amounted to over 300 million dollars annually. They have completely wiped out the surplus built up at the end of the fiscal year 1945, and with the same volume of mail, and the same expenditures, the fiscal year 1947 will show a deficit of over 200 million dollars.

I stated that there were two reasons for this. The second reason is the one I want to discuss. It is the loss of volume in the profitable first-class surface mail and mail by air. That has reduced the revenue of the postal service.

Air Mail has dropped fifty per cent. This is due to the demobilization of the armed services. It is not necessary to write to the boys—they are at home, for which we are all thankful.

With the new nickel rate for air mail, we are confident that a much greater volume can be secured. If so, it will increase the rev-

enue of the postal service. It will help wipe out the deficit.

That should interest you. If this deficit remains, some one will start a movement to reduce employment in the postal service. They may even try to reduce salaries.

Don't you think it would be to your interest to help sell more air mail stamps? Many of your patrons could use air mail to advantage. They could communicate more quickly with their relatives and friends living at far places. They could get a reply sooner. May I suggest that your organization line up strongly behind the campaign soon to be started by the Postmaster General to increase the sale of air mail postage. It will help the postal service and that means you.

The only three services rendered by the Post Office Department that make a profit are postal savings, first-class surface mail, and air mail. The rate for an air mail letter will go down to five cents on October 1st. With some 400,000 employees in the Postal Service acting as salesmen, the possibility exists that that service alone could wipe out the deficit in the postal service. But it is going to take salesmanship to do it.

Next year we hope to see legislation passed providing a system of air parcel post. That will certainly benefit the rural sections. If a farmer needs a part for his tractor or some other useful article, he can get it quickly. He also can sell eggs, baby chicks and other things, and ship them by air parcel post. It will make your job more necessary and therefore more secure.

Somebody sent me a quotation from the Postal Laws and Regulations about parcel post. I don't know if you have read it or not. It says, "The domestic parcel post offers a convenient, quick and efficient means of transporting mailable articles to any post office in the United States or its possessions. The service reaches more places than any other transportation agency. It brings producers and consumers into closer contact, thus opening the way for reducing the cost of living, and therefore especially advantageous for shipment of farm products. Low postage rates based on the service rendered, are provided. The rates to nearby zones or for mail on rural routes are particularly advantageous. Parcels may be insured against loss and may be sent C.O.D."

Of course, that was written about the domestic parcel post, but it applies with equal force to the air parcel post.

There is another reason why we all should support the development of air transport.

In 1939, with that great vision for which he was noted, the late President Roosevelt said:

"Civil Aviation is clearly recognized as the backlog of national defense in the Civil Aeronautics Act which set up the effective machinery for a comprehensive national policy with respect to the air.

"Underlying the statute is the principle that the country's welfare in time of peace and its safety in time of war rests upon the existence of a stabilized aircraft production—an economically and technically sound air transportation system, both domestic and overseas—and an adequate supply of well trained civilian pilots and ground personnel.

"This new national policy set up by the Congress views American aviation as a special problem requiring special treatment. Aviation is the only form of transportation which operates in a medium which knows no frontiers but touches alike all countries of the earth. One fact which stands out is that hardly another civil activity of our people bears such a direct and intimate relation to the national security as does civil aviation.

It supplies a reservoir of inestimable value to our military and naval forces in the form of men and machines, while at the same time it keeps industry so geared that it can be instantly diverted to the production of fighting planes in the event of a national emergency."

It is because of the truth of that statement, in part, that I was induced to quit Congress and go into this business. It has a public interest.

I have already referred to the services of those planes turned over to the Army when we entered the war. The late President certainly was right. The development of air transport did serve as the "backlog of national defense."

It may be needed again, although I hope not.

However, it can and will serve the hopes of peace. By rapid transport the peoples of the various nations will be brought into closer contact. They can visit each other, come to understand the habits and customs of each nation. By getting acquainted they may come to like each other.

Air transport will promote foreign trade and commerce. It will make possible foreign travel not heretofore possible. It will bring to our shores buyers for our products and take back those things we want to sell.

If we can continue the wise policy of fostering private enterprise in the air, free from the deadening hand of unnecessary and duplicate regulation, free from multiple taxation and free from the control of older and slower forms of transportation, we can hopefully look forward to a better world—a world in which peace and good will may prevail.

I would like to tell you just a few things about air transportation. In the year 1936, the air lines of this country carried 911,000 passengers—in one year. In the month of April, this year, they carried 937,000 passengers—in one month.

The air lines are growing very rapidly. Today they have over 80,000 employees, and more than 25,000 of those, or about a third of all employees, are men who served us in World War II—veterans of the recent war.

There are a lot of people who are afraid to fly. The recent survey taken by the *Saturday Evening Post* people, shows that 46 per cent of the people said they were afraid of it. I just read, the day before I left Washington, a report from the National Safety Foundation, showing that in the year 1944, there were 2.2 deaths with 100,000,000 passenger miles by air line, while during the same year, the figure was 2.9 fatalities for automobile travel. So actually, it was safer in 1944 to travel by air than by automobile.

Insurance companies charge twice as much to insure a passenger in a New York taxicab as in the air lines. The National Safety Council, just a few days ago, announced their awards for the year 1945. First prize went to the United Air Lines, which had flown a billion 655 million passenger miles since its last fatal accident in May 1942. There is another company that hasn't had an accident since 1935—a fatal accident.

So much for that. Now I want to talk to you a few minutes about something Mr. Walters mentioned. He was kind enough to say that he thought I knew more about retirement than anyone else. I am not going to argue about it. It is immaterial now; I am out of Congress. I did put in a lot of hard work studying retirement. I do think I know something about it. There are probably other people who know more.

I have strong convictions about it. In the first place, I think you have the best retirement system I know anything about, and

if you will take the advice of an old friend who is not interested in it now, who can't participate in it, because in this Act, the Reorganization Act, even if I went back to the government, unless I went back to Congress, I couldn't get in the Retirement Act. They stopped up a loophole. So I have no personal interest in it, and I am talking about my experience and study of the Act. I helped pass the bill to exempt annuities from taxation. We have had a very interesting fight in the House, and we had to lick the entire Ways and Means Committee, which is no mean job, I will tell you. They are pretty potent, especially on the democratic side, because the democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee constitute a committee on committees. If a man wants to get from a minor committee to a more important committee, he has to go see those boys. So there are a lot of fellows who didn't want to stick their necks out.

We licked them and sent that bill to the Senate. I am sorry they didn't pass it. There is no taxation levied on annuities received under social security. So why discriminate against those who come under the Civil Service Retirement Act? I hope you will continue to fight for it, because that is right, and you are entitled to it. (Applause)

With reference to the so-called 15 per cent increase in annuities, that is one of the places where my good friend Gordon and I don't agree, yet I could never convince him that I was right. He was slugging for it and fighting for it every day, although I told him he was wrong. I don't believe that the government owes any duty to the retired employees, other than to fulfill its contract. If they want to give them something, all right; give it to them. But don't take it out of the Retirement Act. That is my feeling about it. But I couldn't convince your people about it, and I don't think I convinced anybody else among the Federal Employee Organizations. I understand how they feel about it.

I do want to talk to you about 30-year optional retirement. I think that is the craziest thing that you boys ever supported. (Laughter) I hope those of you who have a piece of paper and a pencil in your possession will take down these figures.

Let's assume that there are two men who go to work on the same day. We will say they are rural letter carriers at a salary of \$2500 a year. They get the same salary as long as they work, that is, for 30 years. One of them is 20 years old when he enters the service, and the other is 40. Making it chummy, let's let them work out of the same office. (Laughter) On that salary, each of them would pay into the fund, \$125 per year. If you multiply that by 30 years, that contribution would be \$3750 in thirty years. That is what each one of them would pay—exactly the same amount.

If you had 30 year optional retirement, one would be fifty years old and one would be aged seventy. The life expectancy of a man at age 70, is approximately ten years. It may not be the exact years. The life expectancy of a man at age fifty is two and a half times as great as the man at age seventy. So we will say it is 25 years. We will say they retire on the minimum annuity of \$1200. The man who retired at age fifty, having paid in exactly the same number of years, on the same salary, amounting to the exact same number of dollars contributed to the fund, if he lived out his life expectancy, would get \$30,000 out of that fund. The older man, retiring at age seventy, if he died at the end of his life expectancy, having lived ten years, would get \$12,000.

So there would be a difference in the bene-

fits of the two men who started to work on the same day, paid in exactly the same number of dollars, worked exactly the same number of years, a difference of \$18,000 in benefits.

Now, if that isn't crazy, then I am a Dutchman or something. (Laughter) It won't work. There is only one way you can make it work, and that would be to provide that nobody could go to work for the government under the Retirement System at over twenty years of age, or some age. You would have to fix an age at the bottom, so they would have to be the same age when they went to work, otherwise you will wreck your retirement system, by too big benefits for the younger man who retires in the prime of life.

Now, I had a case back during the Economy Act, in Alpharetta, Georgia, of a man who is forty-eight years of age, and the Post Office Department proposed to retire him under that Act. It is a small community, and I knew that if that fellow walked around that town, drawing \$100.00 a month, on what the people think is a pension, they would be cussing me and the government every day they saw him, and I wouldn't let the Post Office Department retire him.

I say to you in all seriousness, Gentlemen, that you have the best retirement system that I know anything about. Some of you are not satisfied with it. Some of you remind me of the story of the old dandy in Memphis, Tennessee, who went to the Rent Control Office one day, and walked up to the man and said, "Boss, can you tell me who my landlord is?" He said, "Your landlord is the man you pay the rent to." He said, "I don't pay rent."

"How did that come about?"

He said, "Boss, it's like this. I saw this vacant house about eight months ago, and I moved in and ain't paid no rent." He said, "What are you kicking about?"

"Boss," he said, "if somebody don't fix that leak in the roof, I'm going to have to move out." (Laughter and applause)

A lot of you fellows don't realize that you are getting a partially free ride to retirement. A lot of you don't understand that 90 cents out of every dollar being received today by the 80,000 people who have retired, comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers of the United States. They didn't buy it. And a good big percentage of what you get when you retire is going to come out of the pockets of the taxpayers, and if you make that burden too heavy, somebody is going to start inquiring about it, and you may get a dose of social security. Try that out sometimes. (Laughter) Try to find out what that would amount to, and I think you will agree with me. It is like the old dandy in Memphis. You better be satisfied with this free rent you are getting. Don't ruin it.

Mr. President and Gentlemen, I am very happy to have this privilege of coming here once more and visiting with the members of the National Association of Rural Letter Carriers. In my judgment you have in your membership a cross-section of that fine type of American citizen upon which the foundation of our freedom and democracy rests, and I say democracy, not in a partisan sense, but in the sense of a free government. I don't care what your politics are. You people represent the finest type of American citizenship—the people who go to church and who value their families and their friends and their children. You hold decent conventions. They are not drunken orgies, as some conventions are. (Applause)

You do and can play a great part in shaping the destinies of this great United States,

of which we are all so proud. You are living in an age of change and of uncertainty. We are going through a period of reorganization and readjustment following the greatest conflict in the history of this whole world, a conflict which cost this government more than 300 billion dollars, and cost the world more than 25 million human lives.

We are facing an age which has been referred to as the Atomic Age, an age in which science has developed and discovered weapons, the consequences of which none of us can even foresee.

I believe that there is only one salvation for the people of this world. Of course, the fundamental of that is written in the Holy Book. It is Christianity. (Applause)

The practical application of it, however, in my judgment, must be through either the United Nations or some similar world organization. We must outlaw war as a means of settling our disputes. (Applause)

I believe we can do it. It is a foolish thing to kill millions of young men, the flower of the manhood of every nation, to spend billions of dollars of the material treasury of the nations involved, when in the last round of the dispute, you still have to sit down at a table, as they are doing in Paris today, and settle the controversy by a peaceful means. Why fight a war? Why not set up rules of the game, just as we have civilization in this country. None of us here, perhaps are old enough to remember the days of the frontier out West, when the only law and order was a six-shooter in a man's hip pocket, and when the guy who lived longest was the guy who could draw fastest. People got tired of that. They set up rules of the game. They organized for law and order. They set up governments. They provided a police force to see that those rules were carried out by the minority who were disposed not to obey them, and they set up courts to settle their disputes between citizens. That is what we have to do.

I like to think of it as a fire department. Back in my early days, I served on a volunteer fire department. For 15 years I was a member, and finally got to be chief, and got a siren on my automobile and thought I was a big shot there. I learned something though. I found out if you could get to a fire quickly, within a few minutes after it started, every fire was easy to put out. And that is what we have to have in this world of ours. We have to have a fire department that can go to any spot on this globe and stop the incipient fire or war before it gets a good start.

And we have a means of doing that today that we never had before. The means is the airplane. It might interest you to know that as far back as 1799, that wise old man who founded this very postal system of which you are a part, after viewing some balloon ascensions in France, speculated on whether or not that might be a means by which some Lord or Duke over there might transport his troops, his army, to descend on another country. It was a prophetic vision that Franklin had. We have it today. We can carry an entire army by air with their equipment, anywhere on the face of this globe, in less than fifty hours. We can stop the conflagration before it gets to be a big war. We can enforce peace as we enforce law and order in Des Moines, against the rascals who won't obey it. And that is what we ought to do. That is what I want to see come, so your children and mine, and in my case it will be my grandchildren, won't have to go to war.

You may say "That is a dream. We will never have it." Perhaps it is. It is my dream. It reminds me of a story of a beautiful lady

who had a dream one night. (Laughter) In it, a very handsome young gentleman walked into her room and picked her up and carried her downstairs and placed her in the back of a fine limousine with a liveried chauffeur. The car moved out into the streets of the town and into the country and turned off into a side road and into a wood. She turned to him and said, "What are you going to do?" He looked at her and said, "How would I know, Lady? This is your dream." (Laughter)

The audience arose and applauded . . .

President Walters. I know that you join with me in expressing our thanks for this wonderful address from our dear friend through the years in the government service. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Mr. Ramspeck, for taking time out and coming and being with us, and we hope you will be at the banquet tonight and the further exercises of the day. We are not trying to rush you off, but I think some ladies are waiting to escort you over to the Auxiliary. . . . The audience arose and applauded as Mr. Ramspeck was escorted from the convention hall . . .

Announcements . . .

President Walters. For the information of the delegates, I would like to make this statement with respect to Mr. Ramspeck's activities on Public Law 134. To him is due a large portion of the credit for the wording of Public Law 134. That was brought about this way: In December of 1944, when they were holding hearings on the \$400 Salary Bill that passed the House and failed in the Senate on a technicality, Mr. Ramspeck appeared before this Committee, not in opposition to a salary bill, but in opposition to the type and method of a salary bill. He made a statement that went something like this: "If the members of this Committee will go into a reclassification salary bill, I will support any legislation that will grant on the average, a \$400 salary increase, with the possibility of the employee being able to earn at some future date, a maximum salary of \$3000."

So, during all the hearings and planning, that statement of Bob Ramspeck's, was used somewhat as a guiding star.

These gladiolas on the end of the platform, were donated by Mrs. Lawson Wiffin of Gordon Prairie, Illinois, in memory of Mr. Wiffin.

Further announcements . . .

President Walters. While attending the state convention down in Missouri, I had the pleasure to see and hear Mrs. Laws. She is Secretary-Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary of that state—present a story and give us much information with reference to postal service. So if some of the men will help assist Mrs. Laws in bringing her paraphernalia to the stage, we will now be favored, and I am happy to see Mrs. Laws and know that you are going to enjoy what she has to say and what she will show from the board. Mrs. Laws.

Mrs. G. V. Laws. Your postal service ranks in the scope of its operations, with the country's largest business enterprises. The people are its owners. Its important business and social services extend into every city, village and rural community in the United States, and to foreign lands. From the days of Benjamin Franklin, its first head, its motto has been, "The mail must go through." (As she spoke she placed cards on the board illustrating her remarks.)

Nearly 450,000 employees work diligently

to realize this ideal and to give patrons efficient service. They especially merit praise for accomplishing with traditional skill and cheerfulness, the unprecedented tasks of war. Like most things that are so completely a part of our daily lives, postal service is generally taken for granted. In a way, this is a compliment to postal people. So many are the Department's jobs, that scarcely anyone gives a second thought as to how they are done.

A letter is mailed in Boston, matter of factly. Soon it is received in California. Newspapers and periodicals are mailed by the publishers, and soon men and women in cities and rural areas read what folks elsewhere are thinking, or what is happening to them. A money order issued in Texas is forwarded to Chicago to pay for a blanket. A valuable manuscript sent from Washington to a student in Tennessee, is registered, and so on and on.

Practically every individual, every business enterprise and organization is, to a large extent, dependent upon postal service. It is a big and important job.

It was small in the beginning. A few men, a few ponies, and a little crude equipment, transported and delivered the letters, papers and gazettes of the founding fathers. But there was an ideal behind it—Benjamin Franklin's idea that a postal service would unify the new world and aid in its growth.

In the eventful decade since 1775, the Post Office Department has grown into a billion dollar organization. Its functions are far more sweeping than even Benjamin Franklin could have foreseen. But the basic idea, service to the public, and its motto, "The mail must go through," remains the corner stone of its operations.

The motto of the rural service, "Service with a smile", well describes the whole postal job. For the fiscal year 1945, the postal service handled 3,733,495 tons of mail, comprised of over 38 billion pieces of all classes. These had to be collected, sorted, transported and delivered. More than 100 million pieces per day.

Let us look at this huge postal job broken down into its different classes: First class mail, sealed and written matter; second class mail, newspapers, magazines and periodicals—do you recognize those Christmas cards? (Laughter)—third class mail, unsealed printed matter, circulars and so forth; fourth class mail, merchandise, catalogues, books; air mail, both domestic and foreign; free mail for the Armed Forces and for the blind; and franked mail.

Handling the mail is, however, only one part of the job. The postal service processes upwards of 703 million other transactions: Money orders, postal notes, insurance, registry, C.O.D.'s, special deliveries, special handling.

Just here, as we have considered these different classes of mail, may we stress the proper preparation of mail? Patrons should be very careful to have their return address on all mail. Stamps are to be affixed to all first and third class mail before it is deposited in a mail box, and an application for money order should be prepared by the patrons.

Mail lessens the pain of war-time separation. Aware of the warming contact of letters, the postal service labored ceaselessly to keep them coming and going. More than three billion pieces of mail were routed overseas, and approximately the same number came back. Also, our fighting men bought 17 million money orders. In this huge undertaking, the Post Office Department cooperated splendidly with the Army and the Navy.

Then, displaying the same devotion to duty

shown in the discharge of their regular duties, 56,000 postal people acquitted themselves with honor in all branches of the nation's Armed Forces. In every place where our people fought, men on leave from the postal service fought with them. Many served in the mail handling units of the Army and Navy. Their postal experience made possible the swift handling of the enormous bodies of mail between the Armed Forces and their loved ones at home. Their accomplishments won great praise.

There are few conveyances known to man that are not somehow used for transporting the mails. Drop a letter in the corner mailbox, or mail a package, and you may be assured that if humanly possible, it will get to its destination. The mail goes through not automatically, but by devoted effort and the use of the best means at hand.

Let us note a few: Runners were probably the first way of delivering the mail. Even today, thousands of letters are delivered to the city doors by men on foot. One of the earliest modes of mail transportation was by horseback, then the stage coach and the once familiar wagon used by the rural mail carrier. Even now, a team of huskies trot forward over the hard-packed snow in a frozen clime. The United States mail is on its way.

The humble bicycle was one of the first ways used, and still speeds the special message or parcel. Early day automobiles were quickly put into the task of transporting Uncle Sam's mail. Today, modern cars collect and deliver the mail in rural areas, and provide other services. A mail truck darts through the traffic of city streets; a speeding train tears through the night. Aboard, thousands of letters are being sorted for morning delivery at distant points.

A highway post office, similar to the modern bus, provides increased transportation service by supplementing railway mail service. These have been in use since 1941.

A giant ship churns the earth's seas and speeds the mail to distant countries. A motor launch serves those who live along rivers or lakes. A tiny rowboat also helps where needed. Some of the newest methods of mail transportation include the tractor, which is used to get through the mud of country roads and the jeep, on rough roads and bad creek crossings.

A glittering silver plane knives through the skies. Most likely bags of mail are a part of its precious cargo. Beginning July 9th, this year, the nation's first helicopter mail shuttle service began in the Los Angeles area for a 30-day test. If these experiments prove successful, the helicopter service will be established in larger cities throughout the nation by the end of the year. The objective is to provide 12-hour airmail service between any two American communities.

Yes, drop a letter in the corner mailbox or mail a package, and you may be assured that if humanly possible, it will get to its destination. The postal service will let nothing stop the mail. Come hail or high water, blizzard or typhoon, the mail must go through.

In all seasons of the year, you will find hundreds of thousands of postal employees, each perfecting his particular work of handling, transporting and delivering the billions of pieces of mail, also, newspapers and parcels which patrons have entrusted to the post office.

For our closing scene, we shall especially note one class of those postal workers. We see the familiar blue sky and the green grass, the trees along the countryside, the country road, the rural mailbox, and the rural carrier stopping at the box to deliver the mail. (Applause as the different cards illustrating

each remark were placed on the board) He remembers the postal slogan, "The mail must go through," as he goes about his duties, as well as the special rural letter carrier's motto, "Service with a smile."

October 1, 1946 will be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of rural mail delivery in the United States. Today, 32,118 routes serve some eight million rural families who constitute approximately a quarter of the population of this great country of ours. The loads may be large, the parcels heavy, the weather stormy, or the snow deep, but the postal employee continues at his work to clear today's mail for tomorrow's task. He remains true to the words inscribed over the door of the Post Office Department, "Neither snow nor rain, nor heat nor gloom of night, stays these couriers in the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Presentation of the mail service is pretty well summed up in a verse written by an overseas soldier:

"I can't say where I will be next,
But there is one thing I know;
No matter where they send me
I will be greeted by 'Hello'.

"Like a magic carpet
It follows me on land or sea;
The bugle will sound 'mail call',
And they will pass it on to me."

President Walters. I am sure that you agree with me that it was worthwhile. The only regret that I have of this presentation is that it is not possible for Mrs. Laws to go into each school building throughout this nation of ours, and put on this demonstration so that our people might be better informed of the postal service. But I feel that from such lectures as this, we might get inspiration to go back home and go into the school buildings on our respective routes and other school buildings, and even to appear before civic organizations, in an effort to better inform the people on the postal service.

. . . Announcements . . .

President Walters. We are going to change the program just a little, or reverse it just a little, in order to cooperate with our distinguished Congressman who will be on the program at this time. Congressman Dolliver is not only a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Iowa, but he is a member of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, and had a large part in bringing this convention to Des Moines.

At the luncheon that was referred to yesterday in the Speakers' dining room, Congressman Dolliver, being on the lookout for anything that might help his State or the city of Des Moines, he began to contact members of the Board at that luncheon, with a view to bringing this convention to this city.

So I am happy to present to this audience, Congressman Dolliver, a member of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, who has worked in season and out of season for the benefit of legislation that we have sponsored. Congressman Dolliver.

. . . The audience arose and applauded . . .

Congressman James I. Dolliver. I assure you, President Walters, that I deeply appreciate this kindly introduction which you have given me. It is indeed gratifying to me that the Rural Letter Carriers' Association of the United States came to the capital city of my state for their annual convention. I confess that I interested myself in bringing this about; although I also must add that I had



KENNETH TAYLOR,
Executive Committeeman,
Magnolia, North Carolina

very substantial and considerable cooperation from the Board of Directors and from your President as well.

I think you are entitled to know a little about some of the people who come before you on this platform, so I think I must tell you a story about myself, so you will be able to evaluate me.

A number of years ago, as some of you Iowa people know, I was the Commander of the American Legion of this State, and I had a very, very pleasant time in going around the State of Iowa talking to Legionnaires and others about various subjects in which we were interested. I had one experience I want to share with you. I was invited to go to a community in Iowa which shall be nameless forever as far as I am concerned, to make an address, and there was a certain amount of time allotted for the entire program. After the program was over, they were going to have a dance and the orchestra came, and the Chairman of the occasion was rather a long-winded fellow, quite unlike your good President today, and he occupied about 25 minutes of the 30 minutes allotted to me. That was a little embarrassing to me because after I talked about five minutes, the orchestra began to come on the platform, and it was time for me to quit. So I sat down in some embarrassment.

Well, my friends saw the situation, and they were quite kind about it. They said, "Now Jim, you had a bad time tonight, and our Chairman took advantage of you, and we will invite you back some other time when you can redeem yourself before this crowd in this community." So sure enough they did invite me back, after a decent interval elapsed, and people had forgotten the episode. I did go back. You can imagine my dismay when I discovered this same long-winded guy was the Chairman of the evening the second time. So I protested a little to the Committee, and they said, "Well now, don't get worried; we have this all fixed up. He isn't going to get you in Dutch this time." And sure enough, they did have it fixed up. This time when he introduced me on the second occasion, he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I now present to you Commander Jim Dolliver, of Fort Dodge. The Committee tells

me the less said about him the better." (Laughter)

You can readily see that after that kind of treatment, I very deeply am grateful to President Walters for his kindness to me.

You know, it is a very happy thing to me that on the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the rural mail carrying, you have come to the State of Iowa. Because this year, 1946, which is the 50th anniversary, the semi-centennial of your group, is the centennial of Iowa. One hundred years ago now, Iowa was just becoming a state of the United States. It was the 29th state of the Union. As your organization has come forward in 50 years, so has this great state of our advanced in 100 years. I hope you will forgive me if I boast just a bit about our State.

It is perfectly natural for all of us to do that. We all love the part of the country that we come from. But we who live in Iowa, this year, this hundredth anniversary, are trying to tell the rest of the 47 other states about this great state of Iowa. Will you bear with me if I talk to you a little about that?

Iowa was admitted to the Union, as a prairie wilderness, and has become, Friends, the heart of the greatest agricultural area in the world. Iowa has 25 per cent of the Grade A land in the United States within her borders, and 75 per cent of the Grade A land of the United States is within a radius of 250 miles of the State of Iowa. In other words, it is the very center of that rich black belt of earth which you have seen as you have journeyed from any direction to this capitol city of our State.

Believe it or not, we brag a little about our agricultural contribution to the war. The authority for this statement I now am about to make, is the Extension Service of the Agriculture Department.

This State of Iowa where you are meeting, produced 10 per cent of all the agricultural commodities that were used by the United States and her allies during the war. Ten per cent came from this one state. That is a strong statement, but illustrates the tremendous productivity of Iowa's soil.

Of course 100 years ago, Iowa wasn't producing like that. A good deal of this good soil which we now have, was swamp land, or was flooded periodically. Scarcely any of it had been put under the plow. But in these hundred years, the human beings who have come in here from the older states and from the old world, have transformed this state from a prairie wilderness of grass, shoulder high, into the most productive area, we think, in the entire world.

When we look back at that hundred years, we also look forward. It seems to me, as a loyal citizen of Iowa, that like the other states of the Union, as we come to our 100th anniversary, we look forward too. We are undismayed by the future. That applies to your organization too, and to you Rural Letter Carriers.

You have had fifty years of service in this rural mail service, and it has developed from nothing. Until now, as was just recited by the lady from Missouri, there are 32,000 and more routes that are traveled every day. I thought she was going to add the mileage per day, which is about a million and a half miles per day that is traversed by those who are in the service. It is a tremendous development. You, like the state of Iowa, your Carriers' Association, and the service of the Postal Department, are looking forward to a period of development. None of us can perceive exactly what it is going to be. But I note that you have set out in your NATIONAL RURAL LETTER CARRIER, in the current issue,

a recital of your accomplishments and developments, and a program for the future.

I heard Mr. Ramspeck say a few minutes ago, that he was not entirely in accord with everything you were asking. Well of course, Bob is now retired from Congress, and won't have very much to say about it. (Laughter) It depends upon what the voters say in my District as to whether I will be in the same situation he is.

I have had the very fine privilege, Ladies and Gentlemen, of serving on the Post Office and Post Roads Committee during the past two years.

I must say that I think it is the finest Committee of the House of Representatives. Whether my lot will be to continue to serve on that Committee or not, I have been thoroughly imbued with the notion—and it is a true notion—that the postal people, the people who serve, are the finest group of Federal employees that there are, and I say that without any reservation. They come into daily close contact with all the American people. (Applause)

You rural letter carriers do a splendid job of representing the National Government to the common citizen. And in many instances, you are the only contact that the American citizen has with his government. Because you see him through the instrumentality of your service, you provide him with that means of communication which is so vitally and utterly important for those who live in the rural areas. You give him that instantaneous connection with every corner of this country.

It is small wonder that when the rural mail service was first inaugurated, there was a constant and increasing pressure put upon Congress in the early years of this country to increase and expand and develop the rural mail service. The reason is, of course, that the people who live in the rural areas found it an indispensable means of communication with their families, with their relatives, with their friends, with their business associates all over the country, and all over the world.

I don't pretend to be an expert in the Post Office Department, as your President Mr. Walters well knows. I am the low man on the totem pole. I sit on the tail end of the table on the minority side. You couldn't get any lower than that. (Laughter) But nevertheless, I do appreciate your great courtesy in permitting me to be here. I am most happy that the rural mail carriers especially came to this great State of Iowa, which is so typically rural.

I claim—maybe somebody else will claim this too—I claim that I have the most typically rural area in the entire United States. I have a lot of farmers and small towns up where I live in North Central Iowa, and I think it is the grandest bunch of people there are anywhere. I like them.

You people who carry the mail to them, you people who have that indispensable service that you render every day, rain or shine, come hell or high water (laughter), you are the people who are our liaison between the National Government and the individual citizen.

I know, and I sincerely believe, that you never will forget that fact.

Now, I am going to close with a story, and then I will sit down and let you get back to some serious business. It is an old story, and it isn't the kind of a story you will think it is going to be when I tell you the introduction. It is the story of the traveling salesman and the farmer's daughter. But it isn't that kind of a story. (Laughter)

The traveling salesman was riding through the country and a terrible rain came up. I think this was down in Arkansas. (Laughter)

He wanted to get shelter from the rain, so he went into the first farm house, and there was a beautiful farmer's daughter there. It kept on raining, and he found it pleasant to stay. And as it kept on raining, he stayed overnight. The next day he got up and there was a flood by that time. He stood by the window in the second story, because the first story was flooded, and he saw a peculiar phenomenon. The water was rushing past the window, trees and branches and buildings going down with the raging torrent. Then he saw this peculiar thing. He saw a straw hat in the water, going downstream. It went so far and came back against the current. It went down aways, and then came back against the current. He said to the girl, "You see that? Isn't that the funniest thing? What is that anyway?" She said, "Well, that is grandpa. He is mowing the lawn, because he said yesterday that come hell or high water, he was going to mow the lawn today." (Laughter and applause)

President Walters. Thank you.

... Announcements ...

President Walters. Now we come to that part of the program that we look forward to from year to year. We are going to reverse the order just a little. I would like to ask all rural carriers who are present and who were serving your route when you went into the Armed Forces, either during World War I or World War II, to come and stand just in front of the platform, so we might recognize you and do honor to you, and to find out your name and where you are located. So, without any delay, those in the audience who were in the service, and left your route to go into the Armed Forces, either during World War I or II, proceed up here immediately.

... As they came up to the rostrum, the audience applauded ...

President Walters. Now, as you give your name and your location, please state whether it was World War I or II.

... Each man stated his name, State, and the war he participated in ...

President Walters. Let's give them all a big hand.

We are indeed happy to have you with us, and we appreciate your services as rural carriers and in the Armed Services of this country of ours. Thank you kindly.

Now we would like to come to that part of our program that we look forward to each year—recognition of all past National officers. Will all past National officers please come to the platform?

... Past National officers who were present came up to the rostrum ...

President Walters. We are happy indeed to see this good number of past National officers present at this convention, and to be present at this time to give you a few words that they might have in mind to speak at this time.

First we will present Walter Keown, who served as National President, Brother Keown.

Walter Keown. Mr. President and Fellow Carriers: This is indeed a very great pleasure for me to look into your faces again this morning, and it thrills my heart to see such a wonderful organization. Back in the days when I was a National officer, we didn't have one-half this many men in the convention. Every time I come back, I see it is growing, and it gives me very great pleasure to think back and realize that in my feeble way, I

had a little part in the beginning of this organization. I am now completing, the first day of November, 40 years in the service, and I am still going strong, and I hope that I may be able to meet you many times again. But that is doubtful at my age.

I say again, that it is a pleasure to be with you and look into your faces. God bless you.

President Walters. Now it is our happy privilege to present Max B. Lightner who served as National Secretary.

Max B. Lightner. Mr. Walters, Ladies and Gentlemen: I assure you it is a very great pleasure for me to appear before you here this morning, especially because there are numbered among you, so many whom I have known intimately over the past years. And I am happy to greet the new faces who appear at this convention also.

I was reminded several times here this morning, during the talks about the long way we have come, and it made me think of certain things around my home town over in Pennsylvania.

I live along the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, where the four tracks run through from New York to Chicago, and where the freight trains continually rumble by and the fast trains swish past. That is a part of our lives, because we have lived there so long. We enjoy them and we would miss them.

And it may be an asset in some other respects because rural carriers often come to see us, and they don't sleep so well and stay so long. I was going to say, there is a young man in our town who works in the section gang on this railroad, and they go to work on the early morning accommodation train. One morning when the gang reported to the station, Mike was missing. Some time later, after working on the track for a space of time, a flyer whizzed by and Mike was seen coming along the bank brushing the cinders off his clothes. Someone asked, "Mike, how did you get here?" He said, "I came down on the flyer." They asked, "Where did you get off?" He said, "Oh, all along here."

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are the men who have been getting off of this train of progress all along here, and I think if for no other reason, it is a good thing to have us come up on the platform this morning so you can look us over and look over your present boys and see how far we have come from our days, since we are talking about progress.

Again, I assure you this is a happy privilege to appear before you, and I trust I can meet you many more times. I am in my 34th year in rural delivery, and I have many years to go before I will retire. I am not going to tell you how old I am, but I was a mere child when I started in the service. Thank you.

President Walters. We are now happy to present Brother Crim, who served as National Treasurer, and he comes from South Carolina. Brother Crim.

H. G. Crim. Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is indeed a pleasure to again appear before you. As you all know, I am one of the has-beens. I believe I am the first one of the retired carriers to be presented. But I am happy to be with you again, and hope to be here many times.

I am also happy to note that there has been something said about the retired carriers' annuities. As I look over this crowd, there

will be a lot of them in a few years, and it seems there will be more retired carriers in this crowd than there will be active. I am happy that some action is being or will be taken to help the retired carriers, and I hope we won't be left like the lady who went in and bought the new hat. She came out and it was raining. It was when the ladies wore longer skirts than they do now. She reached down and pulled up her skirt and held it over her hat. Some fellow said, "What do I see?" She said, "What you see is 40 years old; this hat is brand new."

President Walters. We now go down to Alabama to present Ralph Ables, who served as a member of the National Executive Committee. Brother Ables.

Ralph Ables. Mr. President and Friends: To say that I am happy to be here is simply repeating the things that all the others have said, and yet it is true. And I think that one of the clearest demonstrations of the fact that I am glad to be here is the fact that this is the 17th consecutive National convention that I have attended.

I don't know how much longer I will keep coming, but as long as I can wrangle my banker into letting me have enough money about convention time, I guess I will still be here.

Of course this is not a time for a speech, and I am not going to attempt to make a speech to you this morning, but there are two things that I would especially like to say. The first one is of a very personal nature, and it is that I wish to take this opportunity to express my public gratitude, personal gratitude, to the many hundreds of you who so kindly remembered us in our trouble a year ago. It did a lot of good and helped a lot to know that we were being remembered by you.

And then I think too, that all of us ought to give more serious thought than most people seem to be giving, to the fact that we do not now have peace. The war has ceased, but we have an armed truce in which the nations of the earth seem to be feverishly jockeying for position and getting ready for perhaps a conflict that will annihilate civilization.

All of us hope that doesn't come, and it is my thought that each of us, as citizens of this great nation can, by constant application of ourselves to the principles of Christianity good citizenship and democracy, make a liberal contribution toward a lasting peace in the world.

I do hope that America and the people in America will soon abandon the position of arrogance that we have taken in the affairs of the world, that we will recognize the fact that armies alone, guns and ships and ammunition and atom bombs, will not establish peace. There must be a change in the ideals of mankind. Men must look up toward their Creator, God, and recognize the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of humanity around the world, and treat one another as such. You and I, as humble citizens in this great land, can make our little contribution to that end.

President Walters. Thank you.

We are now happy to present a man who served as National President of this organization, Raymond H. Combs of the State of New York. Brother Combs.

Raymond H. Combs. Thank you President Walters. I consider it a privilege to be permitted to attend these National gatherings. Perhaps some of you know that about two weeks ago, I retired from the service, but I

can assure you that I haven't retired from the active interest in the affairs of this organization.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your graciousness over the years, both to myself and Mrs. Combs. We appreciate it very much and it is nice to come back here each year and greet you.

We must continue to look forward and not backward, even though we may retire from the active service of the government. We should not lose our interest in the organization that has brought to us the advantages that we now enjoy. I want to take at this time, just a moment to pay a tribute to the officers who preceded me in your service. They laid the ground-work and forged the path for us to follow, and we have been continuing on and on, and we shall continue.

There are one or two things that you and I, at this particular time in our lives, must consider. One important thing is that in our relations with each other, we should and must demand and give intellectual integrity in every realm of life. It is the keystone that made it possible for us to progress as a nation. The free enterprise system or the private enterprise system of this country, to which Congressman Ramspeck referred, is and has been the spark plug that made America what it is and brought to us the things that we enjoy, the physical things. I agree with Brother Ables, that we must emphasize to a greater degree the spiritual part of man. After all, that is really where we live, you and I—through our spiritual being.

So, I am not going to take too much of your time. Harry Griffin reminded me of a little conundrum that goes like this: Why is a historical novel like a lady's bustle? And the answer came back: Because it is a fictitious tale based upon stern reality.

I will be coming back to conventions even though I am going into another realm of public service. I won't forget the gentlemen who carried the rural mail. Thank you.

President Walters. Thank you.

We are now happy to present Brother James, who served as Vice-President, also a member of the Executive Committee, originally from this State. Brother James.

William H. James. Thank you, Brother Walters. Hello Folks. You know, I am one of the daddies of this organization in Iowa. The mother of the organization will follow me in a few minutes. I entered this organization in 1907, and came to this city as a delegate from Pottawatomie County in 1908.

Going back just a little, you boys don't really understand and know what rural delivery is, and what we had to contend with. I entered the service at fifty dollars a month, and kept three horses; but I want to say to you boys, the farmers of Iowa were different than what they are today. They appreciated our services.

The first Saturday, or the Saturday before Easter that first year, when I returned home that night, I had a nice dead hen ready for the oven, and over 20 dozen of eggs. So I lived just the same. But after we had the convention here in 1908, the National convention was held in Omaha that same year. Being just across the river, the boys elected me as one of the delegates. We had a wonderful time over there, because one of the things the Iowa boys did—this mother of the Association was with me—we stole the convention out of Omaha, and brought one session over to Council Bluffs, where the Chamber of Commerce entertained it with finer entertainment that evening. When the Governor of Nebraska arrived to grant his greetings to the car-

riers of the United States, he had to come to Iowa to do it, and I always enjoyed it very much.

There have been three things that the rural carriers of Iowa have done. When I began carrying mail, we had to go to the Post Office every Sunday morning. We had to route our mail and couldn't go to church. So, through resolutions and contact with Department, that was changed.

In 1909, the next year, we met in Rochester, New York, and I didn't have any better sense than to write a resolution asking that rural letter carriers be granted a holiday on Christmas Day, and the fellows laughed at me. They said, "Bill, you are having a vision." Thanks be to God, in 1923, that resolution passed. That seed was sown and bore fruit. Those are two of the things. Then again, I was your representative at Washington, D. C. I had moved away from Iowa at that time. I had been promoted, as I said last night, from the roads of blizzards to a land of sunshine and paved roads and one of the best routes in the United States, bar none. I was in Washington, and I played my cards. The equipment allowance bill was on the floor. The House had passed it. It was before the Senate for action in May. If you don't believe it, look for the May Congressional Record. After debate, the vote was taken, "aye" and "nay." Senator Cummings of this State, was in the Chair, and he declared it lost. I didn't have any better sense than to disbelieve it. I went down into the lobby room, and I met your other Senator, Senator Brookheart. I presented him my Council Bluffs card and asked him if there couldn't be a roll call demanded on that vote. He said that there could be. He said, "I will see what I can do about it, but I wouldn't care to make it." I then left him, and I called for Senator Johnson of California, and presented my California card to him. I had never met Senator Johnson before. We had a nice little chat, got acquainted with him—one of the greatest men who ever was in the United States Senate—and I said to Senator Johnson, "Can't you have a roll call on that motion? I don't believe it was lost." He said, "Yes, it can be done."

I went back into that gallery, and they had a little chat—Norris of Nebraska, and the South Dakota man, Sterling, and some more. Then Senator Johnson got on the floor, and made a plea for a roll call for the equipment allowance for rural mail carriers. Senator Cummings granted it, and the next morning when they met at eleven o'clock, one hour early, to reconsider the bill, it was passed, 54 to 23. So, the Association of Iowa had its part in getting the equipment allowance which we have enjoyed ever since, although we almost lost it in the economy days.

I want to tell you boys I am mighty proud to be back in Iowa. I love the old State. I didn't go away because I wanted to, but as I said before, I didn't like your bad roads and winters. But I am happy to be with you today. I brought this beautiful weather, so I could enjoy it while I am in your midst. I want to say God bless you. Amen.

President Walters. Thank you.

It is now my pleasure to present a Past National Officer, who I never had the pleasure of meeting before, but I am sure is in this room. I am informed that his name is Childs and he served as National Secretary, and comes from the State of Iowa. Brother Childs.

Mr. Childs. May I address you as Brother Carriers, Visitors and Ladies: I entered the service 45 years ago, so it is pretty near a

golden anniversary for me, if I had still been in the service. I entered when just a horse and buggy was needed, and no brains was necessary.

I organized my own county, was elected State Secretary of the Iowa boys, served six years, when I was elected National Secretary, and then I was forced out of the service on account of my health, which I have always regretted.

I was proud to be associated with a bunch of fellows that we never needed to be ashamed of, wherever we went. I have arranged for many of the National organization meetings. Hotel people always used to say, "What kind of a bunch is this? Will they tear up the hotel?" I was proud of the fact that I could always recommend the rural carriers of the United States.

I had a severe accident. On my way to a convention in Ohio in '41, a careless driver drove out from a side street and hit me, and broke 16 of my ribs and collar bone and legs, and bruised and scratched me up, but otherwise he didn't hurt me at all. (Laughter) I have often wished that I could meet with the boys again.

Brother Stevens here from Maryland—I was surprised when I saw him. I had no idea he was still associated with you. But it has always been a regret of mine that I couldn't continue, after being with you so many years.

I left the service in 1911. I started in 1901, as one of the first carriers. I drew up the specifications for two routes in my own town. I couldn't get a carrier for the second route, so I took it myself, temporarily, I thought, and I stood with it for ten years.

As Mr. James said, I only had one mile of gravel on my route, and now every road in my home county is a farm to market, gravel or paved, of which I am very proud.

But at that time, when I used to wade through the snow drifts and mud—in fact, I used to carry a stick to push the mud out of my wheels so they would turn around. Lots of you boys have had that experience, I am sure.

I guess I will have to quit. I am getting kind of nervous. I am glad to have met you boys today. It has been a great pleasure.

President Walters. Thank you, Brother Childs. We are delighted that you have come back to see us.

We now travel down to the State of Tennessee, and it is my pleasure to present to you Clifton J. Brown, who served this organization as National Secretary. Mr. Brown.

Clifton J. Brown. Mr. President, Brother Past Officers: I assure you that it is indeed a pleasure to be here with you today. As we pass along life's pathway looking forward to the future and the many good things it holds for us, I think it is worthwhile to reminisce over the things of the past, and the blessings we have enjoyed during this time.

Now, I want to offer a little consolation to my good friend, Walker Keown. He spoke about his age and all that. If you will excuse this personal reference, I am a year older than he is.

This convention is significant to me. This is the golden anniversary of rural delivery service. It is also the silver anniversary of Cliff Brown's convention attendance. This is the 25th convention. Brother Walker only attended 24, so that makes me a year older than my good friend Walker Keown from Georgia.

I enjoyed listening to Brother James tell of the hardships of the past and how this organization has come along. I don't know how many there are here today who attended

the first convention I attended in 1919 in Dayton, Ohio. If you remember, at that time, the salary of rural letter carriers, was a fabulous sum of \$1200. The equipment allowance was something we had been dreaming of. There was no sick leave and no equipment allowance, and all of those different things were things that these pioneers had been hoping for, and the delegates had been resolving for from year to year.

I am happy that Providence has afforded me the opportunity to live to see all of these things become a reality and our Association going strong and our organization today more than twice the size that it was then.

The dearest thing to a man's heart is a man's wife. This convention has significance along that line to me. It so happens that I have been successful in having two good wives. They have so fixed this convention that the first day of celebrating my first wedding anniversary is the 13th day of August. So you see, I was not superstitious. The last and closing day of this convention is an anniversary for my last wedding anniversary.

I don't want to talk too long to you here, but some of our people are kind of timid, like Ray Combs, that I served on the Board with. I don't want to in any way offer any offense to the hat joke. Perhaps some of you have heard of that. Ray, in retiring from rural delivery service, will also be a member of the New York Legislature. He has a lot to be proud of too, because he was a poor man down in Tennessee, who ran for a number of years for the Legislature. He got to thinking to himself after it was over, of the great cost it had been to him. He had helped build 15 churches, he had patted 1795 people on the back, he had kissed 1793 babies, and was then defeated. Ray Combs has a lot to be proud of in that respect, and we are glad to know that one of our number can be so successful in making a landing without having reverses of that kind.

It is a pleasure to be here with you, and I just hope that the next fifty years will show more progress than the last fifty years, and I believe it will because the personnel of rural delivery service is like this Association. She made her way by the way she is made.

I thank you.

President Walters. Thank you.

We now travel up to the State of Wisconsin, and I am happy to present to you Brother Turner who I believe served as a member of the Executive Committee. Brother Turner.

Harold Turner. President Walters, Past National Officers, Brother and Sister Carriers: As has been said before, it is a lot of repetition, but I mean it when I say I am very glad and proud that I can be with you again at your National Convention.

It has been quite a few years since we have had a real full convention, and it really looks good. I am mighty glad to be here to greet the old faces particularly, that I haven't seen for a number of years, like Clifton Brown, the other Past National Officers, and some of the delegates who have been in continuous attendance the same as a lot of us.

I don't want to take up much of your time, because I know it is noon, and my fellow officers who have talked ahead of me here, have told you a lot of stories, and they stole our thunder. So there isn't much to say except that I am glad to be here, and I am glad to meet you all.

Thank you.

President Walters. Thank you, Brother Turner.

We will now travel to the State of Michi-

gan, and I am happy to present to you a man who served as National President of this organization, Brother Armstrong.

Wynn Armstrong. President Walters, Past National Officers and Friends: I deem it a real honor to be permitted to say these few words to you.

In order to conserve the time that is growing short and the hunger that I know is beginning to appear in the bodies of most of you, I am going to say ditto, ditto, ditto, to the many things that have been said.

I do want to emphasize just one thing. Upon you rests a responsibility greater than probably has rested on the rural carriers of this nation ever before. Brother Ralph spoke of the peace that we hoped for but was not here. We in this nation are confronted with threats and problems that have many sources. There is a many-headed monster working among us, and it is upon you, the active rural carriers of this nation, to preserve much of what has been called the American way of life. I hope, I trust, that we will all measure up to that responsibility.

I hope also, that even with the graying hair and also the thinning hair that appears on my head, that I may be spared to attend many, many more National Conventions, and so long as God spares me, and as one of the boys said, as long as there can be enough money wheedled out of the family budget to get here, I shall be along with you from year to year.

Thank you.

President Walters. Thank you, Brother Armstrong.

We are now happy to present a man who served as Vice-President of this organization, and comes from this State, Brother Jake Lindeman.

Jake Lindeman. I don't know. This is the first time I have seen one of these do-dads in front of me. (referring to the microphone) I don't know how my voice will carry. President Walters, Ex-National Officers and Friends: I am not going to detain you because much has been said and I can agree with practically everything. But I want to say this: I am very proud to have you in my own state. This is the second time—I think it was 13 years ago we had the convention here in Des Moines, and it was something that I had looked for and prayed for, and we are here again now. It has been just 13 years since I have attended one of the conventions. Due to illness and one thing or another, I was detained; but I am certainly happy to meet those that I have met before, and to make new friends.

And when you go away from here, I want you to know that it has been one of the happiest times in my life to have been able to meet and greet you.

I thank you.

President Walters. Thank you.

We now travel down to my home state, and I am happy to present to you Charlie Wall who served as National Secretary of this organization. Brother Wall.

Charlie Wall. Mr. President and Friends: These boys who have preceded me on this introduction have all been bragging about themselves. I thought maybe that I might do a little bragging myself. After Bill James and Brother Childs came up here, I had to kind of recede just a little bit, because up until that time, I was the oldest Past National Officer in the years of service on this stage. I was elected as your Secretary 26 years ago,

and I bet you there isn't a man up here that is younger than I am today, not only in feeling but in years too. A number of these fellows have followed me in service. I was elected in Dallas, Texas, 26 years ago. James was on the Board at that time. He told you of one of the things that we got for you, but the most important thing that we got, I think, during our tenure of office, was the time we went to Washington as the Board, and conferred with the then Postmaster, Will Hays, and it was at our suggestion that he put on that humanizing policy that has meant so much to the postal workers of this country ever since.

I think that was one of the greatest achievements that we ever did. We got Will Hays to put on the humanizing policy as he called it, and we have really been able to go to the Department heads since then and try to lay our problems before them, and we have been successful in working out many things that have been beneficial to our groups and to other postal groups.

At that time we also were instrumental in enacting legislation that brought about the retirement law. That was another great accomplishment that we did not only for the rural carriers, but for all the postal workers. The only regret that I have in regard to the Retirement Law is that we didn't ask them to keep out 15 per cent of our salary instead of two and one-half that was taken out at that time, because we would have had a lot more in our savings account, and we would have been a lot prouder of it today than we possibly are, and these old retired carriers would be getting more out of it. They should be getting more than they are. I am not worried about the Retirement Law myself, because at this particular time, I am out of the postal service; but I am not retired, because I am not old enough to retire. I am loaned to the State of Georgia for the purpose of trying to help get the people of rural Georgia out of the mud. I am connected with the Post Roads Division of the Highway Department, and we have an extension program there that we hope will be of benefit to the rural carriers and the people who live out in the rural areas of Georgia. It is a pleasure for me to be here with you, and to greet you again, and I hope to be with you many more years to come.

Thank you.

President Walters. Thank you.

Are there any other Past Officers in the room at this time who have not been recognized? I am sure that you join with me in expressing our appreciation for these fellows who have come back to us from year to year after leaving the service as National Officers and those who have retired from the service.

Mrs. Gladden, from the State of Ohio, would like to say a word before we adjourn with reference to the Juniors' work and the contribution you made yesterday. Mrs. Gladden.

Mrs. R. V. Gladden. President Walters, Distinguished Body Behind Me Here, and you Distinguished Folks in the Audience: I came to say a word of thanks to President Walters for printing the little notes I sent to the paper, and the courtesies and kindness he extended to me at this convention, and this past year. I want to say thanks to you folks who financially supported us yesterday. We have something over \$60.00; we have 65 Juniors to spend it. So you won't need to worry about where the money is going.

I want to say thanks to the State of Iowa for all their courtesies and kindnesses, to Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Courtney, for all the nice

things they have done, to Mrs. Duse, who has been my right hand man. She has taken care of all the needed things that have had to be done, and I surely do appreciate and want to thank you, each and every one.

President Walters. I think that brings us down to the close of our prepared program. Is there any delegate who has anything that should come before this convention before we adjourn?

Don't forget the retired carriers' dinner and those pioneers of 25 years or more service, and the ex-servicemen's dinner that has been announced from time to time.

If there is nothing more to come before this convention, we will now declare it closed until nine o'clock in the morning, and the Ex-Servicemen's Committee will come and take charge of the colors.

As the Assembly arose, the Colors were retired . . .

President Walters. There will be no session this afternoon. I now declare this convention adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

The Convention adjourned at twelve-thirty-five o'clock . . .

BANQUET SESSION

Wednesday Evening, August 14, 1946

The Meeting convened at seven-thirty o'clock, Harley V. Shepherd presiding.

Chairman Shepherd. At this time we will have the invocation by John Q. Barnes.

John Q. Barnes. Our Father, as the shadows have lengthened into darkness and night settles over the land, we thank Thee that as citizens of this great Nation we can gather here from the East and West, the North and South, to enjoy this fine fellowship. Give us, we pray, a proper conception and a due appreciation of the blessings that are ours. Give to this fine group of people a memory of the hospitality of this city that will inspire them to greater effort in the service of their fellow men.

For this food, another gift from Thee, we give thanks and pray that Thou wilt bless it to the strengthening of our physical bodies and so bless us in spirit that we shall all be one in Thee.

We pray in the name of our Master.

Amen.

. . . Dinner was served . . .

Chairman Shepherd. At this time it is my happy privilege to introduce to you a gentleman who has been of unlimited help to us as an Association and as a Convention Committee in arranging for your entertainment here; the manager of the Des Moines Convention Bureau, that genial and rotund master of ceremonies extraordinary, your Toastmaster, Arthur Brayton.

Toastmaster Arthur H. Brayton. Ladies and Gentlemen, before Mr. Shepherd makes any more remarks about my personal appearance and before we settle down to the evening's entertainment, which I know you are going to enjoy to the utmost, we have one or two requests.

. . . Announcements and the removal of the dinner tables . . .

Toastmaster Brayton. Take off your coats, if you want, gentlemen. That is fine. We don't have to ask the ladies to remove their hats. How are you doing? All seated? O. K. We are all ready to go.

I don't think we have any more requests to make in this large and salubrious audience, except that one of the ladies did say that she would appreciate it very much if you would do as little smoking as possible. I know that with the very hot program that we have tonight, you won't be bothered by it and won't think about tobacco.

This is quite a thrill this evening. We have been looking forward to it for a long time because it is the occasion of two very remarkable anniversaries, 50 Golden Years for the Rural Letter Carriers' Association and 100 years for your host city, or state, rather, Iowa. This is quite a combination. One hundred years for Iowa, because this is our Centennial, and a Golden Wedding Anniversary for the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

At this time I would like to read a telegram that President Walters received from Congressman George D. O'Brien, Chairman of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee. It is addressed to Thomas G. Walters, President of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and says:

"Circumstances prevent me from extending my greetings to the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association Convention personally. Please give my warmest best wishes and congratulations to the delegates of the convention held in the fiftieth anniversary year of the rural free delivery service.

"Congressman George D. O'Brien
Chairman of The House Post Office
and Post Roads Committee."

So here we are at the Golden Jubilee Convention, and you have made your fifty years, which are by far the hardest, and Iowa has finally gotten into 100 years of statehood. I don't know whether you had any difficulty along the road, but we did not know whether we were going to make it. (We were a good deal like the old boy who was 99 years old. They had a story about him in the paper a while ago. A gentleman was walking down the street, a short while ago, and he saw this elderly patriarch, and remembered that he was 99 years old, so he went over and shook hands with the aged gentleman. He said, "I hope that I will be able to congratulate you when you are 100." The old gentleman said, "I am sure that you will." The young man said, "What makes you so sure?" The old boy said, "There are a lot of insurance companies here in Des Moines, and I was talking to one of them the other day, and one of them told me that there are damn few people who die at the age of 99.")

That is the way we felt about it. We had gotten to be 99, and as long as we were 99 we thought that we had to make 100. You have made 50, and it is a great combination.

I notice that our Mayor told you to come back in twelve years. It was 13 years ago that you were here, and we are happy that you have returned.

I remember when I was a boy, in 1899, in Tama, Iowa, my friend's father took on a rural delivery route, and he ordered a new wagon with pigeon holes in it and protection from the rain. But when he got out on the mud roads, he found that it was too narrow, and he had to go back to the buggy. He felt awfully bad about it at the time. He felt that it was not the proper respect to pay to this new service which came into being a few years before. I remember vividly the first rural free delivery. I noticed that Grover Cleveland was serving as President in 1896, and that your Postmaster General at that time was William Wilson of West Virginia, where the service was inaugurated.

However, this is no time for retrospection. We are not going back into the past. We are talking about the present and looking forward to the future. We certainly do rejoice, Ladies and Gentlemen, that you are here from Wahalak, Mississippi, Dover, Delaware, Siluria, Alabama, as well as Carpinteria, California and Springville, Iowa, and all points West, North, South and East. It is a pleasure to have you converge on Des Moines. We like to have you converge on us. We hope you are deriving inspiration and pleasure from this Convention.

As a matter of fact, Conventions please us, and for several years past, as Mr. Shepherd told you when he made the opening remarks tonight, we have been casting longing eyes on your group, and now we have culminated our efforts by having you here for the second time. We have long looked forward to this moment. It took a lot of planning; but as the fellow said, he never worried about his girl until she started going with an architect. He said, "That fellow has planning."

Now, you won't get any speeches from me. You have a very diversified program of mirth, merriment and good talks. They say that the three good attributes of any chairman are: Be brief; be sincere; and be seated. So I will be up and down most of the evening, and my part is to tell you how very glad we are to have you here.

The program Committee—in fact, all Committees have been very much on the job, and they are the text and cornerstone of a good time; but we do want you to remember Des Moines and Iowa. We could rhapsodize on the tall corn state, but you could rhapsodize on the 46 states represented here. I understand that Utah and Nevada are not quite organized yet, but we have hopes they will come into the fold.

We will tell you, however, that this is the state of the tall corn. What we do here is raise more corn to feed more hogs, to raise more corn to feed more hogs, to raise more corn to feed more hogs. Everybody likes to come home, and you will be glad to get back.

(A couple of years ago on Iwo Jima, a Chaplain was having a meeting on Sunday night, and he asked, "Everybody here who wants to go to heaven please rise." Everyone got up but one little private in the front row. The Chaplain then said, "Everybody that wants to go to Hell, get up." Nobody got up. He said, "Private Jones, I don't understand you. You remained seated when I asked those who wanted to go to heaven to stand, and when I asked those who wanted to go to Hell, you still didn't rise to your feet. Where do you want to go?"

The little private looked up and said, "I want to go to Iowa." That is the way we feel about it. You feel the same way about your native state.) We know you are purveyors of good will, and that you have kept up all during the recent unpleasantness, and it has been far too much neglected, the same as we have neglected salesmanship and public relations, that mighty factor which has again come into play.

(It reminds me of the sales manager who got up and harangued the boys. He said, "Salesmanship is coming back into its own. We have to recognize competition. Here is an example of salesmanship: A friend of mine, just out of the service, got the agency for a new milking machine. He went out to a farmer who was a good prospect and discovered that the farmer had only one cow. But he was so good that he sold the man the milking machine and took the cow as a down payment.")

I don't mean that we should go that far. That is a little high pressure, and you gentle-

men don't indulge in that, but you are going to have a great part in helping bring our world, that part of it which we are so fortunate to occupy in the United States, back to normal. It has been a little tough. Things have been a little upset. We have it in the convention business. We try to get back to better public relations.

(We had a Convention Delegate in Des Moines the other day and as he was walking across the street a taxi cab hit him. He said, "What is the matter, are you blind?" The taxi driver said, "What do you mean, blind? I hit you, didn't I?")

But it does do very much good in this day and age, and that is the reason that I want to compliment you Ladies and Gentlemen who have done such an excellent public relations job all the way through. But I don't want you to be satisfied. I want you to look at it as a challenge, to do a better job in the future. (We get to feeling just like Johnny in the arithmetic class. The teacher was up at the blackboard, and she said, "If you take 6,429 and subtract 2,196, what is the difference?" Johnny said, "That is what I say, what is the difference? Who cares?")

(Don't get into the rut of feeling that things are going along all right. You can do a better job, better than the two old boys working in the assembly plant in the pre-war period, Jake and Ollie. Jake decided to retire and he went out West to live with his son. The war came along and his son enlisted and went off to war, so he went back and got his old job back because he was lonesome and wanted to do his part. He was glad to be there and they were glad to have him. Ollie was apparently doing the same thing as he had been doing before and he looked about the same. Jake said, "Boy, I am glad to see you. How is everything going?" "It is terrible. It is all different since you went away, Jake." He said, "What do you mean?"

Ollie said, "You have to do everything so accurate nowadays! Take measuring. You wouldn't believe it, but they measure stuff down to the thousandths of an inch." Jake said, "Is that so? Thousandths of an inch, huh! Say, Ollie, how many thousandths are there in an inch?" Ollie said, "Gosh, Jake, there must be millions of them."

That is the way things are sometimes. Things are a little mixed up, but you are going to have an opportunity to help straighten them out. But this evening, you are going to relax and enjoy the entertainment, interspersed with the kind and intelligent remarks that you will be treated to.

Now we have the entertainment starting out. All you have to do is turn around and look at the stage. Yo-Yo, the International Clown for your special benefit.

... Yo-Yo, the International Clown performed ...

Toastmaster Brayton. Thanks very much, Yo-Yo. (Applause)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are very glad to have here tonight a citizen of Iowa, who is also vitally interested in the work that you are doing, and I am very pleased to present Congressman James I. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, Iowa, of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee. Congressman Dolliver. (Applause)

Congressman Dolliver. Ladies and Gentlemen, you heard my speech this morning and heard what I had to say about the Iowa Centennial. I have another speech on that subject, but really, it is too long to occupy your time tonight. I can only say that we are about as proud of Iowa as that rooster was who

went by the window out in the farm home when the minister was eating his chicken dinner at the country parishoner's house. This cock went by the window and really strutted and crowed, and the minister said, "That is a pretty proud bird you have out here, Mr. Farmer." And the farmer said, "Yes, he ought to be. A couple of his sons have just entered the ministry." (Laughter and applause)

Toastmaster Brayton. Thanks, Congressman. We appreciate that very much. Well, it is a good deal like that other minister story. They had a donation party for the minister, and they brought him some brandied peaches, and he said that he appreciated the gift and the spirit in which they were sent. (Laughter)

Congressman Dolliver is going to be a regular visitor here for three weeks. The American Legion Convention will be here next week, the state fair will follow that, and the Bankers' Convention will follow that. Stick around folks. (Laughter) The Congressman has to leave now so that he can come back.

... The audience applauded as Congressman Dolliver left the Banquet Hall ...

Toastmaster Brayton. I admire the fact that you Ladies and Gentlemen have such a job to do in keeping your customers in good humor, and I think that makes a timely tie in with the importance of this matter of public relations about which I was speaking a moment ago.

I made a number of high school commencement addresses in the last number of years, and I was interested in something that came to my attention, namely, the high school class mottoes. I don't know whether you folks remember your high school class motto or not, but they used to be high and mighty, way up in the clouds, like: "We have reached the hills; the oceans lie before us." You remember those.

I ran across a class motto about a year ago that I thought was timely, and I think it is particularly appropriate to the job which you folks are doing. This high school class took for its motto the title of a song which was on the hit parade, and it is still good. The motto is: "Accentuate the Positive, Eliminate the Negative." I know that you are always giving the positive touch to your job. I think you are to be complimented upon that, and I hope you will continue to do it.

If you get into the negative, you will get into trouble, like the kid in the arithmetic class when the teacher said, "If I have six eggs and lay three over there, what would I have?" Johnny said, "I think you will have nine, but I don't think you can do it." See what I mean?

I always want you to be positive, because accentuating the positive you have much more fun. You don't get into trouble like the fat lady in the summer resort on the hot day. This lady was warm and uncomfortable. She wanted to get cooled off a little bit. She noticed that they had fans for sale. They had some for 15c, some for 10c and some for 5c. She bought one of the fans for 5c and she began to fan herself as vigorously as that gentleman back there with the straw hat. Suddenly the fan fell to pieces; just disintegrated before her eyes.

She went over to the hotel clerk and complained about the fan falling apart. The clerk said, "Where did you buy this fan?" She said, "Right here." The clerk said, "How much did you pay for it?" She said, "I paid a nickel for it." The clerk said, "How did you use it?"

"How did I use it?" she said. "Why I fanned myself with it, of course. What do you think I would do?" The clerk said, "Lady, that it not the way to use the 5c fan. With the nickel fans you hold them up in front of you, like this, and you go this way"; (He held the fan still and shook his head vigorously back and forth.)

That is the negative idea, and I don't want you to get into it. Accentuate the positive, as I know you will. Now, we are going to show you a delightful and lovely lady, Phylis Hill in a tap number entitled, "Syncopation." Are you ready, Phylis?

... Tap dance routine by Phylis Hill ...

Toastmaster Brayton. That was Phylis, presenting "Syncopation," and also the latest in dancing attire. If any of you folks want to dance along your route, just dress like Phylis. Here is a note that has just been passed up to me. It seems that Phylis grew up on Mr. Courtney's route. Mr. Courtney is the Chairman of the Housing Committee, and Phylis grew up along his route. Do you want to give us a few more personal touches on Phylis? We will take that up at the concert. Fifty cents extra. Agents will soon pass among you.

I want to tell you that if we would all take calisthenics like Yo-Yo the Clown and Phylis, we would have figures like that too. My trouble is that I have a good chest but I wear it too low. That is one of the advantages of living in Iowa.

We are fortunate tonight in having a gentleman here who has quite a responsibility when it comes to the Post Office Department, and I know that you are going to be very glad to greet him and hear him, and I am going to ask your National President, Mr. Thomas G. Walters, the pride of Stevens County, Georgia, to present the next speaker. Mr. Walters, will you introduce our friend and fellow benefactor here?

President Walters. Mr. Toastmaster, Distinguished Guests, Ladies, Friends and Fellow Rural Carriers: Before I present the speaker that I was extended the privilege of introducing to you or presenting to you, I have one or two messages or announcements that I would like to make.

Just before coming to this banquet tonight I received the following telegram:

"ARRIVING THURSDAY MORNING BY UNITED AIRLINES. (Signed) JENNINGS RANDOLPH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS."

For sometime, in cooperation with the Program and Housing Committee of this Convention, we have been in conference and in contact with some people in efforts to get some flowers for all the Ladies at this Convention. So, since arriving at Des Moines, we received the following telegram:

"REGARD TELEPHONE. 500 GARDENIAS AND 10 ORCHIDS NOW EN ROUTE FROM SAN FRANCISCO."

These were scheduled to arrive in Des Moines this afternoon at one-twenty, but due to the heavy clouds, the planes could not land, and it was necessary for them to land in Iowa City, and then by taxi, we had the flowers transported over here, and even though they arrived late, I am sure the Ladies are enjoying wearing the gardenias and the orchids. These are the compliments of the airlines of the United States. I trust that many of you will address a letter to the airlines of the United States or the Air Transport Association, Washington, D. C., and express your appreciation for their generosity.

Now it will be necessary for me to leave the banquet in just a few minutes to go over



PAUL G. BENSON,
Executive Committeeman,
Smithton, Missouri

to the radio station where they have invited us to appear on the program at ten o'clock tonight. I hate to run out when we are going to have a real treat in just a moment. We had planned and had the definite promise that we would have, at this Convention, the Postmaster General, the First Assistant Postmaster General and the Superintendent of Division three, but due to the construction work on your airport, the word came to us that no planes would be landing until about the 16th or 18th of this month; therefore, our Postmaster General, the Honorable Robert E. Hannegan, made other plans when he was informed that it would be impossible for him to fly to Des Moines.

So, tonight, we have with us the gentleman whose name appears on the printed program to speak tomorrow, and he will keep that engagement and will address the men's meeting tomorrow morning. But tonight, it is our rare privilege to have with us a carrier man, a man who has devoted his life's work to the Post Office Department, entering the service as a clerk; later going into the inspection service, and then being brought into the Department in Washington many years ago.

He has served in a great many different positions in the Department in Washington with honor to himself and to the Department. This is his first appearance at the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association Convention, and we are indeed happy and privileged to have with us tonight the Honorable Jesse M. Donaldson, First Assistant Postmaster General, and it is my pleasure at this time to present to this audience, Mr. Donaldson.

... The audience arose and applauded ...

First Assistant Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson. Thank you, Gordon. Mr. Toastmaster, Congressman Ramspeck—and you will notice that I still call him Congressman Ramspeck although he has left the Congress, because we still press him into service once in a while for assistance on behalf of the Postal Workers—other distinguished Guests, Members of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association, the Ladies of the Auxiliary and their Friends: It gives me great pleasure to meet with the Rural Letter Carriers of the United States in their National

Convention on the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Rural Delivery Service.

I bring you greetings from the Postmaster General, Honorable Robert E. Hannegan. He requested that I express to you his deep regrets that, due to other commitments, he was deprived of the pleasure of meeting with you personally in this Convention. He had hoped, up to the last minute, that he could get a break from other important duties and commitments to permit joining with you in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of one of the most important branches of the Postal Service. I convey his sincere appreciation for the loyal and devoted service performed by the rural carriers and his best wishes for continued success and good health for you and your families. I assure you that General Hannegan, in heart, is with us tonight.

It has been my good fortune to serve under several Postmasters General and I can say frankly that none has had a deeper interest in the welfare of the postal employees or a greater desire to see that the public be given the very best possible service.

He took office July 1, 1945, and one of his first official acts was a recommendation to President Truman that he sign the Postal Salary Bill, known as Public Law 134—79th Congress. He advocated the passage of the last salary bill for postal employees, which was retroactive to January 1, 1946. He supported these salary bills notwithstanding the fact that the expenditures of the Postal Establishment were increased approximately 350 million dollars per annum.

You all understand very well the need for the increased salaries, due to the high cost of living, and you owe the Postmaster General a debt of gratitude for his interest and effort in your behalf. The very best way to show your appreciation is through continued loyalty and your best effort in rendering to your patrons efficient and courteous service.

The Department has no reservations about you doing that very thing. As a matter of fact, the best evidence of your loyalty to the service and your interest in rendering good service to the public is the record of your past performance. We in the Department are well aware of your problems during this World Conflict. In spite of the rationing of gasoline, tires and automobiles, and your many problems incident thereto, there was very little interruption in the rural delivery service. You good folks saw to it that the mails went through to the rural patrons of the postal service. The Department is grateful for the splendid service rendered by the rural carriers under the most trying and strenuous times in the history of this great Country.

I entered the postal service only a few years after the rural delivery service was started on an experimental basis. I have seen it grow from a few routes serving a small population to the far flung service of today which serves more than one-fifth of the population of these United States. I was reared on a farm and we had no rural delivery service. I can well remember that Saturday was a red letter day for us kids as it was the usual custom to drive to town on Saturdays to shop and get the mail.

I can remember when there was not too much enthusiasm about appropriating money for this so-called expensive service that would produce little revenue, so they thought. The law at that time provided that the Postmaster General should have due regard to the productiveness of any route established. In fact, originally, he could not enter into any contract for carrying mail over a post road where the expenses thereof exceeded the revenue thence arising.

This service was surrounded at its birth by unfavorable auspices and its early path was not a happy one. The Chairman of the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads in the Fifty-third Congress condemned it as a scheme impossible of execution which would require an appropriation of at least 20 million dollars to inaugurate it. The Postmaster General in his report for 1893 stated that the Department would not be warranted in burdening the people with such a great expense. This Postmaster General declined to expend—in 1894—the small appropriation of \$10,000 made by Congress to test the feasibility of the scheme.

In 1895 Congress appropriated \$20,000 for a test and the then Postmaster General adopted the views of his predecessor that the plan of establishing rural free delivery was wholly impracticable. He stated that he assumed office too late in the fiscal year to take any action but should Congress see fit to make the appropriation available for the next year, he would put the experiment to the test by the best methods he could devise.

Congress made available \$40,000 the next year—1896—and Postmaster General Wilson, with expressed misgivings, put the service to the test.

He stated that he had taken care "to choose territory widely divergent in physical features, and in the occupation and density of its population."

Forty-four routes were selected for the test, located in twenty-nine states. The first three were established at Halltown, Uvilla, and Charles Town, West Virginia, on October 1, 1896. Since we are meeting here in the great State of Iowa, it is fitting that we mention the fact that one of the test routes was established at Morning Sun, Iowa, on November 10, 1896.

It would take far too much time to relate even the major stumbling blocks that haunted the test of this service during the first three years. The service was an unwelcome gift in some localities and was an embarrassment to those upon whom it was imposed without their solicitation.

However, the Department saw that great possibilities of social, industrial and educational development lay behind the projected extension of postal facilities in rural communities and that with proper care in the selection of localities, the service could be extended with great benefits to the people without any serious effect upon the revenues of the Government. In fact, there was indication of increased revenues to the postal establishment very early in the test where the new postal facilities were accepted and used to the fullest extent by the patrons. By 1900 petitions from every section of the country where this new service had been given a fair trial were being received in the Department, for extensions and establishment of this service.

The report of the First Assistant Postmaster General for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, shows that the 391 carriers, in the service at that time, were serving a population of about 275,000 and that more than 9 million pieces of mail were delivered and collected during the year.

The establishment of the rural free delivery service played a great part in the building and maintenance of roads from the very beginning. It is interesting to note that here in this city, Des Moines, Iowa, a "Good Roads Convention" was held on October 6, 1899, three years after the first route was established in Iowa, and among the resolutions adopted by this gathering was one reading as follows:

"Believing that the postal system of the General Government was instituted upon the

theory of serving without discrimination all the people in a just and liberal manner, and recognizing the many social and pecuniary advantages of rural free delivery mail service not only to the rural population, but also to all classes, and that such service is dependent on good roads: Therefore,

"RESOLVED: That we are in favor of such an appropriation by Congress as will insure the speedy and permanent establishment of such service throughout the country where the conditions as to good roads and population will justify, and that we hereby respectfully request our members of Congress, in both the Senate and House, to vote for such an appropriation."

As soon as the many advantages of this service were realized, the rural patrons of the postal service began to petition members of Congress for the establishment of this service and for extensions to existing service. They have kept it up continuously to the present time.

There has been nothing in the history of the postal service more remarkable than the growth of this service or more far reaching in advantages to the rural population. In many respects the establishment and maintenance of this service has been one of the most far reaching and significant of all public efforts during the last hundred years to promote the general welfare.

Notwithstanding the many early objections to this service because of anticipated cost, we have seen it grow to where it now serves more than one-fifth of the population of this country and the cost for the last fiscal year was more than 117 million dollars. Approximately 1½ million miles are traveled daily by the carriers. Extensions to the service are being made almost every day.

The establishment and maintenance of this service has increased the postal receipts; has enhanced the value of farm lands; has improved the conditions of farm life; has promoted the general level of intelligence and education; has been the greatest factor in promoting the building and the maintenance of roads; has promoted the greater production of farm products and has provided a home market for the American manufacturer.

Without rural free delivery the domestic parcel post would wither and could not be successful. Without this service millions of patrons would be deprived of daily access to newspapers and other reading material which not only keep them fully informed as to the daily events, but relieves monotony of farm life.

The rural carrier serving his route is really operating a traveling post office. He performs a necessary service, an important service and a responsible service.

The carrier is paid by the Government to render this service to the public. The public pays for postage at rates fixed by law. Therefore, this is a service performed for hire. The carrier has no competitor on his route. The patrons pay the same price for the kind of service rendered, no matter whether good or poor. It should be the desire of each and every carrier to render efficient and courteous service. The patron has a right to expect this and nothing less. The position was not created for the purpose of giving the carrier a job. The route was established for the rendition of proper postal facilities to the public and the job goes along with it. The man or woman who takes the job is obligated to perform the service required.

I am sure you all want to do that job efficiently and with all due courtesy. There may be some exceptions, but in the main good and courteous service is rendered by the rural

carrier. In doing this you are a credit to the community, to the Postal Service, and to your Government and to your Country.

We have the best postal service of any country in the world, yet there is room for improvement. We should constantly strive to make it better. We should not be content to stand still. It should be our constant endeavor to make it better. The public is always ready to pay the necessary cost for the right kind of service.

We in the Department try to be very humane in handling the problems of the rural carriers as well as those of the public. We are interested in your welfare and we are also interested in the character of service rendered to the public. Where there is no selfishness or self-centered interest on the part of the carrier and no unreasonable attitude on the part of patrons, we have no trouble or problems. The few problems that we do have that affect carriers are usually handled through the officers of your national organization. They are a splendid group of fellows. They represent you effectively and ably.

I come in contact very frequently with your able President Tom Walters. In Tom Walters you have a most capable leader. He is kind, courteous and at the same time efficient. He not only has the profound respect of all officials in the Department, but he has the high esteem of all members of Congress with whom he has had personal contact. He and your other national officers, Winquest, Folkers and Ellis have been on the job in your behalf, as has also the members of your Board. I desire to take this occasion to compliment them on the high plane on which they handle their problems with the Department. It is a pleasure to do business with them.

Now good folks, I know that you all know that we are living in the best Country on the face of the globe. We cannot begin to understand conditions in the other countries of the world merely from what we read. Only those who have seen can fully appreciate the plight of most of the peoples of the war-torn countries.

We want to keep our Country the best place in the World in which to live. In doing this we are faced with many problems. Never in my lifetime has a President been faced with a harder task than our own faithful and beloved President, Harry S. Truman. In going about our business, we can speak well of our Country, we can sow seeds that promote good will among our people and we can lend a helping hand to our Great President in supporting his program for the conversion to normalcy in this Country and Peace in the World. Let us do this and thereby make his path smoother and his task easier. It is in our interest and the interest of our Country to do this.

Thank you. (Applause)

Toastmaster Brayton. Thank you, Mr. Donaldson. We appreciate your being here and your remarks, not only for the information and inspiration conveyed, but the manner of their presentation. I think Mr. Walters could probably get in on this after the show we are going to put on with those stories of his.

He is better than the kid who came home from school and he was crying, and his father said, "What is the matter, Johnny?" The boy said, "I got a licking in school today and it was your fault. Last night you were trying to help me with my arithmetic. I asked you 'How much is a million dollars?' You told me that it was a Hell of a lot of money, and that ain't the right answer."

Jesse seems to have the answers to most of

them, so maybe you can catch him between here and parlor A.

I was very glad to hear Mr. Donaldson pay tribute to the Ladies, because in my experience in community and promotion work, I find that the gentlemen are inclined, on occasion, to sort of start a lot of things, but they don't always follow through, and that is where the Ladies come into the picture. Too many of the gentlemen are like the gentleman who wrote a letter to his girl in which he said: "I will climb the highest mountain for you; I will go through fire and water for you, P. S. I will be over to see you Friday if it does not rain." But the ladies always follow through.

I cannot think of anybody that I would rather have you meet than a Lady who is interested in and very proficient in the Postal Service, the Postmaster of Des Moines. I would like to have Miss Edith Johnson get up so you can see her.

... The audience applauded as Miss Johnson arose ...

Toastmaster Brayton. It takes the Ladies to sort of handle things.

Mrs. Brown took her husband to the doctor. He looked him over and then he looked at Mrs. Brown and said, "I don't like the looks of your husband." She replied, "I don't either, but he has always been good to the children."

Here is a lovely Miss, with a lovely voice. The next number of our all star entertainment program, Joan Cordaro.

... Song selections by Miss Cordaro ...

Toastmaster Brayton. That was Joan. Very good those theme songs. Did you hear the latest theme song? "Run For the Roundhouse, Kitty, He Can't Corner You There!" You have to keep up on these new theme songs.

I am very glad the flowers got here, but Gordon Walters missed a bet. He should have sent them by rural free delivery if he wanted them to get here on time. I don't know why he did not think of that, but I know you folks are going to help preserve, as Mr. Donaldson says, the happy medium.

We are always going to the extremes, from one extreme to the other. It is all right to tell a girl that she has pretty ankles, but don't compliment her too highly. Watch your step there. I would like to have you go ahead though. I agree with the fellow who thought it was better to have halitosis than no breath at all. Onward and upward. That is our motto. What I like about you folks is that you believe in the golden rule.

I heard a story that took place about 1896 and I just want to show you how times have changed. A father was talking to his son, about 50 years ago. He said, "The only way to get along is to try to get the better of the other fellow." He said, "Son, I want you to go down to the livery stable and see what they will charge to keep Bess for the winter. We want to put her up anyway, and I want you to go down there and get the best price that you possibly can."

The boy went down and talked to the man at the livery stable, and he came back to his father and said, "The price will be \$30 for the winter." His father said, "I want you to get a better price than that." The boy said, "That is what everybody pays. That is the regular price." His father said, "That is my point. I want you to go down there and get that fellow to come down a little."

The boy didn't like it but he went down anyway. He talked to the livery man and got him down to \$25 and gave him the works and finally got him down to half price, \$15. "I

got him down to \$15," he told his father. "I got him down to \$15 for old Bess." His father said, "That is all right, but I forgot to tell you but we have to have the manure, too." The boy said, "That is awful."

But he went back to the livery stable and told the man, "We will take that \$15 deal on old Bess, but we have to have the manure." The man said, "My boy, at \$15 there won't be any."

I really think there is a moral there—I think there is, really. Don't try to get any more than you think you have coming to you.

I know that we would like to have more of Phylis Hill, and I will be darned if she isn't coming back. Phylis Hill in a military number entitled, "On Parade."

... Tap routine by Phylis Hill ...

Toastmaster Brayton. That was Phylis, displaying her talent in the art of wooing the dance, terpsichory, I believe it is.

We have a gentleman here now, folks, who is known to all of you. I have enjoyed meeting him and getting better acquainted with him. I think one of the greatest things about Conventions, as somebody has already said, is that we do get together and exchange ideas. I have been very, very happy to get acquainted with the man, who, as Mr. Donaldson says, he still thinks of as a Congressman, although he is now connected with the Air Transport Service; and while I understand he has already been on your program, appearing before both the ladies and the gentlemen, I know that you will be glad to greet him in joint session. Mr. Robert Ramspeck, Executive Vice-President of the Air Transport Association of America, former Chairman of the House and one of the best of the peach crop; Mr. Ramspeck.

... The audience arose and applauded ...

Mr. Ramspeck. Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been in a lot of hot spots in these many years that I have been going to conventions of Federal Employees, but I never ran into a guy like this guy Brayton. (Laughter and applause)

I can well understand why they have a lot of Conventions in Des Moines. As far as I am concerned you can vote to come back here next year if you will invite me. I can get more stories out of him in 30 minutes than all the rest of the towns I have been in in 30 months. (Laughter and applause)

It is a little tough also, to try to compete with this entertainment they have here at the end of the hall. I would rather listen to the girl with the green dress than listen to myself. Phylis is not bad either. (Laughter) To say nothing of Yo-Yo. He made me a little nervous the way he sits on those chairs.

There is one consolation about this crowd. You are packed out there so close that you cannot get out whether you like what we are doing or not. (Laughter) You have to stay here. I got a little nervous when they began moving them up so close. I began to think, "What would we do on this platform if we had to dodge some cabbages or tomatoes?" There isn't enough room to dodge. You are too close to us.

It reminded me of the scientists who made a study of criminal actions and came to the conclusion that nobody ever committed a crime of violence after having had a good meal; so I felt that being an after-dinner speaker is not too dangerous after having such a good dinner as we were served here.

I heard one of the Junior Members of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association ask her mother a question that interested me very much. (The little girl said to her mother—

she was a teen-aged girl, just beginning to get interested in the other sex—and she said, “Mother, did you ever flirt any when you were a young girl?” Her mother said, “Yes, I did.” “Did you ever get punished for it?” Her mother hesitated for a minute, looked at the gentleman who was her husband, and she said, “Yes, I guess I did. I married your father.” (Laughter)

I was glad to meet my friend Jim Dolliver here; he was a member of the Post Office Committee and was my former colleague in the House and my personal friend. I wanted to tell this story while Jim was here. I know from experience, Mr. Brayton, that this is a good natured crowd. There are a lot of Republicans in this crowd, but they won't mind, I know.

Back in the days of war, we got a little excited in this country about Communists, and they brought up a new word that I did not remember much about before that. It was “subversive.” Congress got excited about it and they passed a law that nobody could work for the government if they belonged to an organization that was trying to overthrow the government, or belonged to a subversive element.

There was a darky down in Georgia taking a Civil Service examination for the government and they asked him that question: “Do you belong to an organization that is trying to overthrow the government?” He replied: “Yes.” The examiner was surprised, and he said, “Do you know what you are saying? You say you belong to an organization that is trying to overthrow the government—what is it?” The darky replied, “The Republicans.” (Laughter and applause)

Mr. Brayton said, “That is just a Georgia crowd that is clapping there.” (Laughter) We still have some Democrats. I found a few from Iowa. Since I have been in the Air Transport business, I am supposed to be neutral you know—whatever that is. (Laughter)

I am not going to make another speech here tonight. I made one this morning to the men, and then I made one for the ladies, and I told the ladies the truth. I like them better than I do the men. (Laughter) I didn't tell them that joke about the dream though. (Laughter and applause) I suspect that some of you men gave me away. I see some of the ladies clapping. (Laughter)

I have had a good time down here. I am sorry I am going to have to leave in the morning because the convention will not be over. Most of you know that is not my usual practice, but I have some things that I have to do back in Washington. I have to go to some more conventions, and I do just want to tell you that I like you folks, and I like to come to your Conventions. I appreciate what Jesse Donaldson had to say about me. I say that Bob Hannegan showed damned good sense when he appointed Jesse. (Applause) I have known him ever since I first went to Washington, and that has been a good while and he has always done a good job, wherever they put him. He is one fellow that has always got time to talk to you regardless of all the dodging he says that he does about your questions. I bet there are few of you that won't get to talk to him if you want to. And he can answer your questions too. Don't let him kid you about bringing Cooper and Stone along for that, because if there is anybody in Washington that knows the answers, it is Jesse Donaldson. He knows the answers.

Ed knows a lot and so does Earl. The first time I saw Earl he was a clerk in the Lynchburg Post Office. I am glad that he has gotten up in the Department. I know that you are all glad that Ed Cooper is there because he is

one of you. He has done a swell job. The truth about it is, I have said many, many times, that the postal service is the most satisfactory agency of our government, not only to the people it serves, but to the members of Congress.

I venture that when you go home, if you can find your Congressman, he will tell you that is true. (Laughter) Don't get mad with him if you don't find him between now and the first of October, because those boys need a little rest. They have had a tough time up there for the last seven years. I know because I was with them for six and a half years, and I got tired of it. (Laughter) I got tired of working for nothing. There are plenty of them that don't make as much as the rural letter carriers make. You might think I am kidding about that but I am talking about money they can put in their own pocket and use for their own purposes; not money they pay out for those hotels in Washington; not money they spend on constituents and feeding them there, and most of those constituents think they are getting it at government expense.

I sat down at a table a few weeks ago with a Republican friend from California. He had a man in the House restaurant with him. This fellow had never been to Washington before, and when they got through, the Congressman grabbed the check and he said, “I will let you have it, since it is on the government.” (Laughter) Of course, the Congressman did not have nerve enough to tell him it was not. One of my good friends from Michigan—he is also a Republican. See, I know these Republicans, and I like them. (Laughter) We don't want too many of them down in Georgia, that is all. (Laughter)

One of my friends from Michigan told me that he and his wife kept an accurate account last year and when he got through paying out the money that he had to spend because he had a job as a Congressman, he had \$3,750 left for his own use. Well, I am glad those boys raised the salary there and gave themselves an expense account and put them on retirement. (Applause) And when you get back home and meet the boys—they have gone on vacation they call it. Don't let them kid you. It isn't a vacation to go home now from Congress. (Laughter) You tell them, if you agree with me, that you are glad they raised the pay. If they are not worth what they raised it to, then get rid of them and get somebody else. (Applause) I think they are worth it. There is no crowd of public servants I know anything about that works harder. You may find a few drones, as you do in every group, but as a whole, they are doing a good job.

I am not talking about party. I kid a lot about it, but when it comes to America, I am an American first, and other things afterwards. (Laughter) I am glad they are on the retirement act, and I think perhaps the greatest satisfaction I got out of that act was that the newspaper down in my home town gave me hell for three months in 1942 about that very question of retirement; and it finally came out editorially and endorsed the action of Congress. So I feel better about it. It is a good thing for them. You will have a better Congress on account of it.

You will have men who can afford to stay there, even though they don't get as much money as they can make on the outside. I did not intend to get serious with you here tonight. I am really sincere about this Toastmaster here. He is the best I ever saw. (Applause) If I could remember as many funny stories as he can, I would get my pay raised with the Air Transport Association. (Laughter)

He said they were going to have a county fair here, and to wind up my part of the program, I would like to tell you a race horse story I heard the other day. An old fellow kept going up to the window—you know these pari-mutuel windows. I am not a race horse fan so I don't know much about it, but they tell me they have places to risk a little money if you feel that way. This fellow came to the same window and put money on a horse called Blue Bells in the fifth race.

After a half dozen times, the fellow standing by the window said, “Why are you so interested in Blue Bells? He is not going to win that fifth race.” The old fellow said, “How do you know?” The fellow said, “Well, to be perfectly frank with you, I own Blue Bells, and Blue Bells is not going to win.” The old fellow said, “All I can say to you is that it is going to be a damn slow race because the other four horses belong to me.” (Laughter and applause)

Toastmaster Brayton. Well, Mr. Ramspeck and I are old bosom friends by now. I am going to get him to put all that stuff in writing that he said. I heard a lot about him. In Georgia I heard a couple of fellows talking, and one said, “Bob Ramspeck ever finish that correspondence course he was taking?” The other said, “He sure did. I was in the Post Office when he graduated.” (Laughter)

I think it is a good thing to have kidding back and forth. Senator Wilson used to be governor and was at a farm meeting one day and a farmer came up and said, “Governor, I want you to meet my boys, 14 of them, and they are all mine and they are all Democrats.” The governor looked at all of them and the farmer said, “Well, all except Willy, the youngest one. The little rascal learned to read.” (Laughter and applause)

This is a wonderful audience here tonight. I don't know when I have had a more receptive and responsive and intelligent group. (Laughter) I am glad you can understand everything. Governor Wilson came from Adair County. When he was governor he donated a set of chimes to the church, and he went there the morning they were going to dedicate them. The chimes were ringing out in the fresh air, and he met an old friend of his. “How are you, Joe. Those chimes there, I am going to give them to the church.” The fellow said, “What did you say?” The governor said, “Those chimes, they are my gift to the church.” The fellow said, “I didn't hear you.” The governor said, “I am giving those chimes to the church.” The fellow said, “I can't hear a thing you say on account of them God damn bells keep ringing all the time.” (Laughter)

There is nothing like that here. We have an audience that understands and comprehends and goes right along with us. It is a great help, a big help. And I know that the next number on the program is going to delight your auditory senses as well as your visual ones. It is Nicky Feori the personality Miss with a vivacious voice. Nicky is ready and willing. O. K. Nicky.

Toastmaster Brayton. Now I will introduce Honorable J. Ed Cooper. (Applause)

Toastmaster Brayton. We have one more act on the program, Yo-Yo's little brother, just three and a half feet tall, who has a very outstanding and unusual number. Yo-Yo's little brother, coming up.

... Yo-Yo, the Clown entertained on stilts ...

Toastmaster Brayton. Thanks a lot, Yo-Yo. We said at the beginning that this would

be an all star program and I am sure you will agree. But we still have to greet and have greetings from another young gentleman who confesses to me that this is his first visit to Iowa, and that he is interested in agriculture. Anybody that is interested in agriculture and who has come to Iowa for the first time should stay a long while. We are very glad to have Earl Stone here, and I want you to meet him. Special administrative assistant to the first assistant Postmaster General. The Lynchburg Flash, Earl Stone.

Mr. Earl Stone. I hope I can come back to this wonderful state. I thought that Ed Cooper was my friend at one time. I told him that I had to make a speech—not on this occasion—and I asked him to tell me a good funny story which I could tell, and he said, "Earl Stone, you don't need to tell a funny story. If you want the people to laugh, just let them get a look at you and they will laugh themselves to death."

I will be around tomorrow, and I have already met a lot of you and I hope I will have the opportunity, during the day, tomorrow to do the same.

Toastmaster Brayton. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have had a wonderful evening, and now we have mail here that was just delivered.

... Announcements ...

Toastmaster Brayton. I don't have any world shattering observations, Ladies and Gentlemen. I don't know any way to press the button; and I agree with the fellow who said, "I believe the chances of getting rich in six months are just as poor as they ever were." But I believe this gang here has as much pep and spirit and inspiration and information as any gang I have ever seen.

It behooves me—and if you have never been behooved before you should be. It is a delightful sensation. We hope you take back the good things with you, and I hope you come back to Des Moines.

It reminds me of the story of the old mill in the New England town. The mill had been going to rack and ruin for years and then the war came along, and they put in new machinery and fixed it up and the old mill was humming with activity. The editor of the local paper ran a big story about it, with headlines and a picture of the old mill.

Just as the paper was going to go to press, a startling event took place in the town. An elderly widower of 72 married his secretary who was somewhere in the 20's. The editor decided that he could not let that pass, so he tore out the picture of the mill and substituted a picture of the old boy. But it seems that there was a slip up somewhere along the line because they forgot to remove the headline that he had put over the picture of the old mill, and when the paper came out on the street, there was the picture of the old man with the headline: "OLD POWER PLANT RESUMES OPERATION."

That is the key note of our convention. If you ever stopped operations, now is the time to resume them. I hope that you will continue through the years and be back here before too long. It has been a great pleasure to participate in this most salubrious occasion. God be with you until we meet again, and I will turn you back to Harley Shepherd for the benediction.

Chairman Shepherd. Is everybody happy? Have you enjoyed this meeting? When we were down in Cincinnati a few years ago we greatly enjoyed the talk given by the mayor of Cincinnati. I believe it was that fellow who was such a marvelous speaker and could give

more dates than anyone I ever heard. I promised you people down there that if you came to Des Moines we would present to you a man who could tell three stories to every date that man could think of. We believe that we have now fulfilled that promise.

In closing this meeting, I want to acknowledge on the part of the Iowa Association and the General Convention Committee, a lot of generous support throughout the entire preparations that has been provided us by the Des Moines Convention Bureau and Mr. Brayton; also to the generous assistance of our Postmaster, Miss Johnson, and particularly to the lady whose tireless effort and enthusiasm has arranged the entertainment for tonight's program—a lot of work—Mrs. Barnes. Mrs. Barnes, I would like to have you just stand up and take a bow.

We now bid you "Good night."
... The meeting adjourned at ten-forty o'clock ...

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

August 15, 1946

The meeting convened at nine-ten o'clock, President Walters presiding.

President Walters. Let the Convention come to order, please. The Members of the Ex-Servicemen's Club will advance the colors. Let's all stand.

... The colors were advanced by the Members of the Ex-Servicemen's Club and the audience recited "The Pledge of Allegiance"
...

President Walters. The Delegates from the State of North Carolina will have charge of the opening services.

H. M. Johnson (North Carolina). When we from North Carolina were requested by Brother Walters to take charge of the opening exercises, we concluded that you would like to know something about our state; some of the things that we have, those that are interesting. You notice he told us that the Tar Heel State would have charge of the exercises. Many of you, I suppose would like to know how the term Tar Heel originated. That is something that we do not know ourselves.

If you would ask the North Carolina folks you would probably get several different interpretations of the term Tar Heel. But when I was in school I remember that I was told one story that seems more appropriate than any I have heard since.

During the war for independence, a very important battle was fought in the state of North Carolina, at Guilford Court House. The Continental army was attempting to prevent the junction of two British armies which would doubtless overrun the Eastern part of North Carolina. General Greene decided to try to stop them at Guilford Court House. All of his army was not together, and therefore, he had to fill some places with raw troops.

A company of North Carolina soldiers that were untrained were stationed on the line at a spot that was not expected to be a hot spot; but after the battle started, it turned out to be the hottest spot of all, these North Carolina soldiers then retreated.

After the battle was over Cornwallis camped on the battleground and our soldiers retreated, but it was never determined that it was a British victory because Cornwallis said after that, that one or two more victories like that and the war would be over. On their retreat to the Dan River for protection, it was told General Greene about the

North Carolina troops retreating, and General Greene said that they should have put some tar on their heels so they could stick.

And that is the way we think that the phrase Tar Heel originated.

We have in North Carolina many things which some other states cannot boast. They have many things, we have heard about since we have been here, of which we cannot boast, so we all have something that we appreciate. North Carolina has the largest towel factory in the world. North Carolina has the largest rayon mill, the largest tobacco market, the only cigarette paper mill that we have in the United States, the largest tobacco processing center. If you have a package of cigarettes in your pocket, it is almost certain that those cigarettes were made in North Carolina. It has the oldest state university, the highest elevation East of the Rocky Mountains. Some of the most beautiful mountain scenery we find in the world is in the Land of the Sky, in the western part of North Carolina. It has the largest unincorporated town in the United States. It has the largest strawberry market in the world; and last, but not least, it has one of the best men that we have in the United States, to serve this Association as a National Committeeman. It has many other things that we are proud of.

When I told you that the soldiers retreated at Guilford Court House, that is the last time we have any record that any man from North Carolina ever ran from a fight. When North Carolina cast its lot with the South in the war between the States, it furnished more troops than any other state of the Confederation, and we suffered greater losses.

In the fighting of that war, North Carolina troops were the first to fall at battle; the foremost troops at Chickamauga, the foremost at Gettysburg, and the last man to stack arms at Appomattox was a Tar Heel.

We have some songs about our State that we wish to sing for you. The first is our state song, "Go North State."

... The North Carolina Delegation sang their state song, and then they sang "Ho for Carolina" ...

H. McN. Johnson. Our State motto is "To be," rather than "to sing."

"Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
The summer land, where the sun doth shine;

Where the weak grow strong, where the strong grow great;

Here's to down home, the old North State."

Now let's all stand and bow our heads for the invocation.

... Mrs. R. C. Winbarger sang the "Lord's Prayer" ...

President Walters. Thank you. I am sure that we all enjoyed and appreciated this service this morning. It seems that as we go along in this Convention, the opening services get better and better. I was just wondering how these folks from the Tar Heel State had all these songs with them, but they informed me that they had to get together last night and the words that one did not know the other did, and they finally got them together. They did know something about their home state songs, however.

Just before coming to this Convention I talked with the Honorable Jennings Randolph who is stranded in Chicago temporarily. The plane he was to leave there on this morning could not land in Des Moines due to the heavy clouds, and he will arrive in Des Moines about eleven-thirty, so he will be with us this afternoon.

... Announcements ...

Wylie J. Roberts (Arkansas). There is one thing that I would like to mention. I wonder if you fellows remember our little placards that we had with our state name on them so we could locate our State Delegation? Do you all remember those?

All right, now during the war we could easily understand why they were not here, but at this time, we can see the real need of them because we are a larger assembly and we need those placards back with us again. These placards are in storage in St. Paul, Minnesota, and we are having to pay storage on them there. It seems that it would be a good idea for us to bring them out of storage again and begin to put them in use, at least at the next National Convention.

So I would like to make a motion that our National Officers bring those out of storage and have them ready for use at our next National Convention; and if they are unsatisfactory for any reason that they devise some other means of having placards that will be usable for us in this Convention. If that is all right, and will have a second, I will make a motion to that effect.

John J. Eby (West Virginia). I second that motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion, duly seconded. Any discussion? If not, all in favor let it be known by saying "aye"; any opposed, say "no." It is carried and so ordered.

William B. Lindau (Idaho). The ladies over at the Savery Hotel have put up the placards or the place cards that remained of the stamps. I viewed them last night, and I think it could be of interest to ever member of the Association to view them. It certainly is a credit to the ladies and those that have taken time to work up such a unique picture, you might say, or a display of stamps, and it certainly is a pleasure to me to go and look at them again, and I urge every member to go and view them.

President Walters. The ladies have been invited to bring those over here. I imagine they will do that sometime during the Convention. I am not too sure about that, however.

Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, I have been asked to give the name and address of Mrs. Laws, who favored us with that lecture yesterday. Do you know her name and address? Several of the fellows would like to get in contact with her.

Sergeant-at-Arms Beezley (Missouri). Her name is Mrs. Vern Laws from Cabool, Missouri.

President Walters. Mrs. Vern Laws, Cabool, Missouri.

Mr. Pascoe, I wish you would see if the First Assistant Postmaster General is in the auditorium, and if so, escort him to the platform with some of the members of your Committee.

... The audience arose and applauded as Mr. Pascoe escorted Mr. Donaldson to the platform ...

... Further announcements ...

President Walters. You know, someone has well said that every man has three outstanding and important dates in his life; the date of his birth, the date of his marriage and the date of his death; but I feel this morning that I have allotted to me the fourth outstanding event of my life.

Having had the privilege and the pleasure

of knowing our speaker for a goodly number of years and before that time knowing him by reputation, having had the special privilege of a splendid relation with some members of Congress from my state who were very dear friends of the speaker, many years ago I was convinced that he was an outstanding leader in the Postal Service and an outstanding gentleman. Since I have had the opportunity of coming in personal contact with this gentleman, I am persuaded beyond any reasonable doubt that he is the best informed man in the Post Office Department because of his long years of service and the close student that he has been these years.

As I stated last night, this is the first National Convention of Rural Carriers he has attended, but I am sure that it will not be his last. So my friends, we are indeed fortunate to have with us the First Assistant Postmaster General, the friend of all Rural Carriers and postal employees, the Honorable Jesse M. Donaldson. Mr. Donaldson.

... The audience arose and applauded ...

Mr. Jesse M. Donaldson. Thank you, Mr. President. As your President has told you, this is the first opportunity I have had to attend one of your National Conventions. It has not been because I did not want to attend before, but it is because this is the first time that I have really had a chance and an opportunity to be with you in your national Convention.

I have been greatly impressed by the diligence of you folks in your Convention; the fact that you meet to solve your problems and with an interest in giving good service to the public. Sometimes in the past, conventions have been held, of postal workers, with only one thought in mind, and that was for having a good time and to talk about the things you wanted the government to do for you, and without any thought of discussing the things that you ought to do to give the public better service.

In your Conventions, there are many things that should have your attention. Unless they do, there is no need for a Convention. The purpose of your Convention, of course, is not only to discuss your problems and renew your acquaintances, but to determine means of benefitting not only yourselves, but the public that you serve. As long as you do that and take an interest in your Conventions and hold your Conventions for that purpose, you will survive. Otherwise, you will not.

I have been greatly impressed by this Convention, not only by the large attendance, but by the interest shown in it. I could not help noticing last night that during the length of time that elapsed from the time you got into your chairs in the dining room until the close of the meeting, you gave good attention and very few, if any, left the room.

I want to say, at the beginning, that I appreciate more than words could express, the many courtesies you have shown me while I have been here and the attention that you have given to your problems. I come to these Conventions, not merely to see you folks, but to see what you do in your Convention, to see what you are doing and what I can do to help you. Officials come from the Department to see what they can do to help you. I hope their attendance assists in solving our mutual problems and that when you leave your conventions, you have been benefited by their attendance.

As I said last night, every postal employee should take an interest in his organization. If a postal employee does not belong to his organization, he gives up good fellowship. He does not take an interest in his people or in the service. He does not progress very far.

And I have observed through the years that a great many of the complaints we get in the Department concerning the character of service rendered by rural carriers, or having to do with the conduct of rural carriers ordinarily is applicable to someone who is not a members of the organization or who never attends their conventions. (Applause)

You know, your National Officers, often visit the Department in the interest of one of your members who may have been investigated, or who may have been under question concerning his conduct, or character of service rendered; but seldom does one of the officers of your organization appear on the scene when it involves an employee that is not a member of the organization. Therefore, we don't see these officers very often, because it is not very often that we have any such cases against a member of this organization.

I have noticed that particularly, over the years. Occasionally there would be some complaint and some investigation made of a rural carrier, but in the majority of those cases, you will find that if the rural carrier involved is a member of the organization, he never attends a convention.

You folks hold a dignified position. Your position is just as dignified as any position in the postal service. You have more frequent contact with the public than any other postal worker. In your daily rounds you meet your patrons. The clerk in the post office, unless he serves a window, seldom meets the public.

A city carrier may go his rounds and seldom meet any of his patrons. But patrons come to the rural mail box to meet the rural carrier and therefore you have more constant personal contact with the public than any other group of postal employees.

So, therefore, your position could be classified as comparable to that of postmaster. You are a post office on wheels and you do meet the public, have constant daily contact with them. You transact almost every kind of postal business that is performed by the postal service, and it is becoming of us, then, to perfect this service in our communities and perform it in a dignified manner and in a courteous manner.

As I stated last night, the position was not created merely for the purpose of giving someone a job. The job goes with the service, and unless we view it in that light, we are not going to be any too successful. I know frequently complaints have been made by the public because of service rendered by the carriers. Although trivial in nature they are embarrassing to the postal service. There isn't any reason why we should quibble over little things, and to make a point of this I want to relate what transpired recently in a postmasters' Convention which I was attending. In an open forum, the postmasters were permitted to ask questions and an effort was made to answer all of them. One postmaster said, "I would like to ask whether it is incumbent upon me to go to the box section and take mail out of a post office box, maybe as often as once a week, so that it can be delivered on the rural route? This patron lives about a mile from the post office and has a box on the rural route as well as a lock box at the post office. Ordinarily he comes into town every day and picks up his mail at the box. Sometimes when he knows he is not coming into town or when he is going in another direction or when he is engaged upon his farm, he telephones the post office and says, 'Will you bring my mail out today?' This fellow rents the box and he ought to get his mail in the post office box or get it on the rural route. Why should I be required to go to the box four or five times a month

to pull the mail out that was distributed thereto for delivery on the rural route?"

There isn't any reason to try to answer a question like that. Any postmaster who would ask a question like that is certainly not interested in serving the public. There isn't any reason why we should not go to a little inconvenience ourselves to serve the public. There isn't any reason why a rural carrier serving his route should complain about some little thing he is required to do to serve the public. That is why the route was established, and that is why you are appointed to serve that route, to give the public that service. I know the public frequently complains about things where there is no justification for the complaint. But, nevertheless, your motto, "Service With a Smile," should be accompanied also once in a while with, "Why Argue?" Maybe the patron is always right, whether he is or not.

So I say in all sincerity to you, folks, that unless we in the postal service render the service that we are expected to render in a courteous manner and with a thought that we are doing this for the public and that we are the servants of the public, we will soon lose the respect of the public.

Now I want to read to you two short paragraphs on courtesy, which some of you may have heard, but which, nevertheless, are true, and while they are extravagant and the nature of the complaints themselves are unreasonable, it goes to show what kind of opinion the public forms sometimes because of some little omission on your part. Here is an article that appeared in a newspaper a few years ago with reference to courtesy on the part of postal people. I will read a part of it.

"One hundred years ago when a citizen went to a country post office in a country store to buy a single postage stamp to put on a letter he had in his hand, the postmaster handed him the stamp unwrapped. Today when a citizen goes to a city post office, built of granite to buy 1,000 stamps, they still hand them to him through a small hole, unwrapped. Filling stations under private ownership have made revolutionary changes and improvements in service within a few years. They are everywhere to serve. Many of them stay open at night and all day and they give the public all sorts of extra service without charge. They meet you with a smile, they fill your tires with air, your radiator with water, clean your windshield, look after your battery, supply you with road maps and information, all without charge.

"But who has ever seen an employee of a post office waste a smile on a customer? Who has ever seen a chair in a post office for an old man or a tired woman? Who has ever been thanked for purchases or asked to call again?"

Now, of course, that is an extravagant complaint, not directed, of course, to rural delivery service. But this gentleman who wrote this article, if we may call him a gentleman—(laughter)—was disgruntled because he was traveling about the country in an automobile and writing articles for newspapers. He was having his mail forwarded to the general delivery to the towns which he would reach in due time. And as a rule he arrived at his destination around six to seven or eight o'clock at night. He had to go to the post office to get his mail at the general delivery and he would find that the window would be closed. The window was open from such and such a time in the morning to such and such a time in the evening. He could not understand why somebody should not be in a post office 24 hours a day so as to meet the convenience of any customer, no matter what that inconvenience might be. So his

complaint is unwarranted; but nevertheless, it goes to show you that when someone of us do some little thing to offend a patron, the whole service is attacked.

Not many years ago, a newspaperman, and a learned man in England, made an investigation of the Civil Service in England, and he was disgusted because of some of the discourtesies that he received at the hands of some of the government employees, and he wrote a book on the subject, and among other things, he said this:

"A man cannot be content on a government job because he gets as much for doing his work badly as for doing it well. And there is no fear of discharge because any sort of a fool can hold a job forever in the Civil Service." He further states "That time is of no consequence, as all government employees are made into clerks, and come to have a clerk's disregard for time inasmuch as a delay is a relief and comfort and the more delays the better."

He adds that, "The work is impersonal as the clerks have arranged a system where nobody is to blame no matter what happens." (Laughter) The only significant thing about that article that might be appropriate to mention here is that I am amused a great many times at the alibis, and as he says: "The clerks have arranged a system where nobody is to blame, no matter what happens." Well, we have that once in a while in our service, where it does not make much difference what the complaint or the evidence is, some of us can work out the most beautiful alibi you ever saw. (Laughter)

You folks have come a long way since rural delivery was established, and you have gotten many things. There is not any reason why you should not continue to ask for things that you are justified in asking for. However, we should bear in mind that there is a limit to what the government or what the public can stand. Had you not had your organization and had there been no organization of any postal groups, I am doubtful whether you would have come as far as you have in the last 50 years.

Of course, you cannot do these things individually. They must be done in a sincere manner. You must be reasonable in all of your requests. You must not expect the things that are unreasonable, and when you approach things from that viewpoint, you will always find that your organization will make progress and will always find friendly people in the post office department to help you where they can. You will always find friendly people in the Congress to help you where they can.

Your organization, I think, started, if I remember correctly about 1903, and that was the first year that I had any experience in the postal service; and if I remember, your organization met at Chicago that first time.

President Walters. That is correct.

Mr. Donaldson. And with something less than 100 members. Look what you have today. You had a long stormy road, and much of the legislation that is beneficial to you has come to you in recent years. You went a long while without many of the things to which you are entitled. In the beginning, the pay of the rural carrier was very small, and when the rural delivery service was first established, the carriers were appointed—I don't know if it was politically or not—but they were just appointed. It went along that way for sometime, until the rural delivery service was put under Civil Service. Even back in those days when the salary of the rural carrier was small, so was the salary of

all postal workers small. And with the concern and effort of the National Officers of your organization and other postal organizations, you have constantly asked the postal department for improvements and asked Congress for increased salaries and benefits. When you were united and right you received them.

You now have annual leave, and you have sick leave. You have unemployment compensation, you have retirement; and perhaps last, but not least, you have earned your way into the hearts of Congress whereby it is possible for you to ask for and obtain legislation in your behalf whenever it is warranted.

Now, how are carriers appointed today? Ordinarily when a vacancy occurs an examination is conducted by the Civil Service Commission, and an eligible record is established. The Department is required to select for appointment one of the highest three eligibles, and the Department is required to conform to the law with reference to veterans preferences.

It is strange that in the last ten or twelve years that a great many of these positions have been filled by transfer, where no examinations have been held, and you perhaps don't know as well as we do in the Department, how many of these requests for transfer we receive every year. The requests come from clerks in post offices, from city carriers and from postmasters. And in the last ten or twelve years a great many of these postal employees from other branches of the service have been transferred to rural carriers. Why do they ask for these positions?

Because there is a feeling somewhere along the line that the position of the rural carrier is one of the most dignified and one of the best positions in the postal service. We have requests once in a while from secretaries to members of Congress for transfer to rural carrier positions. As long as there is great demand for these positions, and as long as there are a great many persons who file applications each time an examination is announced, just as long as that prevails, you can bet your last dollar that it is necessary for you, in order to hold these positions, to always give the best service possible or somebody somewhere, sometime will find a reason for bouncing you out.

The Civil Service Commission soon will begin to hold examinations all over the country where such has been requested by the post office department to establish eligible registers to fill vacancies that now exist. In fact, they already have announced and are holding some of these examinations. Some of these vacancies have been filled by the appointment of the bonded substitute as a war service indefinite. Some have been filled by examinations which were held merely for the purpose of establishing an eligible register from which a war service appointment has been made.

The only positions that have been filled on a permanent basis since war service appointments were started in October of 1943, has been where some other employee in the postal service or other branch of the Civil Service has been transferred to the rural route vacancy. I wish it were possible for me to say or state that all of those bonded substitutes who have received war service appointments or the temporaries who have been serving most faithfully could now receive the permanent appointment. I say that with respect to all of those who have conscientiously and diligently performed that service during this war period. But, of course, that is not in accordance with Civil Service.

If the war service appointee has no Civil Service status, he will have to compete in

an examination for the job unless the position is filled by transfer. But I do want to express my deep appreciation to the great number of war service indefinites who have performed this service during the war under trying conditions.

You people should know that we in the Department, I think, have fully understood your problems during the war and your problems today. I would like to be able to say something to you about when you will be able to get a new car. I would like to be able to say something to you about when you can have your cars repaired as frequently as is necessary for you to do that. But there is nothing that I can tell you that would shed any light upon the subject at all. I don't know when you will be able to get your new cars. You, perhaps, know more about it than I do. And many of you who have been seeking new cars probably have been put off from time to time and been given many alibis about it. My own hope and prayer would be that car production could get under way so that all of you could get the cars you need within a short time.

I also want to express my appreciation for the attendance in the Convention of this kind of the retired carriers.

Mr. President and members of your organization, that speaks well for your organization when members of your organization, some of whom have been retired for years, come many miles to attend your convention. It shows good fellowship in your organization, and that has been demonstrated in this Convention too.

I want to mention the subject of consolidation of rural routes. You all recall that ten or twelve years ago consolidations of rural routes were accelerated. Congress passed a law giving the Departments of the government permission to retire people in the government service with 30 years of service or more without regard to age, and for a period of one year, a great number of rural carriers were retired who met these requirements, and where consolidations could be effected.

You all know the story of the rural delivery service and the number of routes you had over the years and how the number of routes have been reduced through these consolidations; where you are now down to 32,000 routes.

During that one year, hundreds and hundreds of consolidations were made at a saving to the Department of something like 13 or 14 million dollars. That was the program in the depression years. I hope it never comes again. My heart sometimes was deeply affected by the fact that many carriers were retired who did not want to retire and many of them I knew could not carry on after retirement upon the small amount of annuity.

Well, it has all resulted in the lengthening of the rural delivery routes, and during the period of those consolidations there were a great many complaints from those who preferred that the consolidations not be made, but that an opportunity be created for the purpose of appointing additional carriers. During that period many complaints were received from members of Congress. There was some effort made to enact a law that would prohibit consolidations; and also limit the length of any route to not exceed 60 miles. In most cases the public was opposed to consolidations. The Department opposed the proposed legislation because most routes had been established in horse and buggy days. The routes were short and improved roads made it not only possible but necessary that routes be revised and consolidated.

I pointed out that if a route were 60 miles in length and the law prohibited the extension

of it, many people might be deprived of service, since it would be impossible to extend the route to even 61 or 62 or 63 miles. People who were without service, and who could be afforded service by extension would be forever deprived of rural delivery.

There was a promise made that we would attempt to hold the length of these routes to around 60 miles, or in no instances would we try to make a consolidation of a route where the length would be more than 60 miles. I followed that promise very religiously, and I am opposed personally now to extending these routes, even where good roads are involved to the length of 70 or 80 or 90 miles. (Applause)

Some of the carriers were anxious to have consolidations made and routes thereby lengthened because it increased the salary of the carrier; but I think you have all come to feel that good service cannot be rendered to the public even where you have good roads where the mileage is too great; and I really think that the task is too much upon an individual to sit in a car and drive 70 miles every day. So I have been trying to eliminate any such extensions or such consolidations that will provide a route of more than 60 miles, if we can handle it in that manner.

I think it is unwise in some sections of this country to make consolidations where the routes exceed 50 miles in length.

I have never been very happy about the situation of providing an auxiliary carrier for the winter season, where the regular carrier will serve his route nine months out of the year and then cut the route in half and serve it on that basis for the other three months out of the year. I would rather have good standard service, where the carrier serves his route every day in the same manner on scheduled time.

I would also like to point out to you rural carriers that our postmasters are the managers of their offices. They were appointed by the Postmaster General, or by the President to serve as manager for the respective offices, and we have to look to the Postmaster for the proper conduct of the service of his office.

Every clerk, every city carrier, every rural carrier is subordinate to the Postmaster. In many instances these rural routes are attached to small offices of the third or fourth class, where the rural carrier's salary is much greater than the compensation of the Postmaster, and this naturally sometimes results in little jealousies. Maybe the Postmaster would prefer to have the job of rural carrier, and maybe sometimes the rural carrier thinks that he is attached to a more important position than the Postmaster, so they don't get along so good. But if you want to be helpful to the post office department, and I know you all do, make up your minds that quarrels and jealousies are things beneath the dignity of government employees, and that you should make every effort to be just as good a fellow and have just as much fellowship with your Postmaster, as you do with your fellow rural carrier.

It is not always possible to appoint to office a perfect man or woman, whether it be postmaster or rural carrier. But, nevertheless, you folks should recognize that the Postmaster is the one that we correspond with, and the one that we look to to manage his office, and that also goes for the management of the rural route under your supervision.

There is not much of that in the postal service, but even one or two cases of that is not up to me to quarrel because today I cause I would like to see it perfect, if possible. In this world it is a matter of give

and take, and when you do your job, you must remember that. When I took my job as city carrier, I took it with the idea that I would do my very best to perform the service required of me. I didn't fuss at all about the inconveniences or my problems. I was grateful to get the job, and I thought it was up to me to serve it to the best of my ability.

As I have gone along through the Postal Service I have carried that conviction and feeling with me, and when I accepted my present position I took it with the thought that I have to do my best in that job, and it does not make any difference how many hours it takes in the day, or how many days in the week I have to work. It is up to me to do that job to the best of my ability. It is not up to me to quarrel because today I must put in ten hours and tomorrow nine. It is up to me to put in all the time that is necessary for me to do my duties, and when I cannot do that, then I am ready to step down and give it to somebody who will do it. (Applause)

I am for the shorter work week, and for all the improvements that have come along for the benefit of postal workers. They should never be treated any less fairly than workers in private industry or outside of the government service. (Applause) But our first problem, of course, is serving the public and approaching these things, year by year, whenever it is time to do that, and whenever it is possible. We are going to have to be careful in the immediate future, with reference to making requests which require legislative action, for further benefits to the postal or government workers.

You haven't gotten anything to which you were not entitled. You received two salary raises since July 1, 1945. I don't even say that the increases were ample if you compare it with the high cost of living. But, nevertheless, it was something, and it was a long step forward for you folks.

At first I wasn't sure that I quite agreed with the provisions of public law 134 with respect to the rural delivery service, especially with respect to grades. Well, it was probably because I was not used to it. Maybe it is all right. It does work a hardship on some, in some instances, and yet it is in line with the manner which all other postal workers have been treated. It does provide that if you are in grade nine, and you resign or retire that a new appointee starts in grade one. It does provide that a temporary serving a route that is vacant starts in grade one. Maybe that is all right. At first I could not quite reconcile myself to the provision that a man who traveled the same route and carried the same mail was not entitled to the same salary as the fellow who retired. But you have that with reference to your clerks in the Post Office and your carriers. They start at lower salary grades and each year, after satisfactory service, are elevated to a higher grade, and the more I have thought about it, the more I think that the salary grade wasn't a bad idea.

You know, you folks think you have lots of problems, and you have had during this war period, and especially with reference to equipment. You have had many things that bothered you; and I notice that when you come to these conventions you ask a great many questions about this and that, and I wonder whether you really have the mental hazards that you think you have.

It reminds me of the story of the farmer who hired a young man that was considered to be the best farm worker in the whole community. He put him to work one morning on sawing some wood, a job that he thought

would take about a day's time. He went back at noon to see how the hired hand was getting along and all the wood was sawed. He thought, "Indeed, I have one of the best hired men in the whole community."

The next morning he put him to piling the wood in the shed, a job that he thought would require six or seven hours. In three hours the job was completed. The weather being inclement, he thought, "If I keep this up and if this fellow keeps performing like this, he will run out of work."

So the next morning he put him in a shed to sort potatoes. He said, "John, you put all the good potatoes in this bin here and all those that are obviously bad, place them in this bin over there. And those that you have some doubt about you put in the middle bin, and I will look them over later." He went back after a couple of hours to see how the hired man was getting along, and just as he walked into the shed, the hired man toppled over in a faint.

He threw a bucket of water in his face. While he was coming to he noticed that only four or five potatoes had been sorted in the bins. He said, "What is the matter, John? Is the job too hard for you?" John said, "No the job isn't too hard, but these damn decisions just about kill me." (Laughter)

So, oftentimes, our problems are not problems. I think that you fellows do a good job of solving yours, and I was amused yesterday morning when I heard Congressman Dolliver telling the story of the man who stopped at the farm house and where the water had risen to the first floor and he saw a straw hat going back and forth in the water. I thought the Congressman was going to say, "That is the rural carrier passing on his route." (Laughter and applause)

You folks in some way will get around and perform your service, and the people in the post office department are grateful for it.

In conclusion I want to say that you have your national representation, and I am appreciative of the good work that they have done for you and the splendid contacts they made with the department. But it is no easy job for your national officers or your Board to perform entirely in accordance with your satisfaction. It isn't an easy job to be in Washington and try to make contacts with the Post Office Department and members of Congress and the departments that have to do with your building program, and the Departments that have to do with priorities on equipment and what not. It isn't just anybody that can come down there and represent you in an efficient and capable manner.

And over the years, all of your postal organizations have tried to send to Washington as their national officers, the people who are in position to accomplish the most for them. I have had a personal acquaintance with a great many of your former presidents of your organization. I don't mind saying to you that the splendid manner in which your own Ed Cooper acquitted himself as your President and his contact with the Department, his easy manner of going about the problems and discussing them with officials in the Department, attracted me to him, and I thought, "Here is somebody who can represent rural carriers very ably, and who will acquit himself with a great deal of credit if we select him as superintendent of the division of rural mails."

As I said last night, we made no mistake. (Applause)

Now, I have been First Assistant a little more than a year, and in that time I have had a great deal of contact with your national officers and your Board. Of course, you

know they have been pretty busy. They were busy along with the officers of the other organizations, pressing for legislation for salary increases. They took a great part in the successful conclusion of public law 134 and public law 386; and it isn't everybody that can do those things in a diplomatic and efficient manner and go about his business quietly.

You know, you cannot tell Congress what to do. You can kindly ask them what you would like to have them do. You cannot even go about talking about what you are going to accomplish, or you cannot print in your magazine what you are going to do if that thing that you are talking about requires legislation; because, after all, Congress does not differ from other bodies. They may be jealous of their prerogatives; and when they hear you say, "We are going to do so and so," some fellow is liable to say, "Well, let's see him accomplish that."

So it isn't any soft job to contact the various committees in Congress, and I have known some officers of some postal organizations that did not get very far with the members of these committees and who were not received very kindly by them. I have known some officers of postal organizations that were—what shall we say—kind of non compos mentis with the officials in the post office department.

It behooves us—and that is another good word that your toastmaster gave us last night—it behooves us to try to approach all of our objectives in a fair and open manner and in doing that try to select the people that are going to represent you and speak for you, in whom you have confidence, and in whom the officials of the Department and the Congress have confidence. I once heard a Chairman of an important Committee in the house say that the president of this particular organization—the president of this organization he was talking about—was one of the most sincere representatives that the postal groups ever had that came before his committee. The gentleman that he was talking about was the President of a certain organization and is no longer in the postal service. He was more or less uneducated, but he had a sincerity about him that made every member of Congress that he talked to want to help him.

He got places with his organization because of his sincerity. Sometimes I have talked to members of postal organizations and officers of postal organizations that I did not think were trying to be fair, and that I thought perhaps were not looking at both sides of the question. I thought, perhaps it was a little prejudice, and maybe I thought sometimes when they were talking to me that they had something under the desk that I did not see.

Well, that isn't so good for the organization which that particular man represents. But I do want to compliment you people in the selection of your national officers over the years, and I want to pay a high tribute to your President who has been untiring in your behalf during these last few years, and who has been just as important as any president of any other postal organization in that group that was trying to get salary increases for postal workers. I don't believe that there is any president of any postal organization today that has a better approach to his problems and who is better recognized over on the hill than our own good friend, Gordon Walters. (Applause)

When I got to my room yesterday morning, I found a basket of fruit, a little gift up there which I understand the members of the Board and the Ladies Auxiliary left for

me, and I want to express my appreciation for the thoughtfulness. I appreciate your courtesies here, and if there has been any pleasure in my attending this Convention, it has been all on my part. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I am grateful for the opportunity to come, and you can always be assured that you will find me fighting for you folks when you are right, and when you are wrong, you will find me saying "no."

Thank you very much.

. . . The audience arose and applauded . . .

President Walters. I know that we all appreciate our First Assistant Postmaster General taking time out of his busy life and coming to us to bring us this wonderful message.

Most of you had the privilege of at least seeing Miss Johnson, the Postmaster of Des Moines, at our opening exercises Monday morning, but at this time I would like to present Miss Johnson, Postmaster of Des Moines, to say whatever she might have on her mind. Miss Johnson.

Miss Johnson. Mr. Walters and Friends: Once again I want to tell you how very much we appreciate the large attendance that came to visit Iowa, and Mr. McVicar, our Mayor, asked you to come back in twelve years. I hope you will come back sooner than twelve years.

President Walters. Thank you, Miss Johnson.

We have with us a gentleman who has devoted many years of his life to the postal service. He is a native of the state of North Carolina, but many years ago, as thousands of others who were filled with determination and courage, he migrated westward and located in this city. He has attended more National Conventions of Rural Letter Carriers than the average rural carrier, and yet he has never served a rural route. The boys of this state tell me that he has attended rural carrier meetings in practically every county in this state.

Most of you have met the distinguished couple, Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Barnes, so at this time, we are happy indeed to recognize a man of great ability; a man who has meant so much to the rural service, a friend of all rural carriers, John Q. Barnes of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Barnes.

. . . The audience arose and applauded . . .

Mr John Q. Barnes. Mr. President and my good friends of the postal service, and also, I recognize the ladies, among whom I see my chief critic and inspiration. It is kind of a long jump from post office clerk to that of postmaster general; but you know, to my way of thinking, my job as a clerk is just as important to the efficiency of the service as Mr. Donaldson is in his position.

I have the feeling that it was that spirit that elevated Mr. Donaldson from the position of clerk and carrier to the honored and high position he now occupies. I think that should be the feeling of every man honored with a position in the government service.

I heard Mr. Donaldson remark about the postmaster being in charge of the service out of his particular route, and it reminded me of a little story that actually occurred in this state that I think is worth repeating. It seems that one of the older carriers at one of the smaller offices had been having considerable trouble with his postmaster. So an inspector was sent out to investigate, and when the inspector arrived he talked to

the old gentleman and explained to him what his duties were and he said to him: "Now, you will have to do what the postmaster says."

The old man looked at him and said, "I want to tell you one thing, Mr. Inspector; this is the fifth postmaster that has worked here under me."

It is not a new experience for me to have the happy privilege of attending a National Convention. I attended my first one at Peoria, Illinois in 1928. This is the second one in Des Moines and I have attended others in Baltimore, Portland and other cities. I know many of you personally, and before this Convention closes, I hope to know many more of you.

I am fully informed as to the joys and the trials too, experienced by a rural carrier. In 1919 I returned from World War I, and in November of that year received an appointment in the Des Moines Post Office, and was assigned to the rural pay section. I had already found out in my experiences that in order to get along with people you had to know them, and I immediately went out and got acquainted with the boys and girls in this state.

As my good friend, Gordon, has already told you, I go to rural carrier meetings, and the many, many fine friends that I have among that group have more than repaid me for all my efforts; and tonight, or whenever disaster shall strike my home, rural carriers will be the first that we will call. And when no more I am here on this earth, I hope it will be rural carriers who hear me to my final resting place.

I have had the pleasure at other conventions of greeting you members of the National Convention, but I never had the opportunity of making an address, and so I am very grateful to my good friend and brother, Gordon Walters, for this opportunity, and I wish to express to him my sincere thanks for his many courtesies to me and also to two of my nephews who are in educational work in his state. I know that everyone of you will pardon me if at this time I particularly greet the boys from my old home state. No matter how far away you go, or how long you stay, when you think of home, or meet somebody from there, it gives you a feeling that you just cannot quite understand. At this Convention I have met so many of the fine men and women from down in the South that I have been lifted as I have not been for many a day. It is a joy to me to greet the men and women from the land of my birth and the state that I love, North Carolina.

There is just one tragic thing about my having left the South. I lost my southern brogue. And I don't try to imitate it, for if there is anything in the world that is distasteful to me it is to hear someone trying to imitate a language that they did not acquire by birth, and that is the only way you can say, "You all."

I think my address perhaps will be somewhat different, and it is not too long, I hope; but it will be different from what you have been accustomed to hear. You have had other speakers here who have discussed the various problems of the service, and I want to talk to you a little while about things as I see them.

I only know what I learn from reading, listening to others and seeing things that happen from day to day. I do not expect to tell you anything that you do not know, but I sincerely hope that I may say something that will make you stop and think, for my dear friends, too long, too long many of us have permitted other people to do our thinking.

I have heard many fine things about the work you boys have done in your communities during the years just passed, and as equally fine things about the efficient service you have rendered your patrons. Since coming to this convention I have heard repetitions of the things I had already heard about the boys in this state, of how, before you would go out in the morning to serve your route, you would call anxious mothers, fathers, sweethearts and wives and tell them that you had letters from across the seas from loved one they were most anxious to hear from. And I have heard too of men, who after returning from their routes had found such letters that had arrived after their departure, and they had gone out on their own time and their own expense and delivered these letters.

You will never know, perhaps, what these acts meant to the people whom you favored; but they certainly deserve commendation and praise. They add to the prestige that you already enjoy, for certainly you occupy a most enviable position in the hearts and eyes of that great mass of American people that you are privileged to serve.

As to your Association, Gordon has already told you what I thought of that. I want to say to you that in my thinking, based on the observations that I have made through the years, that there is no better organization in existence today, and I compare it with fraternal organizations to which I belong. It is the most democratic organization in the world. I know of no organization where the mandates of the majority rule as they do in the rural carriers Association. And as a man who has studied it, who has studied conditions as they exist today and as they have existed in the past, let me beg you, plead with you, implore you to always keep your organization a democratic one.

I know of the hard work done by your President and his able corps of officers, and I know too of many tasks that they have performed in their own communities aside from the many hours they have put in in your interest. Surely all of you will take up the Association work with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. Go to it!

My remarks to you are based on my own conclusions as I see it. During the past year I have been highly complimented and honored for some of the service I have rendered individual carriers during the 25 years I was associated with the rural pay section in the Des Moines Office. Please let me make it clear that what I may have done was in a small way paying a debt. I wish I could have been of more serious service and the only thanks I should desire would be that you would always be ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, for Mankind is all of a family.

Not so long ago, just before our state convention I was walking along to work, and I was thinking about the coming of the State Convention of this State and of this National Convention, and I was thinking of some of the things I would like to say to the boys, and my mind went back to a man I had known about 20 years ago, and he said to me: "My interest in the organization is lagging, because I think it has accomplished all that it ever can."

I enumerated the great number of benefits that it had secured for you and I thought of the years, with the year in and year out progress it had made; and I said to myself: "Wasn't it pitiful?" And I laughed out loud. Just then two ladies and I think there was a man with them, passed me, and they turned around and looked at me as if to say, "That old man must either be happy or he is crazy."

Well, I believe you know I am happy most of the time, and perhaps I am a little bit daffy after all.

But I want to say to you, my good friends, that I get a lot out of life, and I pray that I may put a little into the life of my fellow men as I move on along this rugged uncertain road. For if we ever know true happiness, we will know it only because we attempt to bring happiness into the lives of others. I know that each of you realizes fully these are bewildering days, that try men's souls and challenge the very best within us each waking hour. This is no time for idle thinking, speaking or action. To think that your organization has reached the height of its power or that you as individuals cannot do anything about conditions as they exist today would be tragedy and spell disaster.

If your organization was something that could speak to you, it would tell you of the great accomplishments of the past. It would tell you of benefits you enjoy daily but take as a matter of course, without even giving a thought to the fact that someone had put in long and tedious hours securing them. I think it would say to you that you owed the pioneers of the rural service an everlasting debt of gratitude for their foresight and efforts.

At this point, I want to say to the retired carriers here that my hat is off to you for your loyalty to the service and Association, and I commend you for your presence here and you are not the forgotten men you may sometimes feel you are. As I see it, too, my friends, your organization would tell you of frontiers to be opened, of vistas yet unseen which must be viewed with hope, courage and determination, yes, and prayer. As I see it, too, your organization would tell you your greatest battles lie ahead of you. Please don't forget that.

Don't be like that man I referred to a while ago who said that he thought his organization had accomplished all that it could. The greatest battles you have ever faced are in the years ahead of you, and I want to tell you right now that that man I spoke about is no longer a rural carrier in the State of Iowa, and so far as I know, he may be in Fort Madison, and as far as I am concerned, that is all right too.

My good friends, you and you alone are the voice and sole representative of your organization. Its future depends on you and in all solemnity I say to you the future of your country depends on all of us as individuals. I am no longer talking to or for an organization. I am your friend, talking to you as individuals. I am speaking to each of you and I am speaking to myself as well. Each of us has a personal responsibility, and each of us is challenged in these trying days and there is an opportunity each hour of the day to show our loyalty to our country and to our God. The greatest need of the day is for every American citizen to realize his or her personal responsibility and to accept it.

Too long we have waited for our Congress or some conference to solve our problems. I tell you that peace is not to be legislated or settled in conferences, but it must be born in the hearts of men and women and it must be practiced in our daily dealings with each other. I say to you too that the most important conferences are not held in Washington, San Francisco or across the oceans, but in the sacred precincts of your homes and in meetings like the one you are holding here, and your actions here and in your daily lives can vitally affect the decisions of others. Our homes are the bulwark of our civilization, and in this age they are in far too many instances sadly neglected.

I remember as a boy how my father would say to me when I arrived home in the evening, "Son, I am glad you are home." My mother passed on when I was very small but I was blessed with a Christian stepmother, and the home life I knew as a boy has so vitally affected my life that I hold in sacred memory that dear old place. Nowadays, it is a race to see whether the children or the parents can stay out the latest. What kind of a home are you building, my friends? God pity you if you neglect your homes.

Do any of you play golf? I know some of you do. I don't; for in my few attempts I only tore up the sod and seldom got the ball very far. But here is a piece clipped from a periodical I receive, which likens golf to the game of life. It has a world of meaning. Listen to it.

A GOLFER'S PRAYER

"When facing outward on life's tee,
Whate'er may be my fate, Grant, I pray,
This boon to me, that I may drive them
Straight. And if my best be not enough,
Then give me courage high,
To go out there into the rough
And play them as they lie.
And when on life's broad putting green
Others make the cup,
If I do not, may I come clean
And always be well up.
So when my game of Life is played
And my clubs are laid aside,
No matter what mistakes I've made
May I have qualified."

My friends, may you and I so conduct our individual lives in our actions and in our dealings with our fellowmen that we will "qualify."

I am a Veteran of World War I, and I have taken a lot of interest in talking with Veterans of the terrible conflict which has ceased. No longer is there the sound of cannon or the roar of planes dropping their missiles of destruction. No longer are the flower of our youth blown into eternity or maimed for life, but the peace for which they fought and died and for which we have so long hoped and prayed has not been realized, and the boys who have returned home are disillusioned and sadly disappointed.

Recently I read an article in the Readers Digest bearing on this subject and more recently a Veteran of the Pacific area came to my home to estimate the cost of some work. He was a retiring sort of chap, a swell boy, and I know a fine soldier. When he arrived at my home he said he was in quite a hurry, but when he learned I was a Veteran with a sympathetic heart and ear he loosened up and we talked, or he did, through the house and out into the yard, down the driveway and into the street, and the remarks of that boy brought back so vividly the article on page 74 of the April 1946 issue of the Readers Digest that I here quote four paragraphs:

"War is ugliness. War is death. War is destruction. War is heartbreak and sorrow. The men who fight wars, when they fight them, hate war. They hate its blood and carnage, its grime and filth, its demands on their bodies. They hate its separations, its regimentation. But when wars are over, day after day that's easier to forget.

"You don't forget the other side of war. You don't forget that in war you found the only Christian brotherhood you ever knew. You don't forget that in war you found complete selflessness. You don't forget that in war there is learning that a man could love the other fellow more than himself, if only for a minute, an hour, a day. You

don't forget that in war you saw men who loved life give their lives for you.

"I didn't know that kind of living before I went to war. I haven't known it since. I miss it. The absence of it, the brutal contradiction of it in peace, makes it the harder to forget.

"We have returned to a world at peace. It is a world of dog-eat-dog. Probably it has always been like this. Probably it hasn't changed much. Probably we haven't either. We've taken up our places in this world, and are living by its rules. But we can't forget that once we knew, and were, men who lived and died by other rules."

My friends, that Veteran that I shall not soon forget, told in other words, the paragraphs I have just read, and voiced the mute thought of a tired humanity hungry for kindness, consideration, encouragement and help. These Veterans do not want us to unfurl the flags and get out the drums in honor of them. They want help to build a world founded on the ideals for which they thought they were fighting.

Why are we having all this turmoil and unhappiness in the United States today? You know the answer. It is because the Golden Rule and Sermon on the Mount are not considered in our every day lives. We do not love each other. Personal ambitions and selfish interest dominate our lives, and unless we overcome these evils we are doomed. You cannot teach Democracy to a hungry child. You cannot make a cold and naked person believe there is such a thing as a good samaritan. Nor can you lead a sick person to believe in the ideals for which the Great Teacher died. We must do something practical about their conditions if we expect them to accept us as neighbors and friends.

My good friends, it was only through a kind Providence and the cooperation of the citizens of the United States that we were able to produce the necessary implements and furnish our men in order that we could win this war. It could have been different, and it might have been our children who were hungry; and whatever this great country of ours does in the next few years will determine its standing among the nations of the earth, and what you do as individuals may determine the future of your children, and of the generations yet unborn.

President Washington said: "Among all the habits and dispositions of men that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

General McArthur is quoted as saying: "The world will not be saved by war, but by the Spirit."

We hear much about tolerance. Somehow I don't like to use the word any more. Rather I like the expression, "Live and let live." You go to your lodge and I'll go to mine. You vote your way and I'll vote mine. You go to your Church and I'll go to mine. But let us walk along the road together. We are, all of us, standing at the foot of a mountain looking up at the summit, a common goal for all, peace. As we march upward we get closer together, and finally we shall reach our goal and be united.

Do we really yearn for a friendly world where peace reigns? A world in which we can move forward in happiness and contentment, rear our children and leave them a heritage to pass on to generations yet unborn? If we do, we must work for and build towards it. It will not come by wishful thinking or be handed to us by Fate or a kindly providence. It will come only by unselfish, courageous living on our part, every step of the way. The future of our country is not in the hands of Fate. The future of this great

United States is in our hands, your hands, and mine.

And peace will come and the kind of a world that we wish for will come only by that which I have mentioned: unselfish, courageous living on our part, every step of the way.

"Will men be wise enough when peace shall come
To cherish it beyond all thought of gain;
To hold it as the ultimate, the sum of dearest things,
No matter what the pain?"

"A world at peace! How infinitely good,
When home and office, shop and farm
Shall fill their unharrassed roles in brotherhood,
And selfless shall bring a better day.

"More than a cessation of war is peace:
It is a strong, a flaming holy fire
That seeks with passion a bound world's release,
Ready with sacrifice for its desire.

"Not easy this, but glorious the task
To build—all of us—the world we ask."

Thank you.
Vice-President Winquest assumed the Chair . . .

Chairman Winquest. Mr. Barnes, I assure you it is the sentiment of this entire Convention that we are very happy that you have had a part on our program, and we are very happy to have had this opportunity to hear this wonderful message that you have brought us; and I know that the Convention also appreciates very much the keen interest that you and Mrs. Barnes have manifested in making this Convention the grand Convention that it is.

. . . Announcements . . .

Chairman Winquest. I believe that the program now calls for the report of the Credentials Committee.

Frank H. Cranor (Kentucky). Mr. President, Fellow Delegates and Visitors: I want to apologize just a little bit before I read my report. I am afraid a lot of the Delegates have been looking for the Credentials Committee and could not find it. We have had a hard time. We were assigned a room and had to share a room with another committee. Yesterday—they had rented the room out the previous night to a man who was not a rural carrier—and yesterday morning we could not get in. He refused to vacate. He locked the door and told them he would not come out until he was ready. So we chased around, and I am afraid a lot of the Delegates hunted around and could not find us. I am going to read this report and ask that each state watch the report. If there are any corrections, and the Convention grants us that privilege of correcting it after we read it, we will be glad to do it.

I find that there are a lot of hard names to pronounce, and I am not familiar with them, so if I make a mistake, you can say that I don't know my pronunciation or it might be an error. I might get out of it that way.

State	Members	Delegates	Reported
Alabama	920	10	10
G. C. Harris*			
J. C. Weatherwax*			
H. E. Bolton			
R. E. Ables			
W. B. Wheeler			

State	Members Delegates Reported			State	Members Delegates Reported			State	Members Delegates Reported		
J. C. Cain R. L. Duffey H. F. Roberts F. F. Cheshire Jas. N. Stewart				Harry Gibbs J. Blaine Marlow				Wynn Armstrong Edward Pleune Georgiana K. Peet			
Arkansas 556	7	7		Indiana 1202	13	13		Minnesota 1174	13	9	
Byron C. Pascoe*				Ira M. Cleveland*				Delvert Cates*			
H. G. Proctor				Bruce Johnson*				Harvey Gugisberg*			
Wylie J. Roberts				Benjamin Welch				Al Houston			
Charlie M. Whitman				Ralph F. Fry				Ben F. Ostirgren			
Weaver W. Mills				Wallace G. Kaiser				Rolf Solum			
W. O. Haynes				Ross Immel				Frank Loney			
John R. May				Thomas Comer				Victor Peterson			
Arizona 29	1	1		Charles Pence				Mark Stroebel			
Andrew J. Walker*				Charles R. Okel				Lee Arnold			
California 359	5	5		Reid H. Long				Ernest Johnston			
Gabriel Coigny*				Nellie Drybread				Mississippi 678	8	8	
William H. James				William Bach				Carl D. Barnes*			
Kenneth A. Lawton				Ralph Staniper				Claud V. Murphy			
Maurice E. Clark				Iowa 1339	15	15		Hubert F. Mills			
Elwood Gray				H. G. Courtney*				Louis L. Vise			
Thomas J. McDonald				Harley V. Shepherd*				James M. Guyton			
William A. Ryhiner				Sheldon Boyle				Charlie B. Allen			
Colorado 238	2	2		J. A. Hays				Roy R. Knight			
Walter M. Bashford*				Elmo I. Whitmer				Elmer A. Caples			
Joe A. Hill				H. L. Van Voorhis				Missouri 1431	15	15	
Connecticut 131	2	2		Henry Hannasch				Floy E. Beezley*			
Freeman R. Nelson*				Leland S. Creger				Henry Muehlendyck*			
Richard N. Platte				Claude K. Phillip				L. S. Bartelsmeyer			
(* denotes Delegates at Large)				Otto A. Reif				A. A. Nagel			
Delaware 56	2	1		Geo. H. Dale				Arthur E. Constance			
Lyndal C. Hayman*				Willis A. Sterns				M. A. Barte			
Florida 288	4	4		Henry Mehlow				Roy H. Gwinn			
Joseph J. Nicholas*				L. H. Schenk				W. E. Graddy			
Harry J. McCully				S. E. Straly				Lawrence Hall			
Loy Carlan				D. M. Isenberg				Roy V. Gilbert			
T. G. Henry				Kansas 1063	12	7		W. L. McMichael			
Georgia 1335	14	14		Charles E. Kellogg*				Randal N. Davis			
Solon W. Ware*				Kenneth W. Taylor*				Paul Benson			
Nance Grant*				William J. Clements				Glen J. Kirkpatrick			
E. L. Jaillet*				Edwin N. Bailey				John Williams			
E. S. Sisk				Orrie Dickason				Montana 129	2	1	
T. E. Kingery				Edward Bradshaw				John L. McCammon*			
C. W. Beardsley				Alfred C. Mauzey				Nebraska 751	9	9	
Warren B. Bledsoe				Kentucky 827	9	7		John C. Wright Jr.*			
J. D. Clark				Frank H. Cranor*				M. R. Bowman			
L. F. Quattlebaum				O. C. Leathers*				Joseph Barta			
C. B. McCook				Richard V. Omar				Cliff Goedrich			
W. A. Keown				Stanley F. Jones				W. S. MacDonald			
Geo. T. Saunders				John C. Stevenson				Ralph Dodson			
W. R. Fortune				Paul J. Rollins				C. W. Beam			
J. O. Dillard				J. Traver Stevens				Chas. R. Larsen			
Idaho 122	2	1		Louisiana 217	3	3		James D. McCall			
Wm. B. Lindan*				Ernest Robertson*				New Hampshire ..195	3	2	
Illinois 1808	19	19		Andrew Delaney				Narvin S. Bennett*			
Fred E. Sanders*				Crit Petty				Richard S. Moody			
Walter K. Gumble*				Maine 361	5	3		New Jersey 176	3	2	
P. W. Casperson*				Byron L. Burrill*				Stanley Dorey*			
Delbert Wright				Ralph M. Pearl				Russell Peters			
Erwin C. Schultz				Winfield H. Downs				New Mexico 45	1	1	
F. A. Grimm				Maryland 219	3	2		B. A. Tillman*			
Grover Norvell				James C. Myers*				New York 1333	14	14	
Ed Christner				Stanley S. Sentman				Clarence H. Osterhout*			
Harold Dabb				Massachusetts 253	4	4		Burdette W. Blayfoot*			
Floyd Weihler				Woodworth J. Rice*				Roswell P. Barrow			
Erwin Nelson				Robert S. Childs				Harrison Toby			
Edgar Gordon				Willard A. Pease				Percey W. Gazley			
Lloyd Stezkorn				George H. Walker				Leslie Ford			
Sam Sheets				Michigan 1186	13	13		Lester A. Stead			
Robert Brasell				William Van Hartesvelt Jr.*				Ross Mathews			
W. E. Mabee				Floyd Allshouse*				Leigh Pickup			
Lee Kasserman				Hay Betts				Raymond H. Combs			
				Harold Laug				Giles Hollenbeck			
				Howard Emmons				John J. Tracy			
				George Coon				George Cratsby			
				Ivan Crist				Arthur Croach			
				Charles A. Iler							
				Otto R. Tara							
				John Churchill							

State	Members	Delegates	Reported	State	Members	Delegates	Reported
North Carolina . . . 1104	12	12		Ca. A. Jeter, Jr.			
Roy E. Mills				South Dakota 554	7	7	
W. J. Cotton				A. B. Custer*			
R. Clyde Winebarger				H. H. Laird			
A. B. Laughter				R. J. Vanden Berge			
J. W. Reid				R. R. Patterson			
D. L. Boyette				Mr. R. Joyce			
H. C. Myers				R. O. Nelson			
James R. Teabeaut				Wm. Girrets			
Kenneth Taylor				Tennessee 1257	14	8	
H. McN. Johnson				C. E. Dodson*			
Claud Council				H. H. Hardison*			
M. O. Bowman				O. B. DePriest			
North Dakota 556	7	6		Ira D. Park			
Andrew Hintz*				J. W. Coppa			
Albert Larson				B. J. Ramsey			
Chauncey W. Gwinn				J. M. Gates			
Arthur H. Bird				Clifton J. Brown			
John Underdahl				Texas 1680	18	11	
A. R. Newman				Oran T. Grey*			
Ohio 1651	18	18		Harvey E. Fisher*			
H. Roy Ellis, Pres.*				Bun Raley*			
Paul W. Morton*				J. E. M. Hamilton			
Ralph H. Littick*				A. C. McKay			
Murray Watkins				Harry Roddy			
LeRoy Beery				W. C. Fote			
Hobart L. Baker				E. B. Hesse			
H. L. Seaman				W. F. Ostoid			
Sherman Darrah				Jimmie Earle			
Ira B. Young				Vermont 254	4	4	
Marten Merryfield				W. O. Kent*			
Pearl Russell				James P. Wheatley			
J. J. Kindler				Allyn W. Dean			
Russell S. Landis				Ralph Fifield			
Ray Adcock				Virginia 810	9	5	
E. A. Ailes				W. L. Snyder*			
Guy Daffron				Odell Howerton*			
Harvey Alexander				R. H. Patrick			
William Teismann				W. D. Meade			
Oklahoma 804	9	8		W. L. Hamersley			
Herman Winterfeldt*				Washington 343	4	4	
John Moren*				S. S. Neher*			
Chas. F. Hayes				M. R. Slavens			
H. C. Campbell				Austin E. Dodd			
Chas. T. Benefiel				Wyatt F. Ranlett			
Henry A. Quillin				West Virginia 328	4	4	
Elbert Stubbs				Presley J. Bragg*			
Frank Shannon				S. Murry McWharter			
Oregon 185	3	3		John J. Eby			
Robert C. Taylor*				P. Wayne Harner			
Frank J. Walworth				Wisconsin 1264	14	14	
James A. Remington				Clyde F. Gibbs*			
Pennsylvania 1600	17	14		Percy Voight*			
Milton Miller*				Ed Herriges			
John R. Hamm*				A. C. Knief			
M. A. Detwiler*				R. A. Woerpel			
William H. Howard				Roy Smith			
Floyd E. Ray				2 Alabama	G. C. Harris		
Marvin M. Young					J. C. Weatherwax		
A. Herbert Barto				1 Arizona	A. J. Walker		
John A. VanBuskirk				1 Arkansas	B. C. Pascoe		
George Weidman				1 California	Gabriel Coigney		
Ralph J. Schmeyer				1 Colorado	W. M. Basford		
Harry A. Bair				1 Connecticut	F. Nelson		
Charles A. Parks				1 Delaware	L. Haymen		
Max B. Lightner				1 Florida	J. J. Nicholas		
Joseph T. Zeigler				2 Georgia	S. W. Ware		
Rhode Island 51	2	2			Nace Grant		
James A. Marceau*				1 Idaho	Wm. B. Lindon		
Norman Baxter				3 Illinois	F. E. Sanders		
South Carolina . . . 574	7	7			W. K. Gumble		
L. S. Griffin*					P. W. Caspesson		
J. A. Mitchell					Ira Cleveland		
C. E. Davis				2 Indiana	Bruce Johnson		
S. B. Godwin							
C. Earl Johnson							
K. H. Patrick							

Arnold March			
Ed J. Johnson			
Eilburn Shreve			
L. G. Rindfleisch			
Fred Miller			
Ted B. Domke			
E. A. Ramaker			
G. F. Bartelt			
Wyoming 34	1	1	
Harry H. Larson*			
TOTAL: . . 31,520	364	327	

This report is respectfully submitted by the Committee: Frank H. Cranor, Chairman, Milt Miller and Percy Voight.

Chairman Winquest. Thank you very much, Chairman Cranor, for that report. The Convention has heard the report from the Credentials Committee. What is the desire of the Convention?

Wylie J. Roberts (Arkansas). I move you that the report be adopted with the privilege of making any corrections that may be made and that we accept this report, with our thanks.

William E. Mabee (Illinois). I second that motion.

Chairman Winquest. You have heard the motion and the second. Are there any remarks? If not, all those in favor signify by saying "aye"; contrary, the same. The motion is carried.

. . . Announcements . . .

Chairman Winquest. Is John Hart of the United Airlines in the room? If not, we will have the report of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee at this time. Mr. Johnson from Indiana, Chairman of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee.

Bruce Johnson (Indiana). Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Rural Carriers and Friends, it was with much fear and trembling that I accepted this task as Chairman of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee. It is entirely new to me and also to each member of my Committee. None of us had ever served on this Committee before. So we did our best and we hope and pray that from our decision there may not be too many appeals.

There may be some discrepancies between our report and minor discrepancies between the Credentials Committee Report, and that will be thrashed out in our Committee Room; however, here is the report: I will read the name, and the first figure I will give will be the miles traveled; the second will be the mileage amount, and the third column will be the per diem amount. The fourth column will be the final or total amount accepted.

Clanton	916	54.96	20.00	74.96
Moulton	770	46.20	20.00	66.20
Higley	1493	89.58	20.00	109.58
Newark	501	30.06	20.00	50.06
Orange Cove	2010	120.60	20.00	140.60
Wray	540	32.40	20.00	52.40
Pomfest Center	1322	79.32	20.00	99.32
Delmar	1095	65.70	20.00	85.70
Orlando	1374	82.44	20.00	102.44
Woodbury	969	58.14	20.00	78.14
Alto	1035	62.10	20.00	82.10
Martaugh	1271	76.26	20.00	96.26
Centralia	425	25.50	20.00	45.50
Sutter	190	11.40	20.00	31.40
New Athens	380	22.80	20.00	42.80
Caralise	500	30.00	20.00	50.00
Elwood	525	31.50	20.00	51.50

2 Iowa	H. G. Courtney	Norwalk	10	.60	20.00	20.60
	H. V. Shepherd	Newton	35	2.80	20.00	22.10
2 Kansas	C. E. Kellogg	Niles	372	22.32	25.00	47.32
	K. W. Taylor	White Whater	407	24.42	20.00	44.42
2 Kentucky	F. H. Cranes	Owenshire	550	33.00	25.00	58.00
	O. C. Leathers	Lexington	663	39.78	20.00	59.78
1 Louisiana	E. Robertson	Alexandria	848	50.88	20.00	70.88
1 Maine	Byron Burrill	Corina	1645	98.70	20.00	118.70
1 Maryland	J. C. Myers	Rannytown	978	58.68	25.00	83.68
1 Massachusetts	W. Rice	Millis	1315	78.90	20.00	98.90
2 Michigan	W. Van Hartsvelt	Fenville	490	29.40	20.00	49.40
	Floyd Allshouse	Chelsea	556	33.90	20.00	53.90
2 Minnesota	H. Gugisburg	Biggon	230	13.80	20.00	33.80
	Delbert Cates	Prior Lake	236	14.16	20.00	34.16
1 Mississippi	Carl D. Barnes	Crystal Springs	870	52.20	20.00	70.20
2 Missouri	Floyd Beezley	St. James	344	20.64	20.00	40.64
	H. Muehlyngce	Chesterfield	358	21.48	20.00	41.48
1 Montana	J. L. McCommon	Huntley	1070	64.20	20.00	84.20
1 Nebraska	J. C. Wright Jr.	Alliance	630	37.80	20.00	57.80
1 New Hampshire	M. S. Bennett	Gilmontown	1440	86.40	20.00	106.40
		Iron Works				
1 New Jersey	S. Dorsey	Spillman	1130	67.80	25.00	92.80
1 New Mexico	B. A. Tillman	Cameron	1000	60.00	20.00	80.00
2 New York	C. H. Osterhout	Delmar	1156	69.36	20.00	89.36
	B. W. Playfoot	Horseheads	994	59.64	20.00	79.64
2 North Carolina	Ray E. Mills	China Grove	1027	61.62	20.00	81.62
	W. J. Cotton	Farway Springs	1148	68.88	20.00	88.88
1 North Dakota	Andrew Hintz	Marx	772	46.32	20.00	66.32
3 Ohio	H. Ray Ellis	North Lawrence	691	41.46	20.00	61.46
	Paul W. Morton	Freeport	716	42.96	20.00	62.96
	R. H. Littick	Adamsville	700	42.00	20.00	62.00
2 Oklahoma	H. Winterfell	Stigler	533	31.98	20.00	51.98
	John Moren	Howe	570	34.20	20.00	54.20
1 Oregon	R. C. Taylor	Astoria	2003	120.18	20.00	140.18
3 Pennsylvania	M. Miller	Penn Argyl	1126	67.56	25.00	92.56
	J. R. Hamm	New Oxford	997	59.82	20.00	79.82
	M. A. Detwiler	Chambersburg	955	57.30	20.00	77.30
	J. A. Marcean	Valley Falls	1330	79.80	20.00	99.80
1 Rhode Island	L. S. Griffin	Central	1008	60.18	25.00	85.18
1 South Carolina	A. B. Custer	Wolsey	410	24.60	20.00	44.60
1 South Dakota	C. C. Sullivan	Lexington	636	38.16	20.00	58.16
2 Tennessee	H. H. Hardison	Carters Creek	677	40.62	20.00	60.62
	O. F. Gray	Florence	888	52.92	20.00	70.92
3 Texas	Harvey Fisher	Dublin	834	50.04	20.00	70.04
	Bun Raley	Valley Mills	830	49.80	20.00	69.80
	W. O. Kent	Rochester	1281	76.86	20.00	96.86
1 Vermont	W. L. Snyder	Clarksville	1067	64.02	20.00	84.02
2 Virginia	O. Hamerton	Concord	1027	61.62	20.00	81.62
	S. S. Neher	Wenatchee	1823	109.38	20.00	129.38
1 Washington	P. J. Brogg	Orlando	886	53.16	20.00	73.16
1 West Virginia	Percy Voight	Loyal	400	24.00	25.00	49.00
2 Wisconsin	C. F. Gibbs	Barnum	256	15.36	20.00	35.36
1 Wyoming	H. H. Larson	Alvin	620	37.20	20.00	57.20

You will notice that in some of these figures there is an extra \$5.00. Those are the men who served on the Resolutions Committee and the Credentials Committee. They are entitled to an extra day.

I want to say that the Committee has co-operated with me faithfully and loyally and we spent many hours over this report, and I hope we have not made too many mistakes. It would be a very rare occasion if there were not some mistakes made. As has been the custom we have taken the mileage from the Rand McNally current Road Map. It would vary in some cases from the mileage you presented to your Committee. Some credentials had no mileage on them at all.

I will say this: If there are those who would care to have these figures reconsidered, they can meet with my Committee in parlor D, and we will go over the figures with you anytime after this report is complete.

This report is respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Chairman, Gabriel Coigney, Ernest Robertson, Marvin Bennett and Presley J. Bragg.

Thank you.

Chairman Winquest. Thank you Mr. Johnson.

Carl D. Barnes (Mississippi). I wish to

move the adoption of the report and give them a vote of thanks for a job well done.

Joseph J. Nicholas (Florida). I second that motion.

Chairman Winquest. The Convention has heard the motion and the second. Are there any remarks? If not, all those in favor signify by saying "aye"; contrary, the same. The motion is carried, and we do appreciate the splendid job done by this Committee.

Announcements

Chairman Winquest. On this afternoon's program we have two outstanding speakers, Congressman Jennings Randolph and also Congressman Paul Cunningham of Iowa.

Our National Convention would be incomplete without the presence of a man from the United Air Lines, who I have the high privilege to introduce to you at this time. I think most of you men know him. He is deeply interested in all the problems of rural letter carriers throughout the nation. He was a former postmaster of Ottawa, Illinois, and the former Secretary of their organization. I want you all to meet and know, John J. Hart of the United Air Lines. John, it is all yours.

Mr. John J. Hart. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, President Gordon, Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers of the United States: It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to have this opportunity to speak to you for a brief few minutes. I know that you are anxious to get to your various luncheons to meet in your various state groups. I just returned from Washington this morning.

It was my pleasure, because of the assistance granted by your National President, Gordon Walters, and by the various postal organizations throughout the United States, and of course, the Post Office Department that the President yesterday signed the five cent air mail bill. I had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing that ceremony, and the President then gave me the pen.

I am deeply interested in the problems of the Postal Workers. I am deeply interested in the problems of the rural carriers, as you know. Perhaps I should tell you about the three little boys who were going down the street, and they were discussing a character in a play. The show had been very successful, and it was written after the life of Abraham Lincoln. One little boy said, "I understand it has been so successful that the gentleman who is taking the part of Abraham Lincoln is now living that part. He is actually dressing that part. In fact, there he goes now, walking down the street."

And there he was walking down the street and he had on a very long black coat and a very high silk hat, and he wore a beard. And one little boy said, "Yes, and he won't be satisfied until he is assassinated like Abraham Lincoln." (Laughter). Maybe that goes for me.

We did devise a little stamp holder, which we hoped would help you in your work. The idea was to encourage your patrons to keep stamps on hand so that there would be no more letters dropped into the mail box without stamps. (Applause).

We did put out a holder with the compliments of the United Air Lines. Some 500,000 were distributed, although we have requests for over three and a half million. I just want you to know that we are again hoping to devise something which will meet with the approval of the Post Office Department which will help you in putting that job over, and so I am very, very anxious to have you give me some ideas of what we should prepare. It will be prepared under the authority of the Post Office Department and with no other name on it whatsoever.

So we are very happy to have any ideas and suggestions, but frankly, we should have had them yesterday, instead of today. That is how urgent I am in saying that I want the ideas now.

You heard Mr. Donaldson say that the Post Office Department will shortly go into the red in its revenue. We hope to, with such ideas as this—we hope the rural carriers will get behind it, this five cent air mail stamp; and we hope that a book may be devised whereby you might even sell a dollar book, and you can see what that would do if sold to the patrons on your routes, in cutting down that deficit.

I have heard many stories here about the rural letter carriers, and so I believe I would like to place an application in with Jesse Donaldson for a rural carrier's job. But I want this kind of a job: I want a 30 mile route. I would like to have not more than 100 boxes. I would like to have it in Wisconsin, possibly, in the summertime, and down in Florida in the winter. (Laughter). I would not only like to have a new car, but this week I was fortunate in having a ride in the new helicopter, and frankly, it does just what they say.

We took off and went actually backwards, instead of going forward; we moved back about eight feet, and went into the air. Then we waltzed around, and actually waltzed around, backward and forward, forward and backward, and we hesitated and set down on the ground without even turning a wheel. So that may be something we will have in the future.

That is the kind of a route that I hope Jesse Donaldson will take as an application from me when I get the chance to become a rural carrier.

You have a wonderful organization, and I assure you that during my ten years as National Secretary, I had the pleasure of knowing many of your National Officers, particularly on legislation. So, before I close, I would just like to have you take out a pencil and if you will jot down there, \$32,000, and then if you will multiply that by eight, you will find that you have about \$256,000. But then if you add two more aughts on there you would have \$25,600,000. I believe that has been the accomplishments of your organization under the leadership of your National President Gordon Walters so far as increased salary to the rural letter carriers of the United States is concerned; and having served for ten years as National Secretary of a Postmaster's organization, I can frankly tell you that I would like nothing better than to go before an organization and say that that has been the accomplishment of the National Officers of your Association. It is a real credit to them.

I have had the pleasure of knowing your National Secretary, Glenn Folkers, and all the other Officers, and I know the job that they do in Washington, and believe me, as Jesse Donaldson pointed out to you, it is a really tough job. They are held in the highest esteem by all members of Congress and by all the postal officials.

The fact that your organization lent its approval to the legislation for the five cent air mail bill, together with the progressive and outstanding postmaster general that you have today, Robert E. Hannegan, has made that possible.

We know also that you sell but one thing, and that is service, and we hope that the air lines and the air industry may measure up to the job that you have done in the delivery of the mail.

Thank you. It has been nice to be with you. (Applause).

Chairman Winquest. Thank you, John. We are very happy that you are here with us, and we trust it may be possible for you to remain with us the rest of the Convention.

It is just twelve o'clock noon, and there are many state luncheons and other luncheons, and if it meets with the approval of the Convention, the Chair will declare the Convention recessed until two P.M. this afternoon, and we request your presence at that time, sharp. (Applause).

The meeting adjourned at twelve o'clock.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

August 15, 1946

The meeting reconvened at two o'clock, President Walters presiding.

President Walters. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, invite the delegates in, please. Let the convention come to order, please. The New England States will now have charge of the few minutes of the opening exercises, and Willard Pease will be in charge.

... The New England delegation came to the stage ...

Brother Willard A. Pease (Massachusetts). Now, if you will give me your attention. We are indeed honored to have been selected to have a few minutes in this opening session. We are sorry that we could not have the ladies down here with us. We have over 40 from New England. We will not take too much of your time, but we claim that New England has all that any of the other states have, and we certainly extend to all, each and every one, an invitation to come to the six New England States at any time.

We will open our little program with an invocation by John Q. Barnes, of Iowa, who is a good friend of all rural carriers. Brother Barnes.

Brother Barnes (Iowa). Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee that Thou art a God whom we can find in all things and all places. We thank Thee for the hour of relaxation and fellowship that we have enjoyed, and as we come back here to resume our work, we ask Thy blessing and Thy guidance.

Help us to remember ever, Dear Lord, that unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it, and so, may we build in honor of Thee, and of Thy Kingdom. Bless us all, we pray Thee, in the Master's name. Amen.

Brother Pease. The first number on our program is from a child who probably has attended more rural carriers' conventions than any other child. She is the daughter of our National Treasurer, George Ellis, Miss Shirley Ellis of Westwood, Massachusetts. ... Shirley Ellis played the piano ...

Brother Pease. Thank you, Shirley. The next on our program is a skit by Brother James P. Wheatley.

Brother James P. Wheatley. The night was dark. A storm was drawing nigh, and vivid streaks of lightning flashed across the sky. And out of the woods there steals a vengeful man, a club is grasped within his strong right hand. The club is raised, and lo—it falls with a sickening thud. And there upon the damp, cold ground lays murdered a potato bug. (Laughter and applause)

Brother Pease. Thank you. The next number on our program will be a group of two songs by Mrs. Emily Platte of Connecticut, accompanied by Mrs. Ware. She will explain the songs to you.

Mrs. R. N. Platte. I am going to sing two songs that were written in the late 1800's, and the first one was written about 1862 by a man named Wertenglove. When he wrote the song it was for his wife who was ill and was going to have to be taken somewhere else to recover. So he wrote this song, which is American but most of us think of it as Irish. It is, "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen."

Mrs. Platte sang "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" ...

Mrs. Platte The next song will be in a different vein. It is a Gay 90's song, and it is "The Band Played On." It is about Casey.

Mrs. Platte sang "The Band Played On." ... (Applause)

Brother Pease Thank you very much. We will close our little program with a poem entitled "50 Years of Rural Service." It will be read by Woodworth Rice, president of the Massachusetts Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

Brother Woodworth J. Rice. You heard Mr. Donaldson tell about the carrier that was complaining that he had worked over five postmasters. Now I worked under three postmasters, and if you want to get along with your postmasters, take them to your state conventions. I did this year, and this is the result. He appreciated the work so much he did this: "50 Years of Rural Service."

"T'was way back in 1896,
Some one thought of the farmer, out in the sticks,
He worked from early dawn till dark,
To live on a farm was then no lark.

"A courtship by mail was then too slow,
You never could tell when the mail would go,
There were no autos or planes to speed,
That part for the tractor the farmer needs,
But never the less a start was made,
And the first Rural Carrier made the grade.

"From that day on, through those long fifty years,
There has been steady progress in rural ideas,
The farmer gets his mail right in front of his door,
He don't have to journey to town any more.
Old Dobbin can now devote all his time to the farm,
And the family auto remain in the barn.

"We go out in the morning and pick up the mail,
The wind is blowing up, quite a gale,
We wade through the snow, or walk through the rain,
But, behold, the mail has arrived again.
Yes, rain or snow, or sun, or gale,
Rural Carriers deliver the mail.

"I wonder how many stop to think,
Of the cold freezing hours those men have spent,
To bring us a word of love or cheer,
From those away that we hold so dear.
No. We take for granted the things of life,
All free of care and struggle and strife.

"But let us remember that years ago,
The things of today were never so,
Let us have a kind word for the rural man,
Try and lighten his tasks as best we can.
His job is not all pleasure and smiles we know,
It's sunny today, but tomorrow snow.

"You may think he's a crank, yes even a crab,
He won't stop and talk when you want to gab,
But remember he has his work to do,
If he stops and talks a while with you,
You are only one on his daily route,
Others, too, may have some bull to shoot,
If he stopped and talked a while with all,
He could never complete his daily call.

"So every day over hill and through vale,
This faithful servant delivers our mail.
Let's try and be patient, considerate and kind,
The Rural Carrier is your friend and mine,
He'll go out of his way to do a good deed,
And remember there's rules that he must heed,
So share his problems, help when you can,
After all, this fellow, is YOUR mail man."

This is dedicated to the President of the Massachusetts State Rural Carrier Association, a veteran of military and postal service, by Postmaster J. F. Sheehan, Millis, Massachusetts.

Since coming into the auditorium this af-

ternoon, I met a friend, a new friend, yet he is an old friend. He is from Missouri and his name is J. C. Bradford of Cameron, Missouri. He was appointed in 1899, the 2nd of April, but owing to shortage of funds he didn't serve his route until 1900. He has with him a badge that he attended the session in 1904, and I understand he is going to have his picture taken. That isn't all the interest that he brings with him. His wife was his substitute. He, like us, in those days had trouble getting a substitute. The substitute had so little work, he couldn't be a substitute. So Mr. Bradford's wife was appointed a substitute. During the World War she served one year as a regular carrier because when the carrier came back from the service, he didn't want to take the work away from her and didn't want the work.

They are here today, and I am going to ask Brother and Sister Bradford if they will step up to the front so you can give them a hand, and I want Brother Walters to stand with them. Brother J. C. Bradford, of Cameron, Missouri.

. . . The audience arose and applauded as they came to the front . . .

Brother Rice. Now, Brother Walters, I think it would be very nice if you would take one of those gladiolas and hand it to Mrs. Bradford as our tribute to them. I thank you.

Brother Pease. This completes our program and I want to thank each and every one of you for your courteous attention while it was being presented and to again extend to you, each and every one of you, if you are through the New England States, every carrier there will be glad to have you make a call upon us. Thank you, and good afternoon. (Applause)

President Walters. As I said this morning, as we move on in this convention, the opening programs get better and better. In the morning we are going to ask the Keystone State to take charge of the opening exercises.

You say that is Pennsylvania. Well, it is. Mr. Shepherd has just been in contact with the bus people of the city with reference to the tour leaving the Des Moines Hotel, if we decide to go, about five o'clock. The bus people said that was an awful time to ask for buses to make the tour, but if about 70 people desire to go, that will take two buses. There will be \$15 per bus. Now, if we decide to go, we would like to know now so Mr. Shepherd can again contact them and see if he can press them into sparing two buses at that time.

Again we ask those who desire to go to stand up to see how many might want to go.

Well, Mr. Shepherd, you are behind the 8-ball. Now, he may not be able to do this, fellows, but that will be the first thing he has failed on if he misses this one.

Brother Shepherd. What time?

President Walters. I think we will be through by five o'clock.

I am going to ask a member of the Distinguished Guest Committee, Mr. Pascoe, to escort the First Lady of the Auxiliary to the platform.

. . . Mrs. Myers was escorted to the platform as the audience arose and applauded . . .

President Shepherd. This is an honor, indeed, to have with us the president of the Ladies Auxiliary, the co-worker in this organization, and I am happy to present at this

time Mrs. Margaret Myers, president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. Myers. (Applause)

Sister Margaret Myers. Thank you, President Walters. Rural Letter Carriers of the United States of America: This is indeed a most happy occasion for me to appear before this group as the national president of the Ladies Auxiliary, and to extend to you from the Auxiliary membership greetings and very best wishes for success with all your problems.

I am not here this afternoon to consume much of your precious time because I am sure that if your meeting is going like ours, you still have many important matters to come before your convention.

But I would like just a moment to tell you of the principles of the Ladies Auxiliary. We have two principles. First, we were organized to form friendships among rural carrier families. We have tried to follow and to amplify this principle, and it is at meetings like this, where these things are possible, more so than through correspondence. I am sure that you will go home from this meeting feeling that you have many new friendships formed in your organization. You bring your wife with you, and we are most happy when we meet as a family group.

The second principle was to help secure beneficial legislation. We are interested in your problems. We do not mean to dictate your policy or your approach to your problems, but when you take the step, we are willing to back you up in any way that is possible. We keep this in mind. I am trying to tell the ladies, to always remember that they are an auxiliary, a helper. When we get the go signal, we are always willing to put our motto into operation, "Cooperation means success."

It was my privilege this last summer to visit quite a few of the states at their state meetings. I am sorry it wasn't possible to attend all state conventions, but at these conventions there was that friendly spirit that I am sure was typical at every state convention. I hesitate to say which one I liked best.

You know, women have a way of doing that, saying that this one is better, and so on. But coming from the far West, I think the most fitting thing I can say is that my own state meeting was a very good one.

Just for a moment here maybe I will give you a word about our own state meeting. It was held in Grant's Pass. Grant's Pass is in the southern part of the state, near the Oregon Caves. For that reason they have an organization in their city called the Oregon Cavemen. These men appear on different programs. When the Rose Festival gives their parade, they take part, and in surrounding community places they always take part.

They have a costume they wear consisting of a hide draped over their shoulder and over their hipline. They wear no shoes, maybe a little mocassin over their feet. They wear a rugged and wild-looking wig on their head. Their teeth may be covered up a little bit and they carry a huge bone with them.

At the first meeting, at the banquet meeting, when we were honoring the retired carriers and the pioneers in the organization, just as we were finishing the banquet, there was a big commotion outside. The Oregon Cavemen made their approach. They came into the meeting. At the table on my right was Harrison Parkman from the Department of Washington, D. C., whom I am sure you are all acquainted with, and at my left was Dr. Headline, the postmaster of Portland, Oregon. My husband was next in line.

They immediately kidnapped by husband, tousled his hair, dragged him up to the front

of the stage, and there was a table in the front. The little queen jumped up on the top of the table, folded her legs and watched the proceedings, and Chief Bighorn sat likewise at her side.

They took my husband there and proceeded to ask him questions: Why he was there and what he was doing there. At first I was wondering what it was going to turn out to be. Finally they asked him if he had a squaw. I said to Harrison Parkman, I said, "I suppose this means I am going to get it next." (Laughter)

I wasn't conscious of anyone behind me, and I looked around and here was a huge caveman ready to get me. I screamed because it startled me quite a bit. They took me over to their little court they were holding. It is their way of bestowing an honor on a national officer that comes into their city. Then they presented my husband and myself as well with one of these huge bones that have teeth in them. It is a jaw bone. Of all things, his was a jaw bone of an ass. (Laughter) Mine was a little smaller so I don't know what it is. (Laughter)

On this jaw bone it says "A Passport to the Domain of the Oregon Cavemen," and then it is signed by Chief Bighorn and his thumbprint is on it in blood.

We were told that that was our passport and we shouldn't come to Grant's Pass without our passport.

That is one of the little things that is a great advertising for their city. I thought you might be interested because it was a little unusual.

Then we have in the West, we think, a wonderful country for another reason. We find that there are men in the Middle states that come West for various reasons. We have one man from the Middle state of Nebraska. He had been raised there, his family was there, and he is now living on my husband's route. He was quite interested in agriculture, had a wonderful farm. He was a grange worker, a great grange worker, very experimental in his different ways, and went out for experiments there. He made a discovery of some of the wonderful things we have out there, and he has now on the market a product that you may have heard announced over the radio. You may have seen it advertised—I think they had a write-up in the *Life Magazine* about this.

It is a formula. I asked down at the post office one day when I went in there, I said, "How many packages did you mail out today." They had 150 that day and it was a light day. My husband couldn't carry all the mail, although he is a big man. I guess the Chevy couldn't take it all, so the man had two boxes down at the post office where he is handling it. I haven't been collecting any commission on this. It is a formula of how to grow hair on bald heads. (Laughter)

Friends asked me if my husband had used it. (Laughter) You ask him that question.

At your opening Monday evening, we had a little song that we had written for the Golden Jubilee celebration, and I had several requests to sing it for you, and so at this time I am going to sing that little number for you. It is the Golden Jubilee tune, "Some Sunday Morning." Will Mrs. Ware come forward, please?

. . . Mrs. Myers sang "Some Sunday Morning" . . . (Applause)

Sister Myers Thank you, carriers; and now, with President Walters' permission, Mrs. Agnes Clark of South Carolina, who is our song leader, and myself wish to present a patriotic number, in duet form, "My Own America."



SEND YOUR LETTERS AIR MAIL

It's Speedy and Economical.



VIEWS OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENTION

At the top—Annual Banquet.

From Center to left:
Retired Carriers' Officers—left to right—W. A. Keown, Coosa, Georgia;
O. T. Updike, Leesville, Virginia; Wm. F. McCool, Central City, Iowa;
Otto D. Reif, Arcadia, Iowa; Wm. C. Stevens, Queen Anne, Maryland;
M. A. Detweiler, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

*Auditing Committee—Left to right—H. Winterfeldt, Stinglee, Oklahoma;
Wm. Van Hartesvelt, Fennville, Michigan; G. C. Harris, Clanton, Alabama.*

From left to right:
Mr. Harley V. Shepherd, Convention Chairman, Newton, Iowa and Mr.
Jesse M. Donaldson, First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.





Rural Letter Carriers Association
Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 13-16 '46



● DES MOINES, IOWA ● AUGUST 13-16, 1946

From Center to right:

Resolution Committee—Left to right—Stanley Dorey, Skillman, New Jersey; James Myers, Taney Town, Maryland; L. S. Griffin, Central, South Carolina; C. E. Kellogg, Niles, Kansas; Harvey Gugisberg, Gibbon, Minnesota.

Tellers Committee—Left to right—Mr. J. M. Gates, Humboldt, Tennessee; Mr. B. A. Tillman, Cameron, New Mexico; W. O. Kent, Rochester, Vermont; Standing, left to right, L. C. Hayman, Delmar, Delaware; A. J. Walker, Higley, Arizona.

Questions and Answers Committee—Left to right—Mr. A. J. Walker, Higley, Arizona; W. M. Bashford, Wray, Colorado.

NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK

October 27 - November 2, 1946

HERE'S the opportunity we have been awaiting to show what we can do to acquaint our membership with new advancements in the postal service.

"The world of today," states Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan, "stands face to face with the startling developments of two eras running concurrently—an Atomic Age and an Air Age. The Post Office Department has a direct and vital stake in the progress of aviation. We accept the challenge of the Air Age eagerly because of the opportunity afforded to render greater service to the people of the world—not only to afford an advanced facility for business and cultural interchange in our own land, but to carry the highest reaches of our ideals to our neighbors throughout the world. Already far across the threshold of the

Air Age, our single purpose is to transmit communications of the world—*Better—Faster—Cheaper.*

"It has been a traditional policy of the Postal Service to give encouragement to every new facility which afforded practical prospect for advancing postal transport—to overlook no single factor which might contribute to expedition between sender and receiver. Thirty years ago, the first streaks of light of the coming Air Age began to show faintly along the horizon of the future. Encouragement given to aviation by the Post Office Department in that early day was perhaps the most potent factor in developing the great American Flag carriers of the air today."

Our leadership will promote the success of Air Mail Week. Let's lend our support!

... Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Clark sang "My Own America" . . . (Applause)

President Walters. Thank you, Mrs. Myers. The Ladies Auxiliary is going to kidnap Congressman Randolph. I don't know if they are going to put him in a cave or not, but, Pascoe, you had better go along with him and get him back by 3:30. Pascoe, you look out for him and get him back here by 3:30 (Laughter)

. . . Announcements . . .

President Walters. My friends, and delegates to this convention: During the war period highway user groups who were interested in post war road legislation, especially, became very closely associated with our next speaker. When your representative appeared before this committee and attempted to persuade this committee that at least 25 per cent of all money allocated for road purposes under the post war road program should be earmarked by law to be spent on strictly country roads, the speaker that is going to appear in a few moments, along with Congressman Hugh Peterson of my state and other members of that committee, became interested in our argument, and from that point on they carried the ball. When the legislation was enacted into law, approximately 33½ per cent of all money allocated was earmarked for country roads.

We are indeed happy to have the member of the Roads Committee with us this afternoon, and he is also a native from this state. I am happy to present to you Congressman Paul Cunningham of the State of Iowa. Congressman Cunningham.

. . . The audience arose and applauded . . .

Congressman Paul Cunningham. Mr. President, Madam President of the Auxiliary, delegates and members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and our particularly honored members and guests, the Bradfords from the city of Cameron in our sister state to the south: To me, my friends, it is a great privilege and an honor to be asked to appear before you for a few remarks.

I consider it an honor and a privilege for more than one reason. The first reason is my great admiration for all those connected with the postal service, and particularly the rural letter carriers. But secondly, I am delighted to be here this afternoon because you have selected my home town as your convention city, in the heart of my home state, in the center of my Congressional District.

I notice by your program that you have already been welcomed by the Mayor of our city and the Governor of our state, but somehow I want to extend that welcome a little, make it a little personal between you and me, because you are the guests in my district, in my home town. We welcome you. We are glad you are here. We like you. We hope you like us and you will enjoy your stay.

I notice on the program that I am listed for an address. Frankly, I am not going to make an address. I just want to talk with you. The address will come later in the afternoon, by my good friend, Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, and it will be a real treat.

I want to say this in the opening of my talk, about Mr. Randolph: The rural carriers, and all the men and women of the postal service, never had a truer friend or a more tireless worker in the Congress of the United States than Jennings Randolph. For six years I have been privileged to serve on a committee with him where I have been able to observe his work and what he has done and is

always willing to do for you. He will give you a real talk this afternoon.

You know, as I look at you people, my mind goes back 50 years, believe it or not. This is your Golden Anniversary of the institution of the Rural Free Delivery System in the United States of America. But I want to tell you about a rural free delivery service that existed prior to 1896, and I had a little part in it. It was a few years, prior to 1896, I was just old enough to remember. I recall one evening my older brother took me with him. About a quarter of a mile from our home there was a fork where the road joined another. And the customary tri-angle was in the center of the fork. In the center of that was an oak tree, and there was a sign on it telling the traveller which way to go.

My brother reached behind that sign and pulled out a postal card addressed to my father. I was curious about how it got there. I asked my brother, and he told me that it was a custom for the farmers and neighbors when they went to town three miles distant to go to the post office to get the mail for all of the neighbors whose farms they would pass on the way home. They would put the mail in designated spots, and they put our mail behind the sign on the tree. That was rural free delivery, but not sponsored by the United States Government. It was rural free delivery of necessity, of the farmers getting together and helping themselves.

As I think back to those years, I am convinced that what you are now doing in serving, the people in the Rural Free Delivery System nationally, was brought about and put on the statute books because of the necessity of the times.

No doubt, in those days those farmers conceived the idea and told their Congressmen or Senators that the Federal Government should do what they were doing for themselves. So, in 1896 the first law was placed upon the statute books and the Rural Free Delivery System was inaugurated, and what a success it has been!

Now, why did the Congress wait until the people from necessity had to show them that they must have this rural free delivery? That is natural in a free republic like our own. We get all laws after the necessity for them arises.

The people in their daily walk of life and the rules and regulations they make among themselves to govern themselves in the local communities eventually emerge in national laws as something that is necessary for the well being of the body politic.

So your Congress is always behind the people, and it must always be behind the people if we are to remain a free people, because once Congress got out in front and started enacting laws before it knew from the experience of the people what is necessary and right in the way of legislation, then Congress would assume the powers of dictatorship, and freedom of the people would be gone.

I say that in the beginning because it has a direct relationship, I believe, to some of my later remarks. For example, we never had any laws governing the steam boat on the rivers until after we had the steam boat. We never had any laws governing the railroads until after we had the railroads. We didn't have any laws governing the use of the automobile on the highway until after we got the automobile. Nor did we have laws governing the telephone and telegraph until after we got them, and now we are enacting laws, and have enacted them, governing the use of the skyways because the airplane has made that necessary. So the social and economic development and growth of a people always

make laws necessary when the customs and uses of the people show the need for new laws.

Thus, the Rural Free Delivery System came about, possibly because I went down to the oak tree with my brother to get the post card. Now I want to come up to 1896 when the first Rural Free Delivery came into that same community. We were living in the same place. My father got the galvanized box with the red flag, and the first day the carrier came through, I will always remember seeing him come over the rise of the hill. We were out watching for him. He was driving a bay horse and a buggy. It was evening before he got back because he had to stop and visit a couple of minutes with each person to whom he delivered mail. That was his first trip. From then on, the mail has never been late. That was the first day. That was the inaugural day.

Then I recall not long after that hearing my father say one day, "I must go down and repair the culvert. The mailman will be along and we have to fix the roads so he can get through." That was how the roads were fixed in the early days. Many times the farmers went out to repair the roads after a washout so the carrier could get through. I recall that same community in the winter-time when the snows came and the highways were drifted four and five feet deep. The farmers would make a gap in the fence and let the mailman drive through their fields so he could deliver the mail. But the mail was always there, and always on time.

How they did love that mailman—that same one that started with the horse and buggy. He carried the mail for 20 years, I think, in that community. He would wave to the farmer in the field, on the threshing floor, at the housewife in the garden, at the family during the noon hour. They were interested just as much in him as they were in the Sears Roebuck catalog or other things he brought to the door of the farm home. Even the dogs liked him. Everyone along the way, particularly the children, liked the mailman. He has become an institution in the farm life in our country. He has been a part of it.

Why is he a part of it? Because he is a part of America, and what he is doing is part of the American system. The people he serves back in the highways and byways are real Americans. The rural carrier has served through all these fifty years the true, real, red-blooded Americans, the ones who make the wheels go around.

I can see the happy expression on your faces now, particularly this fine couple in front of me, as their minds go back over the years when they delivered that mail through the rain and snow and sleet and mud, through hot and cold weather, regardless, the mail always came through.

Then we come down to the advent of the automobile, and that brought a different picture and made it necessary, of course, for the Federal Government to come in with aid on road building. But bear in mind this: that the first federal aid for roads was primarily to aid the automobile, and oftentimes the building of a primary road has done harm to the rural carrier. I am thinking of the time when I testified before the House Roads Committee and called their attention to how the primary roads in Iowa would become covered with snow and in clearing them the snow plows would make a drift five feet high at the entrance to the feeder road. Who had to break through it? The carrier; the mailman. He had to make the first trail over the road in order to help the farmer get from the primary road to his home. All of those things came to the attention of your Congress

in Washington, bit by bit. Slowly it filtered in, and from that came the recognition of the necessity for more and better legislation for your organization.

Now, just what is this legislation, this recent legislation, and how does it affect the mail carrier? You, of course, know that Congressman Dolliver, of Fort Dodge is the Iowa member on the Committee of Post Offices and Post Roads. He was preceded by Congressman Hoeven of Sioux City, and he in turn by Congressman Jenson, all of whom did wonderful work.

But there is another committee, and that committee and some of its legislation is what I wish to talk to you about because it has a direct relationship and bearing on the work of the rural carrier, and that is the Committee on Roads.

I don't know when the idea first came up for a post war highway road building program, but it started back as far as 1943. I know our committee held hearings in the winter of 1943 and 1944, and finally we brought out the bill and secured its passage through the House, and later it passed the Senate, and is now known as the Post War Road Building Program Bill, or law of 1944.

These hearings were rather interesting. When we first began them, the relationship of the rural carrier to the law did not appear. It was not at first recognized. The first controversy came over the formula, whether or not the money to be allocated to the several states by the Federal Government would be under the old formula of $\frac{1}{3}$ area, $\frac{1}{3}$ population, and $\frac{1}{3}$ post road mileage; or whether it would be 50 per cent area and 25, 25; or 50 per cent population and 25, 25, or what it would be.

There probably were 12 or 14 different formulas presented to our committee to get away from the old formula of $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$. We went on a 50, 25, 25.

Now, as it happened, in all of these formulas presented to the committee, it made little difference to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states in the Union because they were average states like Iowa, average in area, population, mileage. But there were certain states that it made a difference to which formula was adopted. For instance, in Utah, or Nevada, or Wyoming, large in area, small in population, it made a big difference. Likewise states like Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, heavy in population, not so heavy in area, not so heavy in post road mileage, it made quite a difference which formula would be used. They were fighting to give more recognition to population, and less for area, whereas the Western states were fighting for a formula that would give more recognition to area and less to population.

We finally agreed on a formula that seemed to be more or less satisfactory to all of them. I want to digress for just a moment because some very interesting and startling information came to the committee from the witnesses. The state highway engineer or head of the highway association of each of the 48 states appeared before that committee during the several months' hearings, as well as representatives of the great labor organizations, the veterans' organizations, business organizations, and your own president, Mr. Walters.

I never will forget the day he appeared before the committee, because after the hearing was over, I went to him to talk about the farm-to-market, or as I called them, feeder roads, and the relationship of this bill we were considering to the feeder roads. I am not campaigning for Mr. Walters for reelection. I don't know if he is a candidate.

But I want to say that he created a wonderful impression before our committee. He knew what he was talking about; he said it briefly and right to the point, and he answered every question that was asked him by myself and other members of the committee straight from the shoulder without equivocation. That is the kind of testimony before a committee that counts.

Getting back to the bill: I recall some very interesting testimony from the representatives of the state organizations, the state highway associations. In other words, the cost of building a road of highway in the United States—I mean by that paved highway—will vary from \$15,000 to \$160,000 a mile, depending upon the nature of the territory under which it is built and the amount of population, amount of condemnation proceedings, and property that has to be done away with in order to build the highway. All of those matters were considered by this committee in the several months that it held hearings to determine what would be the fair and accurate kind of bill to get.

Following that we came to the question of roads. How much was to be allocated to the primary road system, the federal highway system, and how much to the farm-to-market or secondary or feeder roads? As your chairman has told you, we ended up with, I believe, $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the money going to secondary and feeder roads generally throughout the United States, with the result that the average State for each of the next three years, will receive for farm-to-market or secondary and feeder roads seven times, approximately, as much money for each year as it has received in any other one year in the past. (Applause) And this is accomplished without adding one penny to your income tax. It all comes from the one cent a gallon gasoline tax that goes to the federal government.

Incidentally, in drafting the bill, a lot of attention was given by your committee in Congress, as to whether or not the states diverted their own gasoline tax money or whether they earmarked it for use on the highways, primary, secondary and feeder roads. If no state had been diverting its funds we probably would have had a different formula than the 50, 25, and 25.

I am going to read just a moment so as to make no mistake. I want to tell you briefly just how this Post War Highway Bill works and how it will affect you so you may know where and how to go about to get the best results for your own roads that you are traveling, or delivering the mail over: "First the county board"—by that is meant in Iowa the County Board of Supervisors. In Pennsylvania it would be the County Board of Commissioners. Other states would have different names, but you know what I mean. Here it is the County Board of Supervisors—"recommends the roads to be included in the federal aid secondary and feeder road system. The County Board approves the completed plans, acquires the necessary rights of way, or may request the highway commission of the state to acquire such rights of way. It also approves all contracts, approves all vouchers for the payments of claims and has full access to the work at all times, and may decline to approve payment of work which they consider unsatisfactory.

"The county engineer makes surveys and prepares plans, or may have said surveys and plans prepared by the state highway commission or the state highway organization, depending upon the state. He acts as resident engineer on the job, or he may request the highway commission or the highway department of his state to do so. He prepares, verifies and approves claims and payments of

construction. He makes recommendations to the state highway commission or the state highway road program association as to final acceptance of the work.

"The state highway commission or state highway association, or whatever it may be called, concurs in the roads to be included in the federal aid secondary and feeder road system and submits same to the Public Roads Administration in Washington for approval. It also approves projects recommended by the county board of supervisors, approves the specifications and plans of the county board, awards contracts for construction within the county, even though the money is paid by the county, and it has control and jurisdiction over construction operations, approves claims and payment for construction work and makes final acceptance of the construction work."

Now, what does the Federal Government have to do with the construction of these highways after we passed this three billion dollar post war highway program bill? I said three billion dollars. It is not quite that. I think it is two billion, nine hundred million. As the bill was first introduced, it provided for three billion dollars over a period of three years to be provided by the Federal Government with the states to match 25 per cent, which would have made a four billion dollar bill. Later there was some objection to the Federal Government providing that amount of money out of its funds, as it might have to borrow from the Federal Treasury to do so. The amount was reduced to a billion and a half with the matching formula changed, to the end that for the first year the matching from the states is on a 60-40 basis, and later on a 50-50 basis. That is why there is about a million dollars short of the three billion dollar bill that was originally introduced.

Once that bill was enacted by the House and Senate and signed by the President, our Congress had nothing more to do with it. The moment we vote pass a bill our power ends. We have nothing more to say about the legislation that we pass. The administration of it passes over to another branch of the government known as the administrative branch. We are only legislative.

The head is, of course, the President of the United States, and he in turn has appointed a Public Roads Administrator. The present one is Tom MacDonald, who started out in Iowa, where all good people start if they can, and after being our highway commissioner, was elevated to the national post, and he will have the jurisdiction of allocating the money under the formula to the several states, approving the plans, or his department will, that are submitted to him by the highway commissioner of the several states.

The Congress has nothing more to do with it. However, even the Federal Works Administrator, Mr. MacDonald, Federal Highway Administrator—I forget the exact title—he has very little to do with it. He has to take the recommendation of the state highway commission. He has the power to make changes, but probably won't do it in most cases. So where does the power lie then, to get better feeder roads, secondary roads for you men? It starts and lies with the county board of supervisors or the county commissioner, whoever the proper board or the proper official is in your county. And if you or any of your friends, as carriers, are interested in getting better roads or a new road to aid the mail carrier in your local community, don't go to Washington, don't go to your Congressman and Senators. Don't go to the government, go to the board of supervisors, or the corresponding representative in your own county, whether they be county commis-

sioners or whatever you may call them, because they are the ones that have the first say. They are the ones that go to the state organization, the state highway commission, with the things they feel are necessary for their particular county.

Now, to me that is one of the most important features of this bill, as it affects the members of your organization, because you have at last, for the first time, your own neighbors with whom you know how to deal, who understand your problems and what you need in the way of better roads to get this invaluable mail to the people, as you have been doing.

Now, I want, in closing, to pay a special tribute to the rural carriers, as well as all men, city carriers and all those in the postal service. In my six years in Congress, I have never known them to sponsor legislation that was not justified, that they could not back up with sound arguments. I have never known them supporting anything that was not based upon reason and need. My attention was first called to that, I think my first term down there—I have forgotten the bill—it affected some of you people, before the Post Office and Post Roads Committee.

I said a few words to the committee in favor of the bill. I have been there since, and always when I have appeared before that committee, I have found more members of Congress from other states as well as my own appearing and saying a good word in behalf of the legislation for the postal man and the carriers, than I have ever observed before any other committee or any other group for any other piece of legislation. (Applause)

I wonder why that was. The answer is obvious. The answer is simple. First, it could not be for any political preference that these men hope to get. They know you are under Civil Service. They know it is not political. So there had to be some other reason. I will tell you the reason. Many of those men had the same experience that I did, going down to the old tree in the fork, in the road, crawling up to get the letter, from the original free delivery carrier, the farmer. Many of those men remember, as I do, the first rural carrier to come into the community and what he meant to us.

In addition to that, they know what you have been doing today. They know what you did during World War II and World War I. Just within the past hour, across the hall, I visited with DeLoss Marken, chief of chaplains for the 34th Division, which included the Iowa National Guard, which did heroic work in Africa and Italy. I told him I was coming in here, and he said this, as exactly as I can remember, "The way those men brought the mail through to the boys in the front line was remarkable. I never saw such service as was rendered by the postal service in the Army during this last war."

Who is responsible for it? The man who first began delivering the mail with the bay horse and the two-wheel cart. It started the institution of which you are a part.

That is why so many men of Congress, both men and women of Congress, are willing at all times to go before the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads and say a word in your favor. And as legislation comes up in the future, you will find them again, willing, ready, and able to go to your rescue because they know you will not ask the unreasonable. You will not ask something you are not entitled to. You will not ask anything that is not American. You will not ask anything that is not in the best interests of the people you serve, and you serve all of America,

when you consider the city carrier as well as the rural carrier.

You understand and appreciate that we live in a great democracy or republic which has a democracy within it. You appreciate the blessings that have come to us over 150 years by having a form of government with three branches, legislative, administrative and judicial, so you can petition your Congressman who will aid you to aid the people that you serve. That is what has made America and what has made it possible for someone to be inspired to write the song "God Bless America."

I have appreciated immensely the privilege of being with you. Thank you. (Applause)

President Walters. Thank you. I am sure the delegates to this convention will remember a long time this wonderful message brought to us by Congressman Cunningham. Above all, I am glad he impressed upon the delegates that in this Post War Road Bill for the first time in the history of federal legislation for roads the responsibility for allocating the projects in your country is placed on the shoulders of the people that you see each and every day. I am happy to have had the privilege of working with Congressman Cunningham, and he has been a true friend and supporter of the legislation that we recommend. We are happy to have had him with us and hope that he can stay around and visit and let you meet him and ask him some questions.

For about five minutes now, if anybody has a particular question you would like to ask, the Congressman says he will endeavor to answer it.

Brother Roberts (Arkansas). I would like to ask the Congressman what we are going to do when we don't have any money to match this building business.

Congressman Cunningham. I can't give you much hope on that.

Brother Roberts. We have four counties that are able to match.

Congressman Cunningham. How much is your gasoline tax?

Brother Roberts. Three-quarters of one cent.

Congressman Cunningham. Raise it to one cent and don't divert, and then you will have the money to match.

Brother Webb (Georgia). How are you going to keep them from putting secondary highways to feed state highways, instead of the feeder roads?

Brother Roberts. This three-quarter cent is what the counties give.

Congressman Cunningham. If I recall, you have a six or seven cent a gallon gasoline tax. The trouble is you should keep that all for your roads. I think you will find you are diverting Arkansas. I think that was the testimony on Arkansas. There was a lot of testimony about your state. It is a good state, but you are not up to some others on this road building.

I am not sure that I understood this other question.

President Walters. States are using those funds on secondary roads, instead of on feeder roads.

Congressman Cunningham. According to the law, you have 33⅓ per cent for secondary or feeder roads or both. If they are putting too much in your territory on secondary roads, that you don't want instead of the feeder roads, get after your community commissioners. I know Georgia pretty well, and they can tell their officials what to do, and they listen.

Brother Sanders (Illinois). When were these roads selected or when will they be selected that that money will be used on?

Congressman Cunningham. This program went into force July 1st of this year. Some states had plans drawn in advance, because during the war they had their organization setup, and they could make their surveys and determine their rights of ways in advance, and we had an appropriation of seven million dollars for the whole United States, so they could keep their organization going. Now is the time to do it. The iron is hot. As quick as you get back home, take action.

Brother Morton (Ohio). I would like to ask something. We have councils in Ohio, Western County Roads. What benefits can the township roads get, providing the county doesn't want to turn any money over to township roads?

Congressman Cunningham. Under the provision of the bill as I understand it, the money that goes for the roads in each county, although it is the county's own money, will be disbursed by the state road building or highway organization. It is the building and the determination of the roads and so forth which is determined by the county commissioners. That may not be satisfactory. I don't understand your question.

Brother Morton. All right. About a week ago I went to a county commissioner about a township road. They couldn't give me any help on it. I asked if there weren't federal funds available, for instance, this bill that we have had in mind. The township didn't get any of that. We asked how they got what they did. They had a project approved.

Congressman Cunningham. I think I have your question. The bill doesn't go beyond the county. As to what townships in the county get the benefit is up to the county commissioners, but the county is the smallest unit recognized by the law. You oughtn't to have any trouble. You have a good state when it comes to highways. There is a member of your state on this committee, McGregor. He is a road builder and he knows what it is about.

Mr. Moss (Rhode Island). I am from the New England region, and in the north and northeast we have a great deal of trouble in the wintertime after heavy snow falls and we find the mail boxes along federal aid roads are blocked with snow. After the plows come along we can't get to the boxes. We have to extend 12 hours into the night to cover our routes, and we get into difficulty with unreasonable postmasters because we can't do our job properly. Don't you think that these states in the North, where we have this condition, should be willing to throw back a little further to get up to these boxes?

Congressman Cunningham. Yes, I do. But your question doesn't have anything to do with the federal bill. The maintenance is up to the state. The New Englanders are rugged people and can go through pretty large snow

drifts, so I don't think you should have much trouble.

Brother Sanders, (Illinois). Do these routes have to be selected by states and plans approved, and registered in Washington before the money is actually available or not?

Congressman Cunningham. Yes, before the federal money is available. But I don't anticipate that will be a long, drawn-out procedure. Mr. MacDonald is going to give service. He was before our committee practically every day. He is wholeheartedly for the bill and for the part of it that affects you.

President Walters. Thank you, Congressman.

Brother Quinn (North Dakota). Are there any specifications you have to have on roads? Does there have to be road specifications as to how wide it must be?

Congressman Cunningham. No, that is left up to the local organization.

President Walters. Congressman Cunningham will be around this afternoon, so feel free to go up and make yourself known to him. He is well informed on this question.

Mr. Shepherd reports that if we leave here at five o'clock, the bus people have agreed to furnish at least two buses provided we have 70 people, with the initial payment of fifty cents each as you enter the bus. That is the regular fare they charge for touring around the city. It will take about two hours to make this tour, so if you still are of the same mind, he will go ahead and order the busses. Let's be sure to have 70 people down there, because he has been put on the spot to get these buses at the rush period in the afternoon traffic. Do you still want to go?

... Cries of yes ...

President Walters. Kind of weak. That wasn't 70.

Don't let Brother Shepherd down because he has really been fighting for that.

Harley Shepherd. Let's see 70 of you standing up, and if there are 105, I will try to get you a third bus.

(Counting of delegates wishing to go on the sight-seeing tour.)

President Walters. You had better get three buses.

Harley Shepherd. I will get you three buses right downstairs at five o'clock.

President Walters. Three buses and the first 105 down there after five o'clock will go.

Voice. Did Mr. Shepherd make this announcement over at the ladies' meeting?

President Walters. No. Someone go back there to Parlor D and call to the Ladies Auxiliary and announce it.

My friends, I know we are letting some committees wait, but these two men with us this afternoon are very busy men and we are going to let everything else rest until we have heard the other distinguished gentlemen who are with us.

The next speaker has perhaps put forth greater effort to be at this convention than any rural carrier or anyone else here. He promised me some two months ago that he would be here, and he has kept his promise, although he was up all night last night and had to wait in Chicago from two o'clock in the morning until about ten o'clock this morning to catch a plane down here.

He spoke in West Virginia yesterday afternoon, and is speaking here this afternoon. So I am doubly grateful, and I know that you are, that he went to all this trouble to be here with us. He is chairman of the House Civil Service Committee and also a ranking member of the Roads Committee and worked in close cooperation with Congressman Cunningham

and others in this Post War Roads Program. He is interested in the working man's conditions and has served as acting chairman of the Labor Committee. He loves people and he is not afraid to work. I am happy to introduce to you Representative Jennings Randolph, who comes from the state of West Virginia, where rural service was inaugurated. Congressman, we are happy to have you with us.

(The audience arose and applauded.)

Congressman Randolph. Mr. President, young ladies and older gentlemen: (Laughter.) I am sorry, sincerely so, that I was not privileged to share with you the logic and the good fellowship of my colleague in the House of Representatives, the Honorable Paul Cunningham of Iowa. He is a Republican. We will let it go at that. (Laughter.) When the Democrats are more in power and have a majority, they step across the aisle in the House of Representatives, and that is the way, of course, that we once found it when the Republican stretched across the aisle into the Democratic side of the House. You know, sometimes I am a little fearful that the representatives of another party are going to creep over into my side of the aisle in this year of 1946. (Applause.)

It was a very delightful introduction which your able leader gave to me this afternoon. I remember many years ago I had the opportunity of speaking in Kentucky one evening. I had to go in by a narrow gauge railroad. Did you ever ride one? Some of you know what it is. We had pierced into the upland by standard gauge, and deeper in the hills by narrow gauge.

I was literally grabbed from the train, which was one hour and five minutes late. I was rushed up the hill and into a little school-house where the audience had gathered for the meeting. The man who introduced me said these words—I will never forget them. "The train pulled in with a jerk, and there was Randolph." (Laughter.) I will never forget that. I never learned if he knew what he said or said what he meant. But that was the introduction. In those days that word wasn't in the dictionary, but you look in a modern dictionary and you will find the word is in good usage. It means an unpopular person.

Now, if there is an unpopular person in the United States today, you will find it is a member of the Congress of the United States. You will agree with me on that. It doesn't matter how we speak or vote. We usually feel that a majority of our constituency would have wanted us to do just the opposite.

I met Paul Cunningham in this very room in 1940. I came to Des Moines on that occasion to speak to the International Association of Fire Fighters, and it was my first acquaintanceship—which has become a friendship—with this Iowan, who is not only a member of the Republican Party, but a sincere legislator in our national Congress.

I flew in a little two-place plane from my home at Elkins, West Virginia, to Des Moines, Iowa, to address that convention. The chap who piloted the plane with me weighed 240 pounds, and I weighed 196 pounds. If any of you have ever ridden in a small plane, you know that total poundage is fitting the passengers in rather tightly. It is a long ways from the West Virginia hills to the level country of Iowa, but we had a good trip, and we arrived on time. I didn't make it so promptly on this occasion.

Recalling that flight of some years ago, I want to say to you that it was only a few weeks past that I had the opportunity of

taking a 75-year-old friend of mine for his first flight in a plane. I said to him, "Uncle Dudley, you have never been in a plane, have you?"

He said, "No, I never have."

I said, "Wouldn't you like to take a flight and to look down literally on the people you have worked with all these years?"

He said, "I might."

He got in the plane, and after 20 minutes, we came down on the runway. The door was opened, and Uncle Dudley gingerly stepped out.

I said, "Were you frightened?"

He said, "No, but I never did let my full weight down up there." (Laughter.)

I think, and I speak very frankly and sincerely, that from a reading of your program, from the contacts which I have made in the past few hours, you have let yourselves individually and collectively into the problems and the possibilities of the great organization and the tremendously important business of which you are a part. That is as it should be, because never before in the history of a restless republic have those who in a very real sense represent the government of the United States in their respective communities been called upon for a higher challenge. You are asked to speak and conduct yourselves as to be a credit, not only to the profession of which you are a part, but in a very real sense, to the government of the United States, which is many instances, you are the lone representative of in the community where you reside. Never forget that, because I think it is highly important.

In a day when the processes of government are being tested, it is necessary that you do a job which reflects credit on you as an individual who satisfies the patrons you daily serve. More than that, you are the representative of the truest functions of the public servant who speaks, as it were, for the government of the United States.

I go back in my thinking at this moment, and I speak soberly. It was less than 19 hours ago that I retraveled a part of the first rural free delivery route in the United States. Yesterday afternoon I visited Jefferson County, West Virginia. It was in that county in 1896 that three rural routes fanned out to join for the first time the country communities of America to the system of a prompt and an efficient daily delivery of mails of the United States.

One route was out of Charles Town. Another was out of Halltown, and the third was out of Uvilla (now discontinued). Those were the three communities where the rural free delivery of this country had its first beginnings.

It is not so important, that I was there 19 hours ago, except to say that, of course, space and time have been compressed. We have all widened our circumference of living because we are all so near, individual to individual, state to state, and nation to nation. I ask you to be steadied and strengthened with me for a moment as I pay tribute to the three men, two now deceased and one ill, who carried the first three rural routes in this country.

The gentleman who is still living is Melvin T. Strider. He is ill. I wonder if I might make the suggestion, appropriately I hope, that this convention send to him the greetings of the delegates who are assembled. If that can come before you for later action, I think that it might cause a sense of happiness to come to his heart.

President Walters. We will see that that is done. (Applause.)

Congressman Randolph. Thank you. The

other two carriers have passed away. One was Ike (that is the way he wrote it), Ike Gibson. His brother, Harry Gibson, was the man who started at least in a real degree, the thought by which the rural free delivery system of the United States was begun.

Back in the 1890's in Jefferson County, West Virginia, near Charles Town, there lived a farm family named Gibson. There was a boy who followed the plow in his youth. He looked beyond the day when he worked for his father, to the day when he might work for someone else, little thinking that then it was to be the government of the United States in a pioneering capacity.

On a neighboring farm lived a family named Bell. Now young Gibson was a visitor at the Bell home many, many times, and it was there that he met William L. Wilson, my distinguished predecessor in Congress many, many years ago. At that time he was postmaster general of the United States.

Gibson confided in Wilson his desires to make something of himself, and the able statesman was favorably impressed with this young man. The years came on, and the young man assumed his majority. When he was 21, he journeyed from Charles Town to Washington, D. C., approximately 60 miles. It took him longer to travel that distance than it would now.

He had an appointment with the postmaster general of the United States. While awaiting that interview, he sat in an anteroom and looked out a window. He saw a mail carrier with letters in a satchel. The carrier was going by to distribute the mail. He immediately asked someone outside the room, "You don't mean to tell me in a town where they have a post office that they deliver the mail?"

And they said "Yes."

That was new to him. He just understood a post office as a post office, and never thought about the matter. It wasn't very it, but as a place where patrons came to get their mail?

When he went back to the anteroom, he thought about the matter. I wasn't very long until he was escorted into the presence of the cabinet member. William L. Wilson, said, "Harry, I haven't any good job for you. I could make you a janitor here in Washington, some little custodial job, but I don't think you'd like it."

Young Gibson then suggested—I am sure it is true—that he be given a job delivering the mail to the country folk, to the farmers. It was then that the postmaster general looked at him and said, "Harry, that matter is under consideration." Then he asked this youth to go back to his home community, to hitch up a horse each morning and go from the post office out into the rural sections, see how much of a route he could cover each day and how many families would come into the orbit of his experience.

Then Postmaster General Wilson said, "I will be back in my home town (Charles Town) in a few weeks, and you report to me and we will talk it over." Soon afterward Gibson gave him a satisfactory answer. The idea of rural delivery was practical. It was needed.

On October the 1st, 1896, a route out of Charles Town was established and young Harry Gibson carried the mail. He had trail blazed in a very real sense as he covered the imaginary route which was to come into being.

He wasn't a very strong man, but he kept at his job. It wasn't so many, many years until the automobile came into existence. He didn't feel that he could operate one

successfully and carry the route, so he retired.

Today, and this is why I say I speak soberly to you, the body of Harry Gibson lies in an unmarked grave at Charles Town, West Virginia. If I may make the second suggestion which I want you to think through, of course, it would be this. Would it not be altogether fitting that the rural carriers of this country, operating under the auspices of your National Association, erect a suitable plaque or memorial where the first rural carrier of this country lies buried? (Applause.)

Our nation has come a long way since that period of fifty years ago. I would like to think it has come the good way. As the poet said, "there is a way and ways, and some choose the high way and some the low, while in between on the misty flats, the crowds drift to and fro." It was the prophet Isaiah who said, "A way shall be there for the redemption of His people."

You travel that way. You follow it daily. You bring the letters oftentimes carrying sadness within them as the contents are unfolded for the eyes of fathers and mothers. But you carry more often, I like to think, the happy expressions of a boy or girl who is away from home but is coming back for a visit. You carry the good news of a crop that brought an excellent price on the market. In other words, you keep that family in the rural section, where you serve all our country, in direct contact with the world.

I wish that I might have heard Representative Cunningham discuss the three-year post war highway building program which has been enacted into law by the Congress of the United States. The appropriation of one billion, five hundred million dollars, to be matched dollar by dollar by the states, is the greatest fund ever to be expended in so short a time by this government, working with the different levels of our political sub-divisions.

It was not always so. In 1911, '12, and '14, the first attempts were made in the Congress of the United States to pass federal aid legislation for highways. On those three attempts, defeat came to those who believed in working out a national system of roads for this country. It was still believed that you had to do the job of building the road in your community with no planned tie-in with other sections. It was a hit-and-miss road development and we needed a network.

It was in 1916 that the first law came into effect where a national highway system, calling for the cooperation of the states and the federal government, came into being. But it was not until 1921 that the first funds were actually appropriated for the undertaking, which I think has perhaps done more to solidify the thinking of the people of America by the contacts which are made between communities and between states. This program I refer to, of course, is our highway building construction work which has been carried ahead practically every two years with legislation, except under the impact of war when nothing directly was done.

Over these roads you carried the mail, and you carry it now. And with the mail you carry a heavy responsibility as the representatives, as I said before, of the government of the United States.

Of course, we have heavy burdens to bear. I know that. There was a Democrat—I will say he was a Democrat—who lived in a Republican community who could always take defeat and come up smiling. He lived in a strongly entrenched opposition

section. One night he was coming home from a party. It was not this type of party because he had too much under his belt of the floating variety. As he came through the cemetery, he saw a marker which said "Here lies the body of Mary Ann Brown; When on earth she weighed 400 pounds; But now she is dead and sweetly rests; Safe on the arms of Abraham's breast."

He muttered, "It may be sweet for Mary Ann, but it's a hell of a load for Abraham." (Laughter and applause.)

I think there are some heavy loads, of course, which we are carrying, but let's carry them with a smile if we possibly can. I think it is absolutely necessary that we keep our sense of values and don't rock the boat unnecessarily.

I am so happy personally that I am here. I really am. I didn't think I was going to be able to come. I left Washington last night at ten-thirty. I came into Chicago, arriving at two a. m. this morning and was to leave at five. Bad weather closed in over this section of the country. The five o'clock plane couldn't land here and proceeded on to Denver. I hoped that by 7:15 the weather would clear and I could land here this morning at 9:30. The flight, on which I finally took a seat did not get out at 7:15 but at 9:40, and I got into Des Moines at about one o'clock this afternoon.

It is my third time to visit in Des Moines. I came here for an International Lions Convention many, many years ago—I don't recall the date. I met the governor of the state at that time, a broad-shouldered, thick-set man. I can't remember his name. But I had the pleasure of meeting him. And then I attended the Fire Fighters Association in '40 and in '46 comes this meeting of rural carriers.

You know, when we had prohibition in West Virginia—I am not speaking about its pros or cons—we didn't have a revenue agent. We had "revenooers" that came in to our hill country looking for the operation of illicit stills. One approached a boy of 18 years and said, "Are there any stills in operation?"

The boy said, "Yes, sir, lots of them."

"I would like to see one of them."

"Yes, sir."

He made no attempt to go to the still. The revenooer realized monetary consideration was involved.

"I will give you \$5 to show me that still."

"Yes, sir."

Finally the man said, "I will give you the \$5 and we will get the money for you when we come back."

The boy said, "Mister, you give it to me now—you ain't 'comin back." (Laughter.)

I have come back, and I appreciate the opportunity speaking here. I am talking to you very informally and I will finish in a very, very few minutes. I will not discuss the legislation in which you may be interested at the moment. I am sure that others of your officers, and those who are officially connected with the Post Office Department in the United States, have covered the necessary facts.

In the time which I will use I would like to direct your attention for a moment to a theme which I believe is paramount above all others. The subject would be, if I were to announce it for a speech, "Can World Peace Be Achieved?"

Ask yourself the question individually. Ask it collectively, and the answer perhaps in nine out of ten cases will come back "no." Most people are fearful that World War III will come just as surely as did World War II and World War I. Let's see,

gentlemen of the convention, if it is necessary to have World War III. If it comes, it will destroy you and all you hold dear. You will never meet again in a convention like this in America, even if our country were the winner in the war, because civilization will be destroyed. The countries of this earth will be devastated and our populations will be annihilated. There are 141 million Americans living today, boys and girls, men and women. They form that group of individuals who believe in good government, although we vary in the immediate theories and practices of the day. We believe in a government where all peoples can share in its disappointments and its successes.

Now, let's see for a moment, let's think together—I will not speak to you—about the possibility of World War III.

If it comes, will we have the manpower with which to win it as we had in World War I and World War II?

We will say, if World War III comes, and the institutions of our government continue to function, we will again have young men. Dreadful, damaging and destructive as it may be our youth can fight and win this next war, a war which would destroy the earth.

In World War II, although disparaging people talked critically of the manhood of America, the boys were actually one inch taller than their fathers in World War I. They had stamina which their fathers did not possess. Those are the cold records gathered by the officials in World War II. If World War III comes, will we have the productive capacity, actually operating, to provide the materials and equipment with which to win the war?

The only answer to that is simply this: If we work, we can do the job. But if we continually have the friction between management on the one hand and labor on the other in the years ahead, our industrial empire will break apart.

In 1941, the last year before war, we were producing 312,000 automobiles each and every month. That was the average. In 1946, the first year after World War II, have we increased that output of vehicles each month? No, it is averaging this month 175,000 motor vehicles—not much more than half the productivity in that one industry as compared with 1941.

I ask you this question. Think about it.

When did France lose to the hordes of Hitler? Was it when the Nazi machine invaded the low-lands in '39? No. France lost the war two or three years before when the French people stopped working. That is when France lost the war. (Applause.)

That is when America, or any allies that might be joined with us, if World War III must come—is when we would lose the next war.

I think the major answer to America's economic unrest today is full production. I think that natural controls are preferable to artificial controls. (Applause.)

I believe also that the greatest individual challenge to any of us in this day of trial is to stay on the job, in factory, in field, in mine or in office, wherever we have set our heart and our hand to doing a task. (Applause.)

What has happened in the last few months? Understand, I speak as one who has fought for the aims of labor, organized and unorganized, for collective bargaining, for the raising of the minimum wages, for better conditions for the workmen who engage in industry.

What is happening in this country and has

happened? It seems that management and labor look on themselves as two prize fighters who enter a ring determined to fight it out until one or the other loses, and when that happens, we all lose. I have attended prize fights, as have you. Did you ever see two prize fighters who entered the ring who didn't go to the referee before they started to deliver blows? No. They go to the center of the ring and receive instructions from the referee.

But today management and labor—I put the finger on both of them—are fighting it out, and the American public, the referee in this instance, is not only caught in the middle,—is being struck below the belt. The time for clear thinking by Americans—not as unionists, as employers, but as Americans—the time is here for us to do clear thinking and prompt acting so that an industrial peace will come to this country. It is absolutely necessary that it come quickly or else we will face in this country—and I am almost afraid to venture the words—a period not of prosperity, which we had a right to expect after World War II, but a period of barren and distressed economy.

Consider the merchant who has no merchandise to sell to an eager public which wants to enter his doors. How long is it until he has to close his shop? If we do not produce the materials in America which a consuming public has the money to buy, but later will not possess the purchasing power, we will find ourselves in a deplorable condition in America.

This is the third question that I ask of you. First of all I asked if we have World War III, will we have the manpower? Second, will we have the productivity—both necessary if we are to win, even though we would be the losers, as all the world would lose? The third is this: Will time and space work to our advantage in World War III?

On this all can agree. You can think and debate the others, but you don't have to think about that. Time and space are gone. They worked to the advantage of America in World War I and in World War II.

Gallant allies in this conflict held off an enemy or enemies while we prepared and mobilized manpower and industrial productively. But in World War III time and space will not stand by our side. Atomic warfare, guided missiles, rocket ships—all the weapons of destruction loosed in a few hours, not days or weeks and tearing and ripping apart our economy. The attack will come not along the sea coasts, but across the nation in Iowa, in California, in West Virginia, in New Jersey, in Minnesota and in Mississippi. All sections will be embraced within the conflagration of World War III if it comes.

It isn't a very good prospect, is it, if inevitably we are going to face World War III, but I don't believe it is necessary that it come. If you are a defeatist and you say, "Yes, it is going to come," I part company with you this moment. (Applause.)

Someone says so easily: "Well, there is a force, there is a power that causes war. We can't stop it. It is bigger than we are as individuals or nations."

That is not true. Wars are man-made, and by the same token, wars can be unmade by men. (Applause.)

But what can we do about it? We can join forces together, we can think and work for peace, not as Democrats or Republicans or members of any party or creed, but just as Americans who believe as Tennyson believed so long ago and spoke so beautifully,

"Earth at last a warless world, a single race, a single tongue."

Was he prophetic? The answer must come from you.

"Well," you say, "peoples are different. Their ideals are at variance. We can't bring them together."

Our forefathers brought together people varied in interests. Distances between them were greater than the distances between nations today in ratio, as the little colonies along the Atlantic seaboard were joined in a compact from which came this nation.

It wasn't easy. Some of the delegates even went home. They wouldn't stay any longer. But after weeks, and after months, and yes, after years, our forefathers wrote the Constitution, established the Bill of Rights. America, at the beginning was born, in heartaches. Patience was practiced.

So when people say today, "We can't do the job," I don't believe they tell the truth. If we were strong enough to join with other peoples in the winning of war, why can't we be strong enough and good enough to lead the peoples of the earth into everlasting peace?

Take the rich man and put him on an island surrounded by water. There are no fish in the sea. There is vegetation, no fruit upon the trees. Even though he is rich, millions perhaps in the bank, in three or four days he is starving. He is hunting food. Another man on the island who is poor, with not a dollar in the bank, is also hungry, and so in hunger, the rich and the poor are on one level—the same with shelter; the same with clothing.

And then let's lift it from the physical. What happens when a man is spoken of offensively by his so-called neighbor? He doesn't like it. A man has to sink low if he doesn't want the respect of his fellow men, and basically down underneath, the nations of the earth want to be well thought of by the neighboring nations.

I have enacted for myself a philosophy—I don't know whether you will agree with it or not or want to join it—but I have stopped talking about "foreigners" or people from "foreign nations." I say, neighbors from other nations, because we are all one. If I were to go out of this auditorium today and board a plane in less than 40 hours, by the fastest type of aircraft now in production, I could again set my feet on any spot on the earth. We are only 40 hours apart from enemies or your neighbors. There are no foreigners if you determine that it be so.

Then, lastly, I think all nations—sometimes they don't express it—all nations have a faith, all nations have a creed. We may not understand it. They may not understand ours, but are all basic. They all believe in principle, in right, if it can only be brought to the surface.

I want to propose to you, and you may agree with the plan, but at least I hope it will be thought-provoking. We have the Department of Commerce; we have the Secretary of Commerce and a large staff, and thousands of workers. They are interested in business practices, in the trade relationships of this country, within itself, and also abroad. It is well and good that a nation have within its cabinet such a Department. We have a Department of the Interior and a Secretary and those who join with him by the thousands looking after the grazing lands of the West and looking after the national parks of this country; looking after the great resources of our soil, and that is proper and that is right.

We could go on through all the lists of cabinet posts necessary to our economy, a

War Department, a Navy Department, charged with the responsibility of preparing and prosecuting a war if we engage in such conflict. But we have never spent a single dollar as a nation, not a single penny as a country, to ever attack on a frontal, head-on basis the causes of war.

We spent two billion dollars for research of the atomic bomb. Let's say it was well spent and necessarily spent. It shortened the war by months, saved hundreds of thousands of lives, brought ultimate victory. But why can't we spend two million dollars, of that two billion dollars, on research into the minds of men and into the workings of nations to see what actually causes war in the world? That is what I propose to you. (Applause.)

The establishment of a new post in the cabinet of the United States, a new department, not building bureaucracies upon bureaucracies, not adding to the pay roll of the Government of the United States, but I say let's do away with the War Department and the Navy Department, as such. Let's have one Department of the Armed Services of the United States, with co-equal status of land, sea and air forces. That is the way to save money, to do an economical job in time of peace, an efficient job in time of war. When we have done away with one of those departments, let's establish not a new department, but one replacing one that will be taken away, and let's call it "The Department of Peace." (Applause.)

Someone would say, "The State Department is doing that today." Oh, no. The State Department hemmed about with the niceties of diplomacy, with the dealings of one nation with another to keep one nation in harmony with another, is not doing that. This would be an entirely new department with a new viewpoint, the attack of America on the causes of war—a Department of Peace. Embrace the aid of the Churches, Colleges, Civic and fraternal groups of our land.

Men of this convention, and your ladies who are assembled as an Auxiliary, give thought to it, because it is worthwhile in a world which if plunged into another catastrophe will bring the end of civilization.

Mr. President, I said I was going to stop. I have talked too long—almost fifty minutes. I want to tell this story, however, and I hadn't thought that I would do so. It comes indelibly to my mind.

It was not so many months ago that one Sunday afternoon I went to the Presbyterian chapel in Elkins, West Virginia—my home community. I went there with 400 other people to pay tribute to Phil Williams, Jr., a young man who lived near me—only a few houses separated us. He had been struck down by the enemy in the closing weeks of the fighting in Europe, 20 years of age—tall and strong, with a great heart, a boy who never had a wrong thought, that is in a big way, and never committed an act to cause World War II. That boy and millions like him who had no part in the bringing on of the conflict—they were the tragic casualties.

As I left that chapel, I didn't think of Phil Williams as a man of 20 when he was killed, as a student who had been taken from the university and put into the armed services. I thought of Phil Williams as a little boy. I used to see him come down Third Street with his mother and his hand reached upward to hold hers. I remember a few years later when he started to cross Third Street and I pulled him back from a car that was coming fast down the street.

I recall when he delivered, in his wagon, the Saturday Evening Post.

He went fishing and hunting; he played football and basketball and baseball. He was a good student and a Christian lad in the best sense of the word. He was a gentleman. He never caused or had a part in causing World War II, but he paid for it—he paid for the mistakes of others. He was a victim of madmen.

I said to myself that evening, "I don't know how I can do it; I don't know how others can do it, but somehow we must evolve a plan by which the Phil Williams' everywhere will never go forth to war again."

I ask you to think of those who were close to you, in your family or your community, who never came back after World War II. Can we fail again? We must meet the obligation to think and work for world unity and peace.

I express deep appreciation for the courtesy which you have extended and for the attention which you have given me. To make a repetition, I will quote, and I ask you to join with me in the hope that the dream of Tennyson will come true, "earth at last a warless world, a single race and a single tongue," and that his words will live and live: "Till the war drum throbbed no longer, and the battle flags were furled, in the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the world."

(The audience arose and applauded.)

President Walters. I am sure that the words from Congressman Randolph will live and grow in the minds of those who were privileged to hear that wonderful address. I am happy indeed that he put forth this effort and sacrifice to come and be with us and bring this inspiring message.

We have in the audience a rural carrier that is now serving a goodly portion of this country that Congressman Randolph has just described in the person of John J. Ebe, of Charles Town, West Virginia. I would like for Mr. Ebe to stand if he is in the room.

(Applause as he arose.)

President Walters. Also at this time, I am sure that the delegates to this convention are prepared to take advantage of the challenge that was offered by Congressman Randolph that we, as an organization, mark the grave of this first rural carrier, and if some delegate desires to make such a motion, I will be happy to entertain such.

John Hamm, Pennsylvania. I make that motion.

O. C. Leathers, Kentucky. Second the motion.

President Walters. The motion has been seconded.

Ernest Robertson, Louisiana. Should we not include both those rural carriers in this resolution?

President Walters. There is only one grave that is not marked.

Ernest Robertson. I would like to amend that so that it would be permissible by sending a wreath to the sick brother there now.

President Walters. That would be acceptable, I believe. You have heard the motion as amended, and the second. Is there any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(The motion was put to a vote, and carried.)

While we are reminiscing a little, how many rural carriers in the room do we have that served during the first ten years of rural service, that is from 1896 to 1906? Someone asked to let those stand. Just stand

wherever you are if you served during that period of time.

(Fifteen delegates arose.)

President Walters. We are delighted to have you here.

Now, in just a moment we are going to have the report of the Place Committee, and also the report of the certified public accountant, but before we do that, we are going to give the ladies just a few moments to come before us to show you some of the handiwork that they have done this year with cancelled stamps.

The first prize on the posters made by the members of the auxiliary goes to the state of Pennsylvania, and this is the first prize. This is made up entirely from cancelled stamps.

(Applause as picture was shown.)

President Walters. Second place went to the state of Oregon.

These others are honorable mention. This one is from the state of North Carolina.

This one comes from the state of Colorado.

This one is from the state of Indiana.

Down in the auxiliary room they had those and dozens and dozens of other posters. I would hate to have been one of the judges. Thank you very much for bringing the posters up here.

The Time and Place Committee is ready to report. We will now have that report and then we will make these announcements.

W. L. Snyder, Virginia. Mr. President, fellow rural carriers, and fellow delegates: We, the Committee on Time and Place of the next convention, submit the following report: We have an invitation from San Francisco, California, but the delegation from California has not submitted any guarantees or data. I might state in here that California has cancelled their invitation.

We have an invitation from Tampa, Florida, with a \$1,500 guarantee, and the use of 14 rooms for our national officers, or more if necessary, on any date in the month of August that we wish to hold the convention. Florida offers us 2,124 rooms in 17 hotels, and assures us that rates will run approximately as they are found here.

They offer us a convention hall seating 600 delegates, and a ladies' convention hall across the street seating 500 delegates. They also have available an auditorium for combined assembly seating 2500 persons. There will be available rooms for committees and a banquet seating 1700 guests.

Respectfully submitted: W. P. Snyder, Byron L. Burrill, Andrew Hintz, James A. Marceau, and Freeman R. Nelson.

I thank you.

President Walters. You have heard the report of your Time and Place Committee. What is your pleasure?

James D. McCall, Nebraska. In view of the fact that we have one invitation and it would be so far for a great number of us, I move that the selection of the time and place be left to the national board.

Wylie J. Roberts, Arkansas. I second that motion.

President Walters. Is there any discussion on that motion? The motion was, as I understood, that the selection of the convention state be left to the members of your national board.

Voice. I think it would give us all some enlightenment if the committee would give us some information on the rates.

President Walters. He said that the rates were approximately the same as the hotel rates found here.

On our printed program is listed for to-

morrow, "The Selection of the Convention State." This report, of course, was brought to the committee and it is your pleasure to do whatever you care to do with it or with the motion that is before the house. Is there any further discussion?

A. B. Laughter, North Carolina. I wanted to ask for a little information. This committee on Time and Place was set up by the convention, was it not?

President Walters. Absolutely.

A. B. Laughter. It seems we should give due consideration to their decision or their recommendation.

James A. Marceau, Rhode Island. I was on that committee, and Brother Bill Snyder has men available to advise you what the rates will be down there. Have you those men there, Bill?

W. L. Snyder. Yes.

O. C. Leathers, Kentucky. I rise to a point of order.

President Walters. State your point.

O. C. Leathers. This was a committee's report authorized by this convention, and the gentleman who made the motion that is being discussed to let the national board decide the time and place of the next meeting is out of order because we are expected to accept or reject the report of the committee.

He got up to make the motion to accept the committee report and made a motion to transact some business that is supposed to come up tomorrow.

President Walters. I kind of hinted that when I said it was on the printed program for tomorrow, but I don't like to have to decide the point of order, but I guess I have to.

DePriest, Tennessee. I fail to see the necessity of disfranchizing this convention by delegating our authority to the national board. Now to clear up this parliamentary angle, I move you that his motion be tabled. Do I have a second?

President Walters. A point of order cannot be tabled.

O. B. DePriest. I move that we table the motion by the first gentleman here to empower the national board to select a time and place.

O. C. Leathers. Mr. Chairman, I have the floor of this convention, have I not?

President Walters. It looks like it.

O. C. Leathers. Mr. President and gentlemen of this convention, this committee was authorized by the national association to make its report with reference to the time and place for our next meeting. They came in and made the most intelligent report that was possible for them to make, and we should do them the courtesy to either accept or reject the report.

The gentleman, I don't know who he was, made the motion that the time and place of the meeting be referred to the board of control and let them set the time and place. My point of order is that his motion is out of order.

President Walters. I will be forced to rule that the motion was out of order.

O. C. Leathers. While I still have the floor, Mr. Chairman—

President Walters. I don't know whether you have the floor now or not. I ruled on your point of order.

O. C. Leathers. I didn't sit down. I made my point of order and didn't sit down. Mr. President and gentlemen, I move you that we accept the report of this committee with a vote of thanks.

Burdette Playfoot, New York. Second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion. Is there any discussion? If not, all

those in favor signify by saying aye.

(The motion was put to a vote, and carried.)

President Walters. It is accepted. Your report is adopted and your committee discharged with a vote of thanks.

Now be thinking about this when we reach that part of the program on the selection of the state.

O. C. Leathers. All I wanted to say is that I was trying to call for a little information, that we might help the convention make an intelligent decision.

President Walters. We understand that.

If the chairman of the Executive Committee will get his cups and fine report together, I will be making some announcements.

(Announcements.)

President Walters. I have been requested to move the opening hour up in the morning by several of you. This convention is yours. If you want to open at five, eight or nine o'clock, I will be here.

Carl D. Barnes, Mississippi. I would like it moved up because the trains leave at 1:15, and all of us folks have about run out of money.

President Walters. Would eight o'clock be too early?

(Cries of no.)

President Walters. If it is unanimous, I will announce now that the convention will open at eight o'clock. Any objections?

(Announcements.)

President Walters. Mrs. Greathouse is here with some pictures, that is the closing deal with reference to the money that was raised by the Auxiliary a year or two ago. Mrs. Greathouse.

Mrs. R. E. Greathouse. Mr. Walters, and friends: I know you are in a hurry to get out of here and don't want me to take much time, but you will be just as glad as I was when the project that we began in 1943 and 1944 had been completed.

As you remember, when we began the project it was to collect money for a disaster unit, Red Cross disaster unit to be sent overseas. By the time the money was collected, the demand was not so great for that as it was for ambulances and club-mobiles. So Mr. Smith of the National Headquarters has been trying for about two years to find out just what the greatest need was and to use our money accordingly. So in May of this year, they bought a large ambulance. It isn't one of the small ones, it is a large ambulance.

There is a girl who is a nurse there in the hospital that I saw, and she said that she had seen it and it was beautiful. I kept waiting for a picture so I might send it in to the paper and you might hear of it through the official organ. But I didn't get the pictures until after I arrived in Des Moines. They will be placed on the outside so you can see them. I also received a letter from the Field Director there, and I thought you might like to hear that:

"Dear Mrs. Greathouse: I do hope the pictures of the ambulance which was donated to Crile General Hospital by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Rural Mail Carriers Association reached you on time and in good condition. The Post Office Department assured us that they would reach you in ample time."

"I want to explain to you the delay. The ambulance arrived in May just when the Army was leaving Crile Hospital and the Veterans Administration was taking it over. With so many transactions taking place at once, the pictures were not taken as originally scheduled. The Veterans Administration accepted the ambulance from the Army and

from you and put it into immediate and constant use. It has been invaluable in moving seriously ill and handicapped patients ever since June. In fact it was in such steady use that it was extremely difficult to find a time to take the picture.

"Crile Veterans Hospital and the American Red Cross want to express our sincere appreciation to your organization for this generous and invaluable gift. We regret the delay in getting the pictures to you, but we hope that you will understand the reasons for it. The Veterans Administration here has asked that I inquire from you the commercial name of the color of the ambulance. They are so pleased with the shade of green that they would like to make their entire motor pool conform with it as repainting becomes necessary.

"Thank you so much for your kindness and interest in the welfare of our patients. Very sincerely yours, Miss Florence Tupper, Field Director."

Now in behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, I want to thank you men for your part in the raising of that money for our project, because I know you did help, and helped wonderfully. The completion of the project certainly proves that cooperation means success.

President Walters. We will now have the report of the certified public accountant read by the chairman of the Executive Committee, J. Paul Myers.

J. Paul Myers. Mr. President, this is the auditor's report of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, Washington, D. C. (Mr. J. Paul Myers read the Auditor's Report.)

J. Paul Myers. Gentlemen, that is the report of the auditor for this convention. Thank you.

President Walters. You have heard the report read by Chairman Myers of the Auditing Committee. What is your pleasure?

Joseph J. Nicholas, Florida. I move the report be adopted.

Burdette Playfoot, New York. Second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second that the auditor's report be accepted and become a part of our record. Any discussion. If not, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

(The motion was put to a vote, and carried.)

President Walters. So ordered.

(Announcements.)

President Walters. Now we have the presentation of the cups.

Voice. May I ask if that report which has just been read is subject to inspection by any member?

President Walters. Yes. Do you desire to finish our work or do you desire to adjourn? We have the presentation of the 100 per cent cups.

O'dell Howerton, Virginia. I move you that we proceed with all the business we have today. We have a heavy day tomorrow and many of us want to get away. If it is the desire of this convention, I suggest that we get rid of all the work we can.

Roy E. Mills, North Carolina. Second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion let it be known by saying aye.

(The motion was put to a vote, and carried.)

President Walters. It is carried.

We will present the 100 per cent cups.

J. Paul Myers. Mr. President, and brothers: This is one of the happiest moments

of my life, and I hope that all the delegates at large are still here. I want to get this through as rapidly as possible, but I hope someone at least from each state will come up and claim the cup, that is, the states who are entitled to them.

This honor roll in front here is one of the finest things that we have ever had. There are 30 names on it, 30 one hundred per cent states, which makes—we have a total of 31,520 members—which makes this a 100 per cent national convention, of which I think we should be very proud.

If you will just line up along the front here, starting clear over at this end, we would like to see the delegates from the states who have 100 per cent membership.

We have several cups here, and perhaps we will need more. I would just like to make a little explanation. These cups are of various sizes and descriptions. Some of them already have been engraved. They will just be given out as you come along. They are probably not all of the same value, but we will give them out with the same spirit. Even if you do happen to get one which isn't the color you like, I know you will appreciate it. It means that your state is in that honor roll of 100 per cent. If you wish to have them engraved, we will send them to the factory in Cincinnati and this work will be done free of charge and mailed to your address.

I will call off the names of the states, and if you will come up just as rapidly as possible, I will give the number of years which you have been 100 per cent in succession and state if you are entitled to permanent possession of this cup. If there is any question let me know. (Presentation of 100% cups.)

President Walters. That brings us up on our programs as outlined. Will the ex-service men come forward to retire the colors?

(The colors were retired by the ex-servicemen.)

President Walters. The Resolution Committee has their proposed reports mimeographed, and after we have been adjourned, they will be available for the delegates. Please pick them up as you leave the convention hall.

Let's all rise, please. I now declare this convention adjourned until eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon the meeting was recessed until the following morning.)

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION AUGUST 16, 1946

The meeting convened at eight-five o'clock, President Walters presiding.

President Walters. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, invite the Delegates in.

Let us all stand, please, and keep the center isle open for just a minute. We will now have the advancement of the colors.

(The Ex-Servicemen's Committee advanced the colors and then the audience recited the "Pledge of Allegiance.")

President Walters. As was announced yesterday, the Pennsylvania Delegation will have charge of the opening exercises. John Hamm, the State President, is now in charge.

(The Pennsylvania Delegation came to the platform.)

Brother Hamm. Let us rise. Our Father in Heaven, We ask Thy blessing to rest upon us this morning as we are gathered here in the final session of this Convention. We pray Thee that this week a fellowship among us who have gathered here from all parts of this great nation of ours may

result in a better understanding of our mutual problems, and may it bring us closer together in order that we may exert a greater influence for good in the promotion of world peace.

We ask a special blessing upon the Officers of this Organization who have contributed so valiantly of their time and ability to this Association during the past year. May Thy blessing rest upon every carrier and his family throughout this land. Give them strength to carry on their daily work, and may our accomplishments here be in accordance with Thy will.

Our Heavenly Father, we pray as we leave this meeting for our respective homes, that Thy guiding hand will accompany each and every one of us safely to our destination and abide with us until we meet again.

In Thy Holy Name we ask it. Amen.

We will now have a solo by one whom you all know. It is Pennsylvania's old faithful Marvin Young.

Marvin Young. I would like to sing a number that was loved very much by John McCormick, the world's greatest tenor. This was his favorite: "Bless This House."

(Marvin Young sang "Blessed This House.")

John Hamm. A solo by Mrs. George Weidman.

(Vocal selection by Mrs. George Weidman.)

John Hamm. A solo by Harold Schafer. (Solo by Harold Schafer.)

John Hamm. We know that you are all

anxious to get to your homes. We could talk for hours on the state of Pennsylvania, but we will just give you Pennsylvania's slogan, "Pennsylvania has everything."

(Announcements.)

President Walters. Some of the Delegates have asked to contact the Mileage and Per Diem Committee. If the Chairman of the Mileage and Per Diem Committee will come to the front these two or three Delegates can get in touch with you.

I have been asked by several this morning if the RFD Books will be available today. They will be.

That brings us to the roll call of Officers and Delegates. Do you desire to have this roll call made?

(Cries of No.)

Clifton J. Brown, Tennessee. I move that we dispense with the roll call.

President Walters. You have heard the motion that we dispense with the roll call of officers and Delegates.

William E. Mabey, Illinois. I second that motion.

President Walters. Any discussion? If not, all in favor of the motion will let it be known by saying, "aye"; any opposed. So ordered.

We will now have the final report of the National Secretary, Glenn W. Folkers.

Secretary Folkers. Mr. President, Officers and Delegates of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, here assembled in National Convention: I herewith present the total financial report of receipts of the National Association and Official Publication for the Associational year 1945-46.

RECEIPTS

National Per-Capita:	
26,550 Regular members at \$3.00.....	\$79,650.00
4,953 Associate members at \$1.50.....	7,429.50
43 Military members (Complimentary)	
31,546 Total membership.....	\$87,079.50
Miscellaneous & Incidental Receipts:	
Delinquent and New Member 1945 Per-capita.....	\$9,635.00
Dividends on Savings Accounts.....	130.00
Receipt Books.....	2.20
Lapel Buttons.....	18.75
Widow's Weekly Subscription.....	3.00
Transfer Subscriptions (Mo. to Wkly.).....	22.50
Receipts from Cachet sales.....	450.25
Advertising Revenue.....	8,939.55
Publishing Proceedings of Auxiliary.....	578.95
Revenue from sale of "The R.F.D.".....	3,000.00
	\$22,780.20
Total cash receipts, 1945-46.....	\$109,859.70
Remitted to National Treas., George M. Ellis.....	\$109,859.70
Disbursements & Expenditures of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association for the 1945-1946 National Association year:	
Officers' Accounts:	
Sub-hire, Pier-diem, Transportation & Expenses.....	\$19,553.41
Stenographers & Secretaries' Salaries.....	3,345.20
Office Supplies & Expenses-Nat'l. Sec'y.....	180.63
Washington Office & Legislative Fund.....	2,942.70
Postage & Stamp Supplies.....	507.50
Printing Account.....	661.45
Hotel Account.....	1,192.64
Taxes & Unemployment Compensation.....	2,738.47
Office & Apartment Rental.....	2,325.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures:	
Ernst & Ernst, Baltimore, Md. C.P.A. Service, auditing books..	\$133.95
L. C. Smith & Corona Typewriter Corp., Wash., D. C.—one typewriter.....	122.43
Premium on Secretary's & Treasurer's Bonds.....	170.00
Deposit-United Air Lines, Wash., D. C., Volume Air Travel Credit Cards.....	425.00
Norfolk Co. Trust Co., Dedham, Mass., Series (F) Bond—\$5,000 value.....	3,700.00
J. Nelson Anderson, Att'y, Wash., D. C., Professional Services	300.00
National Engraving Co., Wash., D. C., Cachet cuts & Art work	93.41

Moore & Company, Balto., Md. Binding & Distributing "The RFD"	1,777.37	
United Air Lines, Chicago, Ill., Transportation, Board Members	314.42	
Parkside Press, Washington, D. C., Printing 50th Anniversary Seals	450.25	
Washington Envelope Co., Wash., D. C. Envelopes with printed Cachet.....	63.33	
Chas. G. Stott & Co., Wash., D. C., File Cabinet for Washington Office.....	48.56	
Fleet-McGinley, Inc., Balto., Md., Printing 5,000 copies of "The R.F.D."	1,239.00	
A. R. Zechlin, Mokena, Ill. "Honor Roll".....	30.00	8,867.72

Total Expenditures for Association Year..... \$42,314.72
Annual report of the "National Rural Letter Carrier" from September 1, 1945 to
August 10, 1946.

Des Moines, Iowa,
August 10, 1946

RECEIPTS

Cash balance, Sept. 1, 1945.....	\$218.98
25,124 Weekly Subscriptions at \$1.50.....	37,686.00
4,363 Monthly Subscriptions at \$1.00.....	4,363.00
Publishing Auxiliary Proceedings.....	578.95
Delinquent & New Members Subsc.....	760.00
Advertising Revenue	8,939.55

Total Working Capital..... \$52,546.48

DISBURSEMENTS

Fleet-McGinley, Inc., Baltimore, Md., Printing and Publishing....	\$34,395.18
National Capital Press, Wash., D. C., Payment on Note (Retired)	3,900.00
Postage for "Paper".....	1,234.88
Rental (Fleet-McGinley, Inc.).....	300.00
Supplies and Equipment.....	530.65
Salaries	4,556.57
Wash. Office Supplies & Expenses.....	899.10
Fleet-McGinley, Inc., Incidental Expenses.....	103.70
Engraving Account	492.51
Photography Account	44.70

Total Expenditures

Cash Balance in "Paper" Account..... \$6 089.19
This Report is respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Folkers, National Secretary.

President Walters. You have heard the the Report of the National Secretary, Glenn Folkers. What is your pleasure?

W. L. Snyder, Virginia. I move that the report be accepted and made part of the record.

O. C. Leathers, Kentucky. I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion. Any discussion? If not, all in favor let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed, "no." It is adopted. Thank you, Glenn.

We will now have the Report of the Treasurer.

Treasurer George M. Ellis. Annual Report of the Treasurer.

In National Convention
Des Moines, Iowa
August 6, 1946

To the Officers and Members of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association:

Herewith is submitted a report of receipts and expenditures for the period September 1, 1945, to date.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Balance on hand, September 1, 1945.....	\$69,560.32
Received from Glenn W. Folkers, Sec.	100,341.20

Total receipts \$169,901.52

DISBURSEMENTS

Vouchers Nos. 1 to 223, both inc.	42,314.72
Allocations to Paper Acct.....	42,809.00

\$85,123.72

Balance in General Account,
this date \$84,777.80

PAPER ACCOUNT

Receipts

Balance on Hand Sept. 1, 1945	\$218.98
Received from Glenn W. Folkers, Sec.	9,518.50
Allocations from Gen. Acct.....	42,809.00
	\$52,546.48

Disbursements

Vouchers Nos. P-1 to P-167, both inc.	46,457.29
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Balance in Paper Acct.

this date	\$6,089.19
Balance in both accounts this date	\$90,866.99

RECAPITULATION

Balance in checking account....	\$62,525.79
Cash on hand.....	19,341.20
On deposit-Norfolk County Trust Co.	5,000.00
On deposit-Dedham Institution for Savings	4,000.00
	\$90,866.99

U. S. Savings and War Bonds (Cost)	31,150.00
On deposit with United Air Lines	425.00
Cash in hands of National Officers	4,500.00

Total Cash, bonds and
other assets \$126,921.99

No debt. No outstanding bills at the be-

ginning of this Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE M. ELLIS,
Treasurer.

President Walters. You have heard the report of the National Treasurer, George M. Ellis.

William Van Hartesvelt, Jr., Michigan. I moved that the report be accepted and placed on file

President Walters. You have heard the motion.

O. B. DePriest, Tennessee. I second the motion.

President Walters. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion as stated let it be known by saying, "aye"; any opposed, the same sign. It is carried and so ordered.

Report of the Resolutions Committee. What is your pleasure with reference to the adoption of the Resolutions? Should we proceed as the usual practice, after a pause of adopting them with the sound of the gavel unless there is an objection raised. If objections are raised we will pass over the resolution and then come back to those that have been objected to.

(Cries of "Yes.")

President Walters. Since we have had an opportunity to read them we will follow that procedure, if there is no objection.

C. E. Kellogg, Chairman of Resolutions Committee. Fellow Carriers, just a word before reading the Resolutions. I am sure you gentlemen will appreciate the fact that the Committee had nearly 600 resolutions to read, sort and act upon. There were conflicting resolutions and duplications. We have included as many as the majority of the committee deemed advisable for the good of the Association.

Resolutions: We, the resolutions committee of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association in Convention assembled in Des Moines, Iowa, this 16th Day of August, 1946, beg to submit the following report:

(1) "Whereas, the ever watchful eye of the Supreme Ruler has carefully protected us during the past year and permitted us to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, be it,

"Resolved: That we thank Divine Providence that we are again permitted to gather in this beautiful city of Des Moines, Iowa, to discuss the problems pertaining to the welfare of the Postal service and our organization."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

Kellogg. (2) "Resolved, that we pledge anew our allegiance to the President of the United States, and to the Post Office Department, and the Postmaster General and his assistants in their endeavor to better serve the people at home and abroad."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

Kellogg. (3) "Resolved: That we express our most sincere appreciation to the Iowa Rural Letter Carriers Association, and Harley V. Shepherd, Convention Chairman, and to H. G. Courtney, President of Iowa Rural Letter Carriers Association, the Management of Fort Des Moines Hotel, and to each organization and individual that contributed to the comfort and pleasure of the rural carriers and families in attendance at the National Convention assembled at Des Moines, Iowa."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

Kellogg. (4) "Resolved: That we express our appreciation to President Thomas G. Walters and to other members of our National Board for their untiring efforts in our behalf during the past years."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

Kellogg. "Resolved: That we extend our

sincere appreciation to the Honorable B. B. Hickenlooper, U. S. Senator from Iowa, The Honorable Robert D. Blue, Governor of Iowa, The Honorable John McVicar, Mayor of Des Moines, and to Miss Edith M. Johnson, Postmaster of Des Moines, for their splendid addresses of welcome.

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. (6) "Resolved: That we extend our most sincere appreciation to our distinguished guests, the Honorable Jesse M. Donaldson, 1st Assistant Postmaster General, Honorable J. Ed Cooper, Superintendent, Post Office Service, Division 3, Honorable George O'Brien, Chairman, House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, Congressman Jennings Randolph, Chairman House Civil Service Committee, Congressman James I. Dolliver, House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, Congressman Paul Cunningham, Mr. P. D. McLean, Director, National Highway Users' Conference and Honorable Robert Ram-speck, Executive Vice President, Air Transport Assn. of America, for their attendance at our Convention."

President Walters. What about making one correction in that one without any objections, and that is to strike out Honorable George O'Brien, who was unable to attend, and insert the name of Mr. George Q. Barnes, who addressed this Convention, and also to add after "Congressman Paul Cunningham," "Member of the Roads Committee"? If that meets with the approval of the Committee and the Delegates, I am sure that the Committee will be glad to make that change.

C. E. Kellogg. We certainly will.

Ernest Robertson, Louisiana. Let's add Inspector Stone to that resolution, and Hart of the United Air Lines.

President Walters. You have heard those additions and this Committee will be happy to make any other additions along that general line which would not affect the resolution that might come to their attention from the Delegates. But as far as I know, that gets everyone, does it not? Is that agreeable for that to be inserted? Hearing no objections, we declare it inserted then.

C. E. Kellogg. Number 7: "Resolved: That we favor and strongly urge the enactment of permanent legislation making possible retirement after 30 years of service, regardless of age, with maximum annuity, and provide annuities for widows of all rural carriers, said annuity effective date of carrier's death."

(Carried by sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. Number 8: "Resolved: That in recognition of the fine services of our retired carriers, the association provide a badge of grey color with appropriate wording for both retired carriers and wives for use at each succeeding National Convention."

(Carried by sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. Number 9: "Whereas, it has become necessary for the resolutions committee to read and catalogue more than 500 resolutions, therefore be it

"Resolved: That all resolutions be presented to Resolution Committee by 6 P. M. of the 1st day the National Convention is in session."

(Carried by sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. Number 10: "Whereas, some national dues have been collected on a pro rata basis, therefore, be it

"Resolved: That the Secretary be instructed to collect full per capita tax for any carrier regardless of time of payment thus conforming to National Constitution and By-laws."

(Carried by sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. Number 11: "Whereas, the federal government has appropriated \$500,000,000 per year for our highways and whereas \$150,000,000 per year will be allocated for roads other than federal and state, to be matched by funds locally, and whereas, it becomes apparent that the standards of construction are so high that in many localities the officials are unable to match the funds; be it

"Resolved: That we request the Bureau of Public Roads Administration through the various State Highway Departments to relax the standards of construction in those counties where such needs exist, and be it further

"Resolved: That this National Association go on record opposing diversion of any State and National special motor vehicle and gas taxes for any other than road purposes."

Clifton J. Brown, Tennessee. Objection, Mr. President.

C. E. Kellogg. Number 13: "Resolved: That we request the National Board to make an effort to have rural carriers included in war surplus priority for equipment that would be suitable for use on rural routes."

(Carried by sound of gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. "Resolved: That we urge National Officers to use their best efforts in having legislation enacted into law, increasing our maintenance allowance from six cents to eight cents per mile."

(Carried by sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 15: "Resolved: That the National Convention respectfully submit to the Postmaster General for his approval the use of a rural mail box size 18 x 9 x 11 inches designed and patented by Lewis F. Sinsbaugh and Grant A. Roe."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 16: "Resolved: That this association approve the Post Office Department's action in regards to Mail Box clean up week and recommend its continuance."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 17: "Resolved: That owing to the special effort required in the personal delivery of certain red letter government checks, we request our national board to make every effort to have an order issued permitting delivery of said red letter checks as ordinary 1st class mail."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 18: "Whereas, as now no limitations are placed on the amount of load that may be placed on rural carriers, be it

"Resolved: That we favor the enactment of such legislation as to authorize the Post Office department to require Postmasters to furnish such auxiliary help and assistance to heavy route carriers as may be necessary to bring their work load within reasonable limits to approximately the same as are required in other branches of the postal service."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 19: "Owing to the unsatisfactory working conditions existing such as insufficient space, unsanitary quarters, inadequate heating and lighting facilities in small post offices, be it

"Resolved: That the Post Office Department make a thorough investigation and take definite action to correct such conditions."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 20: "Resolved: That this Association does not favor INCORPORATION at this time."

Clifton J. Brown. Mr. President, objection.

C. E. Kellogg. No. 21: "Resolved: That the present system of selecting our Washington representative be continued."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 22: "Resolved: That the Post Office Department be asked to issue an order requiring that all first and third class mail be stamped before placing in rural boxes for collection."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 23: "Resolved: That we are definitely opposed to the merger of our retirement system with social security."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 24: "Resolved: That our National Officers seek legislation giving all retired carriers at least 20% increase in their retirement pay; and be it further

"Resolved: That all retired carrier's annuity be exempted from all state and federal income taxes."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 25: "Resolved: That we urge the discontinuance of requirement that rural carriers supply help at their personal expense."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 26: "Resolved: That rural carriers be relieved of carrying relay mail for city carriers."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 27: "Resolved: That we request through the National Association for the establishment of a civil service court of appeals."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. No. 28: "Resolved: That the paying Postmaster issue a statement of the number of days of vacation and sick leave due each carrier at the beginning of each fiscal year."

Arthur E. Constance, Missouri. I would like to have this considered later. I would like to make an amendment to that.

President Walters. I am going to leave that up to the delegates. Perhaps I didn't pause long enough. I have no objections. The delegates heard the sound of the gavel just about the time the gentleman arose. What is your pleasure?

(Sentiment from the Assembly seemed to indicate that he should be heard.)

President Walters. O. K.

C. E. Kellogg. Before reading No. 29, owing to a typographical error, the copy you have does not conform with the original, so if you will insert after the word "leave" in the first line "with pay"; and also in the last line after the word "conventions" add "with pay"; then it will conform with the resolution which I read.

No. 29 "Whereas, Postmasters receive leave with pay to attend State and National Conventions including travel time without being charged against their annual leave, therefore, be it

"Resolved: That rural carriers be permitted to attend State and National conventions with pay without said leave being charged to annual leave."

Odell Hoverton, Virginia. Objection.

C. E. Kellogg. No. 30: "Whereas, at present a rural carrier separated from the service on account of disability and later certified by the department doctors to be physically able to resume his duties has to secure approval of the postmaster at the office of a vacancy for reinstatement before he can return to work, and whereas, if he has not been able to secure such position within one year he is dropped from his civil service status, thereby losing his employment and right of future retirement, therefore, be it

"Resolved: That the department be requested to make a ruling or that Congress

pass a law making it mandatory for the Post Office Department to hold such carrier's position open for him by substitute or temporary carrier until such time as the carrier shall have been certified to be permanently retired on disability or retired."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg, No. 31. "Resolved: That the past years having proven the value and assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary to our Association, therefore, we extend to them our sincere thanks and appreciation and we urge every member of our Association to use every effort to increase membership in the Auxiliary."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

C. E. Kellogg. "Resolved: That the National Association adopt a permanent policy of using the present due card system and supply same to state Association."

(Carried by the sound of the gavel.)

President Walters. Delegates, in an effort to give every Delegate an opportunity to express his or her desire Mr. Clark of California has asked for the privilege of making the request or whatever he might have on his mind, to the Delegates, and I have granted him that permission.

Maurice E. Clark. If you will turn to Resolution No. 10, you will find that the "Secretary be instructed to collect full per capita tax for any carrier regardless of time of payment."

I would like to amend that to the extent that a new carrier coming in should not have to pay full per capita.

President Walters. Before you ask for that amendment, I will have to rule that the Resolution was adopted, but if it is the will of the Delegation to reconsider this, I would not offer any objection. By the sound of the gavel we did adopt that resolution, as you know. But the Convention is yours, and if you wish to reconsider, that is absolutely your privilege.

L. F. Quattlebaum, Georgia. I move that be reconsidered.

J. J. Kindler, Ohio. I second the motion.

President Walters. You heard the motion and the second that we reconsider this resolution. Is there any discussion? The motion is that we reconsider resolution Number 10. There is no motion before the house to change the wording of that resolution. It is simply a motion that we reconsider Number 10. If you vote for it, then Clark can bring up his discussion. If you vote it down, then he cannot at this time bring it up. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor of reconsidering resolution Number 10 let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed, "no." It is lost.

That brings us to resolution Number 12. That was objected to as we proceeded to read the resolutions. "Resolved: That the National Officers be instructed to withdraw from the legislative council."

Al Houston, Minnesota. Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates, I move that this resolution be tabled.

Van Hartesvelt, Michigan. I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion that this resolution be tabled. How shall we vote? By "yea" or "nay?"

Clifton J. Brown. I ask for a roll call vote on that, due to the importance of this resolution.

President Walters. A roll call has been requested.

(Cries of "no.")

President Walters. When a roll call is demanded, you need not argue. We will have it. The Secretary will call the roll. If the tellers will come forward, we will have them assist in checking the roll call.

I am going to appoint the Postmaster General and his assistants also on the Tellers' Committee. If you gentlemen will come up here to the front to where you can be accessible, it will be handier. The tellers are B. A. Tillman, W. O. Kent and Harry H. Larson.

(The tellers came to the front of the room.)

President Walters. Are you ready for the roll call? The roll call vote will be on the motion to table. It is not on the resolution. Of course, as you know, if it is tabled, then it is dead so far as this Convention is concerned. If you vote in the affirmative you are in favor of tabling the motion. If you vote in the negative, you are opposed to tabling the motion. Does everybody understand? The roll call will proceed.

Secretary Folkers.

State	Yes	No
Alabama	10	
Arizona		1
Arkansas		7
California	5	
Colorado	3	
Connecticut		2
Delaware	2	
Florida	4	
Georgia		14
Idaho		2
Illinois	19	
Indiana	13	
Iowa	15	
Kansas	12	
Kentucky	9	
Louisiana	3	
Maine		5
Maryland	3	
Massachusetts		4
Michigan	13	
Minnesota	13	
Mississippi	8	
Missouri	15	
Montana		2
Nebraska	9	
New Hampshire	3	
New Jersey	3	
New Mexico	1	
New York	14	
North Carolina	11	
North Dakota	7	
Ohio	18	
Oklahoma	9	
Oregon		3
Pennsylvania	17	
Rhode Island	2	
South Carolina	7	
South Dakota	7	
Tennessee	14	
Texas		18
Vermont		4
Virginia	9	
Washington		4
West Virginia	4	
Wisconsin	14	
Wyoming	1	
President	1	
Vice-President	1	
Secretary	1	
Treasurer	1	
Committeeman Myers	1	
Committeeman Manning	1	
Committeeman Gray	1	

That is a total of 371 votes.

(The votes were tallied.)

Secretary Folkers. The result of the roll call vote: 292 "yes"; 79 "no."

President Walters. The motion to table is carried. We will move down to No. 20. "Resolved: That this Association does not favor incorporation at this time."

Clifton J. Brown. Mr. President—

Voice. Roll Call.

Clifton J. Brown. In asking that we pass on this resolution, it does not mean that I am opposed to all of the resolution. This being a matter of vast importance, having received attention for the past two years, having been referred to our States for a referendum, I move that we strike out the words, "at this time"; and that we have a roll call vote on the resolution so that the tabulation of our state may be recorded and become a permanent record of this Association.

I make that motion, Mr. President.

Norman Baxter, Rhode Island. I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and it is duly seconded. Any discussion? If not, all in favor of the motion, let it be known—

Clifton Brown. I asked for a roll call on that, due to its importance, and due to the fact that we have taken the referendum, so that we may have a poll of the states on it.

President Walters. If you made that in the form of a motion, wouldn't we have to adopt the motion before we have the roll call? You would have your roll call, all right, but you made that as a motion.

Clifton J. Brown. All right, Mr. President, I move that we have a roll call vote on the proposition.

President Walters. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor of the motion let it be known by saying "aye"; any opposed, "no." It is carried. The Secretary will call the roll.

Voice. Will you state the motion, please. I think the striking out of the last three words is the main point of contention.

President Walters. That is all there is. The motion was simply to eliminate the last three words. It does not change the resolution except that you cut off the last three words.

Clifton J. Brown. That is right.

President Walters. Is that clear?

Wynn Armstrong, Michigan. I just want to make sure that I understand. We are merely moving to strike out the last three words on this roll call. Am I correct?

President Walters. That is the way I understand it. We are merely moving to strike out the last three words on this roll call.

Wynn Armstrong. A "yea" vote strikes out the last three words.

President Walters. That is right.

Raymond H. Combs, New York. We have already voted to strike out the last three words. We are now having a roll call on the resolution, with the last three words off, which will make it read: "Resolved: That the Association does not favor incorporation."

President Walters. That is what it would mean either way. You can vote either way you want to vote. Brother Brown's motion, as I understood it, was to strike out the last three words. So then you would not be voting on the resolution. You would be voting on the striking out of the last three words.

Raymond H. Combs. We voted on that, Mr. President. We passed on that.

President Walters. The roll call, as I understood it—and I asked Brother Brown if I was correct—that we were voting on striking out the last three words.

Clifton J. Brown. You misunderstood me, Mr. President. The idea was that we vote on the proposition of whether we shall incorporate or whether we shall not.

President Walters. That is the same answer. You will get the same answer. You want to vote on the adoption of this resolu-

tion, with the three words eliminated?
(Cries of "Yes.")
President Walters. All right, we will get the same results. The roll call will proceed.
Harry J. McCully, Florida. This is going to be confusing to most of the Delegates. We shall not incorporate. Many of us are going to vote "yes" when we are really voting "no." Let's get it straightened out.
President Walters. If you vote "yes" you will be voting for the adoption of this resolution with the three last words stricken out.

McCully. That means we are not going to incorporate?

President Walters. That is right.

Harry J. McCully. That is what I wanted to get clear.

President Walters. If you vote "yes," you vote to adopt this resolution which reads: "Resolved: That this Association does not favor incorporation." If you vote "no" then you are opposed to the resolution and in favor of incorporation. Does that make it clear?

(Cries of "yes.")

Al Houston, Minnesota. Maybe my brain is too fuzzy this morning. I cannot quite get that. The motion was for a roll call vote.

President Walters. That is right.

Al Houston. On this resolution, striking out the last three words. If you vote "yes" you strike out the last three words.

President Walters. No, they voted on that a while ago when Mr. Brown made a motion to strike out the last three words, and they asked for a roll call on the motion.

Al Houston. That motion was seconded, but not passed.

President Walters. The motion was put and carried.

Al Houston. Thank you. My apologies.

President Walters. No apology is needed.

Is everybody ready for it now? O. K. Proceed.

Secretary Folkers.

State	Yes	No
Alabama	10	
Arizona	1	
Arkansas	7	
California	5	
Colorado	3	
Connecticut		2
Delaware	2	
Florida		4
Georgia	14	
Idaho	2	
Illinois	19	
Indiana	13	
Iowa	15	
Kansas	12	
Kentucky	9	
Louisiana		3
Maine	5	
Maryland	3	
Massachusetts		4
Michigan	13	
Minnesota	13	
Mississippi	8	
Missouri	15	
Montana	2	
Nebraska	9	
New Hampshire		3
New Jersey		3
New Mexico	1	
New York	14	
North Carolina	12	
North Dakota		7
Ohio	18	
Oklahoma	9	
Oregon		1
Pennsylvania	17	
Rhode Island	2	
South Carolina	7	
South Dakota	7	
Tennessee	14	

Texas	18
Vermont	4
Virginia	9
Washington	4
West Virginia	4
Wisconsin	14
Wyoming	1
President	1
Vice-President	1
Secretary	1
Treasurer	1
Committeeman Myers	1
Committeeman Manning	1
Committeeman Gray	1

The total vote is 371. Here is the report on the roll call: 35 "yes"; 36 "no."

PRESIDENT WALTERS: The resolution now reads: "Resolved: That this Association does not favor incorporation."

That brings us to No. 28: "Resolved: That the paying Postmaster issue a statement of the number of days of vacation and sick leave due each carrier at the beginning of each fiscal year."

Arthur E. Constance, Missouri. I would like to amend by inserting and reading this resolution as follows: "Resolved: That the paying Postmaster issue a statement on May 1st of each year of the number of days of vacation and sick leave due each carrier at that time."

I move that amendment.

President Walters. You have heard the motion to amend this resolution.

J. M. Gates, Tennessee. I second that motion.

President Walters. Read your motion again so that we can get this correct.

Arthur E. Constance. As amended it will read as follows: "Resolved: That the paying Postmaster issue a statement on May 1st of each year of the number of days of vacation and sick leave due each carrier at that time."

(Cries of "Why?")

Arthur E. Constance. Why? Because we know how many days we get on July 1st, sick leave. If you carriers are like I am, and your postmasters are like mine, you are liable not to know when you want to take your vacation the next Spring or Summer.

W. L. Snyder, Virginia. This gentleman has something here. Any rural carrier that cannot add ten days sick leave and fifteen days vacation to what he has coming, I don't know what he is going to do.

James A. Marceau, Rhode Island. If you had the experience that we had in our little state, you would not think the way that some of you do. Our paying postmaster told me about four weeks ago when I called in behalf of a carrier who said that he was gypped on three Saturdays, that he did not have a proper interpretation of it; that we rural carriers were better informed on it than he was. I quoted him the law from the postal bulletins, and he said, "I don't know anything about that." He said, "Is that correct?"

I said, "Our Association keeps up to date, and we are way ahead of the city carriers and clerks because they ask me what is what." My superintendent does on rules sometimes. I think a lot of our boys in the state are going to be gypped because they don't know whether they are going to get those three Saturdays or not. They can write in, but it is a lot of trouble, and we, in my little state, are asking our postmasters to check back to a year to find out if our men are getting their three Saturdays or not.

President Walters. The instructions, for your information, are instructions that went

out from the First Assistant's Office a few days ago, and instructed all paying postmasters to check sick leave back to July 1, 1945. Let's try to stay on the motion. The intent of the motion, as I understand it, is the same; only it gives July 1st instead of May 1st. There is no change in the meaning of the resolution except the date, as I construe it. So let's stick to the motion now, and talk on the motion of May—rather July 1st instead of May.

O. K. Anybody else have anything they would like to say?

O. C. Leathers, Kentucky. I move you that we adopt the amended motion.

President Walters. It is already moved to adopt the substitute resolution before the house. Any discussion.

("Question" was called for.)

President Walters. All in favor of substituting the wording in resolution 28 to read as follows, instead of the way it is printed: "Resolved: That the paying postmaster issue a statement on May 1st of each year of the number of days of vacation and sick leave due each carrier at that time."

All in favor of the motion let it be known by saying "aye"; all opposed, "no." All in favor of the motion stand. Be seated. Now let's see if we can get the other side. All opposed to the motion. Now if you vote "no," it stays July 1st. Stand. I am going to rule that it will be May 1st.

If any Delegate desires to object to that ruling, we will proceed on other measures. Hearing no objections, we declare the resolution adopted as amended.

That brings us to number 29: "Whereas, Postmasters receive leave with pay to attend State and National Conventions including travel time without being charged against their annual leave, therefore, be it

"Resolved: That rural carriers be permitted to attend State and National Conventions with pay without said leave being charged to annual leave."

Odell Howerton. I object to that resolution, not because I did not want us to have more vacation if we want it. But that looks like class legislation to me. All the carriers would have to attend the State or National Convention in order to secure these additional days of leave, and we all know that it is impossible for all the carriers in all of the States to attend their state and National Conventions; and in order to secure this leave, they would have to do it. The people attending the convention would get more vacation than the carrier who had to stay at home and carry the mail. We want more vacation.

Let's strike out this resolution and insert another resolution asking for the number of days of vacation that we desire and let every carrier be on the same footing in the United States.

President Walters. Any other discussion?

Stanley Dorey, New Jersey. Mr. President, I think this resolution is misunderstood. In the first place, it is my understanding that most Postmasters are granted leave to attend their State and National Conventions, without said leave being charged to their annual leave.

The purpose in this resolution is taken from advice given by several government authorities, and it is only so that the carrier, who is attending the state and national Convention on state and national business for the Association will receive the same as the other postal employees, and will not be penalized for taking the time and the trouble to be active in his association work. I hope that clears up the thought behind this.

Crit Petty, Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I

am highly in favor of that resolution, if you make this amendment: "all rural carriers attending their state conventions are delegates"—

(Cries of "no.")

President Walters. Mr. Petty has the floor.

Crit Petty. As it is written every rural carrier in the United States can leave his job and come to this convention and get paid for it, and he may not even come in here. We have one carrier from Louisiana now that I have not seen in this hall at all, and he has not been in the hotel one time. (Laughter.) We cannot get any legislation like that law, but if you put in there, "the Delegates to the National Convention and to our State Conventions," we will have something.

I won't have any vacation time when I get back home. I ought to have that time. It is justice. If you put all rural letter carriers in there we won't have one left who would not come to the Convention, and you won't have one chance in the world to get it through Congress.

I move that we leave the first part the same, and say, "all Delegates to the National Convention." I make that as a motion.

W. L. Snyder, Virginia. Mr. Chairman—

President Walters. Just a minute. Let's see if anybody will second the motion.

W. L. Snyder. If this gentleman will yield—

President Walters. He does not have the floor now. He made his motion.

W. L. Snyder. He was still on his feet.

President Walters. There is no law against him standing.

W. L. Snyder. I think somebody called us on that yesterday. He said, "I am still on my feet." So I didn't want to jump him.

In regard to this, I kind of favor the discussion that has gone before, from my fellow Delegate. We are running into class legislation. This gentleman down here also said that we do not have a chance in a million of getting it through, and I do not think that it will go any further than the floor of this Convention. I really don't. We could go after something we might be able to get.

According to the ruling of the Post Office Department, if you can finagle—and if you gentlemen from the North do not know what that means, I will explain it to you later—your annual leave in such a way that you will take them, five days at a time, you can get 21 days annual leave. We cannot all do that finagling, so I suggest that we ask the Post Office Department—they can rule over the Comptroller General, so don't let them tell you that they cannot make a ruling. They did that. They say that if a Saturday or Sunday should fall during that annual leave, it shall not be counted. They ruled that.

So I suggest that we ask the Department to make a ruling that if we are entitled to six Saturdays, give us 21 days annual leave, and we will let them take it anyway we possibly can.

President Walters. The Department can make such a ruling as that. That would not be in conflict with the comptroller general, but there is nobody who can change the comptroller general's ruling except Congress.

W. L. Snyder. Why were we made to take five days then, in order to get the comptroller general's ruling?

President Walters. I imagine that that was the same ruling that the clerks and carriers were under many years ago. They are not rural carriers and they have a 40-hour week. It does not conflict with the

wording of the comptroller general. Of course, that is just for a matter of information. That is not on this subject.

Leo Dillon, Illinois. Am I permitted to speak? I am not a Delegate and I am not permitted to vote.

President Walters. I do not have any objection to having you speak, if the Delegates from your State do not object.

Leo Dillon. Do the Delegates object?

President Walters. They say, "Get it off your chest."

Leo Dillon. In reference to the Delegates being allowed this, I think that would be a discrimination against the carriers who come here as visitors. The carrier who comes here at his own expense is interested in this Association as well as the Delegate who is paid by the State Association. So I think that we should not discriminate, if this resolution is adopted, against that Delegate who comes here at his own expense.

I thank you. I had reference to one of the motions that the Delegate made. The Delegate made a motion that only the Delegates should benefit by the resolution.

President Walters. That motion was lost for want of a second.

A. R. Newman, North Dakota. I don't think we should question this resolution at all. It seems to me that a man who is an officer or Delegate should not be discriminated against because he is a state officer or Delegate. All rural carriers now get the same number of days of vacation. If a state officer has to attend a state Board Meeting or a Convention—

President Walters. That would not apply to a State Board Meeting. This would not apply to that.

A. R. Newman. No it won't, but it is a discrimination for state officers, even attending State Board Meetings, as I see it now, and the Delegates are under the same thing. All carriers get the same number of days of vacation. The fellows that are not Delegates can go fishing or hunting, or spend their vacation as they see fit. Say that I want to go fishing in the early part of the fishing season, and was elected a Delegate to the State and National Convention. I would have to take time off without pay to do that work. And I don't see why, the fellow, just because he is elected as a Delegate, should have to forfeit his vacation, his hunting and fishing and so forth to do the work for the other carriers that are getting the same benefits as he would if he did not do that.

Walker Keown, Georgia. Mr. Chairman. As I see this resolution, we are asking the Department to pay us as Delegates to the State and National Convention.—

(Cries of "no," that is the amendment.)

Walker Keown. Pay our salaries to the National Convention. That is going to bring up more politics over the states than has been going on here for the last two or three nights. And we are going to have politics every time we go to elect a State Delegate from our District.

Each congressional district in my state sends a Delegate to the State Convention, and they go to the National Convention, and they would all want to go to the State Convention because they will get their salary paid.

I move you, gentlemen, that the part of this resolution, right up to the part relative to the rural carriers be tabled.

Thomas J. McDonald. I second the motion.

President Walters. This cannot be discussed. It is not debatable.

W. L. Snyder. May I offer an amendment to that motion?

President Walters. No. You have to vote "yes" or "no." The motion to table resolution 29 has been made and duly seconded. All in favor of the motion to table let it be known by saying "aye"; all opposed, "no." It is tabled.

W. L. Snyder. Mr. Chairman, is it possible to ask that in lieu of 29 we request 21 days annual leave? Is that out of order?

President Walters. After these resolutions are adopted, then any Delegate can make any resolution from the floor that he sees fit to. If you desire to offer a resolution from the floor you can do so.

Jos. A. Marceau. Someone here said that this was called "class legislation." Well then, it is class legislation for the postmasters. They get it.

President Walters. You have heard the reading of the resolutions, and the adoptions and the eliminations and the tabling. Are you now ready to adopt the report of your Resolutions Committee?

James D. McCall, Nebraska. I move that the report of the Resolutions Committee as amended be adopted, and that the Committee be extended a vote of thanks for their untiring efforts in our behalf.

President Walters. You want to discharge them, don't you?

Jos. D. McCall. Yes.

Odell Howerton. I second the motion.

President Walters. The motion has been duly made and supported that we adopt the report of the resolutions committee as amended, and that the Committee be discharged with a vote of thanks from this convention. Any discussion?

("Question" was called for.)

President Walters. All in favor let it be known by saying "aye"; all opposed, "no." It is carried.

You are discharged with a vote of thanks from this Convention. You have done a good job.

W. L. Snyder. Mr. Chairman, I wish to add now a resolution that we ask the Post Office Department to grant each and every rural carrier 26 days annual leave and forget about the Saturdays.

President Walters. You have heard the motion.

W. L. Snyder. I would like to correct that a little, and forget about the Saturdays in the motion.

President Walters. In other words, your motion is "To grant rural carriers 26 days vacation."

W. L. Snyder. Correct, as other postal employees already receive.

J. M. Gates, Tennessee. I do not know if that is wise, but I do know that all civil service employees that have come under the civil service in the last ten or fifteen years are getting 26 days with pay. Other federal employees, not under civil service, also get 26 days. If we don't ask for it, we won't get it. If we do ask for it, perhaps we won't get it, but I do want to second this motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion, duly seconded.

L. F. Quattlebaum, Georgia. Even the temporary employees of OPA have been receiving 26 days vacation each year with pay and fifteen days sick leave. This department is a stepchild of the federal government. Every federal employee of the government gets that much sick leave and vacation except this outfit. Why shouldn't we have it?

I move an amendment of that resolution to include 15 days sick leave.

Roy H. Gwinn. May I have the motion restated?

President Walters. The motion, as I

understood it, was that the rural carriers be granted 26 days annual leave.

Roy H. Gwinn. I thought the motion was that the Department be requested to make such a ruling.

The question that I wish to raise is that the law specifies that we are to get fifteen days. In case the motion reads that we request the Department, it should be amended that we initiate legislation to secure 26 days annual leave.

W. L. Snyder. There was nothing in my motion mentioned about department.

President Walters. The motion was that rural carriers be granted 26 days annual leave.

W. L. Snyder. Mr. Chairman, I second the motion.

R. A. Woerpel, Wisconsin. I would like to ask a question. Do the city carriers and the city clerks receive 26 days vacation and 15 days sick leave?

President Walters. No.

Ralph Fifeild, Vermont. Isn't it a fact that Congress tells us how many days of vacation we have instead of the Post Office Department?

President Walters. That is right.

Odell Howerton. I second the motion made by the Delegate here to amend that resolution to add sick leave.

President Walters. There is an amendment to the motion to include 15 days sick leave. Any discussion? All in favor of the amendment let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed say "no." The amendment is carried.

Now, all in favor of the motion as amended, let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed, "no." It is carried.

Wm. E. Mabee, Illinois. Mr. President, I have two resolutions here that are being presented from the National Ex-Servicemen's Club. One has already been passed by the Illinois Convention, but seems to have been lost in the shuffle. It wasn't in the resolutions. I will explain it first and then read the resolution.

We have a good many boys that are coming home from this World War II that have lost a limb in the service, and they are automatically barred from a good many civil service positions, and so we present this resolution:

"Resolved: That the United States Civil Service Commission set aside certain positions that when vacant shall be filled only by World War II veterans who have one or more limbs lost in active service."

I move you that this resolution be adopted.

President Walters. You have heard the motion.

Andrew Hintz, North Dakota. I second the motion.

President Walters. The motion has been duly made and seconded. Any discussion? (The "Question" was called for.)

President Walters. All in favor of the motion as stated let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed, "no." It is carried.

Wm. E. Mabee. The second resolution concerns our colors. There hasn't been any specific method of handling the colors and it has fallen upon one man. It is a rather heavy duty, and so I present this resolution:

"Be it Resolved: That the President be instructed to appoint at each National Convention a colors committee of three men from the National Ex-serviceman's Club, such committee to be responsible for the advancement and the retirement of the colors, or any other duties connected with the handling of the colors."

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this resolution.

President Walters. Before you make that motion, who is going to take care of it from one convention to another? Shouldn't you include that in there?

Wm. E. Mabee. I said that the President be instructed at each convention.

President Walters. How about the intervening time between conventions?

Wm. E. Mabee. I will change that resolution, if the President so desires.

President Walters. It is immaterial to me. I am trying to be helpful.

Wm. E. Mabee. We will strike out the words, "at each convention," and the resolution reads: "The President be instructed to appoint a colors committee of three men from the National Ex-Servicemen's Club, such committee to be responsible for the advancement and retirement of the colors and any other duties connected with the colors."

Max B. Lightner, Pennsylvania. I second the motion.

Wm. E. Mabee. Those flags are the property of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association. They are taken care of between Conventions, but naturally the President could not take the responsibility of advancing and retiring the colors himself.

President Walters. You have heard the motion, duly seconded. Any other explanation or discussion? All in favor of the motion let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed, "no." It is carried and so ordered.

Any other resolutions to come before the Convention?

That brings us to the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. If Chairman Gray of Texas will come up here, let's give attention to the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Oran T. Gray, Texas. I would like to make a little explanation before reading this report. We have two or three amendments to the Constitution, or additions, that this Committee did not feel like recommending. They are on the second page, and I will read the changes that this Committee is recommending, and then the Convention can do whatever they see fit with the remaining changes.

The first change will be found on page 17, in paragraph B and at the present time the constitution reads: "The Board of Control shall maintain the publication known as the official organ of the Association." We are inserting: "The Board of Control shall maintain the publication known as the National Rural Letter Carrier, which shall be the official organ of the Association." Also in the last sentence of the same section, strike out Treasurer and insert "Secretary."

President Walters. Under what procedure shall we adopt or reject these? If we adopt them at the sound of the gavel unless objections are raised, is that satisfactory?

Norman Baxter, Rhode Island. I object to the adoption of this resolution as read.

President Walters. What procedure do you want us to follow?

Norman Baxter. Mr. Chairman, there is a duplication on page 1 and page 2. If we adopt page 1 as recommended by the Committee, then page 2 has to be rewritten. On the other hand—

President Walters. What do you mean by page 2?

Norman Baxter. Page 2 of the Committee's report.

President Walters. They did not make that report. That is as a matter of information. Page 2 is not recommended by the Committee.

Norman Baxter. That is right. I wish to

point out a duplication in page 1 and page 2.

President Walters. In other words, you are objecting to this first change?

Norman Baxter. Yes.

President Walters. O. K. We will come back to it.

Brother Gray. The second change is to be found in Article VII, on page 18, Section 1 of the Constitution and By-Laws, to be changed to read as follows: "The annual salaries of the officers of this Association shall be: President, \$650.00; Vice-President, \$100; Secretary, \$650; Treasurer, \$250.00, and Committeemen, \$100.00; and shall be paid semi-annually."

Leigh Pickup, New York. According to the report here it says "committeemen, \$100.00." Is that what you mean?

Oran T. Gray. We, of the Committee, meant that to include all three of the committee.

Leigh Pickup. That should be "each committeeman, \$100.00."

President Walters. You wouldn't say "each committeemen," would you?

Leigh Pickup. You are stating there that the committeemen will divide \$100.00. It says, "committeemen, \$100.00."

President Walters. I am sure the Committee will be glad to clarify that to make it "each member of the Executive Committee." Is that right?

Oran Gray. That is correct.

President Walters. Mr. Gray says that is agreeable with the Committee, and that is their intention.

Oran Gray. That is just a point of clarification there, Mr. President. It does not mean you would divide it, but it could be interpreted that the Committeemen get \$100.00.

President Walters. Mr. Gray says that they will be glad to make that change, if it is adopted. That was their intent.

Leigh Pickup. Thank you.

President Walters. Hearing no objections to this adoption of the change in the Constitution and By-Laws, at the sound of the gavel it will be adopted.

(It was adopted at the sound of the gavel.)

Oran Gray. The third change will be found on page 19, Article VIII, Section 1. Change the last sentence to read: "The per capita tax shall be payable not later than the close of business of the first day of the Convention." And section 2 of the same Article, strike out "thirty days before," and insert "the close of business the first day of."

President Walters. You have heard this reading. Is there any objection?

(It was adopted at the sound of the gavel.)

Oran Gray. This completes our report as far as we recommended it. Now the changes on the second page were submitted to us, but we did not feel like recommending these changes.

President Walters. We will go back to the objector, then you can have the floor.

Norman Baxter. In the Committee report I object to paragraph 1. Now if A and B on the second sheet are defeated, I shall agree to paragraph 1. I will remove my objection and am willing to have it passed.

Therefore, I am asking that page 2, C and D be considered first.

President Walters. We could not do that. We have to dispose of the Committee's report first. Then you can bring any change to the floor that you so desire.

Norman Baxter. I wish to make my objection clear. As I understood the Committee, all they want of my amendment

is a part of Number 1, so they took it out and put it in separately. If you accept that, what I have written will have to be revised. I don't know if I can do it in a minute or not. I think they have the cart before the horse. They insist on their version of it, and they might be all mixed up.

President Walters. As you know, a change of the constitution and by-laws requires a two-thirds vote, so we will keep that in mind, and if there are objections of any substantial nature, we will prepare ballots, or standing, as you so request. It must be by two-thirds vote to change the constitution and by-laws. The last two recommendations of the Committee were unanimously adopted.

Now, this one, of course, has been objected to.

O. C. Leathers. I wish to request the Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to give their reasons for making this change. It might save a lot of wrangling.

Oran Gray. The main reason we made this change was to clarify what should be called, "The official organ" or "the official publication." If you will notice in this paragraph B, it says that the publication is the official organ of the Association, but it does not give the name. That is the reason we inserted the name "National Rural Letter Carrier," because it is known as the official publication.

O. C. Leathers. That is satisfactory, and I thank you.

J. M. Gates. I move the report of this Committee on Constitution and By-Laws be accepted as amended, and the Committee discharged—

President Walters. There wasn't any amendment. You said, "as amended" didn't you?

J. M. Gates. As corrected.

President Walters. Oh! You have heard the motion that the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee be adopted, and of course, with the special rules and so on.

Jas. D. McCall, Nebraska. I second that motion.

President Walters. You understand that if there are objections we will have a division, so we will have to vote some other way. All in favor of the motion to adopt this by acclamation let it be known by saying "aye"; all opposed, "no." Hearing no objections, I see nothing wrong in declaring the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report, as corrected by the Chairman, adopted.

Thank you very kindly, Mr. Gray.

Wm. Van Hartesvelt, Jr., Michigan. Perhaps I am a little out of order, as this was not in the resolutions. As you gentlemen were going up there after your loving cups from the various states, I wondered if we had not outgrown that. At one time that was a good idea, but now we have grown up, it seems to me. I have talked to several, and I wish to present a resolution to this Committee, if it is not out of order.

The resolution is as follows: "Resolved: That the practice of awarding cups for 100 per cent membership be discontinued."

President Walters. Shouldn't that come up under unfinished business, since we have gone from the resolutions to the Constitution and By-Laws?

Wm. Hartesvelt. That I don't know. That is for your decision, I would say.

President Walters. I have no objection personally, unless the Delegates object. You have heard the motion?

Clyde F. Gibbs, Wisconsin. If you are go-

ing to have a vote on that, I would like to add an amendment to that.

President Walters. There is no motion before the house.

Wm. Van Hartesvelt. I so move, that that resolution be adopted.

President Walters. You made the motion, but no one seconded that.

Alvin Houston. I second the motion.

Clyde F. Gibbs. Mr. President, can I include an amendment to that?

President Walters. If you can get it hitched on to it, you can.

Clyde F. Gibbs. Rather than discontinue the presentation of the cups, I would like to add that the National Board be instructed to present a small insignia, or ribbon, or something that we can put on our banner each year, each 100 per cent state, and from year to year we can have our ribbon hanging up there.

President Walters. South Carolina says that would cover theirs up.

Wm. Van Hartesvelt. I would like to accept that amendment as stated.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the amendment as accepted by the man who made the original motion. Is that acceptable to the man who supported the motion?

Alvin Houston. Yes, it is.

President Walters. The motion as I understand it is that we discontinue the practice of presenting cups, and in lieu thereof, present a sticker or a seal or something that can be pasted or fastened on the banner to designate the 100 per cent states. Is that, in substance, what you had in mind?

Wm. Van Hartesvelt. Yes, it is.

President Walters. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor of the resolution let it be known by saying "aye"; opposed "no." It is carried and so ordered.

Marvin S. Bennett, New Hampshire. I have a resolution here for retired carriers, which was lost in the shuffle and I would like to read that to the assembled carriers.

"Whereas, the present strength of this organization is due in no small part to the many years of earnest endeavor on the part of many carriers who are soon to be retired, and,

"Whereas, these carriers have contributed time and money to secure our enviable position, and although retired, they are interested in, and their experience and counsel are invaluable to, the continued success of our organization; be it

"Resolved: That any carrier who for ten years has been a member in good standing in the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, shall upon retirement, and a payment of minimum amount of yearly dues, be considered a member with all rights and privileges of a regular carrier, paying the maximum amount of dues."

President Walters. Won't that take a change of your constitution and by-laws, rather than a resolution?

Marvin S. Bennett. That was the reason that nothing was done about it.

President Walters. My interpretation is that you would have to bring that in, in the form of a change in your constitution and by-laws, because they provide certain things along that line.

Marvin S. Bennett. Could a motion be made to have that incorporated in the constitution and by-laws?

President Walters. If you amend your constitution and by-laws, it will take a two-thirds vote.

Marvin S. Bennett. Then, Mr. Chairman, I move you that this be incorporated.

President Walters. You would have to pick out your section of the constitution

and by-laws that you are going to change.

Marvin S. Bennett. That would have to be the section relative to the payment of dues by retired carriers.

President Walters. That's right.

I am of the opinion that to bring a change of constitution and by-laws before the House, it will have to be in writing. If you want to prepare that, you can bring it up later, Mr. Bennett. I am not trying to keep it off the floor, but that is my interpretation of it. It should be in writing, and refer to a certain change in the constitution and by-laws.

Norman Baxter. Is it in order to introduce an amendment to the constitution in this convention at the present time?

President Walters. If the delegates vote to adopt it at the present time, that is all right.

Norman Baxter. I want to introduce it at this time.

President Walters. You can introduce it. You will have to specify what sections you will have to amend.

Norman Baxter. I introduce the following resolution, amending the by-laws of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association:

"Whereas, the mileage and per diem allowances stated in Section 2, Article 12 of the By-Laws of this Association are supposed to cover the ordinary travel and lodging expenses of Delegates-at-Large and paid delegates; and

"Whereas, according to official Federal indexes, the cost of living has risen 35 per cent since 1941 sharply higher since July 1st of this year; and

"Whereas, these increases are reflected in the expenses of the Delegates-at-Large and paid delegates in traveling to and from the National Conventions by automobile or other means, in increased restaurant and hotel charges, and in incidental traveling expenses, so that it is impossible to travel within existing allowances; therefore be it

"Resolved: That the travel allowance to the Delegates-at-Large and paid delegates specified in Section 2, Article 12 of the By-Laws of this Association be changed from six cents per mile, one way travel, to nine cents per mile, one way travel, and the per diem allowance, changed from \$5.00 to \$7.00, the same to be effective so as to include the Delegates-at-Large and paid delegates to this and future National Conventions."

John L. McCammon, Montana. I second that motion.

President Walters. The change to the constitution and by-laws has been duly seconded. First we will vote on the motion. If you adopt the motion, then we will have a roll call on the change of the constitution and by-laws.

Norman Baxter. Is this open for discussion? I would like to know if it can be discussed. I would like to explain what I want.

President Walters. I thought you did that. Go ahead.

Norman Baxter. I believe the cost of living has risen. All of us have had to pay more to get to this convention. These rates of six cents per mile were based on pre-war conditions, and now conditions have changed, and it is costing us more to get here. I believe the rate of six cents per mile should be raised to bring the rate up to date with modern conditions. Therefore, I am proposing an increase of fifty per cent in the allowance of mileage to all the paid delegates—78 of them, I think. It will give them nine cents per mile instead of six, and

\$2.00 a day more to settle their hotel bill. This cost, I estimate, will be \$1,800 or thereabouts for this convention. It will cost \$1,800 more to run this convention, if it is adopted.

President Walters. If there is no other discussion, we will put the motion.

Thomas J. McDonald, California. I think that if we do this, if we increase the compensation of the National Board in going to and from the National Convention, it will increase our dues considerably. I think his estimate there is wrong, because I think it would take thousands of dollars rather than hundreds.

Odell Howerton, Virginia. I am wondering from where all that money is going to come. We are going to have to raise our dues to get that much money, and we are going to set up discrimination here from the delegates paid by the various states. They will feel that way, if the delegates-at large get nine cents a mile, and I don't think the majority of the states in this delegation can pay that much to the state delegates. We pay the state delegates the same as the National delegates. They have to go home and put up the rest of their money out of their pockets from the small allowance they are allowed from the State Association.

Solon Ware. Hadn't we better give this to our Board in Washington, where our benefits come from? Let's give it to the boys, whoever they are. This high cost will probably be over. How can you get your check today at this convention? This Committee couldn't possibly get these checks ready in time enough for you to go home. I would like to have mine. Let's not pile this debt on this Association. Let's give it to our Board and let them use it in the Washington contacts. I think we are going just a little too far. Somebody will holler, "Raise the dues," and then that indifferent fellow will not want to pay. This is too much.

This language is more like a resolution than an amendment to the constitution. It is poorly prepared, and you would have to print another book almost, to include it—let's go to town, fellows.

Norman Baxter. If the majority do not—

President Walters. You don't have the floor.

Norman Baxter. I asked for it.

President Walters. Mabee from Illinois, has the floor.

William E. Mabee, Illinois. I would like some information on a point of order. Is it out of order to raise our own fees during this convention? That would have to take effect after the convention, wouldn't it?

President Walters. You delegates ought to take care of that.

("Question" was called for.)

President Walters. Question has been called for. All in favor of the resolution as read by Mr. Baxter, let it be known by saying, "aye"; all opposed, "no." It is lost.

We will now have the report of the Auditing Committee.

William Van Hartesvelt, Jr. We have examined the books of Secretary Glen Folkers and Treasurer George M. Ellis and find them correctly balanced and neatly kept.

We find that Secretary Folkers has cleared his books and made final settlement to Treasurer Ellis.

We find a balance from C. P. A. Audit September 1, 1945, of \$101,709.30.

Balance\$101,709.30
Receipts for the year..... 109,859.70

Total\$211,569.00

We find duly receipted Vouchers for expenditures during the past year..... 84,647.01

Balance—August 15, 1946.....\$126,921.99
(Cash, Bonds and other assets.)

Respectfully submitted,
WM. VAN HARTESVELT, JR.,
Chairman.

HERMAN WINTERFELDT,
GROVER C. HARRIS,
Auditing Committee.

President Walters. You have heard the report of the Auditing Committee. What is your pleasure?

James D. McCall, Nebraska. I move the report be adopted as read and the Committee discharged with thanks.

President Walters. You have heard the motion?

Roy E. Mills, North Carolina. I second the motion.

President Walters. Any discussion? If not all in favor of the motion let it be known by saying, "aye"; any opposed the same sign. It is carried. Thank you, members of that Committee.

Are there reports of any other committees that have not reported? So far as I recall, that is the report of all the Committees.

We come now to the selection of the 1947 convention.

O. B. DePriest, Tennessee. The city of Tampa, Florida, having invited this convention without competition, I move you that the 1947 convention be held in Florida by acclamation.

President Walters. The Constitution and By-Laws provide that the delegates to this convention select a State, and then the State Officers of that State select the city.

O. B. DePriest. I move you then that we select Florida for the location of our next National convention.

President Walters. I have been requested to wait just a moment before we decide this, that another state is going to present an invitation. Now, I realize that we had on the printed program when that would be called, and that they should be here, but we might wait just a moment, unless the delegates desire to make a decision at this time.

(Cries of "Let's wait.")

President Walters. The man is here to present an invitation so we will let him present it.

Mr. Chuck Bachrach, Hotel Fort Des Moines. Ladies and Gentlemen, Officers and Guests of the National Rural Letter Carriers: It is a privilege and pleasure for me to get up here in this National Convention. I just got back and this is my first National Convention since my return. It used to be my business with the Tangy McGuin Hotels to invite you folks to Des Moines.

I am not going to do anything different than what I used to do four years ago. I was fortunate when I came back from overseas. I brought back a little French girl with me. Yesterday she got a letter from her mother and Dad. Just to illustrate a point I want to bring up, I will tell you about it. This letter said that her dad and brother were up in Normandie. They wanted a Norman bull to take care of some things around the farm. They were trying to buy this bull, and they were making a deal with this farmer in Normandie. They wanted to buy this bull from him, and they were smoking American cigarettes, Chesterfields.

The farmer looked at him and said, "You know, I was around when the invasion troops came in, the American troops, the

colored troops and the white boys came in here. They were always after fresh eggs. I gave them all they wanted and they gave me all the cigarettes I wanted." He said, "Where did you get those cigarettes?"

Her father said, "We get those from our daughter in America. She married an American soldier." The farmer said, "So, what color is he?"

That just emphasizes a point. There is no question in my mind as to what we of the Fort Des Moines Hotel and the people of the city of Des Moines and your mail people here in Des Moines, Miss Edith Johnson and the rest—there is no question in our minds. We want the rural carriers to come back to Des Moines in 1947. You are really and truly wanted.

We understand that your National Association pays transportation. Des Moines happens to be centrally located. That would save your organization a lot of money if you saw fit to come back here. We would like to have you save money, and we promise you that we will do the best we can to take care of you.

We hope you have had as good a time being here and seeing Des Moines as we had having you. Mr. Brayton wanted to come here and speak to you and extend his invitation personally. He represents the City Fathers also, but he is busy talking to your Auxiliary this morning. He wants to just say a word if you folks will be kind enough to listen to him.

This comes from the bottom of my heart, folks. We want you back, and that goes for us all. Thanks for coming.

President Walters. Will you make that motion in favor of the state of Iowa?

Mr. Bachrach. I ask that it be made a motion. I cannot make it myself.

President Walters. You had better get in touch with some of the boys from Iowa.

Any other invitations from the Convention for the next convention state?

Joseph J. Nicholas, Florida. Mr. President and Brothers of the Convention. We of Florida have been fishing around for this convention for several years.

As you know, Florida has a very small vote. We can't do anything that you fellows aren't perfectly willing for us to do. We have one of the smallest votes in the Union. They have also sent one of the smallest carriers in the Union up to try and get it.

We have presented to the Committee all the arrangements and everything that we have to offer, and we want you to come down. In most of the Southeastern States, you have heard time and again that the latchstring is always out, the door is never fastened.

Down in Florida we pull the door off and throw it away. You fellows come see us, if you will, and if you want special information about what we have to offer that the Committee hasn't made plain enough, we have a man here whose business is selling our facilities, and we will be glad to accommodate you.

Thank you.

President Walters. Are there other invitations. I believe a motion was made that we go to Florida, but I don't recall that motion being seconded.

James P. Wheatley, Vermont. I will second that motion.

J. M. Gates, Tennessee. I second that motion also. I was born in Florida, and know it is a good place.

President Walters. A motion is before the House to go to Florida. Is there further discussion on this question?

If not, all in favor of going to Florida

for our next National convention let it be known by standing; those opposed. Florida, here we come!

Mr. Neher of Washington has asked for the floor for just a moment.

S. S. Neher. It won't take long, folks. I want to call your attention to this poster back here, of Washington State, made of stamps. It was made by the Ladies Auxiliary, inviting you to Washington State for your 1949 Convention. The Washington State convention is grateful for the opportunity of renewing our invitation for the convention to come to the great Northwest, specifically Seattle, in 1949. Each year since the Portland, Oregon, convention, you have been urged to go West in '49. We are small in number too, but we have some things to show you in Washington that can rightfully be spoken of in the superlative degree. We would mention only a few. Puget Sound provides one of the largest inland harbors in the world. Grand Coulee Dam comprises one of the largest man-made structures ever assembled. And Wenatchee Valley ships more cars of apples than any other entire state in the Union, other than our own state. Mountains, streams, and lakes are delightful both summer and winter, and Mt. Ranier National Park is truly a paradise.

We cordially invite you, and strongly urge you to accept our invitation to visit the Evergreen State with the National Convention in 1949. Go West, Young man, Go West!

Mr. Dickenson, Tampa, Florida, Convention Bureau. Some of the gentlemen might like to know something about the rates. I will be glad to tell them.

President Walters. Will it be the same next year as it is now?

Mr. Dickenson. Yes, but what I am getting at is that Tampa is not a tourist city, although we have a lot of tourists down there.

President Walters. It is up to the delegates in Florida to select a city. It might go to Miami or Jacksonville.

Mr. Dickenson. I would feel awfully bad if you did. I have been to all of your conventions except the one in Cincinnati, since 1940. I know just what you need. I know how many people you have in this room for your general meeting, for your banquet, and all those things. But in the report that was made yesterday, the Committee said that the rates were approximately the same as they are here. The rates in Tampa are lower than they are in this city at the present time.

For instance, the hotel right in the center of the city—I don't know if that will be used as the Headquarters—their double rates are \$4.00, and they don't go higher than \$7.50. The highest rate I know of is \$8.00 for a double room. A single room starts at \$2.50. Six of the hotels are grouped together within a radius of three blocks. Six blocks would be the farthest you would have to walk.

We have never had a convention turn down Tampa because of the rates. The convention of the Eastern Star is going to be there this Fall. We have most of the natural and scenic places to see and go to, within a radius of 50 to 75 miles from Tampa, which is in the center of the West Coast territory.

I would appreciate it very much—and the Florida Association went on record last month as favoring Tampa as a convention city—I don't know what your rules and regulations are, but if you would decide here and now, we would appreciate it and could get busy for next year.

President Walters. You contact those delegates from Florida, and if they say Tampa, then Tampa it is.

Mr. Dickenson. They have already said so at their convention.

President Walters. Then I suppose they will stay hitched.

If rural letter carriers get automobiles by then, you had better look for 6,000 delegates.

Thank you very kindly.

Mr. Bachrach. Gentlemen, I know you are going to have a good time if you to Florida next year. We of Iowa, wish you all the luck in the world, and we know our boys will have just as good a time there, with their friends of the National Association, as they will have here in Des Moines. We are all for you. Remember this: The folks from Florida said the latchstring is always out there, and you are going there. We are glad. The latchstring in Des Moines, was thrown away thirty years ago, before I started in this hotel, and it is always out to you, and we want you to come back to Des Moines. We don't care when. Don't forget us, please. We are waiting for you. And thanks for coming.

President Walters. Thank you.

Mr. Bennett from New Hampshire asked permission some minutes ago, to present a change from the floor in the constitution and by-laws, and we granted that, providing he would reduce it to writing so he now has it.

Marvin S. Bennett. I understand that this resolution as presented to the Resolutions Committee, was referred back to us for consultation for the constitution and By-Laws Committee, but it never got back to us.

"Resolved: That the Constitution and By-Laws be changed in Article III, Section 2, by striking out the words "but no honorary member shall be entitled to vote or hold office in this Association."

Let me read that Section. Section 2 of Article III, page 3: "All rural carriers in good standing at the time of retirement and all carriers in active military service shall be honorary members of the Association, unless they elect to remain active members by the payment of annual per capita tax. Honorary membership may be bestowed upon others by this Association at its regular meetings, but no honorary member shall be entitled to vote or hold office in this Association."

We would strike out those last ten words.

President Walters. You heard the reading of this proposed change by Mr. Bennett. This gets a little bit complicated. It appears to me that he is changing the wrong page, but that is for you to decide. Do we have a second to that motion, that preparation be made to change the constitution and by-laws?

Norman Baxter. I second the motion.

Solon Ware. Our brother is confused. He is talking about honorary membership, those that it is conferred on, not retired carriers. He is confused on the whole matter. I am sorry. It should be in the section where the retired carriers are. The best thing I can think of to dispose of it—and I hope he will make this preparation and present it—I move you, Mr. President, that we table this item.

O. B. DePriest. I second the motion.

President Walters. It is moved that we table this proposed change. All in favor of tabling, let it be known by saying, "aye"; all opposed, "no." It is tabled.

That brings us down to unfinished business.

If there is no unfinished business, what about new business?

W. R. Fortune, Georgia. One statement and then I will be through. One of the first things that attracted my eye when I entered this convention hall Tuesday morning was that R.L.C.A. sign there. Have any of you noticed that before? That was made by a rural carrier, and presented to this convention, and no one has made mention of it. That was made by our friend Sinsbaugh of New York, out of the little lights that go on the holders on your automobiles. I move you that we give Mr. Sinsbaugh a rising vote of thanks for presenting us with that beautiful R.L.C.A. sign. (The audience arose and applauded.)

President Walters. I knew Mr. Sinsbaugh brought it here, but I thought he would carry it back with him. I didn't know he had presented it to the convention. I was under the impression that perhaps he brought it for the advertising purposes for those signs that he expects to have placed on the rural mail box.

Any new business?

Maurice E. Clark. On the way up to this convention, I toured the State of Utah. I met a rural carrier there, and had a talk with him, and he told me he was a member of the Federation of Rural Letter Carriers. He also told me there were 90 carriers in the State of Utah. We have never moved into that State to organize. I believe it is up to this convention to authorize an expenditure of money to bring Utah into this Association. I propose a motion that money be set aside, a certain sum, earmarked for organization work in the State of Utah.

Arthur H. Bird, North Dakota. I second that motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second.

Maurice E. Clark. I would ask to state a certain sum that would be set aside. I don't know how to arrive at the amount. I would like to leave that up to the discretion of the National Board.

President Walters. I think that is a wise suggestion, if the motion carries.

Is there any other discussion on this motion. If not, all in favor of the motion that the National Board make an effort to organize the State of Utah, as outlined in this motion, let it be known by saying, "aye"; any opposed, "no." It is carried.

Is there anything else to come before this convention before we proceed to the election of officers?

(Announcements.)

President Walters. I am sure that each and every delegate here would happy to express to the Iowa Delegation and to those in charge of this convention, their personal appreciation for being entertained under the many handicaps that these boys have been working. It has been a wonderful convention from the standpoint of the Iowa delegates, and I know that we deeply appreciate their efforts. These fellows have been busy for weeks getting ready for this convention.

(Mr. Brayton came to the platform and the audience applauded.)

President Walters. Mr. Brayton of the Convention Bureau says he has about two more good stories that he hasn't told yet.

Mr. Brayton. Well, I notice that our genial President says he appreciates the Iowa hospitality. We hope you have enjoyed it, and we want you back before too long. After you get through with Florida, you probably will be glad to come back to the corn belt, and in order that you will feel at home, we have turned on Florida and Iowa weather combined. We like to

keep you in suspense like the young father.

The doctor came to the house, and the father was nervous. The doc went upstairs and came down and said, "Let me have a mallet and chisel." He said, "Have you got a screw driver?" He went upstairs and once again he came down and said, "Give me a can opener."

The father said, "What is it, Doc, a boy or girl?" He said, "I don't know, I haven't got my medicine case open yet."

No matter what happens, we don't want you ever to forget us. We don't want you to be like grandma. She went over to look at the new baby. She said, "It's a nice baby. What is it, a boy or a girl?" We said, "Grandma, what's the matter with your eyesight; it's a boy." She said, "There's nothing the matter with my eyesight. It's just my memory."

President Walters. Thank you, Mr. Brayton.

We now come to that part in our program for the election of officers.

We will now entertain nominations for President of this organization.

Cliff Goedrich, Nebraska. Mr. Chairman, Brother and Sister Carriers of this Organization: I am up here this morning to present a man from the State of Nebraska to be considered as the head of this organization, a man that we believe is qualified in every way, if a man is qualified, to fill that position.

Just a little of his record. I am not going to make a long speech. I will only be a minute or two. During the bad flood over in Nebraska, he was Chairman of the Red Cross Relief. He is lay leader in the Methodist Church over there, served in the First World War, served our State as Vice President and President, and has served you the past four years as your National Vice President.

At this time, I wish to present your friend and my friend, Barney Winquest, from the State of Nebraska, for your consideration.

President Walters. Are there other nominations for President?

Charley Wall, Georgia. I imagine most of you know me. I am Charley Wall from Georgia. I just want to take a minute or two of your time to place before you the name of one of the greatest National Presidents I think our organization has ever had in its history, and ask you to re-elect him for another term. I refer to no other than Gordon Walters—Thomas Gordon Walters. There is no need of my telling you all about his good qualities, because his service record speaks for itself, far greater than I could ever expound to you his high qualities.

We Georgia boys have felt proud that we had a part in placing before this group, the nomination of Gordon Walters in the years past. I think he has lived up to everything that we told you he would do.

It just warmed our hearts when the first Assistant Postmaster General, Donaldson, paid him that high tribute here the other afternoon, and these Congressmen who have been on the program from time to time, telling you about how they felt toward him in Washington, in the Committee rooms, and in the Department Heads.

I feel that if we can keep Gordon Walters up there another year during what we might term a reorganization period of Congress, because there is going to be a great turnover in the members of the Congress within the next 2 months—most likely one-third or probably more of the members of Congress will be new faces—and we need a man with some experience, past experience, and somebody with some prestige up there, who can

really get our organization in the good graces of these new men that will be going into Washington.

We have insisted on Gordon letting us offer his name again for National President, and he has reluctantly done this. He would not hold this office but one more year if he is re-elected.

We earnestly plead with you, for the good of this organization, for the good of the Postal Service, let's keep him as our National Head another year.

I thank you.

(Committeeman Manning assumed the Chair.)

Chairman Manning. Gentlemen, are there other nominations for President?

Clifton J. Brown. I move that the nominations be closed and we proceed to ballot.

Chairman Manning. Do I hear a second?

Brother McCall. I second the motion.

Chairman Manning. Chairmen, it has been moved and seconded that nominations be closed, and we proceed with the ballot. All in favor of that motion let it be known by saying, "aye"; those opposed, "no." It is carried and so ordered. The Tellers will prepare the ballots and distribute them.

(The ballots were distributed.)

Clifton J. Brown. It should be clarified as to how we will vote, if there will be one ticket, or one ticket for each delegate; in the event of a split vote, whether there should be a ballot for each delegate.

Chairman Manning. I think, Brother Brown, that is something for the delegates to decide.

Clifton Brown. Let's decide if we are going to have it on one ballot.

Chairman Manning. Gentlemen, the usual procedure has been that the delegate, or whoever is voting for his state, would put in as many ballots as they have votes. If you have ten votes, put in ten ballots, unless there is a desire on the part of the delegation to change this procedure.

Clifton J. Brown. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted clarification on it.

Wynn Armstrong. Would you make the announcement that the name for whom you are voting should be on each ballot.

Chairman Manning. The name for whom you are voting shall be written on each ballot. Is there anyone who does not understand the procedure?

That is all that is on the ballot. It is not necessary to put the name of the state on. Just put the name of the man you are voting for on it.

Gentlemen, it has just been called to my attention that some are still confused on how you shall vote. We will again clarify it. Write the name of the candidate of your choice on the ballot, and that only. Cast as many ballots as your State is entitled to vote. They will be deposited in the ballot box here. The Tellers will see that you do not deposit more than you are entitled to vote for your State.

There will be a roll call. Each man from the State will come up and deposit the votes from the States in this ballot box.

Edgar Gordon, Illinois. Let's make it simple. Let States vote on one ballot.

(Cries of "No.")

Chairman Manning. This must be a secret ballot. If you put the name of the State on it, it would not be a secret ballot. Ten votes, ten tickets; five votes, five tickets, and so on.

I have again been asked to clarify the fact that one man from each State will bring up the ballots and deposit them in the box. Does that make it clear to everyone? It is not compulsory that you do that, but it will save time if one man from each State

brings up the votes. If some of you fellows want to split the vote, there won't be any objection to that, as far as the Chair would be concerned.

Are you ready to vote?

(Cries of "Yes.")

Chairman Manning. The Secretary will call the Roll.

(As Secretary Folkers called the Roll, the Delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

Secretary Folkers. The total vote is 371. Has everyone voted? We will declare the balloting closed.

Chairman Manning. We will proceed to count the ballots.

Willard Pease, Massachusetts. I object to the ballots being counted outside of the room.

Chairman Manning. There is an objection to the ballots being counted outside the room. We will therefore proceed to count them in the room.

(Counting of the ballots.)

Chairman Manning. Gentlemen, while the Tellers are counting the ballots for President, the Chair will entertain nominations for the office of Vice-President for the ensuing year.

Brother William H. James, California. It is a great pleasure for me at this time to present to you a man who had a great deal of experience in the Postal Department, a man whom I have known for a long time. He is the only man in California who has ever held the office for over two years. It is because of his ability that he is now serving his eighth term as President in the State of California. During his time he has had 135 cases before the Department in behalf of the carriers—long routes, heavy routes, and the conditions that are tremendously important for a carrier—of which 133 have been passed in the interests of the carrier. The other 2 are still pending.

We need a man from the Western Coast, because of the conditions that exist out there. I realize it is a great country, and I was your Vice-President when I went to St. Paul and said then that they didn't want a man from the West because he was too far away. But you remember, my Fellow Carriers and Friends, Washington is only overnight from California. He can carry his route today and be at the National Capital at the opening of the next day's session.

Therefore, on behalf of the West, on behalf of the rural carriers of America, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you, the name of Maurice Clark, to be Vice-President. Because I want to say to you, that you need a spare tire, and when you put on that spare tire you want to know it will work. We did that in 1936 when we elected Ed Cooper as your President, and the Department picked him up out of the Association, and we had a spare tire named Ray Combs, who came in and filled the office. So we need a spare tire this year to fill this magnificent office, which is a wonderful thing in this organization.

Thank you.

Thomas J. McDonald, California. Members of the Convention: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to appear before you today to pay a debt of gratitude that I have for one of our brother carriers in California; and so, I also wish to second the nomination of our worthy President of that great State. He is endorsed unanimously by the California delegation. He is also endorsed by the Western Conference—that is, the Western States.

He was born in the State of Kansas. He

is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, and above all, a good Christian. He has worked diligently for the State of California, having traveled over 10,000 miles each year for the past eight years in behalf of the carriers. In fact, he is qualified to be the President of this Association, and I therefore am glad of the opportunity to second the nomination of Maurice E. Clark of California.

Wynn Armstrong. Mr. President, I desire, as a personal privilege to me, to second the nomination of Maurice Clark, because of my long acquaintance with him, my long acquaintance with the difficulties that California has had, and my admiration for a man who works all the time in the interest of the Association. I therefore second the nomination of Maurice Clark.

William Teismann, Ohio. Mr. Chairman, National Officers, Delegates and Friends: Four years ago at St. Paul, I had the honor and pleasure of presenting a name of a man to you, and he is no stranger. He has served you on the National Board for the past four years. So today, I again have the pleasure and honor of presenting to you a candidate for Vice-President, our Brother and good friend, Walter D. Gray of Ohio.

Claude V. Murphy, Mississippi. You know, Mississippi is one of the best states in the South. We do not draw any lines in the Southeastern states of these United States.

The distinguished gentleman whom I am pleased to second the nomination of, doesn't need an introduction from me. Everyone in the United States knows this man. He is a worthy man. He is well qualified to fill the office. He is even well qualified to be President of the United States, if you please. We are happy indeed that this gentleman wears the Mississippi badge. At this time Mississippi is happy to let the record speak, and we endorse the candidacy of our friend, the Honorable Walter D. Gray of Ohio.

Bradley, Oklahoma. I don't come before you to put out a brand of oratory that we have heard from our friend from Mississippi here, but I come before you to present the name of one of our carriers who is well known all over the United States, and a man who has done a wonderful job in his own state, not only as State Secretary, but as State President, a man who has broad shoulders, a cool head and a lot of ability, to fill any office he might be elected to, and a man who will not get stampeded, but who will keep cool and keep his feet on the ground. He is none other than Wylie Roberts of Arkansas.

R. E. Ables, Alabama. Mr. Chairman, it gives me personal pleasure to second the nomination of my good friend, an able rural carrier, and an ardent Association worker, Brother Roberts of Arkansas.

Byron C. Pascoe, Arkansas. Members of this Convention: It is indeed a pleasure for me to come before you and also second the name of Wylie J. Roberts of Arkansas.

For the last few years, I have personally known Mr. Roberts. I have known him to be a Christian gentleman, a man of his word, and a man who can fulfill that word. When he makes you a promise, you can count on that.

I think it is only fair to present some of his qualifications. Down in Arkansas, we hold him very highly. When we have a service problem, Wylie Roberts handles that problem. I want to assure you that as usual, he gets the job done. He has served two years as our State President, and by the way, about two years is all we will let one serve. If it hadn't been for that, he would probably still be serving. He served for two years as State Secretary down there. For

ten years he has been Editor of our State paper. For eight years he has been President of the Fifth Congressional District Association of Arkansas. He has attended eighteen National conventions. During that time he has been Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, a member of the Auditing Committee. At the present time he is President of the National Rural Letter Carrier's Press Association which all goes to show you that various editors hold him in high esteem.

He holds a wide acquaintance with the carriers of the United States, having carried on extensive correspondence with various members over a period of years. No one can say that Wylie Roberts doesn't possess the qualifications of a Vice-President of this organization. He is big enough and broad enough and solid enough.

Gentlemen, I thank you.

Chairman Manning. Do we have other nominations for Vice-President?

Houston. Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, mine is a very happy privilege to present to you on behalf of Minnesota, a candidate for Vice-President of this Association in the person of Ben F. Ostergren of St. Paul.

I would like to tell you what happened to Ben here. Once upon a time, not so long ago, Ben and I attended a movie. And you know when you first go into a movie, into the darkness from out in the bright street, you can't see very well. We groped our way down the aisle until we found two seats right close to the aisle. Ben slid in and took a seat and I took the outer seat. We weren't there very long until a lady came into the theater. She too was groping her way down the aisle, and she happened to put her hand on my bald head. "Pardon me," she said, "is that your head?" Ben, being a quicker thinker than I, replied, "It is no one else's but."

I won't go into a long dissertation on Ben Ostergren's qualifications, but I will tell you, he is a leader in his community. Ben is Moderator of his Church, a large church in St. Paul. Ben is active in all postal affairs in that city. He has been President of the Minnesota Association for four years. He has been actively connected with a vast number of organizations, and for some years, he has been President of the Northwest Good Roads Association.

Ben is a natural leader. He is acquainted with legislators throughout the District, with many in Congress, and with many prominent public officials, because in my contacts around the United States, I have run into people or contacted people who have worked with Ben, and they inquire about Ben Ostergren.

This has been a dandy convention. I would like to add my personal thought here. We heard splendid reports here, and found our National Association in a wonderful, healthy condition. We have found our paper solvent. We have found our membership high. And finally, we come to this convention, after this long war, and we find that the delegates have the same ambition and the same ability to contest among themselves that they always had. I think that is healthy, and I am mighty happy to find that condition in our National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. We are certainly gaining strength year by year.

We deliberate on our decisions here very carefully, and I know a man has to be a keen man to get ahead of a delegate to the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, because you are aware of your decisions.

Gentlemen, I would like to point out that you have arrived at one of the most im-

portant decisions before you at this convention, because it has been the custom of this National Rural Letter Carriers' Association to select a Vice-President who later becomes your President and leader.

And in the selection of Ben F. Ostergren, you have leadership material, capable of doing a splendid job for our beloved organization.

Thank you.

Wm. E. Mabee. I take personal pleasure in endorsing the nomination of Ben Ostergren.

Chairman Manning. Do we have other nominations for Vice-President?

Milton Miller, Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, Delegates to this convention. At the opening session this morning, you heard our State President, John Hamm, tell you that we had everything in Pennsylvania. Now, we believe that and we believe that we have the man in Pennsylvania that will make a good Vice-President for this Association. You men know him; you State Secretaries have dealt with him. You know his ability, and above all, you know that he is capable of doing every job that he undertakes. I agree with Mr. Houston, that putting a man into the position of Vice-President is one of the most important jobs that we have in this convention. I have attended conventions for a good many years, and I have worked in the convention. I have watched the progress of the convention, and I have watched the progress of those men who were elected to office. We have made several mistakes during my career as a carrier, attending conventions, in the selection of a Vice-President, and I hope, men, that today we don't make a mistake.

I am not going to say one word against any man who is running. It is a wonderful privilege in this country that we can run for an office if we like to, but we do think, especially back in Pennsylvania, and I think it is true all over the Nation, that the man who is elected Vice-President, should be a man that we know, and a man that we want.

It gives me great pleasure to place in nomination the name of Max B. Lightner of Pennsylvania.

Chairman Manning. Do we have other nominations for the office of Vice-President?

S. S. Neher. I move nominations be closed.

Chairman Manning. Do I hear a second?
C. E. Davis, South Carolina. I second that motion.

Chairman Manning. It has been moved and seconded that nominations be closed. All in favor let it be known by saying, "aye"; opposed, "no." It is carried and so ordered.

The Tellers will now distribute the ballots, or if you have the ballots in your possession, we will begin to vote.

At this time, Gentlemen, I will announce the results of the ballot for President: Thomas G. Walters, 145 votes; B. A. Winquest, 223 votes. I declare B. A. Winquest elected.

(President Walters resumed the Chair.)

President Walters. Being a good loser as well as a good winner, I rise to make this vote unanimous for B. A. Winquest.

While you are preparing your ballots, we will now present the new President, B. A. Winquest.

(The audience arose and applauded.)

President-Elect Winquest. Mr. President, Brother Rural Carriers of this great organization: There comes a time, I believe, in every man's life, when he lacks words to express himself, and, my good friends, that time has come in my life. I can only say

from the bottom of my heart. I profoundly thank you for your expression in electing me your leader for the coming year. I pledge to you all that is humanly possible within me to serve you to the very best of my ability. I assure you that I will put first of all, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association in any consideration or decision that may come before me, and its welfare.

I keenly realize the manifold responsibilities of this office, and regardless of how efficient any President may be, it requires the cooperation, the unity, the good will of the Board of Control, every State, District, and county official, and every member of this great Association which we love so well.

At this time, Gentlemen, I solicit, and I seek that support. I know I will make mistakes. No man is infallible. It will require some time to adjust myself and to learn the ropes of this office, and I trust that you will bear with me.

This office, through the splendid leadership of our good friend Gordon, has increased its work, and I know personally, that Gordon has sacrificed time, that he has sacrificed health, recreation, to do this wonderful job that he has done in the last three years. It is with trembling that I approach or endeavor to equal this great record. But I know that Gordon, for the love of his Association, will extend to me every possible assistance that I may know how to conduct the affairs of this office.

I trust that I may serve you well. All of my life, I have endeavored to live up to the concepts, the principles and philosophy of Christianity. I do not hesitate to tell you here this morning that I shall always seek strength, wisdom and knowledge from Him who giveth all of those things.

Thank you very much.
(The audience arose and applauded.)

President Walters. Thank you, Barney, and I assure you and the delegates to this convention, and to all rural carriers, that I will lend every aid and assistance that I am capable of lending to you, in the undertaking which you have assumed. I assure you that the good Lord permitting, I will be in the next National convention, and that Georgia's name will be on the honor roll from year to year. We have no regrets. We have given you the best that we had in the workshop that the good Lord gave us, and I can retire from this office, feeling that even though I have made mistakes, I have tried to be fair, honest, and to make recommendations to this organization that I felt were for the best interests of the organization.

I have no apologies to make, except to seek newer and higher fields and to bring this organization to a greater importance in our work in life.

It has been suggested that the candidates for Vice-President come to the front so you can look them over. If that request still stands, we will ask Clark, Gray, Roberts, Ostergren and Lightner, to come up to the front.

(The candidates came forward.)

President Walters. Here they are. Pick them out.

Do you want all five of them to make a speech?

(Cries of "No.")

President Walters. Maurice Clark on the right end, Wylie J. Roberts, Ben Ostergren, Walter Gray, Max Lightner.

President Walters. Are you ready for the roll call? All right, we are ready. The Secretary will call the roll.

(Secretary Folkers called the roll, and

the delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

Secretary Folkers. Has everyone voted? The total vote cast is 37. We declare the ballot closed.

While the Tellers are counting the votes, if it is your pleasure, we will proceed to entertain a nomination for Secretary.

Wm. E. Mabee. Mr. Chairman and Delegates: I want to present the name of a man who needs no introduction to this organization. He has labored faithfully for you for the last four years. I think that any State Secretary here can tell you what his qualifications are, and I know from personal experience over a number of years, he is absolutely faithful in his job, and the interests of the Association come first in his heart. It gives me a great deal of pleasure at this time to give you the name of Glenn W. Folkers of Illinois, as your National Secretary.

Ernest Robertson, Louisiana. I want to second the nomination.

Al Houston. I second the nomination.

Ira M. Cleveland, Indiana. I wish to second the nomination of Brother Folkers.

Byron C. Pascoe. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to second the nomination also.

Bun Raley, Texas. I move the nominations be closed, and Secretary Folkers be elected by acclamation.

Cliff Goodrich. I second the motion.

President Walters. If there is no further discussion, all those in favor, let it be known by saying, "aye"; those opposed, "no." Carried.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to cast the vote of 31,000-plus for Secretary Folkers, for the ensuing year.

(The audience arose and applauded.)

Secretary Folkers. Friends: I do appreciate more than words will ever express, your expression of confidence of my humble ability, integrity, in trying to carry on the work of this important office of National Secretary. I have given it everything I had in the last four years, and I pledge you anew that I will continue to try to do my best. With the help of Divine God and guidance, I will do just that.

Thanks a million.

President Walters. We have two members on the Executive Committee to elect.

Excuse me. We will now entertain nominations for the position of Treasurer of this organization for the ensuing year.

Willard Pease. Mr. President and Members of this Organization: Again it is my privilege to stand before you and present for re-election for National Treasurer, a man who is well known to you all, not only for his keen understanding of all the problems of the Rural Carrier, but for his ability as a businessman. His honesty and integrity are beyond reproach and question. So it is with a great deal of pleasure, that in behalf of the New England States, I present the name of George M. Ellis of Westwood, Massachusetts, for re-election as Treasurer.

I thank you.

James A. Marceau, Rhode Island. I second that nomination.

President Walters. Do we have other nominations?

Harrison Toby, New York. Delegates to the Convention: The man whom it is my honor to mention for the position of Treasurer in your Organization is well known to most of you, and favorably so. My ability, education and vocabulary are entirely inadequate to expound to you all of his qualifications. He served in the First World War overseas with credit. Returning, he entered the postal service in 1922, and continued in that capacity since that time.

In his community, he is a leader in all community projects. He is a tireless and willing worker in the county, Districts, State and National Organizations of the Rural Letter Carriers. He has served for seven years as the Secretary of one of the largest States in this Organization.

During the Second World War, he asked and obtained leave of absence for a position as field Director of the American Red Cross, serving in the South Pacific, and in the Isle of Japan, about six months after V-J Day.

That experience has been invaluable to him in both an executive and administrative capacity. The tact displayed both in the service to the members of our State Organization while he was Secretary of that State, and in disposing of the numerous vexing problems which came to him as a Director of the American Red Cross, was unparalleled. His honor, honesty and integrity, are unimpeachable.

Gentlemen of the convention, it is one of the greatest privileges of my life to be able to present in behalf of and with the unqualified endorsement of the State of New York, the name of Burdette W. Playfoot, for your consideration as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

I thank you.

Ralph Ables. It gives me pleasure to second the nomination of Brother Playfoot because I have known him for almost twenty years. I know him to be a man of honesty, integrity, a man with ability to fill any office in this Organization, a man that we would be proud of when he goes down to Washington.

A. C. McKay, Texas. It gives Texas, the Texas delegation and me personally, great pleasure to second Burdette Playfoot's nomination for the position of Treasurer of this organization.

President Walters. Do we have other nominations?

James D. McCall. I move that the nominations be closed.

Maurice Clark. I second the motion.

President Walters. You have heard the motion duly supported, that the nominations for Treasurer be closed. Any discussion? If not, all in favor of the motion, let it be known by saying, "aye"; opposed, the same sign. It is carried and so ordered. The two candidates for Treasurer are George Ellis and Burdette Playfoot.

Prepare your ballots.

(Ballots were distributed.)

President Walters. Are we ready? Hearing no objections, we will begin calling the roll. After you look at these candidates, somebody said, you might want to change your vote, so we are going to ask them to come up here and give you a chance to look them over. They are both bald-headed though, so I don't know what difference it will make.

(Applause as the two candidates came to the platform.)

President Walters. Can you tell which is which?

If you want to vote for Burdette, that is Burdette; if you want to vote for George, this is George.

Solon Ware. Couldn't we reopen nominations and get somebody with some hair?

President Walters. It won't be you. Well, there they are. I am going to ask the next convention committee to pinch hit here and act as Tellers in cooperation with the other Tellers: W. L. Snyder of Virginia, Andrew Hintz of North Dakota, Freeman R. Nelson of Connecticut, Byron L. Burrill of Maine and James A. Marceau of Rhode Island.

The Secretary will call the roll. (Secretary Folkers called the roll, and the delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

President Walters. We declare the balloting closed and the Tellers will proceed to count the votes.

The report of the Tellers on Vice-President is as follows: Clark, 45; Gray, 107; Roberts, 65; Ostergren, 91; Lightner, 63; a total of 371.

You will prepare your ballots for Vice-President. The candidates are Clark of California, Gray of Ohio, Roberts of Arkansas, Ostergren of Minnesota, Lightner of Pennsylvania. Are you ready to vote? We will call the roll.

(As Secretary Folkers called the roll, the delegates came forward and again cast their ballots for Vice-President.)

Secretary Folkers. There are 367 votes cast.

President Walters. Have all delegates who desire to vote, cast their ballots? If so, we will declare the balloting closed.

The vote in the Treasurer's race is as follows: Ellis, 185; Playfoot, 186. The Tellers said that if either one of the candidates desires a recount, they would be glad to do it.

The Tellers said there was so much noise in the room, they thought they had it right, but weren't sure.

John J. Eby. In fairness to both candidates, they should be counted over.

O. B. DePriest. If the total number tallies correctly with the number of votes cast, I see no reason for counting it over. If there is a variation, if the sum total violates the individual votes—

President Walters. The sum total is correct, but if there is some doubt in the Tellers' minds, I think it should be recounted. As I construed their conversation with me, they were putting out the information that they could have made a mistake. It is up to the Tellers, as far as I am concerned. They were appointed, and it is their job.

Wynn Armstrong. According to parliamentary rule custom and usage, the Chair should declare the election, and then if there is a demand for recount, it can be made. Until there is an election made, there is nothing to call for a recount upon.

President Walters. That is true, but the Tellers made that announcement to me before I made the announcement. They didn't appear to be too sure, and asked me to make that announcement.

I am going to leave it with the Tellers. If they think it ought to be recounted, unless somebody else says so, I will leave it with them. If they don't think so, then I will declare it.

William H. James. I back up the word of Past President Armstrong. Unless there is a demand for recount, I feel you should declare the office as it has now been stated.

President Walters. You can appeal my decision to the floor, but if the Tellers say they are in doubt, I will pass that on to you. If the Tellers want to recount it, I think they should have the privilege.

William H. James. I am surprised that those Tellers would give out anything of that kind until they were perfectly satisfied. Unless there is a demand for a recount, I say we should let it stand as is.

President Walters. I will rule you out of order.

Freeman R. Nelson. I move that we have a recount.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

Willard Pease. The only reason I second that motion is that the question in the minds of the Tellers leaves a doubt, and in

fairness to both candidates, in fairness to those who supported both candidates, I say we should have a recount.

President Walters. Mr. Gates made that statement to me, and he wanted that information given to the delegates.

You heard the motion. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "aye"; those opposed, the same sign. It is carried and the Tellers will proceed to recount the votes.

Now, in fairness to the Tellers, let's be just as quiet as we can.

We will now entertain nominations for the three-year term on the Executive Committee, filling the place now held by J. Paul Myers.

Robert C. Taylor, Oregon. Brother Carriers: I am not a politician, nor am I a great orator. I have a man whose name I wish to place in nomination, and I think that we as a group of carriers here assembled realize the wonderful gains and benefits obtained for us during the past two years, and I am sure that they have been gained in a great part due to the efforts of our officers in Washington. The work of our Washington office has grown in magnitude, until it is really a big business. I believe that experienced men are needed in that office now as never before.

In the war-torn years now passed, our officers worked against great odds in accomplishing and making the gains which we now enjoy. The Chairman of our Executive Committee worked on that Board, putting in tireless energy, long hours, working in close harmony with the other members. He was always on hand to assist in any efforts to see that our money was not wasted.

He is a man of high integrity, which he has proved in his past three years of service.

I don't believe that it is necessary that I go further into his character as he has proved himself in the past three years, and I wish at this time to place in nomination for re-election, Paul Myers of Oregon.

President Walters. Any other nominations?

Wyatt F. Ranlett, Washington. Mr. President. Fellow Carriers: I wish to place in nomination, the name of a man who has been a carrier for twenty years. He has been an Association member for twenty years. He has served his county in every capacity. He has served a two-year term as State Secretary, two-year term as Vice-President, two-year term as President. He has worked faithfully, diligently and with consideration and courtesy to all. He is equally active in civic affairs in his home town of Wenatchee. He has been endorsed by the Western Conference and Washington is the only Western State that achieved the 100 per cent membership this year. They have also been 100 per cent in membership for the past three years.

I feel sure that he will serve the National Organization equally as well as he has served his State Association. And we would be very happy if you would consider S. S. Neher, of Wenatchee, Washington.

President Walters. Mr. Neher has been nominated.

William B. Lindau. I would like to second the nomination of Mr. Paul Myers from Oregon.

Gabriel Coigny, California. It gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Brother Neher from Washington.

President Walters. Do we have other nominations?

Roy H. Gwinn. President Walters, Members of the National Board and Fellow Delegates: This is one of the greatest pleas-

ures of my life, to stand before my fellow workers and present to you the name of a member from my state for the high office of Committeeman in our National Organization.

Anyone who has been in these halls, about the corridors or in the lobby of this hotel the past few days, cannot help but recognize the seriousness of what is going on here. The members come here to do their work, and they come here to do it well. The business transacted here is important; all of it is important. But I would like to say right now, Brothers, that we are engaged in probably the most important business of our session, that is, the selection of the men who, once we have left this place, are to control the destinies of this organization for the next 12 months.

Think of it, Brothers. They have great responsibilities on their shoulders, and the very best men we have are none too good.

With these thoughts in mind, looking only to the very best interests of this organization, I present to you our candidate. He is a man of more than twenty years' experience in the offices and the leading affairs of our State. He has served as Vice-President, President, Editor of our paper, and all the work that he has done has been highly satisfactory.

We do not fear that he will fail if elected to this high office, and it is my pleasure now to present to you, for the office of Committeeman, the name of Paul Benson from Missouri.

President Walters. Paul Benson has been nominated.

Charles E. Kellogg. It is a great pleasure for me, representing the Kansas delegation, to second the nomination of our good neighbor Paul Benson from Missouri.

President Walters. Do we have other nominations for the three-year term on the Executive Committee? Hearing none, or seeing no sign of any, I declare the nominations closed.

Prepare your ballots. Those nominated are J. Paul Myers, S. S. Neher, and Paul G. Benson. We will ask the three candidates to come to the platform.

(The candidates approached the platform, as the audience applauded.)

President Walters. Here they are—Paul Benson, Paul Myers, S. S. Neher.

Are we ready to vote?

(Announcements.)

President Walters. The total number of votes for Treasurer on the second count, does not correspond with the total number of votes cast. This vote was Ellis, 185; and Playfoot, 184. The vote cast was 371.

Voice. I think we should revote on that.

President Walters. I haven't declared any ballot yet. The first count was 185 and 186, which made the 371. I am going to declare no election. Prepare your ballots for the Treasurer's election.

We have here the report on the election for Vice-President: Gray, 109; Clark, 16; Ostergren, 124; Lightner, 39; Roberts, 79; making a total of 367, which tallies with the votes cast.

You will again prepare your ballots for Vice-President. Suppose we take them in the order as they are on the list, and prepare your votes for Vice-President first, and then we will take the votes on Treasurer, and then collect your votes that you have now prepared for Committeeman. Unless you desire that we take up the ones you have prepared for Committeeman at this time.

Prepare your ballots again for Vice-President.

According to the constitution and by-laws,

if after the third ballot, no one in the race where there is more than two candidates, receives a majority, the low man will be dropped. That does not affect this ballot. I have been asked that question, and the constitution and by-laws, says after the third ballot. The candidates for Vice-President are Gray, Clark, Ostergren, Lightner and Roberts.

Are we ready for the balloting on the Vice-President? All right. The roll call will proceed.

(As Secretary Folkers called the roll, the delegates came forward and cast their ballots for the office of Vice-President.)

President Walters. Have all voted who are eligible to vote? If so we will declare the balloting closed. There were 371 votes cast.

Now we will again call the roll, this time for the vote on your National Treasurer, George M. Ellis or Burdette Playfoot. Are you ready?

(As Secretary Folkers called the roll, the delegates came forward and cast their ballots for the office of Treasurer.)

President Walters. 369 votes having been cast, all have voted who have been eligible and have desired to vote. Montana is voting. That makes it 371. 371 votes having been cast, we declare the ballot closed.

Prepare your ballots for the Committeeman. There are three nominated—Paul Myers of Oregon, Neher of Washington and Benson of Missouri. I am going to ask Pascoe of Arkansas, Lindau of Idaho and Woods of South Dakota, to act as Tellers. We will again call the roll. You are voting on Committeeman now. A while ago when we were voting for Treasurer, you voted for Committeeman, one of you did.

(Secretary Folkers called the roll, and the delegates came forward and cast their ballots for Committeeman.)

President Walters. 369 votes having been cast for Committeeman, have all those who desired to vote and are qualified to vote, voted? If so, we will declare the ballot closed.

The Tellers have the following report on the Vice-President: Clark, 20; Gray, 110; Roberts, 78; Ostergren, 132; Lightner, 31.

No one having received a majority of the votes cast, we have called for a new election, and according to the constitution on election, it will be on the four candidates in the next race: Gray, Roberts, Ostergren and Lightner.

Prepare your ballots.

John Hamm. Pennsylvania wishes to withdraw the name of Max B. Lightner for Vice-President.

President Walters. Max B. Lightner's name having been withdrawn by State President John Hamm, it leaves three in the race—Gray, Roberts and Ostergren. Prepare your ballots. Are you ready to vote for Vice-President? The Secretary will call the roll.

(Secretary Folkers called the roll, and the delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

President Walters. 371 votes have been cast. Have all the delegates who are eligible to vote and who desire to vote, cast their ballot? We then declare the ballot closed.

The Tellers having completed the count on Treasurer, report as follows: Playfoot, 208; George Ellis, 148; 15 disqualified. Total 371.

Geo. M. Ellis. Mr. President and Fellow Delegates: It was my sincere desire, and wish, when this first ballot was taken, to come up and speak to you as I will now, but my Massachusetts delegation would not permit me to get on my feet. I want to con-

gratulate my good friend, Playfoot, in winning your support to this high honor of serving you as National Treasurer.

I told him a few days ago that if there was a change, that I didn't know of any other man to whom I would like to turn over my books, because I know he will make you a good Treasurer. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity that has been mine during the last few years, to serve you, as National Treasurer. I have tried at all times to keep the interest of the Association foremost, and I have felt perfectly free to express my opinion, whether you liked it or not.

I again want to thank you for the courtesies which you have extended in the past, and the support which you have given me. You take away the opportunity to serve you further, but you cannot take away the friendships which I have made which I cherish most dearly, and which I hope I may continue to cherish throughout the remainder of my life. I shall continue to support the best interests of this Association for a long, long time, I hope. I thank you sincerely for everything that you have done for me and I congratulate you on having chosen a good successor.

Thank you.

President Walters. Burdette Playfoot, what do you have to say for yourself?

Treasurer-Elect Playfoot. Mr. President, Members of the Convention. I am not going to take a lot of your time. I just want to tell you that this is the finest honor that has ever come to me, and I appreciate your support, and I only trust and pray that I may be able to carry on the duties of this office as efficiently and as well as they have been conducted by my predecessor.

I thank you.

President Walters. Imagine a man coming to this convention on his honeymoon and then spending all his time electioneering.

The report on the election of your Executive Committeeman is as follows: Paul Benson, 297; Myers, 29; Neher, 38; 1 blank; a total of 365. I therefore declare Paul Benson elected.

J. Paul Myers. Mr. President and Delegates: I wish to express my appreciation for the honor of being on the National Board for the past three years, and I would like to make a motion that the vote be unanimous for Brother Benson for Committeeman for three years.

S. S. Neher. I would like to second that motion, and in doing so I would say it matters little whether one man failed or succeeded, but the cause shall not fail for it is right and just.

President Walters. You have heard the motion and the second, and I am sure we are all happy to join with these two gentlemen in making this a unanimous vote, and we welcome Paul Benson into the official family.

Executive Committeeman-Elect Benson. Mr. President and Members of the Convention: I want to express my appreciation to the Missouri delegation for their confidence in me in placing me before the convention, and to the delegates to this convention for their support. I assure you I will give my very best to this office.

Thank you.

President Walters. We are now ready to entertain nominations for the two-year term, for Executive Committeeman to succeed Walter D. Gray.

H. McN. Johnson, North Carolina. I would like to present to this convention the name of a man who grew up and began carrying the mail at the age of 18, twenty-seven years ago. You can take a pencil and figure out his age. He grew up in the

Association. He joined the Association just as soon as he began service, and has been a member ever since, being an active member of his local unit. Never in the history of the Association, except one time, has North Carolina been accorded a place on the National Board. We do not plead this as a reason for electing our man. He has been State Secretary of North Carolina for six years. North Carolina has 933 routes, yet it has 1,104 members. You see from this Honor Roll that it is number 4 as a 100 per cent state. That is not the first time. For the last three years, North Carolina has been the first state to report 100 per cent membership, with as many as 900 members.

I can truthfully say that a good portion of the credit should go to this man.

During these six years that he has been secretary of North Carolina, not one vote has been cast against him in an election in the state. I don't think it is necessary for me to say anything further in nominating this man for a place on the Executive Committee. You need a good man. We have a good man. Let's all get behind Kenneth Taylor of North Carolina, and elect him to this place on the Executive Board.

I thank you.

Wm. Van Hartsvelt, Jr. Michigan wishes to place in nomination a man that needs no flowery introduction, which I am not going to do. Time is short and you want to go home, and so do I. His accomplishments have spoken for themselves. His actions have proven that he is worthy of this office, and if you delegates of this convention see fit to vote for Harold Laug of Michigan, we will appreciate it very much.

He will be as good a loser as he is a winner.

Thank you.

President Walters. You have heard the nomination of Harold Laug of Michigan.

Fred E. Sanders, Illinois. I take a personal privilege to second that nomination.

President Walters. Are there other nominations?

P. Wayne Harner, West Virginia. We have a man who served two years as Vice-President of West Virginia, two years as President. In those two years he made West Virginia 100 per cent. He could walk over to Washington, he lives so close. West Virginia never asked for a National Officer, and I want to present to you the name of a carrier from the home of rural service, Mr. John J. Eby.

President Walters. John J. Eby has been nominated. Are there other nominations? The Chair, hearing none, declares the nominations closed.

We have a report on the ballot for Vice-President: Walter D. Gray, 34; Ben Ostergren, 151; Roberts, 84; 2 blanks; making a total of 371.

No candidate having received a majority, we declare no election. Therefore, prepare your ballots for the election of a Vice-President. The candidates will be Walter D. Gray and Ben Ostergren. We will have the election of the Vice-President before we have the election of the Committeeman.

Wylie J. Roberts. Gentlemen of the Convention: We certainly wish to thank you for all the votes cast for us. We appreciate it very much. We will see you in Florida next year.

President-Elect Winquest. May I have the attention of the Convention, please. I have an announcement to make. A suggestion has come from the floor, inasmuch as our National President Thomas G. Walters was the first National President to be affected under Public Law 134, where, by his presence in Washington, he did not receive the

automatic promotion of \$84.00 this July 1, on his route, and also, since there has been a change in the constitution and by-laws raising the salary of the President to \$650.00 a year instead of \$500.00, I believe that we owe Gordon Walters some financial remuneration for this sacrifice he has made. And at this time I would like to make a motion that this convention approve the payment of \$150.00 to Thomas Walters as a partial remuneration for the financial sacrifice that has been his because of his occupancy of the Washington office.

(The motion was duly seconded as Treasurer Ellis assumed the Chair.)

Chairman Ellis. You have heard the motion as made by President-Elect Winquest.

James A. Marceau. I second the motion.
W. F. Ostoid, Texas. Inasmuch as our retiring President will be behind us on every promotion from now on, I would like to amend that to make it take care of whatever he would lose.

Chairman Ellis. Any other remarks? Are you ready for the question? It has been moved and properly seconded that we reimburse President Walters to the extent of \$150.00, to partially reimburse him for his financial loss on account of Public Law 134. All those in favor will please say "aye"; those opposed, "no." It is unanimously carried.

(President Walters resumed the Chair.)

President Walters. I deeply appreciate that gesture. I also appreciate the gesture from my friend in Texas, but I am happy that didn't take root and pass, because your Board recommended to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, that we increase the President's salary \$150.00 a year, just to keep from, at the end of a President's term attempting to make up the deficit. That was the view of increasing the National Officer's salaries—to offset partially, at least, the loss in promotion while serving as Washington Representative.

I deeply appreciate the gesture, the financial gesture to the extent of reimbursing me \$150.00. Thank you kindly.

Are you ready to vote on your Vice-President? The Secretary will call the roll.

(Secretary Folkers called the roll, and the delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

President Walters. 371 votes having been cast, all those who are eligible and desire to vote and have not voted, let it be known. We declare the ballot closed.

You will now prepare your ballot for Executive Committeeman. We are going to ask Harold Laug, Kenneth Taylor and John J. Eby of West Virginia, to come to the platform. (They did so) John Eby on the right, from West Virginia; Kenneth Taylor in the center, from North Carolina; Harold Laug from Michigan on the left. There they are.

Are you ready to vote? The roll call will now be made by the National Secretary.

(Secretary Folkers called the roll, and the delegates came forward and cast their ballots.)

President Walters. 367 votes having been cast, any of you who are qualified and desire to vote please make it known. I now declare the ballot closed.

(Announcements.)

President Walters. Mr. Winquest has an announcement to make.

President-Elect Winquest. By your action this morning, you approved the appointment of a Colors Committee. At this time, I should like to appoint the Chairman of that Committee, with the provision that he may select the other two men to assist him in having charge of the colors at

the National Conventions. I have selected a man who has been responsible to his organization, for ex-servicemen, and has presented to this National Association, these beautiful colors that you look upon at this time. I am very happy to have the opportunity to appoint Bill Van Hemert as Chairman of the Colors Committee at the National Convention, and he may select his helpers.

President Walters. The report of the Tellers on Vice-President is as follows: Ben Ostergren, 214; Walter Gray, 156; one blank. Ben Ostergren having received the majority of the votes, I declare him elected.

Walter D. Gray. Friends, I want to thank you for the very fine support you have given me. We can't all be winners, but we can all be good losers, and I assure you I am just that. I don't know why we call him "Big Ben," but I guess it is because he is so dependable after the Big Ben alarm clocks, and I wish to make the election of "Big Ben" unanimous.

President Walters. Mr. Gray made that as a motion. All in favor let it be known by standing. (Everyone stood and applauded.) Ben Ostergren, come forward.

Daddy Kildow, would you like to say a word to this convention?

Willis G. Kildow, Wisconsin. I will tell you, Brothers and Sisters, I don't know whether I can talk through this thing or not, but I think I can make you hear. They say I am the oldest carrier at this convention. I think if you consider the time that I have put in the Post Office, I am long, long ways older than any carrier, because I was born in the post office. My father was postmaster when I was born, and then he went into war work. That was at the time of the Civil War, and my father was postmaster under the great Abe Lincoln. So, the first 8 years of my life I passed in a post office.

Of course, I do not count that time on my postal time because I didn't do much work. As far as being here and talking to you, I have been trying for years and years to help along with the Association work. I joined the Association just as soon as our county was organized and I paid the dues ever since. I have attended many national Conventions, and some of the old fellows here will know that I was something of a fighter. They used to try to boo me down, or hiss me down, but I wouldn't sit down.

The only time that I ever left the floor—if you will read the records of the Philadelphia Convention of 1925, you will find that I stopped right in the middle of my speech. That was done by the President or Vice-President at that time, Brother Braun of Minnesota. He ruled me out of order, so I did not contest his decision and sat down. But as far as hissing and booing is concerned, I guess this is the only time that I ever talked to a congregation of the carriers but what I was hissed and booed.

I used to tell them that there are only two animals that hissed and booed; one was an owl and the other was a snake. So that did not affect me any.

I want to tell you another thing. Our Congressman from Iowa was telling about his rural free delivery. Well, I can go far, far ahead of the time he did, because my father, when the mail would come into the office, if it stayed there too long; he used to wear a high silk hat, and he would fill his hat with the mail and go out and distribute it to the neighbors out there. That was between 1860 and 1867. And my father also advocated free delivery for the farmers.

Thank you very much.

President Walters. If the photographer is around we would like to have a picture of Daddy Kildow before he leaves.

(Cries of "How old is he?")

President Walters. How old are you? When he quit counting his birthdays, he was 86.

(Cries of "What is his name?")

Daddy Kildow. My name is Willis G. Kildow. I was named for the man that founded the Girard College in Washington, D. C. My address is White Water, Wisconsin. I am known as "Daddy" Kildow, and I know all the girls of the Association. They know me better than the fellows do.

President Walters. Thank you, and I hope you will be back next year.

Daddy Kildow. I will be there.

President Walters. He says that he will be seeing us in Florida next year.

All right, let's hear from Ben Ostergren.

Vice-President-Elect Ostergren. Right now I am a man of a few words. I know you want to eat. I know you want to go home, and so I am not going to speak to you too long. I realize that we have gone through quite a race here in electing a Vice-President. There were five good men who ran for that office, and I don't know—I am certainly not going to say that I am better than those four others. They are four very good men, and I want to say to you that they accepted defeat like good sportsmen.

They carried on their campaign here in this Convention like good sportsmen. It reminds me back in my high school days, when I played fullback on the football team, with one of the teams in the city of St. Paul. We were mortal enemies with the other team, and we knew the game would be hard fought. It always was. And so on the kick off, I happened to get the ball down in the back end of the field, and zig-zagged my way to get through the whole opposition. I had wonderful interference. There was good cooperation and team play. I remember that was the only score we made in that game and the opposition didn't make any score. But they were down on our two- and four-yard lines. Three times they were within our five-yard line, and the suspense was terrible.

Well, the suspense here has been harder on yourselves than it has been on me. Since this race has gone on for Vice-President you have been very patient, and I appreciate your patience.

I want to say one thing to you, in taking office: I had never expected to serve in any capacity as a National Officer back when I started in the Post Office Service. That was 26 years ago. I was at the St. Paul Convention in 1924, and many of you were there, and I suppose I met some of you people, that I cannot remember now. I did not have the same interests in the organization at that time. I was too new; but I did grow to have a great interest in this organization. I love the boys whom I have met in the rural service. I have had and have seen the finest spirit manifested in groups of rural carriers, in State Organizations, and in our National Organization.

And there is nothing that I appreciate more in the world than that good spirit, that spirit of cooperation and good will toward each other, fighting together, striving together to lift ourselves to a higher plane, where we may have a fairer view. And so, as I have this privilege of serving together with these men who have been elected today, I know I am going to find that fine spirit.

I am going to do everything within my power and everything in my ability to co-

operate with this group of men. I am most thankful for the confidence that you have placed in me this day. Thank you.

President Walters. Thank you. The tellers have completed counting the ballots. Kenneth Taylor, 195; John J. Eby, 34; Harold Laug, 138. Kenneth Taylor, having received a majority of the votes, I declare him elected as a Member of the Executive Committee for a term of two years.

Executive Committeeman-Elect Taylor. I know you are all in a hurry to leave, so, thank you very much.

President Walters. If the newly elected officers will come to the platform, we will have the installation. The checks will be distributed immediately after the installation.

Raymond H. Combs will install the newly elected officers.

President-Elect Winquest. Friends, we realize that everyone is desiring to go home as soon as possible. May we have few minutes of quiet while the officers are installed.

Raymond H. Combs. Gentlemen of the Convention, you are now about to have your National Officers installed. Barney Winquest, your fellow carriers of this nation have seen fit to repose confidence in you to lead this organization for the next year. They have recognized your ability through your previous service. This gavel that I hold in my hand is an instrument of authority. I present it to you with the charge that you wield it with justice, which I know you will do.

Having known you for many years, I consider it an honor and a privilege to have a part in your installation as National President of this great organization. I present you with the gavel and declare you duly installed.

(The audience applauded as President-Elect Winquest was presented with the gavel.)

Raymond H. Combs. Ben Ostergren, after reviewing your work over the years in our own state and in National Conventions from time to time, your fellow carriers of this Convention have seen fit to honor you with the Vice-Presidency. I had a similar experience, if you will pardon me, some few years ago; and I warn you now that neither you nor I nor any of us know at what moment you may be called upon to lead this organization. None of us know. I charge you to

be prepared, to lend your cooperation with the Board and be prepared to step into the breach, if God should so wish.

I now install you as Vice-President of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association.

Glenn Folkers, after thoroughly viewing your efficient work as our Secretary, the Delegates to this Convention have recognized the great ability that you have displayed. You have conducted your office well. There is no need for me to charge you with the duties of that office because you are very familiar with them and have conducted them to the satisfaction of your fellow carriers here and in the United States. I compliment you on your record, and declare you daily installed as Secretary of this Organization for the ensuing year.

Burdette Playfoot, after a long struggle, and a recount, the Delegates to this Convention have honored you by placing you in a very responsible position. Men always look to character when their money is involved. They have done so here, and from my personal knowledge of you and your activities and your personality, I know that they have made no mistake in selecting you as their treasurer. You have made an enviable record in New York State in the service of this organization. You have served your country on two instances in the armed forces, and we are proud, and I am personally very happy for the privilege of installing one of my fellow New Yorkers, whom I have honored and known for a great many years.

I declare you duly installed and charge you to look well to the finances.

Kenneth Taylor, you too have been selected by your Fellow Delegates, men who have known you and known of your work. North Carolina came here singing your praises. These Delegates here have recognized that in you we have a man of intellect, integrity; a man who will take seriously the duties of the Executive Committee, and I am happy for the privilege of installing you as Executive Committeeman. Look well to the business end of this organization.

Paul Benson, from the great state of Missouri, after having watched your activities over a great many years in your own State, having witnessed your skillful ability in promoting and putting on, if you will, a great National Convention in St. Louis,

they have selected you in a responsible position, the position of Executive Committeeman. They have recognized that you have the ability.

Personally, it was my privilege to work with you for some few years in our Association work, and I can testify that we have a man of great ability. I am happy for the privilege of installing you as Executive Committeeman.

National Officers, your Fellow Delegates. Fellow Delegates, your National Officers.

(The audience arose and applauded.)

(President Winquest assumed the Chair.)

President Winquest. Everyone will stand, and if there is no other business to come before this Convention, I have requested that Cliff Goedrich lead us in the singing of "God Be With You Until We Meet Again"; I deem it a rare pleasure to ask our good friend, John Barnes from Des Moines, Iowa—who is not a rural carrier, but is so intensely interested in our welfare—to dismiss us with a word of prayer, and then the Convention will be declared adjourned.

(The entire audience joined in the singing of "God Be With You Until We Meet Again.")

John Q. Barnes. Dear precious Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this Convention and for the spirit of harmony which has prevailed. And now as these new officers take their place, we pray Thee that each of them may realize their responsibility to their fellows, and may their fellows realize their responsibility to their officers. And may the same harmony and good will that has always prevailed in this Organization continue.

Give the Officers wisdom in their deliberations and courage in their decisions. And wilt Thou, Our Father, go with all of them to their homes. May no accidents befall them, and may we all meet again.

We pray in the name of the Master Amen.

President Winquest. Remain standing and the Ex-Servicemen's Club will retire the colors.

(The colors were retired by the Members of the Ex-Servicemen's Club.)

President Winquest. I hereby declare this Convention adjourned, sine die.

(The meeting adjourned at three forty-five o'clock.)



Photo by Courtesy Public Roads Administration

NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY

1946-1947



MRS. R. J. VANDENBERGE

Mrs. R. J. Vandenberg, President Corsica, South Dakota
Mrs. Geo. H. Harries, Vice-President San Antonio, Texas
Mrs. H. C. Myers, Secretary Lexington, North Carolina
Mrs. J. R. Winter, Chairman, Executive Committee Winterville, Georgia
Mrs. Ivan Crist, Treasurer Deerfield, Michigan
Mrs. Joe A. Hill, Executive Committeewoman Pine, Colorado
Mrs. J. W. Capps, Executive Committeewoman Camden, Tennessee



MRS. GEO. H. HARRIES



MRS. H. C. MYERS



MRS. J. R. WINTER



MRS. IVAN CRIST



MRS. JOE A. HILL



MRS. J. W. CAPPS

PROCEEDINGS
of
TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION
of
THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO
NATIONAL RURAL
LETTER CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

Held at
Hotel Savery, Des Moines, Iowa
August 13, 14, 15 and 16, 1946
National Officers

President, Mr. J. Paul Myers, St. Helens, Oregon; Vice President and Editor, Mrs. R. J. Vandenberg, Corsica, South Dakota; Secretary, Mrs. H. C. Myers, Lexington, North Carolina; Treasurer, Mrs. Charles N. Stafflinger, Youngstown, New York.

Executive Committee

Chairman, Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges, Random Lake, Wisconsin; Secretary, Mrs. George H. Harries, San Antonio, Texas; Member, Mrs. J. R. Winter, Winterville, Georgia.

The meetings held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines which include the Golden Jubilee program "Fifty Years in Song" under direction of Mrs. George H. Harries, the joint opening session, the memorial service presented by Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges and the annual banquet appear, in the proceedings of the Association which you are urged to read.

The business sessions of the Auxiliary were held in the Ballroom of the Savery Hotel.

FIRST SESSION, TUESDAY P. M.
AUGUST 13, 1946

The Iowa officers escorted the National Officers to the platform, the Colors were advanced, Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison followed by the singing of The Star Spangled Banner, with Mrs. Niles Clark leading; Pianist, Mrs. Solon W. Ware. Then "The American Creed" was repeated in unison.

Invocation—John Q. Barnes

Dear God, Thou Father of us all, we thank Thee for this glorious day, the realization of a dream to some of us—the war over, our boys and girls back home, and again we can assume the role of ordinary living and pursuit. But, dear God, we pray Thee that we shall never have erased from our memory those who will not come back, and grant, we pray Thee, that we may always carry in our hearts the most tender sympathy for those who have suffered in this respect.

We thank Thee, our Father, for the women of all ages; we thank Thee for the saintly ones who have touched and blessed our own lives, and we thank Thee for those dear young women who went out and took their places in the war effort and helped to prosecute and terminate it. We thank Thee for those who entered the professions and brought comfort and help to our boys and girls on farflung battle lines. We thank Thee for our mothers, for their tender love and their queenly lives, and we thank Thee, dear God, for this particular organization, these good women coming from the east and the west, from the north and the south, gathering here to plan for the common good. Give them wisdom in their deliberations and advice for the future. Help them to realize that the greatest

field of endeavor is by the appeal to human hearts and human thinking, and grant we pray Thee that we may never lose sight of the fact that the greatest tragedy in life is not in doing evil, but in losing the opportunity to do good.

Give us clean hearts; help us to put first things first, to seek the abiding values, to love everything that is good and true and kind, and to give expression to these values, everything that we think is beautiful and good and for which we crave.

And now, Our Father, may this great organization of dear women go forward in that spirit and they will know success, for victory is ahead of those who work and build and build and build. In the Master's Name. Amen.

Mrs. Henry J. Hannasch, Iowa President. In opening the 20th annual National Convention here in Des Moines it is my pleasure to greet you and to welcome you into our midst, to Iowa the greatest state in all the land. Like the sojourners of old, you have come to participate in the glorious work of fraternalism, to promote and perpetuate those lofty ideals and conservative policies which have carried this great state through trials and progress for many years and kept it in the foremost ranks of beauty and usefulness. We rejoice at the opportunity of greeting you as the highest representatives of this great organization.

You have so journeyed here from many parts of this great nation, from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific; from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. We open our arms to receive you and there springs from the heart of each of us a welcome more hearty and sincere than words can express. We hope you will enjoy the hospitality and entertainment that have been provided. We want to know you and you to know us. We trust that after this convention has concluded and you are ready to return to your distant homes that you shall carry with you fond recollections and kindly memories of our great state and its people whose guests you were and who have been so honored at your coming.

And now we will have the responses—first from the North, Mrs. Lee Arnold of Minnesota.

Mrs. Arnold. Madam Chairman, Officers, Delegates and members and friends of the Auxiliary: It gives me great pleasure today to bring you greetings from the North and especially from the state of Minnesota. We had hoped this year that we might welcome you to our state, but on account of the hotel facilities and a few other things we were unable to have you. When we heard that Iowa had invited us, we were very happy, because we know that they will do the very best they can to make this stay for you a happy one, and long after this meeting is over we will have happy memories of the good times we have had here.

It was a great work for you to get ready for us. When we look at these cute little souvenirs that each of us got and that we will take home with us, we will think of you all the more and the days that you worked and planned these good times for us.

The other day as I was rummaging around, I found a big roll of convention papers and among them there was one that intrigued me. It was a picture of the National Convention in St. Paul in 1924. Now, we didn't have an Auxiliary at that time, and all the carriers and families brought their tents with them, or many that were near enough, and we went to the Columbia Heights Tourist Park and put up our tents, and it was like a little city spring-

ing up. I remember right next to Minnesota's tents were the tents of the Iowa delegation. They had come right from their own convention to the National, and they were a very peppy bunch.

Our meetings were at the Auditorium that year and they would come in a body, I think about fifty strong, and as they marched down the aisle singing the beautiful Iowa song about where the tall corn grows, we felt a little bit envious of them because they were such a peppy bunch and so interested in everything.

At that convention one dark and stormy, rainy night there were several ladies that had a vision of what might happen if we had an Auxiliary, an R.L.C. Auxiliary, and they told all the ladies that we must come to the St. Francis Hotel and there we would try to organize. It was so stormy that those of us who had gone to supper at the tourist park just couldn't think of going into the city again to this meeting, but there were from six to eight that went into an upper room, and there was one man, a Mr. James, that was very anxious to help. There they planned and worked for this Auxiliary and it was a very small beginning. Now, twenty-two years afterward, we have an Auxiliary that is as big as any, and perhaps it is larger than any Auxiliary in the United States. I know we are all proud and happy that we can belong to this Auxiliary and that everyone of us has been an influence for good to our husbands and we have helped them. They have known that we were standing back of them when there was something that we could do, and we did it.

So I am just happy to see so many here and to bring you greetings from Minnesota. Thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hannasch. That was a very fine response from the North. And now we will have a response from the South by Mrs. L. L. Vise of Mississippi.

Mrs. Vise. Madam Chairman, National Officers, Auxiliary Members from Iowa, and other Delegates: I am a delegate from the Deep South, the Magnolia State of Mississippi, where southern hospitality is our pride and joy, yet none of our hospitality can exceed nor even equal your friendly words of welcome. I consider it a distinct honor to be privileged to represent the entire Southland in a response to this most cordial welcome.

We are fully aware of the fact that the ladies of the Iowa Auxiliary, as well as many others in this beautiful state, have spent many long weeks—yes, even months—in preparation for this, our GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENTION. The evidence of your hospitality has already been demonstrated many times, and we anticipate a profitable and enjoyable convention in your capital city.

I am sure that our friends from East, West, North, yes and even from the grand old South would feel that I had let them down if I did not give them at least one typical southern expression. Well, I shan't let them down. Y'all just don't know how thrilled and happy we are to be your guests this week.

We have truly been made to feel that we are welcome, not only by your words, but because of the love radiating from your faces and by your warm hand-clasp as you assure us that welcome is ours.

There's a thrill in a hearty greeting

That we all like to feel;

There's joy in a friendly welcome

From one we know is real.

Would that I might utter all that my heart doth feel,



Views of the GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENTION

Des Moines, Iowa

August 13-16, 1946

From top center: Colonial Pageantry. Featured by the Ladies' Auxiliary. Left to right—Mrs. H. G. Courtney, Norwalk, Iowa; Mrs. J. A. Hays, Jefferson, Iowa; Mrs. J. W. McBurney, Stuart, Iowa; Mrs. W. F. McCool, Central City, Iowa; Mrs. John Grace, McIntire, Iowa; Mrs. H. Hannasch, Carroll, Iowa.

Questions and Answers Committee—Left to right—Mrs. Henry Muehlendyck, Chesterfield, Missouri; Mrs. J. J. Kindler, Lancaster, Ohio; Mrs. Wm. Stevens, Queen Anne, Maryland. Standing—Mrs. J. R. Winter, Winterville, Georgia.

Mileage Committee—Left to right—Mrs. John L. Hill, Great Meadows, New Jersey; Mrs. M. A. Bartee, Sturgeon, Missouri; Mrs. Richard Moody, Greenland, New Hampshire. Standing, left to right—Mrs. Michael Schafer, Pewaukee, Wisconsin; Mrs. R. S. Cook, Taft, Texas.

Courtesy Committee—Left to right—Mrs. B. A. Tillman, Cameron, New Mexico; Mrs. A. L. Gardner, Salley, South Carolina; Mrs. G. F. Cratsley, Hector, New York.

Auxiliary Officers and Parliamentarian—Standing, left to right—Mrs. Geo. H. Harries, San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. Ed J. Harriges, Random Lake, Wisconsin; Mrs. J. R. Winter, Winterville, Georgia; Seated—Mrs. Chas. N. Staffinger, Youngstown, New York; Mrs. H. C. Myers, Lexington, North Carolina; Mrs. H. G. Courtney, Norwalk, Iowa; Mrs. J. Paul Myers, St. Helens, Oregon; Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, Corsica, S. Dak.

But there are thoughts that words cannot reveal.
The rarest fruitage is the last to fall,
But the strongest language has no words at all.

Friends, as we journey homeward, the beautiful memory of this pleasant convention will be ours. Thank you most sincerely. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hannasch. That was a fine response from the South and our next will be a response from the East by Mrs. Wm. O. Kent of Vermont.

Mrs. Kent. Madam President and Members of the Auxiliary: Through the courtesy of our National President, Mrs. Myers, I am happy to have the privilege to thank you on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of the eastern states. For many of us this is our first visit to your beautiful city, and we have evidence everywhere to please us, not only in words, but warm hand-clasps and friendly smiles which welcome us. It is a privilege to spend this first visit to National with you on the occasion of our Fiftieth Anniversary. We have traveled from near and far to attend this meeting filled with the spirit of goodwill and friendship toward one another. Banding together for good is a profitable thing throughout the world, and the Ladies Auxiliary is an example of that service.

We are here to exchange greetings, make friendships and renew old friendships, and realize that our hopes, aims and plans are one. So let us return home with a new determination to make this the best organization possible. We thank you and hope we will prove worthy of your cordial welcome. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hannasch. That's a lovely response from the East. Last, but not least, we will hear from the delegate from the West, from California, Mrs. Maurice Clark.

Mrs. Clark. Madam Chairman, Delegates and Members: We ladies from the West are glad to be here, and we have enjoyed traveling through these corn-producing states very much. Everything looked so green and fresh. That may seem strange to you if you have never been in the West, but some of our states are dry at this time of year, that is, the roadsides are dry, we irrigate, and I find they are doing that in eastern Wyoming now and in Nebraska and Iowa, and we were glad to see that, but of course Washington is green. I haven't seen anyone from Washington yet, but we were impressed with the wonderful harvest that is approaching. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for the promise of such a bounteous harvest.

At this convention we feel sure that friendships will be renewed and new friendships will be formed which will be as lasting and permanent as the glaciers of Montana, as enduring as the giant redwoods of California, as deep as the Grand Canyon of Arizona. And I know that the program will be as colorful as the Palisades of New Mexico. I think, too, our programs are going to be as refreshing as cider made from Washington apples and I feel sure that the thoughts of our duties at home will rest upon us as lightly during the next few days as the clouds do upon Pikes Peak in Colorado; and the convention as a whole will surely be as satisfying as a piece of cheese from Oregon or a lamb shop from Wyoming, or a potato from Idaho.

And we will go home with renewed enthusiasm as buoyant as the water of Great Salt Lake of Utah, a state where I understand we have but one member. So we thank you, Iowa and Des Moines, for your hearty

welcome and we know that we will enjoy being in this beautiful city. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hannasch. Now we have had the responses from the North, South, East, and West. We ladies in Iowa, the entire membership, each and every one of us, is ready to serve you. Everything you want us to do we are willing to do, we are at your service and command.

Now it is my great pleasure to turn this gavel over to our very efficient Margaret Myers, our National President. (Applause.)

Mrs. Myers. Thank you. Sisters of the Auxiliary, co-workers I like to call you, I have just one request to add to all the nice things that have been said. The responses and the welcome that we have received here have been given most graciously and we accept them. Before taking up the work any further I would like to add just a word of gratitude for the arrangement of the room. Coming into the city it looked as though it would be an impossible task to have this room ready for us today at this hour, and the Hotel has co-operated so wonderfully with any request that I could see that we needed here and put at their fingertips to do for us, and they have presented here today these two beautiful rose bouquets up here, the Hotel has given those to us. Somebody must have whispered Oregon roses, I don't know. Two large baskets at the ends have been presented by the Auxiliary here in the state of Iowa. And the room in general has the smell of nice clean fresh paint. As you are here in the hotel, I wish you would just bear with the management a little. They told me that it might not be as quiet around here as we would like to have it on account of the hammering because they are still under construction, so I am going to ask you to be as patient as you can with things because they are willing to help out and we will do our best to do likewise.

The Credential Committee Registration desk is on the mezzanine floor right across the hall, so you turn in your credentials just as quickly as possible, please.

And then one further word—keep in mind, ladies, the one principle of the Ladies Auxiliary, the first one, which is the forming of friendships. Let's form those lasting friendships at this meeting. Anything that comes up that is not very agreeable to us, let's stop and just think of the principles of our organization, let's make this just one grand convention. It is your convention. We officers up here are here to serve you and hear what you have been doing during the year.

And now I declare the Twentieth Annual National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary duly opened for the transaction of business. Each will govern herself accordingly.

The first order of business will be roll call of Officers.

Mrs. H. C. Myers, Secretary. Madam President, Officers, and Ladies of the Auxiliary: I shall now give the roll call of officers and it will be followed by the roll call of the states, but I shall call only the names of the delegates at large as it would be duplicated by the Credentials Committee later.

President, Mrs. J. Paul Myers—Present. Vice President, Mrs. R. J. Vandenberg—Present. Executive Committee Chairman, Mrs. Ed. J. HARRIGES—Present. Secretary, Mrs. George H. HARRIES—Present. Member, Mrs. J. R. Winter—Present. Secretary, Mrs. H. C. Myers—Present. Treasurer, Mrs. Charles N. STAFFLINGER—Present.

President Myers. Thank you, Madam Secretary. Now, we will have the partial report of the Credentials Committee. Will the

chairman please come forward? While we are waiting for her, I see the next item of business, according to our printed program, is the adoption of the program. You have these programs in your possession.

I move the adoption of the program as printed, with your approval. (Seconded by Mrs. Walworth, Oregon, and carried.)

Then we have the rules of the convention. The National Secretary will read those rules for your approval, please.

Mrs. Myers, Secretary. Convention Rules.

1. All delegates and voting members of the Auxiliary shall occupy seats in the section reserved for them, and are requested to be in their seats at the opening of each meeting.

2. A delegate speaking from the floor shall rise, address the Chair, and obtain recognition from the presiding officer. She shall then give her name and state she represents.

3. No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question, if a delegate who has not spoken asks for the floor. No delegate shall speak twice on the same question, except by unanimous consent.

4. Debate shall be limited to four minutes to each speaker. Debate on any question shall be limited to twenty-five minutes. No extension of time shall be allowed a speaker to debate a question, except by unanimous consent.

5. No committee report which has not been read to the Convention shall be printed in the minutes.

6. All resolutions presented shall be referred to a committee on Resolutions before being discussed by the Convention. These resolutions shall be in the hands of the Committee not later than 10:00 o'clock Thursday morning.

7. The Committee on Resolutions shall give the mover of every Resolution an opportunity to explain the merits of the Resolution on request.

8. The Resolutions and Constitution Committees shall make three extra copies of their final reports, one for the stenographer, one for the National President, and one for the National Secretary.

9. A motion must be immediately presented in writing, when requested by the presiding officer.

10. All paid delegates shall be in attendance at all sessions in order to receive their convention mileage.

Madam President, I move the adoption of these convention rules. (Seconded by Mrs. Walter Hatterdorf, Illinois, carried.)

President Myers. Next we have appointment of committees. I think this is a very necessary part of our Convention, and I asked the chairmen of some of these committees to meet with me at one o'clock today and instructed them in their duties of their respective committees. I am going to read this list and the first one I name in each instance will be the chairman of that committee and then the others following will be members. So will the chairman rise and then the other members as I read and remain standing until that committee is complete, please?

Credentials

Mrs. Paul L. Baird, South Dakota
Mrs. Allen Whitney, Nebraska
Mrs. Ralph Greer, Arkansas

Mileage

Mrs. Margaret B. Bartee, Missouri
Mrs. Mike Shafer, Wisconsin
Mrs. Richard Moody, New Hampshire
Mrs. R. S. Cook, Texas
Mrs. John L. Hill, New Jersey

Resolutions

Mrs. Kent Kirkhart, Oklahoma
Mrs. E. C. Schultz, Illinois
Mrs. A. O. Reed, Alabama
Mrs. Chas. Magnuson, Indiana
Mrs. L. L. Vise, Mississippi

Constitution and By-Laws

Mrs. Arthur Bird, North Dakota
Mrs. Vida MacKinstry, Massachusetts
Mrs. Lottie Laug, Michigan
Mrs. Frank Walworth, Oregon
Mrs. J. Warren Smith, Oklahoma

Auditing

Mrs. Viola Pearl, Maine
Mrs. Joe Hill, Colorado
Mrs. Lana Eveslage, Ohio

Courtesy

Mrs. George Cratsley, New York
Mrs. B. A. Tillman, New Mexico
Mrs. A. L. Gardner, South Carolina

Emblem Pin

Mrs. D. M. Inge, Virginia
Mrs. Norman Baxter, Rhode Island
Mrs. Loy Carlan, Florida

Parliamentary Usage

Mrs. O. B. DePriest, Tennessee
Mrs. B. A. Skjerseth, Arizona
Mrs. Harry Larson, Wyoming

Sale of "R.F.D."

Mrs. Joe A. Hill, Colorado
Mrs. R. W. Fortune, Georgia
Mrs. Dorothy Nelson, Connecticut
Mrs. Clyde Hall, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Murry McWhorter, West Virginia

Route History Books

Mrs. Edward Spear, Kentucky
Mrs. Wm. C. Stevens, Maryland
Mrs. J. L. Pierce, Texas

Junior Scrap Book

Mrs. Chas. Kellogg, Kansas
Mrs. C. E. Knick, Montana
Mrs. O. S. Johnson, Louisiana

Tellers

Mrs. Mable Eastman, Washington
Mrs. L. C. Hamel, Minnesota
Mrs. Wm. O. Kent, Vermont
Mrs. R. C. Lanning, North Carolina
Mrs. Maurice Clark, California
Mrs. A. C. McMillan, Georgia

Pages—Iowa Ladies

Mrs. Lois Whitmer
Mrs. Roy Larson
Mrs. John Muhl
Mrs. Marie Strang
Mrs. Frances Chamberlain
Mrs. Ruth Minor

Room and Stage

Mrs. Ruth Grace, Iowa
Mrs. Amelia Bloodgood
Mrs. Erma Mott

Flowers

Mrs. John Barnes, Iowa

Color Bearers

Mrs. Amelia Bloodgood, Iowa
Mrs. Erma Mott, Iowa

President's Page

Mrs. Thelma Van Hemert, Iowa

Sergeant-at-Arms

Mrs. Ralph Fifield, Vermont

(Several of the committee chairmen announced their meetings, stating time and place.)

Now, I want you to meet my Parliamentarian—Mrs. Courtney. Will she please come to the platform? Mrs. Courtney knows all the answers, I depend upon her a lot.

I want to introduce at this time our song leader, Mrs. Agnes Clark from South Carolina. Our Pianist is Mrs. Solon Ware from Georgia. And our Secretary of the minutes here at the convention is Mrs. Beck.

I neglected to say the committees, if they

wish a room in which to meet, may meet in this building in Room 1102. You may get the key from me or my private page. Incidentally, this privilege page of mine is a whiz, getting around from hotel to hotel—Mrs. Thelma Van Hemert of Iowa.

Just for a moment, Mrs. Clark, will you lead us in a song we all know? (Singing.)

The next thing on our program will be the partial report of the Credentials Committee. Mrs. Baird will present that.

(Mrs. Baird read her partial report. The complete report appears at a later time. At the moment there were 210 delegates present.)

If you have corrections to make, will you meet with the Credentials Committee after the meeting to save time on the convention floor.

You have heard the partial report of the Credentials Committee, shall we adopt this partial report? What is the wish of the Convention?

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. Madam President, I move that we adopt the partial report. (Seconded by Mrs. Mabel Eastman, Washington, and carried.)

Pres. Myers. I want to read from our Constitution and By-Laws what it says about this report—Article XIII, Section 3. "The roll call of delegates shall be limited to one reading, subsequent roll calls to be reported by number by the delegate at large." So from now on the delegate at large will rise and give the number from her state instead of having the Credentials Chairman give the full report.

We will have a partial report of the Secretary and her Activity Report at this time.

Mrs. Myers, Secretary. Madam President, Officers and Members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the National Rural Letter Carriers Association: It is a privilege and a pleasure to give a report of my activities during the past year. I deeply appreciate the honor to serve you in this capacity and I am grateful for the confidence place in me.

Just after the close of a profitable board meeting of your National Officers in Chicago last fall, rosters of state presidents, vice presidents, and secretaries were mimeographed and a copy sent to each national officer and to the state officers for their use. Stationery was printed for the National Officers and a supply sent to each.

The last of September I caused to have printed 25,000 individual receipt cards. The cards were in the mail prior to the first of October, each state Secretary receiving the quota for her state. Other cards were mailed later during the year as requested. Bills for the cards were mailed to each state secretary.

Seven states were assigned me to "mother" during the year: Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Vermont. Round Robin letters were written and sent to each group, Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Secretaries each making about three rounds. Much pleasure and information were conveyed in that way.

I have received during the year from sale of Voucher books, Official Receipt books, Warrant books, Receipt cards, county Past Presidents' pins, Emblem pins, and per capita tax, more than 225 checks and post office money orders. Entries were made and receipts written and mailed for each one received. The first of each month a check was written for the total amount of Auxiliary money received during the preceding month and mailed to the National Treasurer. Lists showing the number of paid members from each state have been published from time

to time in our National Rural Letter Carrier.

At the close of the Friendly Membership Contest on June 30th, membership enrollment was sent to the National President who graciously consented to tabulate results and to announce the winning states.

Annual Report and Credential blanks were sent to each State Secretary prior to their state meetings. The states during the year have been supplied with various kinds of office supplies, cards, pins, receipt books, etc. All letters requesting information on various subjects were promptly answered.

A number of pieces were written and published in the National Rural Letter Carrier. Financial Reports have been made and published at the end of each quarter.

It was my pleasure to attend six state conventions—the first one in Nashville, Tennessee, July 4th and 5th; in Raleigh, North Carolina, July 6th; at Ocean City, Maryland, July 8th and 9th; New Jersey the 13th at Somerville; Jackson, Mississippi, the 18th, 19th, and 20th; and Easton, Pennsylvania, July 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. All of these states had fine conventions with very good attendance. I was accorded many courtesies during my stay in each state, which I appreciated very much. I endeavored to do my bit by making talks at each Auxiliary meeting, in the men's meetings, and at the banquets. I had the privilege and pleasure of attending two meetings in the state of Georgia last fall, one a district meeting and the other a statewide meeting in Atlanta given in honor of the National President of the Association, Mr. Gordon Walters.

Letters were written to Congressmen and Senators relative to legislation beneficial to the Rural Carriers.

In the past year hundreds of letters and cards were written, packages, printed matter, etc., mailed out to the various states. A large number of states have increased their membership over that of last year. Nineteen states had 50% or more of the potential membership paid at the close of the Friendly membership contest, June 30th.

Four states reported 100% membership—Wisconsin, Wyoming, Oregon, and Iowa. Total membership to date, August 13th, 17,026.

It has been a pleasure to serve you, and again I want to thank you for the privilege.

Mrs. John Hill, New Jersey. Madam President, I move that we accept the Activities Report of the Secretary. (Seconded by Mrs. Teisman, Ohio. Carried.)

Pres. Myers. Now the Secretary will give her partial report of the finances of the Auxiliary. You understand, this is just a partial report, and if there is no objection we will receive the report as it is read.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Charles Stafflinger, will give her Activity Report next.

Mrs. Stafflinger. Madam President, National Officers, and Members of the Rural Letter Carriers Auxiliary and Friends: This report of your National Treasurer is quite meager, indeed, as to activities, and for which I humbly apologize.

At the National Board Meeting held in Chicago last September a year of constructive work was outlined for our Auxiliary, together with several interesting features for added interest and pleasure. Each of your officers contributed her suggestions, and a week of diligent work was put into the planning of Margaret's "Peace" program.

As is customary, names were drawn of the states each of us was to "mother." My good fortune was in drawing Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Illinois, West Virginia Kansas, New York, and Louisiana.

Shortly after my return home, the critical illness of four members of my family, with the resulting recent death of my brother, curtailed my activities, so that I was only able to attend a few meetings in my own state.

The correspondence I had with my "daughters," however, carried many words of cheer and helped me over some pretty rough going. I would like you to know also how much your National Officers have helped me, doing a good share of my work, as well as their own.

In spite of having a "stepmother" instead of a loving "mother," each of my group of states carried forward the program in an excellent manner, as you will see by their reports. I'm especially proud of the "Book Giving Contest," the beautiful posters which you will see, and the gain in membership which each has made.

My most difficult task this year was my inability to make my state assignments and for the first time in 19 years miss my own New York State Convention.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri for their kind invitations and also for the many cards, letters, and telegrams they sent me.

As your Treasurer I have taken prompt care of all moneys sent me, paid bills for vouchers sent, and at all times kept your books in order and served to the very best of my ability.

It has been one of the happiest experiences of my life to have been honored in serving as your National Treasurer, to have traveled among you and to have been made your friend. My deep and sincere thanks to all of you.

Mrs. Greer, Arkansas. Madam President, I move that the report of the Treasurer's activities be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Schultz, Illinois, and carried.)

Pres. Myers. She will now give a partial report of her treasurer's work.

This is just a partial report and Jean will give a full report later. If there are no objections we will receive it at this time. Hearing none, we will receive this report.

Now we have the activity report of our Executive Committee Members. Mrs. J. R. Winter first.

Mrs. Winter. Madam President, Officers and Members of the Ladies Auxiliary. As a member of the executive committee it is a happy privilege to greet you and give an account of my stewardship for the past year. Again I wish to thank you for the privilege of serving as a member of the Executive Committee.

As I recall the events from the time of the board meeting in Chicago last September until the present, I realize that through united effort, much we planned has been accomplished. It has been a year of work, but one of genuine satisfaction, and I am grateful to all who have helped to make it a success.

Following our board meeting, where I was given a new assignment of states to "mother," I immediately contacted the officers of Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Rhode Island, and Georgia. These officers have proved themselves to be lovely daughters, cooperative and responsive. Get-acquainted letters were exchanged among the groups, and these were followed with round robin letters. The Vice Presidents' has already completed the third trip. The Presidents' and Secretaries' are now on the third. We have enjoyed an exchange of many useful ideas and much valuable information. To each I mailed copies of the year's program, accomplish-

ment leaflets and book labels to be distributed in their states. Greeting cards have been exchanged on holidays and at other times. With the help of my daughters I have written INKLINGS six times. Many letters from our group have been written to our Senators and Congressmen in the interest of legislation.

To each I mailed a letter of greeting to be read at their state conventions. Six of my daughter states report an increase in membership. One, the state of Oregon, home of our National President, is 100 percent in membership; four were winners in the Friendly Membership Contest; six made cancelled stamp posters, all sold R.F.D. books and all report splendid state conventions. It has been a pleasant task to work with my daughters. I deeply appreciate their cooperation and their many acts of kindness.

At the board meeting I was placed in charge of the Cancelled Stamp Poster Contest. Knowing little of this, I sought information from every source I could. On January 8th I mailed a mimeographed letter of rules and information to each state president, together with a personal letter. The response was gratifying, not only from the officers, but from the membership. A copy of rules and information was included in my February INKLINGS. March 20th I mailed another letter to each state president with additional information.

I am indebted to Miss Florine Johnson of the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls of Taft, Texas, and to Lamar Dodd, Director of the Department of Art of the University of Georgia, for suggestions and advice, and to Miss Bernice Setzer, Art Direct of the public schools of Des Moines, for help in securing judges. I wish to thank our president for assigning this pleasant task to me, my sister and state officers for cooperating, and all who have helped in any way, and especially those who entered the contest.

With the lifting of restrictions, I have been able to attend county, district, and state meetings and banquets in my own state and one banquet in North Carolina. I have answered all mail promptly, written letters and cards, and made many calls in the interest of the Auxiliary. At my request there appeared in a Sunday edition of the Atlanta Constitution a poem "R.F.D." by Ollie Reeves, a poet laureate of Georgia, and a photograph of the rural mail box by Kenneth Rogers, official photographer for the Constitution. The poem later appeared in the National Rural Letter Carrier.

In May it was my privilege to attend the Connecticut convention. This being my first visit to the New England States I was thrilled with the scenic beauty, historic interest, and cordiality of the people. Mrs. R. N. Platt, president of the Connecticut Auxiliary, met and entertained me during my stay. We drove to Vernon Center for the enthusiastic and well-planned convention. The potential membership of Connecticut is small, but I found them interested and eager to take part in each phase of the Auxiliary program. National Treasurer Geo. M. Ellis and family were present for the convention.

On my return I spent a day and night in Washington with the Walters'. Here I visited the RLCA office in the Munsey Building, where I found everyone busy. I attended the opening session of the President's Highway Safety Conference, called on my Congressman, made a short visit to the Senate, and called on the officials of the Post Office Department. I shall ever be grateful to the Walters' for the opportunities of this memorable day.

The last of June I attended the Florida convention in Orlando, "The City Beautiful," noted for its many lakes. Having taught school in Florida a long time ago and having Florida sand in my shoes these many years, it was like going home.

District meetings are being resumed, and I predict a notable increase in membership for the coming year. Florida is the home state of National Committeeman Willard Manning. The officers had an interesting program, impressive memorial, attractive bazaar, and enjoyable entertainment.

Home from Florida for a few days and then to Birmingham for the Alabama convention. Having attended the Alabama convention last summer, this, too, was like going home. Under the able leadership of Mrs. H. F. Roberts, president, and Mrs. W. B. Wheeler, secretary, the membership has grown in two years from 153 to 500. I rejoiced with them as they reached their goal. It was my privilege, together with several others to visit "Fonthill," the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Allis, efficient editors of the Association and Auxiliary. A change in schedule almost made me miss my train. I had to forego the pleasure of installing the officers and leave without a word of goodbye.

The ever present regrets of leaving a convention where everyone has been so lovely, are temporarily forgotten in the anticipation of the next. Soon I was thinking about the Illinois convention, but I had not long to wonder about it, for as soon as I arrived in historic Springfield I found the Glenn Folkers and Mrs. C. E. Schultz to welcome me, and the pleasant surprise of seeing Lola Harries, with whom I was glad to share honors. The well-conducted program and unusually large attendance made the Illinois convention seem almost like a National. The lovely way in which the service flag was displayed between lighted candles was most impressive.

From the warm temperature of Alabama and Illinois, it was delightful to arrive in Michigan where the breeze from the lakes cooled the atmosphere, but not the cordial hospitality of the people. Michigan, like Illinois, seemed like a National. It was a privilege to visit with Mrs. Armstrong, past National President, and with Neta Tara, author of our Auxiliary Creed, and with the officers and members. I enjoyed seeing the year books, conservation posters and stamp posters, also the beautiful quilt made for the Chinese auction. National Vice President, Barney Winquest, represented the Association. Many delightful social features were enjoyed. Due to train schedule for the third successive convention, I had to leave before the installation of officers—a source of deep regret to me.

Next to Charlottesville in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, location of Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, and Ash Lawn, home of James Monroe. The Virginia convention was honored with the presence of Senator Burch, former chairman of the House P.O. and P.R. committee. Senator Burch made a splendid address in which he paid high tribute to the NRLCA and the Ladies Auxiliary. It was interesting to find many retired carriers and their wives taking an active part. National Secretary, Glenn Folkers, represented the Association. The ladies enjoyed his talk about retirement and the importance of naming the beneficiary. To me, an unusual feature of the Auxiliary was the auction sale of fancy work donated by the members, the proceeds of which were to go to send a delegate to National, who had never been. That delegate is in addition

to the others and is called the "fancy work delegate."

Last, but not least, was the Georgia convention in Atlanta, which opened on Sunday P. M., July 28th, with a service honoring the memory of the late Thos. E. Watson, father of RFD, a song service and informal reception on Sunday night, a radio broadcast on Monday A. M. from WSB by our state presidents, Mr. and Mrs. Solon Ware, Mr. Walters and myself. From beginning to end, we felt this was the best convention we ever had. The attendance was large and the programs very interesting. We were honored with the presence of many outstanding speakers: Hon. Ellis Arnall, Governor of Georgia; Mr. H. L. Wingate, Georgia Farm Bureau; Hon. Donald R. Niblack, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.; and our own Thos. G. Walters, president of the NRCLA. Both Association and Auxiliary report the largest membership in their history, a reward to the faithful officers for service rendered.

Times does not permit the mention of the many outstanding features of the conventions I attended. In each there was a spirit of enthusiasm and friendliness, an eagerness to do more toward building a greater Auxiliary. It was a pleasure to observe the state officers as they efficiently discharged their duties in conducting successful conventions, and the members as they cooperated to make our motto a reality—"Cooperation Means Success."

To the officers and members of the Association and Auxiliaries whose conventions I attended, I wish to say thank you again for the many courtesies shown me. I deeply appreciate every word of encouragement and every act of kindness. You helped me realize more than ever what a wonderful organization we have and what a privilege it is to be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the NRCLA.

Mrs. R. C. Winebarger, North Carolina. Madame President, I move that the report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Laug, Michigan, carried.)

President Myers. We will now have the report of our Secretary of the Executive Committee, Mrs. George Harries, Texas.

Mrs. Harries. Madam President, Members of the Board, and Members of the National Auxiliary to the Rural Letter Carriers' Association: Due to the war there was no convention held last year. For this reason a Board meeting was held in Chicago in the fall, and it was decided to allow the roster of the Executive Committee to remain the same, that is, Evangeline Harries, Chairman; Lola T. Harries, Secretary; and Clara Winter, member.

On this basis, as secretary of the Board, I made a permanent record of the minutes and sent a condensed version for publication to the National Rural Letter Carrier. About 25 business and courtesy letters were written in connection with this Board meeting. Prizes were ordered for the Retired Carriers' Wives Contest, and patent leather cases containing pencils, with their state names, were mailed to Iowa, Arizona, Massachusetts, Washington, and Wisconsin. The prize to Connecticut was never received by the president, and a second one was re-ordered and mailed.

My state daughters for the year were Colorado, Florida, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. These daughters were very cooperative, and I am sure their reports will speak well for themselves.

A monthly letter was sent to the state officers, as well as on many special occasions.

The round robins were enjoyed and created a better fellowship and interest.

Six "Inklings" were prepared for the Auxiliary page and four articles were sent to state papers.

Five district meetings were attended and official visits were made to six state conventions: New Mexico, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Arkansas, and Texas. Having a lay-over of four days, it was my pleasure to travel by car with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Folkers from the Indiana to the Illinois convention, and there shared the hospitality which was accorded their official visitor, Mrs. Clara Winter.

My lasting impression of these conventions was the sincerity with which these ladies conducted their meetings and the many things they have accomplished. They have been a hard working group this year and show a marked increase in membership.

During the year, first of all, membership was stressed, then designation of beneficiary. I gave out about 75 of the yellow designation blanks (incidentally I might say I have some blanks here if you desire them). The carrying out of other program features was urged, the book giving contest was always presented. The need of county and district meetings was stressed at every opportunity. I also assisted with the sale of Mrs. Aaberg's "R.F.D." book.

Hundreds of letters have been written, and during salary legislation, all my states were urged to participate in the support of the salary bills. In all talks carrier legislation, as well as health legislation was discussed. A study of the retirement law was made and discussed at many local meetings and all the state meetings I attended. Support of the Senate Bill on Cancer Research was urged when it comes up for action.

A Jubilee program was prepared for the opening night of the 1946 Convention as a get-together, and was given at Fort Des Moines Hotel on the evening of August 12th. This program also emphasized the book giving contest. A large crowd was present at this informal affair.

The three years I have served on the Board have been strenuous years owing to war conditions and restrictions. I have endeavored to carry out the pledge I made when I assumed office "to ever bear in mind the best interests of the majority, have strength of character to always weigh matters carefully, and when an opinion is reached uphold the right, thinking first of the Auxiliary."

I thank you for according me the privilege of serving you as a member of the Executive Committee for three years and for honoring my state by placing me on the National Board. The friendships I have made I hope I shall always keep.

Mrs. Hamilton, Texas. Madam President, I move that the report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Clark, California, carried.)

President Myers. The Hostess Committee is anxious to know if there are small children at the convention. They will provide a nursery, so if the ladies who have small children will please stand we can see how many there are. (These ladies stood. Then there was community singing led by Mrs. Clark.)

Now we are ready for another report, the report of our Chairman of our Executive Committee, Mrs. Harries, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Harries. Madam President, Delegates and Members of the Auxiliary: In this Golden Jubilee Year of the founding of Rural Free Delivery I am pleased to bring you my report as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

At the conference held by your National

Auxiliary Board at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, September 24th to 28th, I was present to join in the planning of the work for the year 1945 to 1946. There it was my pleasure to draw the names of the following states: California, Idaho, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The round robin letter of the Presidents was back from its first round in just five weeks. That seemed like a record to us. At the beginning of the year each one of us sent out a letter of introduction to each other in order to become better acquainted with our sister officers. Many valuable ideas were exchanged in this manner. To each of my daughter states I sent a letter of greeting to be read at their convention.

The "Inklings" were sent in at their designated times. Knowing that they would be read, as evidenced by your mentioning them in your correspondence, it was a pleasure to assemble them.

Letters to Congressmen and Senators were sent, urging legislation, as well as thank-you letters to each upon the passage of beneficial legislation recently enacted.

The state conventions it was my privilege to visit were well attended and each conducted in a business-like manner. We were thankful again to assemble in a peacetime gathering.

My first trip was to Dover, Delaware, with Mrs. W. J. Mills, Greenwood, presiding; then to Louisville, Kentucky, where Mrs. Edward Spears of Smith's Grove conducted in the absence of Mrs. A. W. Reese of Jamestown, who moved to Florida. Then down to South Carolina to Columbia, with Mrs. Niles C. Clark of Waterloo as the presiding officer.

Upon arriving home a telegram awaited me from National President, Margaret Myers, recommending that I go to St. Louis, Missouri, the next day in place of Jean Stafflinger, who was ill. President Margaret Bartee of Sturgeon was surprised to have me as their representative. At the close of their convention I traveled to Iowa, to be welcomed by Mrs. A. J. Meyer of Elkader and her corps of officers who were all enthused about having the National Convention in a few weeks. To make it more impressive they succeeded in declaring Iowa 100% for the first time. A snake dance into the men's meeting announced it, and they joined in the celebration.

It was a close schedule from Iowa to the Wisconsin meeting at Madison, where I was greeted in the lobby by the state president, Mrs. Fred Miller of Spooner, with the news that Wisconsin was 100 percent before the opening session to make it the tenth successive year.

The "R.F.D." by G. Aaberg was well received, and it is recommended that a copy of it be placed in every county library to be used as a reference book. When Encyclopedia Britannica releases the technicolor film on the Rural Mail Man, it will also be a valuable aid in visual education. See that it is shown in your school so that the public can better understand the motives and services of our husbands. Posters of cancelled stamps were masterpieces of beauty and originality; in fact, the National program was well carried out in the states.

With the increase in membership it shows the loyalty of the membership and the efficiency of the state officers in their devotion to the cause of the Auxiliary.

To each of you may I say it has been a pleasure to carry out your desires for the honor and glory of our Auxiliary. Thank you for the privilege of serving on your National Board.

"Friend of mine, my whole life through,
I will be glad that I met YOU!"

Mrs. Gardner, South Carolina. Madam President, I move that the report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Stevens, Maryland, carried.)

President Myers. We shall now have the Activity report of our Vice President, Mrs. Vandenberg, South Dakota.

Madam President, Officers and Members of the National Auxiliary:

To share the fellowship of this first peacetime convention is a great privilege. It is much more pleasant to read you this report as vice president than to merely send it to you as we must last year. The fact that we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee for rural free delivery makes the occasion so much more memorable. The work of the vice president divides itself into three major parts—that as state mother, historian and editor. The report of the editorship has been assigned another place on this program.

At the board meeting in Chicago last September the group of states assigned to me consisted of Alabama, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Virginia, Wyoming and South Dakota. Their record of accomplishments show you that they have been a splendid group. All report gains in membership, six were winners in the friendly membership contest and Wyoming was 100% in membership. All supported the National program strongly, nearly all selling their quota of R.F.D. books, making posters and participating in book giving contests. Some fine route histories were written. All worked vigorously for H.R. 5059 which became Public Law 386.

As our own project the states made a memory book for me—the sixth volume in my set. Round robins were started for secretaries, presidents and vice presidents. The one for secretaries completed six trips to become (for me) the prize robin of all time. The presidents' never returned from a third trip and the vice presidents' from the second.

Correspondence has been extraordinarily heavy. Once a month some contact was made with presidents, vice presidents and secretaries either by circular letter, printed material or personal letter. Four times the executive committeewomen were included. Effort was made to be prompt in answering all correspondence, and of course, there was much correspondence relative to the legislative campaign.

In my own state I attended ten meetings, two meetings of the Auxiliary board and made over one hundred Auxiliary calls. In April it was my privilege to attend the meetings of Iowa's District Eight at Cherokee and get a preview of convention arrangements.

Convention assignments include South Dakota at Mitchell, Colorado at Fort Collins, California at Sacramento, Wyoming at Torrington, Montana at Glasgow, Idaho at Boise, and North Dakota at Williston. Minnesota at St. Paul was later added to my schedule to our mutual pleasure for that was a daughter state. Colorado, California, and Wyoming came on the same three days so it was impossible to do more than Colorado and California. I regretted this for Wyoming was my daughter state.

All meetings were outstanding. All showed a gain in membership with Wyoming being 100%. Forward-looking policies were in evidence many places. California raised their dues to \$2.00 (\$1.50 state plus .50 national) in order to be able to support the News Letter which is their project. Minnesota had a bazaar to eke out their treasury

to enable their officers to put out bulletins to county officers, etc. They also raised their state dues. Colorado had an especially enthusiastic response to the National program. There were two outstanding route histories developed from a personal angle. They are taking steps to see if their scrapbook can be accepted by their state historical society. California had their posters judged by the Croker Art Gallery. The man suggested that Life Magazine might be interested in our posters. Some of their posters are to be given to veterans' hospitals. In Idaho they are promoting a tri-state convention in Yellowstone Park for next year. In Montana the carriers are interested in donating an authentic mail wagon to a museum called Old Town at Great Falls. South Dakota had a service flag with a named star for every carrier and every carriers' son and daughter in the service in World War II which they hope the historical society will accept.

That so many prominent men and women were willing to address our conventions indicates that we are a thinking group. In South Dakota there was Post Office Inspector A. V. Armstrong; in California Congressman Leroy Johnson; in Minnesota, Hon. Harrison Parkman in charge of the purchasing department of the Post Office Department, Mrs. Ruth Abernathy of the Council of Interracial Relations, Paymaster Fred Langfelt of the St. Paul office, and York E. Langton, Minnesota secretary for United Nations. In every convention the postmaster of the entertaining city appeared on the program.

This year we again dared to play wholeheartedly and many interesting features were arranged. Colorado had John Vaughn, an outstanding pianist, and his daughter on their banquet program. California had the lovely Sacramento Convention Ensemble. Montana arranged a trip to Fort Peck. Idaho had an all-convention breakfast where the recordings made the night before were played. Minnesota took us to the Pop Concert and Skating Review. North Dakota had a lovely program of talent from the convention city followed by a dance.

May I pause here to say thank you to the many, many people whose kindnesses made these convention trips a real adventure in fellowship.

As historian I write six circular letters to all state presidents, vice presidents and secretaries. The cooperation of these ladies in making the state history file complete was outstanding and it gives me great satisfaction to announce that these files are now 100% complete. Since the close of last year's report New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Idaho and Florida have completed their files for 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945.

For 1946 the file is also complete and it will give me much pleasure at the time provided in the program to award blue ribbons to 42 states and red ribbons to four states. Blue ribbon states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Red ribbons were earned by Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon and Virginia.

The historical data for the National Auxiliary has not been in my keeping. The state

files will be available for inspection at tomorrow's sessions.

Again my gratitude and appreciation for your fine loyalty and cooperation; it has been a joy to serve you and a privilege to be a part of this fine organization.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. R. J. VANDENBERGE.

Mrs. Baird, South Dakota. Madam President, I move that the report of the Vice President be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Hall, Pennsylvania, and carried.)

President Myers. We have now completed the reports and we are up to the announcements.

Tonight the dinner is at 6:30 at Younkers Tea Room. There is to be gift exchange, but if you have no gift to bring don't stay away. Of course if you do not bring one you will not expect to take one away, the chairman reminds me. (Mrs. Harriges read the announcements which had to do with committee meetings of various sorts.)

If there is no further business, I declare our meeting adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning, and, ladies, be prompt. See if we can't have a good time between now and then. At 7:30 tomorrow morning the Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. Donaldson, is to arrive by train, and we would like to have as many ladies as possible assemble at the station to meet him. I think the Iowa ladies have a little tribute when he comes into the Fort Des Moines Hotel.

You are adjourned until nine tomorrow morning.

(Meeting adjourned at 4:05 P. M.)

The banquet meeting of the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers Club held in Younkers Tearoom on Tuesday evening has been reported by their officers.

SECOND SESSION, WEDNESDAY A. M. AUGUST 13, 1946

Meeting called to order at 9:35 A. M. by the president, Mrs. Paul Myers.

President Myers. You will remain standing after the flag is placed, give the Pledge, and do not be seated until after the invocation. The invocation will be given by the delegate from Illinois.

Mrs. Schultz. Dear Father in Heaven, we have come to the end of another year. We thank Thee for all the good things you have given us. Let us never forget your benefits. We pray Thee enter the hearts and minds of our temple rulers and help them to guide the forces of our government in the paths of truth and justice, and, dear God, when our work is done guide us safely home. Amen.

President Myers. Let us read the Creed of the Auxiliary in unison. (All read.) Isn't that a wonderful inspiration for a morning opening to renew our pledge to each other?

Please have your resolutions in this afternoon as you leave. This is our second session, and I interpreted that to mean at noon today. The committee is most anxious to serve you—this is your convention.

We have quite an honor bestowed upon us today as a delegation. The Air Transportation Association is sending either by train or wire special corsages for us to wear this evening. There will be only ten orchids, which are supposed to be for the National officers and three other ladies in the state of Iowa. There will be about 500 gardenia corsages. These are to arrive sometime this afternoon between four and five o'clock. You will be up at the Fort Des Moines for

the tea, and before you leave there see that the gardenia is yours, you are entitled to one. Mrs. Brummell, Mrs. Shepherd, and Mrs. Grace will be there to take care of those flowers. (Applause.)

The man who is responsible for all this is coming in this morning, so we want to be sure when he is here and talks to us to give him a great big hand. Mr. Ramspeck, our Congressman, will be down later this morning to talk to us; our good Superintendent, Mr. Cooper, plans to be down, too, so I think we have some interesting material for us as we go along today. It has been given to me here that Mr. John Hart, who is part of this Air Transportation Association, through his recommendation and efforts, has made it possible for us to get these corsages, so Mr. Hart should receive honor on that, too.

Now, the program says a special number, and I believe Mrs. Niles Clark, our song leader, has a special number for us this morning.

(Mrs. Clark presented Miss Louise Gazelle of Pella, the daughter of a rural carrier, retired, who gave a whistle solo.)

President Myers. I have an explanation to make this morning about these flowers, and my face is red. When these roses were sent in yesterday in these beautiful gold inlay vases they had a card on them that said Savery Hotel, and I assumed they had been donated by the hotel, but later we found a card tucked away up in the bouquet, and it happened to be my own state of Oregon that had sent them, the ladies had sent them for me and told me to take the vases home. I thought that merited an explanation.

Now another bouquet comes in this morning, and I found it contains a card saying it has been donated by Mrs. Whiffin of Illinois in memory of Mr. Whiffin.

There are Iowa cook books for sale, and tell the ladies who didn't receive a corn souvenir they are out on the mezzanine floor.

The minutes were read by Mrs. Vandenberg, Vice President, following two piano numbers by Darrell Hanson, a former Junior. His mother was a Past National Junior Sponsor and she was brought forward to take a bow with her son, who had served in the Navy and been discharged since his Junior days. His second selection was his own composition.

(This was followed by the roll call of officers by the Secretary, which showed all present.)

President Myers. We will have the final report of the Credentials Committee at this time. If there are any corrections, will the delegate stand and we will have that correction made immediately.

Mrs. Baird. Madam President: I shall read the number of members, the number of votes, the names of the delegates at large and the number of delegates present.

Madam President, I move the adoption of this report.

President Myers. You understand this is the final report, are there any corrections? (Seconded by Mrs. Reed of Alabama. By hands vote the motion carried unanimously and the report was declared adopted.)

We will dismiss the Credentials Committee with thanks. Will the other members of the Credentials Committee stand? They worked faithfully and hard all day Monday. (Applause as Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Greer stood.) Thank you, girls, very much.

(There follows here a complete list of delegates to the convention by name, town, and state as prepared by the Secretary, Mrs. Myers.)

(Delegates-at-Large)

	Members	Votes	No. Delegates Present
Alabama—Mrs. A. O. Reed.....	500	11	2
Arizona—Mrs. B. A. Skjerseth.....	22	1	1
Arkansas—Mrs. Ralph Greer.....	138	4	2
California—Mrs. Maurice Clark.....	221	5	4
Colorado, Mrs. Joe A. Hill.....	133	4	3
Connecticut—Mrs. Dorothy Nelson.....	72	2	2
Delaware—Mrs. Frank McKee.....	20	1	1
Florida—Mrs. Loy Carlan.....	147	4	2
Georgia—Mrs. R. W. Fortune.....	706	15	3
Idaho—Mrs. William B. Lindau.....	60	2	1
Illinois—Mrs. E. C. Schultz.....	1031	22	18
Indiana—Mrs. Charles Magnuson.....	822	17	9
Iowa—Mrs. Henry Hannasch.....	1055	22	5
Kansas—Mrs. J. E. Shafer.....	700	15	7
Kentucky—Mrs. Edward Spear.....	232	6	5
Louisiana—Mrs. O. S. Johnson.....	78	3	1
Maine—Mrs. Viola Pearl.....	162	4	3
Maryland—Mrs. William Stevens.....	126	4	3
Massachusetts—Mrs. Vida McKinstry.....	91	3	1
Michigan—Mrs. H. G. Laug.....	866	18	14
Minnesota—Mrs. Lee Arnold.....	788	17	2
Mississippi—Mrs. L. L. Vise.....	223	5	5
Missouri—Mrs. M. A. Bartee.....	880	19	7
Montana—Mrs. C. E. Knick.....	86	3	2
Nebraska—Mrs. Allen Whitney.....	392	9	8
New Hampshire—Mrs. Richard Moody.....	95	3	2
New Jersey—Mrs. John L. Hill.....	77	3	3
New Mexico—Mrs. A. B. Tillman.....	26	2	1
New York—Mrs. George Cratsley.....	891	19	16
North Carolina—Mrs. R. C. Lanning.....	398	9	4
North Dakota—Mrs. Arthur Bird.....	268	6	2
Ohio—Mrs. Lana Eveslage.....	844	18	13
Oklahoma—Mrs. J. Warren Smith.....	446	10	2
Oregon—Mrs. Frank Walworth.....	151	4	1
Pennsylvania—Mrs. Clyde Hall.....	1002	21	9
Rhode Island—Mrs. Norman Baxter.....	30	2	1
South Carolina—Mrs. A. L. Gardner.....	235	6	4
South Dakota—Mrs. Paul J. Baird.....	373	8	6
Tennessee—Mrs. O. B. DePriest.....	516	11	2
Texas—Mrs. J. E. Hamilton.....	501	11	4
Vermont—Mrs. William O. Kent.....	159	4	2
Virginia—Mrs. D. M. Inge.....	261	6	2
Washington—Mrs. Mabel Easton.....	202	5	4
West Virginia—Mrs. Murray McWhorter.....	132	4	1
Wisconsin—Mrs. Mike Shafer.....	896	19	19
Wyoming—Mrs. Harry Larson.....	26	2	1
	17080	389	210
National Officers.....		7	
Junior Past President.....		1	
Total Votes Present.....		397	

ALABAMA

Mrs. A. O. Reed, Portersville, Ala.
Mrs. H. F. Roberts, Bessemer, Ala.

ARIZONA

Mrs. B. A. Skjerseth, Tucson, Arizona.

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Ralph Greer, Des Arc, Ark.
Mrs. John R. May, Rosebud, Ark.
Mrs. C. M. Whitman, Malvern, Ark.
Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Conway, Ark.

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Maurice E. Clark, Exeter, Calif.
Mrs. Welch Newman, Pico, Calif.
Mrs. Thos. J. McDonald, Holtville, Calif.
Mrs. K. A. Lawton, Fillmore, Calif.
Mrs. James Bailey, Sacramento, Calif.

COLORADO

Mrs. Joe A. Hill, Pine, Colo.
Mrs. Walter Bashford, Wray, Colo.
Mrs. Edgar, Fleming, Colo.

CONNECTICUT

Mrs. Dorothy Nelson, Pomfret Center, Conn.
Mrs. Emily Platt, Milford, Conn.

DELAWARE

Mrs. Frank L. McKee, Dover, Del.

FLORIDA

Mrs. Loy Carlan, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.
Mrs. F. G. Henry, DeLand, Fla.

GEORGIA

Mrs. R. W. Fortune, Lawrenceville, Ga.
Mrs. Solon Ware, Woodbury, Ga.
Mrs. A. C. McMillan, Enigma, Ga.

IDAHO

Mrs. William B. Lindau, Murtaugh, Idaho.
Mrs. A. G. Mayse, Boise, Idaho.

ILLINOIS

Mrs. E. C. Schultz, Bartlett, Ill.
Mrs. Walter K. Gumble, Sutter, Ill.
Mrs. Lloyd Setzekorn, Nashville, Ill.
Mrs. Leo C. Dillon, Green Valley, Ill.
Mrs. Ella Burch, Elizabethtown, Ill.
Mrs. J. Blaine Marlow, Mt. Vernon, Ill.
Mrs. Delbert Wright, Algonquin, Ill.
Mrs. Lester Fullerton, Coulterville, Ill.
Mrs. Robert Brasell, Arenzville, Ill.
Mrs. Glenn W. Folkers, Mokena, Ill.
Mrs. Olive Frost, Orion, Ill.
Mrs. Frank Roehl, Hamburg, Ill.
Mrs. Walter Hatterdorf, Wheaton, Ill.
Mrs. Loretta Gordon, Ava, Ill.
Mrs. Harold Dab, Elgin, Ill.
Mrs. Frank Purlee, Alexis, Ill.
Mrs. Fred Sanders, Centralia, Ill.
Mrs. Charles Davis, Fithian, Ill.

INDIANA

Mrs. Charles Magnuson, Valparaiso, Ind.
Mrs. Bruce Johnson, Elwood, Ind.

Mrs. Ernest E. Gray, Roanoke, Ind.
 Mrs. Lowell Johnson, Anderson, Ind.
 Mrs. Ora B. Holmes, Anderson, Ind.
 Mrs. M. A. Hallenbeck, Anderson, Ind.
 Mrs. Ira M. Cleveland, Carlisle, Ind.
 Mrs. Paul Herod, Coatesville, Ind.
 Mrs. Ralph Fry, Cloverdale, Ind.
 Mrs. Reid H. Long, Marysville, Ind.
 Mrs. Guy Lonigan, Milltown, Ind.
 Mrs. Thoms Comer, Monticello, Ind.
 Mrs. Ross Immel, New Paris, Ind.
 Mrs. C. L. Pence, Columbia City, Ind.
 Mrs. R. W. Stamper, Brownsburg, Ind.
 Mrs. Beng. Welch, Vevay, Ind.
 Mrs. Wm. Evans, Albion, Ind.
 Mrs. Chas. Okels, Farmland, Ind.

IOWA

Mrs. H. J. Hannasch, Carroll, Iowa.
 Mrs. A. H. J. Meyer, Elkader, Iowa.
 Mrs. Ed. J. Mott, Jewell, Iowa.
 Mrs. Elmo Whitmer, Marion, Iowa.
 Mrs. Geo. Dietz, Adel, Iowa.
 Mrs. John Grace, McIntire, Iowa.
 Mrs. H. L. Bloodgood, Paullina, Iowa.
 Mrs. Guy Baggs, Blanchard, Iowa.
 Mrs. Pearl Dugan, Jefferson, Iowa.
 Mrs. J. McBurney, Stuart, Iowa.
 Mrs. Thos. Smith, Orient, Iowa.
 Mrs. Joe Brummell, Leighton, Iowa.
 Mrs. Bill Durell, Ames, Iowa.
 Mrs. Roy Larson, Harlan, Iowa.
 Mrs. Ruth Miner, Indianola, Iowa.
 Mrs. Abbie Stern, Cromwell, Iowa.
 Mrs. Lucile Muhl, Miles, Iowa.
 Mrs. Otto Rief, Arcadia, Iowa.

KANSAS

Mrs. Chas. Kellogg, Niles, Kansas.
 Mrs. J. E. Shafer, Wichita, Kansas.
 Mrs. A. C. Mauzey, Cummings, Kansas.
 Mrs. Edward McMains, St. Paul, Kansas.
 Mrs. Chas. R. Ditttrick, Great Bend, Kansas.
 Mrs. Roger Somstock, Quenemo, Kansas.
 Mrs. Ed Bradshaw, Lenexa, Kansas.

KENTUCKY

Mrs. Edward Spear, Smith Grove, Ky.
 Mrs. H. K. Galbraith, Germantown, Ky.
 Mrs. B. E. Harlan, Barlow, Ky.
 Mrs. Bryan Barnes, Williamstown, Ky.
 Mrs. Paul Rollins, Wickliffe, Ky.
 Mrs. Maggie Richards, Russell Springs, Ky.

LOUISIANA

Mrs. O. S. Johnson, Lake Charles, La.

MAINE

Mrs. Viola Pearl, Detroit, Me.
 Mrs. Pamela Burrell, Corinna, Me.
 Mrs. Nellie Downs, Carmel, Me.

MARYLAND

Mrs. William C. Stevens, Queen Anne, Md.
 Mrs. Jonathan Jones, Millington, Md.
 Mrs. M. R. Erdman, Brooklyn, Md.

MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. Vida B. McKinstry, Southbridge, Mass.
 Mrs. Dora Walker, Taunton, Mass.

MICHIGAN

Mrs. H. G. Laug, Coopersville, Mich.
 Mrs. Alice Crist, Deerfield, Mich.
 Mrs. Guy Landon, Case City, Mich.
 Mrs. Wm. Vann Hartesveld, Fenville, Mich.
 Mrs. Edward Pleune, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Mrs. Robert Walker, Plymouth, Mich.
 Mrs. Minnie Denison, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Mrs. H. G. Turner, South Haven, Mich.
 Mrs. Leo Quaine, Port Huron, Mich.
 Mrs. Otto Tara, Otter Lake, Mich.
 Mrs. J. J. Freeland, Freeland, Mich.
 Mrs. Floyd Allshouse, Chelsea, Mich.
 Mrs. Charles Clissold, Jackson, Mich.
 Mrs. Geo. Coon, Ashley, Mich.
 Mrs. John Churchill, Port Huron, Mich.

MINNESOTA

Mrs. Lee Arnold, Brownston, Minn.
 Mrs. Lucian Hamel, Hamel, Minn.
 Mrs. John Olson, Zumbrota, Minn.

Mrs. Odin Blexrud, Karlstad, Minn.
 Mrs. R. F. Solum, Northfield, Minn.
 Mrs. Mark Strobel, Le Seur, Minn.
 Mrs. Harvey Gugisberg, Gibbon, Minn.
 Mrs. Mary Pehl, Campbell, Minn.
 Mrs. Frank Mischke, Theilman, Minn.
 Mrs. Claude Bentley, Stewartville, Minn.

MISSISSIPPI

Mrs. L. L. Vise, Licedale, Miss.
 Mrs. J. L. Coleman, Meadville, Miss.
 Mrs. J. M. Guyton, Mantee, Miss.
 Mrs. C. D. Barnes, Crystal Springs, Miss.
 Mrs. C. B. Bright, Ashland, Miss.

MISSOURI

Mrs. M. A. Barte, Sturgeon, Mo.
 Mrs. Randall Davis, Brookfield, Mo.
 Mrs. Henry Muehlendyck, Chesterfield, Mo.
 Mrs. John Williams, Eureka, Mo.
 Mrs. Glenn Kirkpatrick, Sedalia, Mo.
 Mrs. Roy Gwinn, Bolivar, Mo.
 Mrs. Paul Benson, Sedalia, Mo.
 Mrs. Richard Whissell, Glencoe, Mo.
 Mrs. Paul Waddell, Springfield, Mo.
 Mrs. Lawrence Hall, Unionville, Mo.
 Mrs. Quincy Thogmartin, Princeton, Mo.
 Mrs. Floy Beezley, St. James, Mo.
 Mrs. W. E. Craddy, Couch, Mo.
 Mrs. Albert Nagel, Jackson, Mo.
 Mrs. Byron Auld, Buckner, Mo.
 Mrs. Walter Buchanan, Moberly, Mo.
 Mrs. Roy Gilbert, Hannibal, Mo.
 Mrs. L. F. Bartlesmeyer, Marionville, Mo.
 Mrs. Wm. Michael, Arbela, Mo.
 Mrs. C. V. Laws, Cabool, Mo.

MONTANA

Mrs. C. E. Knick, Froid, Mont.
 Mrs. John L. McCammon, Huntley, Mont.

NEBRASKA

Mrs. Allen Whitney, Bellwood, Nebr.
 Mrs. M. E. Bowman, Scottsbluff, Nebr.
 Mrs. Clarence Barte, Western, Nebr.
 Mrs. Ralph Dotson, Ceresco, Nebr.
 Mrs. Cecil Beam, Stapleton, Nebr.
 Mrs. Harry Saunders, Valley, Nebr.
 Mrs. Corrinne Wright, Alliance, Nebr.
 Mrs. Low Goldenstein, Glenvil, Nebr.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mrs. Richard S. Moody, Greenland, N. H.
 Mrs. Marvin Bennett, Guilmanon Iron Works, N. H.

NEW JERSEY

Mrs. John L. Hill, Great Meadow, N. J.
 Mrs. Walter Bittle, Berlin, N. J.
 Mrs. Russell Peters, Hammonton, N. J.

NEW MEXICO

Mrs. B. A. Tilman, Cameron, N. M.

NEW YORK

Mrs. Geo. Cratsley, Hector, N. Y.
 Mrs. Percy W. Gazlay, Accord, N. Y.
 Mrs. Clarence Osterhout, Delmar, N. Y.
 Mrs. Leigh Pickup, Cattaraugus, N. Y.
 Mrs. Raymond Combs, Churchville, N. Y.
 Mrs. M. F. Hayes, Randolph, N. Y.
 Mrs. Rose Mathews, New Woodstock, N. Y.
 Mrs. John Tracy, Nunda, N. Y.
 Mrs. Arthur Croach, Medina, N. Y.
 Mrs. Leslie Ford, Venice Center, N. Y.
 Mrs. Roswell Barron, Greenfield Center, N. Y.
 Mrs. Lewis Sinsabaugh, Montgomery, N. Y.
 Mrs. Harrison Tody, Lindley, N. Y.
 Mrs. Raymond Dorscheif, Alexander, N. Y.
 Mrs. Lester Stead, Bainbridge, N. Y.
 Mrs. Burdette Footfoot, Horseheads, N. Y.
 Mrs. Elmer George, Huevelton, N. Y.

NORTH DAKOTA

Mrs. Arthur Bird, Flaxton, N. D.
 Mrs. A. Ray Newman, Parshall, N. D.
 Mrs. Albert Larson, Kintyre, N. D.
 Mrs. R. C. Lanning, Winston-Salem, N. C.
 Mrs. A. B. Laughter, Norlina, N. C.
 Mrs. J. R. Teabeaut, Fayetteville, N. C.
 Mrs. R. C. Winebarger, Boone, N. C.

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. R. C. Lanning, Winston-Salem, N. C.
 Mrs. A. B. Laughter, Norlina, N. C.
 Mrs. J. R. Teabeaut, Fayetteville, N. C.
 Mrs. R. C. Winebarger, Boone, N. C.

OHIO

Mrs. S. Eveslage, Ripley, Ohio.
 Mrs. Russell Landis, W. Alexandria, Ohio.
 Mrs. J. J. Kindler, Lancaster, Ohio.
 Mrs. R. V. Gladden, Bethesda, Ohio.
 Mrs. Wm. Teisman, Reading, Ohio.
 Mrs. Ira Young, Leesburg, Ohio.
 Mrs. L. E. Beery, Salem, Ohio.
 Mrs. H. L. Baker, London, Ohio.
 Mrs. Paul Norton, Freeport, Ohio.
 Mrs. H. E. Alexander, Glenmont, Ohio.
 Mrs. H. L. Seaman, Bellevue, Ohio.
 Mrs. Guy Daffron, Warren, Ohio.
 Mrs. Ella McGovney, West Union, Ohio.
 Mrs. Martin Merryfield, Middlefield, Ohio.
 Mrs. Scott Badman, Oakwood, Ohio.

OKLAHOMA

Mrs. J. Warren Smith, Cherokee, Okla.
 Mrs. John Banks, Kellyville, Okla.
 Mrs. Kent Kirkhart, Lucien, Okla.

OREGON

Mrs. Drucella Walworth, Deer Island, Ore.
 Mrs. Hulda Taylor, Astoria, Ore.

PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. Clyde Hall, Corry, Pa.
 Mrs. Archie Squier, Townville, Pa.
 Mrs. Ralph Schmoeyer, Breinigsville, Pa.
 Mrs. Max Lightner, Duncannon, Pa.
 Mrs. Mike Deiwilder, Chambersburg, Pa.
 Mrs. William Howard, Centerville, Pa.
 Mrs. Harry Bair, Ruffsedale, Pa.
 Mrs. George Weidman, Sinking Springs, Pa.

Mrs. Frank Eash, Johnstown, Pa.
 Mrs. Milton Miller, Penn Argyl, Pa.
 Mrs. A. D. Meads, Red Lion, Pa.
 Mrs. Bulah, Saylor, Felton, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND

Mrs. Norman Baxter, Greene, R. I.
 Mrs. Walter Bixby, Little Compton, R. I.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mrs. A. L. Gardner, Salley, S. C.
 Mrs. S. B. Godwin, Lake City, S. C.
 Mrs. N. R. Davis, Norway, S. C.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mrs. Paul L. Baird, Frankfort, S. D.
 Mrs. H. H. Laird, Westport, S. D.
 Mrs. J. N. Dale, Montrose, S. D.
 Mrs. R. Hammel, Flandreau, S. D.
 Mrs. R. Patterson, Gregory, S. D.
 Mrs. R. O. Nelson, Valley Springs, S. D.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. O. D. DePriest, Lobelville, Tenn.
 Mrs. J. W. Capps, Camden, Tenn.
 Mrs. Ira D. Parks, Friendship, Tenn.
 Mrs. B. L. Martin, Maryville, Tenn.
 Mrs. B. J. Ramsey, Sneedville, Tenn.

TEXAS

Mrs. J. E. Hamilton, Grapevine, Texas.
 Mrs. R. S. Cook, Taft, Texas.
 Mrs. W. K. Quisenberry, Handley, Texas.
 Mrs. John E. Pierce, Springtown, Texas.
 Mrs. Roy Rumans, Sherman, Texas.
 Mrs. M. L. Keiman, Garwood, Texas.

VERMONT

Mrs. W. O. Kent, Rochester, Vt.
 Mrs. James Wheatley, Randolph Center, Vt.
 Mrs. Collins Stearns, Springfield, Vt.

VIRGINIA

Mrs. D. M. Inge, Brookneal, Va.
 Mrs. R. H. Patrick, Roanoke, Va.
 Mrs. A. S. West, Evinston, Va.
 Mrs. W. R. West, Evinston, Va.

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Mabel Eastman, Lake Stevens, Wash.
 Mrs. M. R. Slavens, Cheney, Wash.
 Mrs. John Banks, Cheney, Wash.
 Mrs. Wyatt Ranlett, Veradale, Wash.
 Mrs. C. S. Summers, Zillah, Wash.

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. S. M. McWhorter, Weston, W. Va.

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Fred Miller, Spooner, Wis.

Mrs. Mike Schafer, Pewaukee, Wis.
 Mrs. Fred Thole, Cassville, Wis.
 Mrs. Milburn Shreve, Hillsboro, Wis.
 Mrs. E. A. Johnson, Pulaski, Wis.
 Mrs. Chester Granger, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.
 Mrs. Harold Turner, Black River Falls, Wis.
 Mrs. Arnold March, Reedsville, Wis.
 Mrs. R. A. Williams, Verona, Wis.
 Mrs. Lloyd Ribow, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Mrs. Maye Fries, Juda, Wis.
 Mrs. Manifee Burris, Platteville, Wis.
 Mrs. A. C. Kneif, Wisc. Rapids, Wis.
 Mrs. Richard Woerpel, Marshall, Wis.
 Mrs. Anna Solomon, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
 Mrs. Chris Reick, Elkhorn, Wis.
 Mrs. Theo. Domke, Pittsville, Wis.
 Mrs. Richard Hodge, Campbellport, Wis.
 Mrs. Viola Gallaher, Milwaukee, Wis.

WYOMING

Mrs. Harry Larson, Albin, Wyoming.

The Iowa ladies have something planned for us—Mrs. Brummell has a treat.

Mrs. Brummell. You have all registered at the door for prizes, and we will draw those numbers now. We closed the book at ten o'clock so as to have time to cut up the numbers. Will Mrs. Shepherd and Mrs. Grace come forward, please.

Mrs. Myers. I have just been informed that if you have already put your name on the book you will be in the drawing this morning; if you have not put our name on the book will you do so before you leave this hall as there will be drawings again at the tea today and tomorrow morning.

(Four gifts were drawn—applause for each lucky person.)

Thank you, Iowa ladies. The next order of business is the introduction of the Past National Officers who are in attendance at this convention. The Board has asked Kathryn VandenBerge, our Vice President, if she would take the honor of doing that, so I turn it over to her.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Will all the Past National officers in the room please come quickly to the front. These ladies are the past national officers who are attending this convention. Many of them you who are on the floor remember from the very first convention which you attend. That has been my experience, and through the years it has been a real privilege to be able to count them as friends.

Past officers are a very great help to any organization. We count on their judgment and they give us the benefit of experience which they have had to keep us from making the same mistakes that they have made in the past. The record which your present officers make depends often more largely than you realize, upon the help and counsel that we get from our predecessors. I think you know them, but in the event this might be your first convention, so there won't be any mistake as to who they are I shall present them.

Past National Secretary Julia Merryfield, Ohio.

Junior Past President, Gladys Greathouse, Kentucky.

Past National President, Lilah Courney, Iowa.

Past National President Alice Fifield, Vermont.

Past National President, Mabel Immel, Indiana.

Past National President, Helen Gwinn, Missouri.

Past National Treasurer, Mrs. W. B. Durrell, Iowa.

Past Junior Sponsor, Mrs. Otto Hanson, Iowa.

Past Natl. Committeewoman, Mrs. Irma Newman, California.

Past Natl. Committeewoman and Past Junior Sponsor, Marie Muchmore, Nebraska.

From our Auxiliary we have just a little token for these people, a little bit of living, growing green to make them feel that they are still a very living and vital part of our organization. (Each one was presented a tiny potted plant wrapped in gay tinsel paper and Mrs. VandenBerge shook the hand of each.)

Now, this is just a little thought I know you share with me for these people, the thing that they have given us so many times.

The little things that make life sweet

Are worth their weight in gold.

They can't be bought at any price,

Nor neither are they sold.

The little smiles, the friendly thoughts

That cheer us up each day

Are but a part of God's great plan

To help us on our way.

Let's give them a big hand now. (Applause as the ladies took their seats in the audience again.)

President Myers. Thank you, Kathryn.

As in all good things, I have a disappointment. It was reported we were to have Congressman Jennings Randolph with us this morning. The last word was that he was unable to be here on account of the airport, and he says "if circumstances permitted, it would be a pleasure to speak to your group; shall follow your instructions if I am able to make the trip. With kindest regards, signed Jennings Randolph." However, if he should come in, he will speak to us.

Will the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the special guests to the platform, please?

Ladies, it is a great privilege for me at this time to introduce to you a man who has been interested in our work for quite some time and is one of the four superintendents in the Civil Service Department at the present time, our great—I am going to call him "great" because I think he is, he has wonderful ideas and he is going to give us a few of those ideas this morning—Superintendent, Mr. Ed. J. Cooper of Washington, D. C. (Anplause.)

Mr. Cooper. Madam President, Mr. Ramspeck, Officers, and ladies: I haven't had the pleasure of such loveliness since five years go at your last convention, so you see I have been missing a lot of pleasure during these difficult war years, and it is certainly a pleasure to renew the former activities that you have had through all the other years of your service.

I haven't prepared any manuscript for you, so I was fortunate this morning when I learned that our mutual good friend, Mr. Ramspeck, was going to come over here, because he is one of those gentlemen from the South who has been so richly endowed with eloquence that nature in her wise foresight overlooked in me. Mr. Ramspeck is going to make my speech this morning: he is fully equipped in every respect to do a better job of it than I am, and I am very happy that he has consented to come here before you. While he is not now in Congress, he will always be remembered for the fine good things that he has done for the employees of the Federal Government, and I think I can safely and honestly say that he has done more for the federal people than any other man that ever served in our American Congress, and I think he is so regarded by a vast majority of the federal employees. (Applause.)

I have had the privilege on other occasions to appear on the same convention platform that he has, and I think our last opportunity occurred seven years ago in Portland, Oregon, and it was a delightful experience that we both had there. We were taken out to Bonneville Dam and we enjoyed the delectability of some of those fine fish for which the Columbia River is known, through the courtesy of the Postmasters, and then we both had a fine automobile trip down the coast in separate tours, and if he enjoyed his as I did mine, he will remember it and I will, too, so long as we have memories.

You people are certainly an inspiration for any person to appear before; you being of that gentler sex so well spoken of, and live up so well to the heritage that is yours, makes it easy and also inviting for a speaker to appear before you. I appreciate perhaps more than the average official in the Post Office Department the value that you are to our service. You render tangible elements to the service that cannot be measured in words nor in dollars and cents. It is through your encouragement and the stability that you render to your husbands that makes them better employees, and the fact that you come to the conventions now as an auxiliary to the men's organization is something that is very wholesome and worth while. I hope you will continue, and I am sure you will not become discouraged when you seem not to be advancing as rapidly as you think you should.

It has been my good fortune to meet many of you personally and to have been in some of your homes where I have enjoyed your hospitality immensely, and I shall always remember those fine gratuities and friendships that you have extended to me. I have just about exhausted all the vocabulary that I had at my command in speaking to the men's organization. That is why I was so glad to have the opportunity to have Mr. Ramspeck make my speech, because he is an exhaustless source of stories, logic, and reasoning that is so valuable.

I wish it had been possible for you to have heard his address before the men's organization this morning, because it was really wonderful. I don't know what he is going to say, but whatever he says I am sure it will be to your advantage and to mine. He is in a new field, a great promising field of activity, and has direct relations with your service and with the whole government, and I doubt if anybody is able to foresee the fruition of all the possibilities that it holds.

Yesterday I was very agreeably surprised, and not surprised either in a way, to receive a basket of very luscious, delectable fruit and this morning I found an attachment on the outside of the basket that I had neglected to look into. I saw that the contents were addressed to both Mrs. Cooper and myself, so my curiosity got the best of me and I opened it up and on one of the envelopes it said "signatures." Well, I thought that was just the names of the fine generous people and friends that we have who had presented us with the fruit. Then I found in that envelope was something of a very fine sheen that evidently was meant for the madam, but I am a better connoisseur of the appearance and quality of that article when it is on than I am when it is off, so I will have to forego the evaluation of it until a little later date.

Sometimes you know, we are inclined to become frustrated and anxious over unnecessary things, and I am told that most

of our greatest worries never happen. It reminds me of a court scene when it was said that the witness was being interrogated by one of the attorneys, and in his question he found out that the witness had visited the home of the defendant, so of course objection was immediately raised by the opposing attorney as to the admission of such testimony, so they adjourned court, went into a huddle, and after about two hours' discussion of the judge and the attorneys as to whether or not the evidence would be admitted, they came back and proceeded to accept the witness' statement as evidence. The one attorney thought he had won a great point on his side, and he said, "Now tell me what you said to the defendant." He answered, "The defendant wasn't home, sir." Sometimes when we get worried about things we find out we have been needlessly worried.

So, with just these few remarks and the expression of my appreciation for your friendship and for the fine cooperation that you are encouraging your husbands to give to the department which makes it easier for us to administer the service and to help guide the destinies of this great postal service that means so much to all the people of the country, I thank you very much for the opportunity of appearing before you and coming to Des Moines again, and I hope you will have the pleasure of many, many future conventions and that we will enjoy our friendships for many more years. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

We have also, as Mr. Cooper said, another gentleman with us here on the platform today—just on the side, this is the man that I told you is to give us some corsages (applause); he isn't supposed to hear that, he says he is hoping that they get here—and I am very happy to introduce to you Ex-Congressman Ramspeck who is now connected with the Air Transportation Association. Mr. Ramspeck. (Applause.)

Mr. Ramspeck. Madam President, Members of the Auxiliary: I am a little bit scared right now, because Ed said he was going to make me do all the speaking, and just before I left the other hotel one of the men who heard me speak there, said "You won't dare tell the jokes to those women you told us," so it got me nervous, but not quite so scared as the darkey down home who went to see one of his girl friends who was married, and the husband caught him there, and this darkey said, "Mandy, what is that white man doin' in here?"

I remember quite well my visit to Portland seven years ago. I liked it so well out there in Oregon that after the convention adjourned I stayed there about ten days, went up to Seattle and visited one night, then got on the bus and went down to Seaside, Oregon, and if I remember that bus went by your office there that you work out of. It is a beautiful country and there was a fine meeting, but there has been a lot happen since that time.

I was sitting on the beach at Seaside, Oregon, when Hitler started the European war, and there has been a lot happen since that time—25 million people killed, billions of dollars of money spent in destruction, not money spent to put good schoolhouses, churches, hospitals, and good roads all over the United States and then just to fill in, enough to build a pretty good house for most everybody who wanted one. You just can't conceive of how much money 350 billions of dollars are, yet that is what has happened in the old world since the last time I had a chance to meet with you.

I didn't intend to get serious—I am

really enjoying this. The reason I like conventions is that I like to see the women that come to them. (Applause.) I used to have a good alibi for that honest feeling about it, I used to say the reason I liked to meet with the women was that I could talk politics with them, they could go out and get up support for the legislation that I was advocating and get out votes, which was important. I am not interested in votes now or in a position to affect legislation or conditions of employment for your husbands, but I am still your friend, still interested in the postal service. (Applause.)

I have been doing a little studying about the postal service since I have been with the Air Transportation Association. You see, we carry air mail just like your husbands carry rural mail, we carry it from airport to airport in our planes. The association I am with doesn't operate planes, we are a trade association, our membership composed of air lines that operate scheduled routes and mail routes over this country and to foreign countries, and we are much concerned about air mail. We built up a tremendous volume during the war when mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives, sweethearts, and friends were writing to the boys overseas and in the camps, and the Post Office Department made 152 million dollars profit in three years out of air mail, which amounts to something like seven million dollars made out of the soldiers' mail during the last two years. That is gone and we are glad you don't have to write those letters, but we want people to keep it up, and we backed up the proposal that the rate be reduced to a nickel.

I don't have to tell you ladies about the importance of a nickel, it is a very fancy article. I never saw an article that was marked down a nickel that wouldn't appeal. The average person would rather spend a nickel than four cents, too. Some fellow said, "No use to have those two cents left that you get when you buy a three-cent stamp, makes you think you have a lot of money, but it just takes up space," so we think that people are going to buy a lot of air mail at five cents, but it will take education to get acquainted with the fact that the rate has been reduced, effective October 1st, to a nickel.

And then later on, for the benefit of the people of the country, the Post Office Department is going to ask Congress, in fact did ask them, to create air parcel post so that people may ship their packages in a hurry. It is amazing what you can do with one of these airplanes. I came to Chicago from Washington in two hours and forty minutes—takes 17 hours by train—and by train it took me six hours to get from Chicago here, about a third as far. I have flown from Chicago to Washington in two hours and thirty minutes in these non-stop four-motored planes. Most people think it is not safe to fly. Actually the insurance companies charge you twice as much for an accident policy if you tell them you will ride in a taxi in New York as compared to riding in an airplane. In 1945 the airlines' safety record was above the automobile safety record of 1944. For every 100 million passenger miles driven by automobiles in 1944 there were 2.9 people killed, and for every 100 million miles of airplanes 2.2 people were killed, so it is safe to travel and it furnishes wonderful means of sending mail to loved ones scattered all over the country, but mostly a way to travel so you can go to see them.

I want to let you ladies in on a little secret—it won't be long now in America

when you can get on an airplane in Chicago, San Francisco, New York, most anywhere, maybe in your own home town, and spend a week-end in Paris looking at those hats. You can go there over night and be back on Monday morning if you want to, an amazing thing.

But I really didn't come here to talk to you about that. I don't know what I came to talk about, just came because I wanted to come, I guess, just like you. (Applause.) I don't know whether you ever thought about it or not, but we owe most of our civilization to women. That is right. If you left it up to the men, they would still be cutting their beards off with sharp rocks, living in caves, and wearing a piece of skin for clothing. You just let a crowd get off on a stag fishing trip, and if you could see them about the third morning you would know what I am talking about. Because of the women they have learned to shave every day, comb their hair, clean their fingernails, dress up and be right respectable people, though they still have a little mean streak in them.

I heard a story about a man who was fussing about the strikes one day, reading his paper you know a few months back, and his wife said, "Well, I think I can understand some of that. I don't have a thing to do but get up about daylight, work all day until about midnight, clean up the house, wash, cook, sew, and everything like that, I think I will just go on a strike."

He said, "Just let me know, I have the prettiest little red-headed strike breaker in mind you ever saw."

This is a very interesting job I am in. I have flown 20,000 miles so far this year and still have a long ways to go before Christmas; promised to go out to the west coast to the convention of Postal Employees, am going to Florida twice to conventions—still going to postal conventions. I like them and it reminds me of a story. This one is one they said I wouldn't dare tell you. It is about the widow who died and went to Heaven, and when she got in, St. Peter told her to make herself at home, said, "Anything I can do for you?" "Yes," he died several years ago." "What is his she said, "I would like to see my husband, name?" She said Smith. "We have hundreds of thousand of Smiths, what is his first name?" "Willie," was her reply.

"That doesn't help much, we have a lot of Willie Smiths up here. I don't know how I am going to find him for you. By the way, I think this might help, we keep a record of the last words of people as they pass away, do you remember what Mr. Smith said just before he passed away?"

"Oh," she said, "I remember so well—'Darling, if you ever kiss another man after I am gone, I am going to turn over in my grave.'"

"Oh, I know him, we call him Whirling Willie up here." (Applause.) You see, Ed, I knew they wouldn't throw me out.

I talked a little bit to the fellows over there about retirement, though I guess I ought to stay off those subjects now, I am not in Congress, but I am still interested in the welfare of the government employees. I studied the retirement so much it is hard for me to divorce myself from some kinship to it. I am finding it awfully hard to keep my fingers out of the Retirement Act because I am afraid some people in ignorance will wreck it. I think you have the best retirement system in the world, and there is no use to move out when you have free rent.

An old darkey went to the rent control

office in Memphis and said, "Boss, can you tell me who my landlord is?"

"That is the man you pay your rent to."

"Boss, I ain't paid no rent." "You haven't?—how did that happen?"

"It is like this—I seed this vacant house about eight months ago, I just moved in, I ain't paid no rent."

"What are you kicking about then?"

"Well," he said, "if somebody don't repair that leak I gotta move."

Some people are never satisfied with this retirement act, they are just going to keep fiddling with it and they will load the treasury down so heavily that some economy-minded senators and representatives will come along and explain that they are paying 90 cents out of every dollar the employees get now, 90 cents out of each dollar is coming out of the United States Treasury, and I don't believe employees ever will pay over 25 per cent of their retirement under the present system, so it is generous and there are a lot of people who say we ought to be able to retire at thirty years regardless of age. Well, they forget the fundamental basis of the retirement act.

Take these two men and let them go to work as rural letter carriers on the same day in the same office at the same pay, \$2500 a year, one of them 20 years old and the other 40 the day they go to work. If both work 30 years they pay in \$125 a year for 30 years, \$1750. Both pay exactly the same amount; both retire on the same day, one at 70 and the other at 50 years of age. The expectancy of life of a man 50 is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that of a man 70, so the younger man will take out for his \$1750 paid in, \$30,000, and the other man will take out \$12,000. Is that fair? They work the same number of years, started on the same day, got the same pay, paid in exactly the same amount of money, yet one gets \$30,000 and the other \$12,000. That is what they get on retirement without regard to age, and it would destroy the present retirement system because, if you have many young men going into service eventually it would be over-burdened by the long life expectancy of those men retiring after 30 years of service without regard to age. So I say to you, keep this good system, protect it, don't let it be destroyed by people who don't know what they are doing. It is a dangerous thing to fool with, you might end up under social security, which is much less beneficial, though there are some things that will help.

I am happy to be here, Mrs. Myers, I didn't intend to talk so long, but I like these conventions, like the people I meet at them, it is good to meet old friends here again, and I don't feel like the three congressmen did who were talking about what they would do if they would each inherit a million dollars. One said, "I would quit Congress and travel, always wanted to, would get a fine automobile and spend my time traveling."

Another one said, "I would like to fish and hunt; if I had a million, I would quit this place, just go and fish and hunt all the time."

The third one said, "If I had a million dollars, I would resign, go home and the first so and so that stuck out his hand and said, 'I bet you don't know who I am,' I would say, 'I don't give a damn who you are.'"

Just because I have quit Congress I don't feel that way. I like to come to these conventions and see people I know, and I wish you every success in the world, congratulate you on the leadership you have

had in the past and fine attendance you have here today. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you, Bob Ram-speck. I am sure the ladies enjoyed every word this morning. I have been on the serious side and kept them close to the grinding wheel, so this has been a treat. I am asking that these gentlemen before they leave the hall take a look at the posters in the anteroom. They have all been arranged by the ladies in the convention in a contest, all made up of cancelled stamps, so if you will take a look we would appreciate it, and thank you for appearing before us. (Audience stood as the gentlemen retired to music and applause.)

Will the ladies with the Iowa song present it at this time so our guests will enjoy this number before they leave the hall? (All stood and joined in the Iowa Corn Song and the new Centennial Iowa Song.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. One of the things to which every convention looks forward is the report of the President, because that way we find out what we have achieved throughout the year, and I know that you are very happy at this time to receive the report of our president, Margaret Myers.

President Margaret Myers. Thank you, Kathryn. I shall try to get through this as quickly as possible.

It is indeed a great pleasure to meet with you as your president in this, our first postwar convention. This report cannot half express the love I feel in my heart for our Auxiliary. I am sure you will understand how hard it has been to carry on the work these last few years and will be tolerant of my humble efforts.

Yes, this past year has been a very busy one—one in which we have each shared responsibilities. You will recall in my report for 1944-45 I named the states that had gained in membership for the year and suggested that we each strive to be on the gain in membership list for this year. I am very happy to report a very substantial gain in all but four states, and in this we can all rejoice. Leading the list is the state of Missouri, with a gain of 181 members; Georgia second with 140; North Carolina third with 127. Others are as follows: Iowa 116; Illinois 108; Alabama 100; California 21; Connecticut 12; Florida 15; Massachusetts 9; Michigan 34; Minnesota 22; Mississippi 47; Montana 17; Nebraska 22; New Hampshire 8; New Jersey 5; New Mexico 3; North Dakota 6; Ohio 17; Oklahoma 45; Oregon 50; Pennsylvania 51; Rhode Island 3; South Dakota 48; South Carolina 18; Tennessee 57; Texas 88; Vermont 19; Washington 21; West Virginia 37; Wisconsin 16; Wyoming 14. Arizona and Colorado remained the same. This was the complete membership gain up to August 10, 1946.

Congratulations to you, state officers and members of the Auxiliary! Your progress means added strength to our National Organization. The strength of any organization is recognized by its membership. A one hundred percent membership is most desirable and will aid your National Board in its efforts.

Your president at the beginning of her term of office wrote a list of objectives or aims which seemed in keeping with the principles upon which our auxiliary was founded, and pledged to put them in operation. The first objective was to unite fraternally its members and to create a greater interest in rural mail service and in the Association work. This, your president felt, called for a strong membership and one in

which united efforts are most essential. Therefore, in order to achieve this goal it was decided to work for 100 percent counties.

The counties are the roots of our organization, and it is necessary that each and every county be in a healthy condition. The members who live in counties are responsible for them. County officers who work hard to keep their county healthy are essential and most desirable. They will see to it that their county has perfect membership and will encourage other county officers to do likewise. State officers will and should assist county officers at all times. I have observed that a good county records kept up to date and on file by the state secretary is a splendid help in the work. For this reason your president has brought copies of the most popular and best liked report blank throughout the various states, and each delegate here is invited to take one home with her, with the suggestion that she present it to her state Board, and a request that her state have copies made to use in the state work. I know you will find them very helpful and a good way to find your up-to-date potential membership.

Well-planned county meetings will create greater desire on the part of members to attend. Your National Board urged the use of year books for county meetings. It was gratifying to see and hear about these when attending state meetings this summer. The counties using these were very active in all Auxiliary work and an inspiration at state meetings. Folks like to know of meetings in time to make necessary plans to attend. It is customary, and according to our By-Laws, for the ladies to hold their meetings at the time and place of the Association meetings. I have found the men very willing to co-operate in arranging year books. Your president has found that where the auxiliary and association work together in the planning of a meeting, it is an outstanding success in every way.

After meetings are planned, program material is often a problem. To assist in this, your Board adopted a cancelled stamp poster or picture contest. Many county meetings have been stimulated by this program and ladies have become acquainted with this exchange of ideas. These posters were to be made of cancelled postage stamps and ink markings used to bring out the form of design. They were to be no larger than 2 feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet; judged on originality of design, neatness, and artistic value; each state to choose one at their state meeting to send to national, where a first and second prize winner would be chosen. Judges for this contest were chosen from art teachers of Des Moines. This contest was a most interesting one, and the posters on display here at National are all so beautiful that each is outstanding in every way.

Route history books, likewise, have stimulated interest in mail service and will become more valuable as a source of information as the years go by. It is said, "The rural mail service is second only to the public schools as an educational factor in our county districts."

"Almost one third of the farms of our country served by rural carriers are on unimproved roads." Improvements are most desirable and much good can be accomplished when county groups unite their efforts for improvements. In some states county and state highway officials have addressed the members, and stressed methods for improvement, accomplishing much good.

It is not wise to continually ask for greater compensation without giving a greater service. We are all agreed that a just compensation for services is most desirable and provides adequate means for securing the better things in life. Knowledge is a very desirable achievement and provides a greater source of peace and mutual understanding among people. Sanctioning this type of progress, your president planned a Book-Giving project. Ladies were urged to give good books where the public could use them and gain much desirable information and wholesome pleasure. This has been done individually by the membership and by county and state groups. This project has given every lady an opportunity to be of service in her community. She was asked to keep a record of the books she gave to someone to enjoy and to report to her state president, she, in turn, to report to the National president. She was requested to place a label on the inside of the front cover, thus identifying herself as an Auxiliary worker. These labels were furnished to her free by her National Board. State presidents were asked to report the number of books given and the purchase price. Your National president has been very well pleased with the splendid reports. She herself has given thirty books this year at a purchase value of \$60.75, always happy to place a label in a book and present it. The historical Cachets have been placed in a number of these books also. The Book-Giving project was adopted in 1944-45, and many requests from the field were received to continue the project in the year 1945-46, and this has been done.

The report of the first year's work has already been given to you—2,092 books given—purchase value \$3,806.88.

For the year 1945-46—4,246 books given, purchase value \$7,850.63, making a grand total of books given of 6,338 at a purchase value of \$11,657.51. The winners will be announced at this convention.

Your president wishes to thank all who helped make this project a huge success. It has been a great joy to her to hear letters read at state meetings from children's and veterans' hospitals, as well as Library Boards, where books had been received from members of our Auxiliary. The mother groups were challenged to see which group would give the greatest number of books, and Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges, as the mother of the following states, has given most and is declared the winning group: Wisconsin, South Carolina, Idaho, Mississippi, Washington, Iowa, Oklahoma, and California.

This ends the group of activities for our first objective. May each of you receive the blessings you deserve, and I trust the friends you have found among our groups will be a source of great joy in your life.

Our second objective reads: "Also, through our united efforts, to seek beneficial legislation."

We are an Auxiliary, and it is necessary to work with the Association at all times along this line. When we receive the "GO" signal from the Association we can, through united effort, gain much benefit by hastening to act accordingly. Your letters to Senators and Congressmen go a long way in helping to present our problems to the proper parties. Many reports have come to me of your good work this past year along this line. You are now reaping the benefits which should be much more than the fifty cents you pay for Auxiliary dues.

Congratulations are in order to all who have helped with this.

Personal contacts are most beneficial to any group. Your president went to Washington, D. C., to represent the Auxiliary in seeking beneficial legislation. The problem of Widows' Annuity was discussed with Congressmen and Senators. It was learned that in order to get beneficial legislation on this, it would be necessary for all postal groups to pass resolutions favoring it. Therefore, our first chore is to contact members of the various postal groups and urge them to take action on this subject. President Walters has been most considerate of the Auxiliary problems, and has expressed his appreciation for our cooperation.

It would take hours of time, as well as space, to tell of all the activities that your president has taken part in during the year. She has managed to keep busy most of the time spending many hours of labor in working for the Auxiliary. The volume of mail has been averaging over a hundred letters a month. At times it seemed impossible to keep up with all the work that was necessary when all the other Board members took time out to be sick. However heavy the work has been these war years, your president has carried on the best she could. She hopes her efforts have met with your approval. Thank you and may God bless you. May you never neglect the Auxiliary work. (Applause.)

I do want to add this that it is impossible for one officer to attend all conventions, and it is customary for the president to map out visitations for the other girls on the Board. We have done the best we could, and I am hoping that you girls were satisfied. It is a very difficult job to map out their routes without spending too much time doing it and at too much expense. The president chose to go to the New England states, and I believe the plan balanced well. I was graciously received; in fact, I was grateful for all of these little state visitations, and I really would have been happy had it been possible to attend every state convention, because they are most inspiring.

I believe I wrote up in the National Magazine reports of all of the states excepting my own state of Oregon. There the convention was held in the southern part of our state a little differently than any I had had the privilege of attending, and I would just like to give you a little information on that. The city was Grant's Pass, Oregon, and this city is close by the Oregon Caves, which you will find on your maps, and anyone visiting the state always tries to visit them as one of the important and outstanding places.

It takes about 25 minutes to go down into these caves, they are electric lighted, and in some places the passageways are quite small, it is hard to get through, or it was years ago and Mr. Parkman said it took two men in front and two behind to push him through so he didn't feel he wanted to go again, but they assured them the openings were enlarged and he went through.

The Chamber of Commerce there has an organization called the "Oregon Cavemen," and when there is anything like the Rose Festival parade and so forth it is customary for the different cities to send representation. These men dress in skins or hides, put on ugly wigs, fix themselves up just as vicious looking as they can, wear just moccasins on their feet or go barefooted. Well they had a pioneer banquet, did not have a speakers' table, just the

toastmaster and then the older retired members seated there, and they had present Harrison Parkman, who is the head purchasing agent in Washington, D. C., for civil service supplies, and the toastmaster was from Portland, which is the whole paymaster section of that country. We were over at a side table, and just as we finished there came a noise and they made entrance and immediately kidnapped my husband. They dragged him over to a table, a little queen jumped up, sat with her feet under her, a very cute little thing, sat there with a smile and was watching the proceedings to see that everything was going all right, Big Chief Horn did likewise and they took my husband and asked him all kinds of questions as to what he was doing there, he had to explain, give an account of himself. Then they asked him if he had a squaw, and I thought I bet they are going to take me. I looked back of me and here was a huge man weighing about 250, bending over me to take me as soon as they gave the signal. They took me over in a little more ladylike manner than they did my husband, asked him if he knew me, what we were doing there, and so on, and they presented both of us with a jaw bone on which was printed in indelible ink the words, "Passport to the Domain of Oregon Cavemen," their fingerprints done in blood, artificial teeth had been placed in it. My husband's was about 15 inches long, mine was smaller, but we kind of cherish those because they only initiate into that people of national reputation, and they told us it was quite an honor for them to put that on, but they warned us not to come to Grant's Pass without our passports.

That is just one of the little highlights that really makes us get acquainted, enjoy the city, and as I say, I think there is nothing nicer than the state convention that we have, and we officers do appreciate the privilege of meeting with you girls at your different meetings. Thank you again for everything.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Is there a motion to accept the report?

Mrs. Greer, Arkansas. Madam Chairman, I move that the report of the President be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Walworth, Oregon, carried and the report declared adopted.)

(The president read announcements, including the one about the banquet at 6:30 P. M. that evening and the Tea from 2:00 till 5:00. The colors were retired and the meeting was declared adjourned at 12:08 P. M. until 9:00 A. M. the following morning.)

The Tea Wednesday afternoon in the South Ball Room of the Fort Des Moines Hotel was a courtesy from the Iowa ladies. Highlighted by a centennial style show with each lady giving a history of the costume she wore and a musical program, it was a delightful interlude in the business. Many people were able this afternoon to visit the Meredith Publishing Company to see "Successful Farmers" coming off the color presses.

THIRD SESSION. THURSDAY A. M. AUGUST 14, 1946

Meeting called to order by the president, Mrs. Myers, at 9:30 A. M. With your cooperation—"Cooperation means Success"—our meeting will be successful. Will the color bearers present our colors? (Following this and the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Frank L. McKee of Delaware led in the invocation.)

Mrs. McKee. Our Heavenly Father, we pray for strength for today's tasks; lead us in our thinking and actions today. Help us in every decision we must make that we may seek Thy will and not our own. Give us courage and wisdom to do our part toward building a world that will mean not only peace in our time, but peace eternally. Help all the nations of the world to know that only as we build together upon the teachings of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, do we build wisely and well for mankind. In His name we pray. Amen.

President Myers. (Gave several announcements, among them that Mr. Sommers of Dallas Center, Iowa, presented flowers in memory of his wife, Goldie Sommers, a former Iowa Board member, who died while a member of Iowa Executive Committee.)

I am very happy this morning to see your bright and shining faces. At the breakfast you all met your "Mom" and she has given you orders I am sure, and we are to have a treat the first thing, a special number by Mrs. Muhl of Iowa.

Mrs. Muhl. I would like to dedicate our two numbers to our dear National President, Mrs. Myers, and especially my second one I would like to dedicate to Iowa's "mother" Mrs. Harriges. My first is "Just For Today" and the second "My Task."

President Myers. Thank you so much, Mrs. Muhl, that was beautiful. I am sure it was just a rest for us to have these beautiful numbers this morning.

Now we shall proceed with our program, and the next order of business will be roll call. (The Secretary called the roll of officers—all present—and then the names of delegates at large.)

Now, there are committees that need to finish their work in order to report at the proper time. We will excuse you at this time.

I want to thank my own state for this corsage again. It is in keeping with the Golden Jubilee thought. I had our other orchids on when this came, but I felt it was due my state to wear this one. They didn't know what dress I was going to wear this morning, but it is an exact match.

Before we proceed further we will have a summary of the minutes of our previous meeting by Kathryn VandenBerge. (Read.)

You understand these minutes will be typed by our stenotypist in full. If there are no corrections or additions they stand approved as read.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will escort our speaker of the morning to the platform. (Music, all standing. Mrs. Muhl sang Iowa Centennial Song.)

We have come to a place on our program that I feel is a very important place—we are very fortunate to have with us Mrs. Raymond Sayre, Chairman of the Women's Committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, and I have learned that she is also the National Vice President of their federation. She will speak to us this morning and give us a message to take home with us. Mrs. Sayre. (Applause.)

Mrs. Sayre. Mrs. Myers and friends: It is nice to be here with you this morning, and I enjoyed the song. I think it was very appropriate because it had in it about the postmaster's friendly hello.

I heard your president and chairman ask you a while ago if you would like to have a little more air and you all agreed that you would, and so here you are going to get a whole lot now and I hope it isn't too hot.

I don't know what you folks know about me. I appreciate Mrs. Myers' invitation, but

you know everybody likes to talk about themselves, so sometimes when I get up before an audience I tell them a little bit about myself, simply because I know that in the first ten minutes a speaker talks folks are not listening to what the speaker says, especially if you have never seen that speaker before. You know what you are doing—you are looking me over and you are saying to yourselves, "Well, I wonder what kind of a person Mrs. Sayre is; I wonder if she lives on a farm; I wonder if she knows anything about rural mail carriers and their problems; I wonder if she is a Methodist, Baptist, or Presbyterian; I wonder if she is a Democrat or Republican. Well, I wonder why Mrs. Sayre doesn't diet, she would look better if she did."

Of course, if it were an audience of men, they would say, "Why in the world did Mrs. Sayre buy a hat like that." Thank goodness the men aren't here. There is one brave man in the back, but he isn't listening.

So I do want to tell you to begin with, I live on a farm, came up from my farm home this morning, about 23 miles from Des Moines, and I really should have been at home today because we are having our county fair and my young son is out there, in fact two of them, showing their lambs at the fair, and I have always been out there every time, but I had promised to be here with you, so here I am.

So, I know a lot about the rural mail carrier and his wife and his problems. We don't get our mail from the rural carrier any more because we live so near to Antwerp we run down to the store and pick our mail up there, but I used to, and how I did wait for him. When I first went out onto the farm as a young bride I was terribly lonesome, and how I did wait for letters from my mother and family, and how I did wait for the packages that came.

Well, there is a lot of heartache tied up or wrapped up in that the rural mail carrier brings, too, a lot of heartaches have come to people in these last years, and somebody asked me last week when I was down in Kansas, "What are you going to say to the rural mail carriers' wives?" I said, "I feel like they are some of the best friends that the farm people have, so I won't have any trouble in finding something to say."

I imagine you did all read the editorial in yesterday's paper, "Salute to the Lads of R.F.D." Get a Des Moines Register for yesterday and read it, because it is a nice tribute to the work that the men have done. It says this:

"For half a century the rural carrier has been all things to all farm families—dependable bringer of news from the 'outside' world, shopper for the family, herald of the seasons.

"Only one who has lived on a farm, far from the bustle of the town or city, can know the thrill of breasting a bitter January wind the quarter mile to the mailbox and finding spring's brilliant harbinger—the seed catalog—that friend mailman has brought. Or wading through March's deep soft snow and finding the thick spring catalog filled with everything and more that a farm family could need during the coming summer. And thus also with a hundred and one other things.

"And if someone was lucky enough to be at the mailbox when the rural carrier drove by he'd hear enough news to keep the family entertained for a week!

"Yes, the rural mail carrier has meant more to the farmer than any city dweller

could comprehend. And, since 'the mail must go out,' it has meant facing rainstorm and snowstorm, icy roads and muddy ones, drifts and ruts. The rural mail carrier does not 'lay off' when it rains or snows or when the roads are 'impassable' to the ordinary driver.

"A salute to rural letter carrier! He is one of our finest and best-loved institutions."

There is only one thing wrong with that editorial, and do you know what it is? It doesn't say a thing about the wives. My goodness, they wouldn't be as good as they are if it weren't for the wives that stay at home and keep things going, and there are some women who carry the mail, too, in a pinch, and I know a woman I met down in Virginia last fall when I was down there—in fact, she happens to be State Chairman of the farm women of Virginia—she is a rural mail carrier herself, so I say all tribute to the women, as well, who stand behind the men who carry the mail to the farm families far and wide all over the country, I wanted to say that to you this morning because I think of all the institutions we have, the rural mail carrier is one of the finest and most dependable, and there is something significant to me in the fact that the wives meet here with the husbands.

Now, when farm families meet in farm organizations, they always meet together, the men and women, we don't have the women meeting at some other time in some organization. I think it is tremendously significant that you keep the family together, and it is a part of all rural life. I see it again and again in other organizations that out in the country we don't separate the family, we try to keep them together, because we think it is tremendously important to keep their interests together.

Now, actually, the thing I came here to talk to you about this morning is "Books." That is what Mrs. Myers asked me to talk to you about, Mrs. Meyers of Iowa, and Mrs. Myers, Oregon, and I believe the topic was "The Value of Worth While Books," and I am glad to talk about that because I have been interested in books for a long time, I think because first my mother read to me and because I believe that books have a tremendous power, more power than anybody in the world ever realizes.

I think you have a national project of books so this ties into your program, the thing I am going to say. When I was a little girl I used to sit at the breakfast table—we didn't have so many kinds of breakfast foods then as we do now, but we had one kind—and I remember the slogan on that box of breakfast food "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." Do you remember it? Some of you are about my age then. "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." I used to read that and read it, and I used to say, "How could they do that, by what you had to eat." Of course I know that is true to a certain extent, and I know it always applies to another slogan somebody might write—"Tell me what you read and I will tell you what you are." "Tell me what you do after seven o'clock at night after your dishes are done and your leisure time is your own and I will tell you what you are."

Tell me what you read and I will tell you what you are—the people of the University of Chicago used to say they had a questionnaire put out for prospective students and one of the questions on this was, "What have you read recently?" And the people who looked those questionnaires over said the answer to that one question

was more indicative of the kind of student that was coming and where that student was going than any other question on the questionnaire. Tell me what you read and I will tell you what you are—because books have such a tremendous power over the minds of men.

What do they do? You sit down here with a book, it takes your mind and takes your thoughts and makes you think the thoughts of the author for as long as it takes you to read the book, and it can either make you a chicken scratching around in the dirt and filth or an eagle soaring through the clouds. It can do one or the other thing with you, tremendously powerful. I suppose the most powerful of all books is the Bible. I think we could agree on that, but think what the Bible has done to human history, changed its institutions, changed the course of history, made men spill blood because of the things they read in a book. Men who read "Thus saith the Lord" have gone out to fight for justice and for what they thought was right because they read a book.

Now, there are all kinds of books, not all of them are like the Bible or have the same interpretation, and one of the most powerful books, and we might as well face it, we don't like it and we don't believe in the things that it says, but one of the most powerful books that has influenced our generation is the book—"Das Capital" by Karl Marx, because the things that were written in that book were the ideas that were the basis for communism that has spread so far over the world today, "Das Capital" by Karl Marx.

Books are powerful things because they take the minds of men and mould them. I tried to think of a book that was as powerful as those two books in our own generation, of our own times, and I am not sure that we have anything, but if there is anything at all that approaches them, it is the books written by Charles Beard, the historian, upon the *Economic Life of the United States*. Well, now it raises some problems when we say books are tremendously powerful, and one of the problems is what kind of books shall we read? I think the topic given was the value of worth-while books, and the question is, what is worth while?

Well, there is an awful lot of trash in books, I guess you would all agree with me on that. I happened to pick up a little magazine the other day that talked about what school children were reading, but this is a survey taken in New York state, and it said that of all these school children in New York state—and I suspect you have some folks here from that state—few of them read books of any kind, that the books read were usually fiction of an inferior type, and then it went ahead to say the result of the interviews showed that once out of school most boys and girls read almost solely for recreation, chiefly in magazines of mediocre or inferior fiction and in daily newspapers. And if you travel around like I do you would see boys and girls in railroad stations, in drug stores, and wherever you go, who are picking up these little twenty-five cent and ten cent copies of books, and that is the kind of thing they are reading.

Well, we say, that isn't worth while, but how are we going to pick out the books that are, not only for ourselves, but for boys and girls? I think the thing that we have to see is that we have to be selective about books just as we are selective about clothes. We don't go and take the first thing that comes along, we have some

standards that we set up and we select our books according to those standards. I am not going to try to tell you what I think all the standards are this morning, but I think one of them is that books must be well written and they must show integrity on the part of the author and they must be true to life. I think we condemn probably too many books just because there are some things in them that we don't like. I don't know what was on your list, but we have a list that we get out for Farm Bureau women throughout the state for a reading list, but I had a letter from a woman last year because we had on that list this book "How Green Was My Valley"—you probably saw the movie—and she said to me, "Mrs. Sayre, I don't like that book. It is terrible, I wouldn't think of having it out on the table where my young fourteen-year-old daughter could read it because there are things in there she ought not to know about." I didn't write back to the woman, but I had a notion to, "your daughter probably knows more than is in that book." We can be a little too restrictive. Books have to show life as it is, and sometimes I think that we let some incident in a book spoil our vision for the real thing the book had to tell, the real message the book had, and I think a good example of that is the book "Good Earth" by Pearl Buck. How many have read it? Lots of hands. Then you get the point. Lots of women have said, "I don't like the book 'Good Earth' because it tells too plainly some of the facts of life, just spoiled it me." "Well," I said, "what was the author Pearl Buck trying to tell you in that book? She was writing life as she knew it in China and the way it is looked upon in China by the Chinese people. That wasn't the main part of the book, this birth of the baby and all the details—the main part, and the thing Pearl Buck was trying to say, was what is man's relation to the land, what influence does the soil have on the human race." That is what she was trying to say and she wrapped it all up in the speech of this old Chinese father who said to his sons who wanted to move off to town off the land, "Out of the land you have come and into the land you will go. If you sell your land and leave, you will die; if you keep your land, you will live." Now, she was saying that in terms of humanity, in terms of civilization, and when we read a book and pick out one incident and say that spoils the whole book for me, it is because we have let the trees get in front of our eyes, we must see life as it is. Writers can't write what isn't a part of life if they are sincere and have integrity.

This last year I have been reading to my young sons, eleven years old, the Bible. You have to read the Bible aloud to know what is in it, to appreciate its beauty and simplicity, what words it uses and what meaning it has. It doesn't go into much detail. "In the beginning, God." Who could have said it better than that—three words "In the beginning, God." Well, but for all of its great interpretation of life to us, the Bible doesn't mince any words when it comes to the facts of life. Read it through and see. It interprets life as it is and so I say we can't have all books that are sweetness and light, because life isn't sweetness and light, but we must have an honest interpretation of life as it is. So don't rule out all the books from your reading in your evaluation and in your selection, don't rule out all the books that tell you something about how other people live.

Now, another one of the problems I think that comes up, and this is also tied into this

problem about what kind of books shall we read, is the fact that books are not available. Why do young people read all of these mystery murder stories that are out here on the shelves in the railroad stations and drug stores? Because other good books are not available, and I present it to you because I don't think anybody is going to do anything about it unless women do, that we make good books more available to young people, to all people as far as that is concerned, make them as available as coca-cola and ice cream cones and the trashy books so that when they want to read they can get hold of those books.

Now, I would like to see one of my favorite things that I want happen. The Bible says you shouldn't covet, but I do covet this, I must confess it, I covet books for rural people, and I wish they were as available to them as the mail that you take to everybody's door, because about half of our rural people don't have books really available to them, where they can get them and read them easily. In my county there is one library at Indianola, our county seat town. I used to live 29 miles from the county seat, I wasn't going to get many books over there. I think one of the problems we have to take up, and I know you have done it in some of your states, is making books available to people. We are interested not only in getting books for ourselves, but in seeing that a great many people get books. That is important for two reasons—first, because of the necessity for adult education in the kind of a world in which we live. I don't believe you can have democracy unless everybody is well educated, and I don't believe our education stops when we close the schoolhouse door behind us or when we start changing the size of our shoes. I think we have to keep on learning and keep on reading books. We must make books available so everybody can read, so everybody has a chance to learn.

And the second reason I think it is important is because more and more we have leisure for the people of the United States, not only people in towns and cities, but people out on the farms. They don't like to admit it, but they don't have as much to do as they used to because they have more machinery, so we have more leisure time, and the big question is, what are we going to do with it? Anything that is worth while? I say if we are going to do worth while things with leisure time we have to commence weaving it into the pattern of America now and particularly into the pattern of rural America, to get people to read books as a part of a recreation.

I am going to give you three reasons now why I think there is value in reading books. There are a lot of reasons and a lot of values, but I tried to simmer them down to three, and I guess I will place at the head of the list, not because I think it is most important, but because I think it is the reason that most of us read, the value we get out of the relaxation, recreation, and re-creation of the mind, and I think it is just as necessary to re-create the mind as it is to recreate the body. I had a woman write to me back in the depression years in Iowa, a farm woman, they had lost their farm, they had had a lot of trouble, and she said to me, "I could never have gotten through this time if it hadn't been for something to read to take my mind off my troubles." And I think there are a great many women who found that value in reading during the war. I know there were a good many nights when I wakened up in the night and my thoughts were too much to

bear, so I turned on the light and read and got my mind off the things I was thinking about, and I know many of you did the same thing, the re-creation of the mind.

Now psychologists will tell you this is an escape mechanism. I don't care what they say about it, I think it is good for people.

The second value I think we get out of books is the value we get from wider understanding and wider knowledge. I used to teach school, and I am sure you know I did, because I am always shaking my finger at people, and that is the mark of an old school teacher—well, I used to teach and I found out something, I made a discovery, I discovered that I could tell within four or six weeks the boys and girls in my classes that had a done a lot of reading. I didn't have to ask them, I found it out by the kind of papers they handed in, by the kind of recitations they made. Reading makes a lot of difference in what you know, it makes a lot of difference to young people, and I think it is particularly important now because we need to know about the people of the world, we need to know about the people of other countries.

When I was down in Virginia last fall I went over to see the home of Thomas Jefferson, Monticello Home on the Little Mountain. I had known about Thomas Jefferson, naturally, that he was the writer of the Declaration of Independence, but I had never really known about him until I went down there, and I came home and read all kinds of books about him because it stimulated my desire to know more; and I found out around that little town of Charlottesville there came the men who probably did more to influence the life and institutions of America than from any other one little spot in all this country, because there came Jefferson who wrote the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson, who was responsible for the Louisiana Purchase, Madison, father of the Constitution, and Monroe, father of the idea of the Monroe Doctrine, our foreign policy for years in the United States, and from that little country came Lewis and Clark who came up here along the Missouri River and up into the great Northwest. Oh, how much I found out by reading books, widened my knowledge tremendously.

It is necessary for us now to read books about Russia, China, the Balkans, about all of these countries, so we can know about those people.

Now, finally I should say that the other great value in reading books is the value that it has in broadening our sympathies and in deepening and widening our imaginations. When I went to Europe in the summer of 1939 I had as a companion on my trip over to Switzerland and Italy a farm woman who had worked so hard all her life on a chicken ranch out in California that she had never had time to read. I didn't discover it until we went sightseeing around in Geneva, Luzanne, and Milan and other places in Italy, and it to me was not only pathetic, but almost tragic because half of the enjoyment of that trip the woman lost because she hadn't read. She didn't know about William Tell, the little one of Lucerne, the story back of the great Palace of Versailles, she didn't know because she hadn't read, so she hadn't the imagination to see what was happening or did happen.

Well, at the time of the World's Fair I went with my family on a trip down through Illinois to see something of the Lincoln country, to see the home in Springfield in which Lincoln lived and then on to New Salem, but when we got out of our

car at Springfield we heard some people getting out of a car behind us, and a woman said, "I don't suppose we can see anything here, but we can say we have been here." Now, that is just a typical American tourist. I had no idea where that woman came from or where she was going, but one thing I knew the minute she opened her mouth—that she had never read the stories of Morrow and Sandburg about Abraham Lincoln; I knew that if she went into that house she wouldn't see this big frame house as it used to be at the time Lincoln lived there, mud streets and board walks. As she went in and up the stairs and into this library there she wouldn't see Abraham Lincoln sitting there in the old rocking chair, a shawl around his shoulders, glasses pulled down on his nose; and when she went out into the dining room she wouldn't see Mary Todd Lincoln buzzing around putting dishes on the table, lovely ones; and the family standing around there the last night they were in that home and the friends outside bidding them farewell and the family bidding farewell to the neighbors, never to return. No, she wouldn't see it, she would just go in, come out again and say she had been there. Reading to stimulate and widen your imagination so you can get so much more out of life. It can deepen your sympathies, too. The other day I read a story about a woman not the same nationality I am or you are, but a Czechoslovakian. She was standing up in Nuremberg at the trials of the Nazis, and she was accusing this Nazi murderer, stood there dry-eyed, not a tear, and told the story of living in this little village of her home and the Nazis had said, "You must get in this bus, take your baby girl and move on." She told her husband and sons goodbye and never saw them again. She went on to the next village and the Nazis said, "Clean up your baby, comb her hair," and she did, and they took the child and she never saw her again. She saw her own mother pressed into a gas chamber to her death. I said when I read it, "There, but for the grace of God, am I," and there but for the grace of God are you. I read that and it deepened my sympathy, broadened my understanding of what the real problems are that we are up against, the problems of humanity, the problems of women all over the world.

Well, I found a little poem I thought I would read to you, it was used on a Westinghouse radio broadcast. It is about libraries in America, and libraries are the places where we keep books to give to people. It says all the things I have been trying to say to you here.

If you go down to your town center

And search for its real wealth

You will pass by the city hall, the

Stores, the biggest bank

And step aside from traffic

Into a quiet place, the

Library of your town.

Within its peaceful walls

It holds the best of all

That men have thought and dreamed

Since words were first recorded.

It holds the riches of the world.

Here are the books that hold

The earth, the sea, the sky

Revealed after centuries of men's labor,

Row upon row they stand,

Countless generations still living

In the songs they sang, the tales they told.

While the people of their dreams

Walked the earth and read alive on the
printed page

The story of our race and its slow, but
upward climb.

Here you can read of storms that blasted
nations,

Swept the surface of the earth,
And know that they were weathered by
men and women like ourselves,

Here in our town's library is all the
world and life itself.

This lasting wealth is ours.

The libraries of our country do not hoard
it for the few,

Here the doors swing wide for everyone
to enter.

Up the steps come children and their elders.

Men and women seeking knowledge,
finding friends that never die.

Down those steps they carry comfort,
laughter, inspiration,

The best of life flows freely into Ameri-
can homes

And our country holds its wealth of books
secure.

No censor's stamp can here deface the
words of truth

Nor are there bigot's fires to burn experi-
ence, thought and written beauty.

The people of all places, all centuries, all
races

Live in their works upon our shelves
thousands strong.

Our libraries stand guardians of the free-
dom of our thought,

Here a nation's mind is free to meet the
minds of all the world

From all its beginning. Where else, where
else

Is found such a wealth of knowledge and
of pleasure,

Given freely to so many human lives?

Where else, but here in America.

Now, that is the thing I am going to talk about finally, because the thing to my mind that is the most important today is that we maintain freedom and that we maintain the freedom which books represent, the freedom of men's minds, and I hope we shall not forget the tremendous price that has been paid for it. If you haven't read the story in the Saturday Evening Post about what happened in Red Oak, Iowa, the number of boys that gave their lives in order that you and I might be free, free to think, free to read, free to write, and free to talk, I hope you will do so, and I hope you will read Leland Stowe's book, "Yes, Yesterday is Dead." Yes, yesterday is dead, but only the weak and greedy will weep, tomorrow is a different day, it will belong only to those who are clear of mind and strong of heart. Today is dying as swiftly as those who fell or have fallen on the battlefields. If tomorrow is not a better or different today, we can be sure they shall not sleep. Listen carefully and you may hear a faint echo from the graves on Guadalcanal and Bataan, from Norway and Poland, from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, from Spain and Greece, from Flanders and Russia, from China and Malay and Burma. Remember the boys that flew the rim over in Burma, seems like a long time ago now; from Holland and Indies, Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy, and from battlefields named and nameless, we shall not sleep the echo says, but neither shall you, my friends, neither shall you unless you continue every moment and every day of your life now to fight the battle for the freedom of the human mind. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you so much, Mrs. Sayre, for that inspiring message. I know that our ladies will feel that the book giving project has been worth while. Last year we were able to place 4,000 books in libraries, and this year the report is not in, but I know we exceed that. I wish we

could have given it to you this morning. Thanks again. And now I am going to ask the Iowa ladies if they would like to lead the Iowa song. Let's stand and sing it for her. She is a busy lady and we will excuse her then. (Applause as Mrs. Sayre was escorted from the platform.)

I see our distinguished guests are in the hall, will the Sergeant-at-Arms please conduct them to the platform? Their time is limited, so we will give them the time right now.

We are indeed very fortunate this morning to have in our presence one whom a great number of you met last night at our joint banquet, one whom I met in Washington, D. C., these last few trips, and I want to here give just a little word of gratitude for the way that he has received me and the Auxiliary as your representative when I was in our wonderful city of Washington, D. C. There was never a time when he was asked to have a conference with us that he did not grant us that permission. He was never too busy with the many, many chores that we knew that he had to take time out and listen to the problems that we had to present. I think this is a mark of a wonderful first Assistant Postmaster General, and I am very, very happy to present to you, ladies, this morning First Assistant Postmaster General, Jesse Donaldson.

Mr. Donaldson. Madam President, Members of the Ladies Auxiliary: As I stated last night, this is the first opportunity I have had to attend a national convention of the rural letters carriers and Auxiliary. I have attended a great many state conventions in the past, but it seemed impossible for me to get to a national convention at the time when they were held in years past. I am greatly impressed by this national convention. It has been a wonderful one, the program interesting, and the good fellowship demonstrated is really encouraging, as well as amazing.

I think the position of rural carrier is one of the most dignified positions in the postal service. We have to look upon a rural carrier as being a postoffice on wheels. He performs a varied service, a kind of service that no other postal employee of any other branch performs. You have a clerk in a postoffice who sells stamps, one who writes money orders, one who handles registered mail, and those who distribute mail and then those who deliver it, but in a rural carrier you have a combination of all of those. He performs a service for the rural patrons which is the next thing to a traveling postoffice, and in this service he has an opportunity to get acquainted with and perform a service for the postal service that no other employees have. A clerk in the postoffice seldom meets the public, the distributor meets only his fellow employees, seldom sees the public, the city carrier goes his rounds, meets some of his patrons, but usually places mail in the boxes and goes about his business, he doesn't sell stamps, but the rural carrier sells stamps, delivers mail, takes applications for money orders, delivers C.O.D. and parcel post, in fact performs all the duties of the postoffice, serves in a manner no other one in service does, so it is probably the most dignified position in the postal service because of the nature of the duties. A rural carrier can make the postal service or almost break it. If they were all bad and rendered poor service, that could do more to decrease the credit of the postal service and put it in bad quicker than any other one act. The fact that rural carriers are appreciated and liked all over the coun-

try is an indication that the rural carrier performs a good service. I have wondered why it is the rural carriers seem to be more popular in their communities than other postal workers. I think there are two reasons for that—you women play a great part in it, and as long as you women take the interest in these conventions that you do and attend with your husbands, the better your husbands are going to be as postal workers.

Oftentimes people are not satisfied with their positions in life, not satisfied with the kind of positions they have. We have some postal people that come in and want to go up and up. It is a good deal like a fellow picking berries in a field—he always sees better ones on the other side of the fence. But rural carriers, I think as a whole, constitute the most satisfied personnel we have in the service, and as long as you women take an interest in your husbands' work and attend these conventions, that interest is going to be maintained by the rural carriers in their service and there is going to be a satisfaction with their positions.

I want to compliment you highly for the interest you take in these conventions. I have never attended a national convention of any kind of postal workers where so many women were present as here. It shows your good work in the service had helped your husbands' rural carrier service, and as long as that is maintained we will always have good rural service.

Yesterday I found a basket of fruit which had an inscription that it was from the Board of the Ladies Auxiliary, and I want to express my deep appreciation of your thoughtfulness, and words can't describe my feeling for the affection indicated by that gift. Keep an interest in these conventions and in your husbands, and you will always be raising the standing of the branch of rural postal service. I have been proud of the rural carriers, the manner in which they hold their conventions and the interest they have in the conventions. I have attended some where they seemed to only get together and have a good time, and then resolute. They always want to resolute for themselves and never anything for the public. I haven't found that prevalent in the rural carrier organizations, and I want to say to you here now that the rural carriers will always have a nice warm spot in my heart, and if there is a warmer spot there it will be for the wives of these rural carriers. Thank you very much. (Applause.) I am happy to see all of you and hope I can attend your convention next year. (Applause.)

President Myers. Mr. Donaldson has two appointments, so we will excuse him, but I would like to have you all sing Service With a Smile first. (All stood and sang.)

Mr. Donaldson. Thank you so much. (Sergeant-at-Arms escorted the next guest to the platform. Applause, all standing.)

President Myers. Ladies, again we are privileged to have a distinguished guest with us this morning. He is here to say a few words in behalf of our work and efforts during the past year. I just feel spell-bound for words to express to you my appreciation for all that he has done for me and for us of the Auxiliary during this past year. He has assisted and cooperated in every way possible, and he has made us feel a part, a greater part of this organization than we have ever felt before. He has been very patient with me, and I am very happy to present to you our National President of the Association of Rural Letter Carriers. I am going to give him the

gavel and he can rap us down or do anything he wants to while he is here, it is his meeting. Mr. Walters.

Mr. Walters. Madam President and Members of your Official Board, Members of the Ladies Auxiliary: The only thing I know I will need this gavel for is to try to use it as a prop to keep from showing I am nervous. There is a lot of good looking women facing me this morning, I tell you, no wonder we are all proud to be rural carriers, look what we have to go home to every afternoon.

I like to bring greetings from the National Association to the strong arm that I like to refer to the Auxiliary as being. I apologize for not getting over here earlier during this convention, but the fact that we are holding our first convention after the great conflict and that the hotel conditions throughout the country are not such that we were able to have our conventions in one hotel have made it difficult. In fact, Des Moines was the only city that extended an urgent invitation, that could take care of this convention, and whatever we do while attending this convention, we should express our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Auxiliary and to the members of the Iowa Rural Letter Carriers Association for their efforts in making this convention a success. (Applause.) Unless you could have experienced those things which your board members and the president of your Auxiliary experienced last February, you cannot know just how anxious and how uneasy we were beginning to feel about where we would hold this convention, so my hat is off to the people in the state where the tall corn grows. (Applause again.)

Those of you who were at the opening exercises or opening of the joint session of this convention will remember that I made an announcement that we desired to depart a little from the usual procedure and to have all pictures made of the committees, and I would like to offer as a suggestion that we do not desire to have a 50th Anniversary edition of The National Rural Letter Carrier printed this October without having just as many pictures of the ladies in that edition as we have men. (Applause.) So, if it is in keeping with your policy, we would appreciate, and I am sure the rank and file of the membership would appreciate, having the pictures of your committees to go along with the pictures of the committees of our organization. If you desire to follow this procedure, please contact Mr. Shepherd in Parlor D at the Fort Des Moines Hotel and he will in turn make such arrangements as you need.

Now, Mr. Donaldson, our First Assistant Postmaster General, touched on the value of the Auxiliary with reference to legislation. I come to you this morning to pay the highest compliment that I am capable of stating in words—my appreciation and the appreciation of the rural carriers of this nation for the wonderful support the Auxiliary gave us in the legislation during especially the past two years. I have told this wherever I have gone since that time, at rural carriers' meetings, and those who have heard me before will please pardon the second reference, but I am anxious to get this story over to the Auxiliary because we are going to continue to need your support. I do not propose to be a prophet, but I am persuaded to believe that in the not too far distant future this organization that we call the National Rural Letter Carriers Association is going to be on the defensive rather than the offensive. You know as well as I know that if we should go into a

depression, the rural carriers emanating from small communities with a take-home pay of around \$3500 to \$3800 per annum are going to create a certain amount of jealousy among your friends and neighbors, and when that day arrives we will then be on the defensive, and we must be prepared and hope that the battle will never come.

So, my friends, keep your contacts with your members of Congress, keep the good will of your communities, of your neighbors, and those with whom you work daily, because the letters received from the friends of the rural carriers pay dividends. Members of Congress or the secretarial staff in the offices of several members of Congress told me that they had instructions from the congressmen or senators, as this mail was received from their constituents to let the members of Congress see the letters that were received from the ladies of his district or state, so that to my mind was sufficient evidence that a letter from the wife of a rural carrier perhaps had many times the value of a letter from the carrier himself. It was an unusual practice to say the least, to call on the Auxiliary to get out and help fight the legislative battle, but you came through one hundred percent, and I deeply thank you for your efforts.

I had hoped, trusted, and worked that during my tenure as national president we could amend or have on our statute books a widow's annuity that covered all employees. That part of our program has met with little or no success. The only encouraging feature with reference to retirement that I am able to report to you is the fact that as time moves on public law 134 will increase our annuity. Rural carriers retiring five, ten, or fifteen years in the future will, on the average, be retiring for around \$1500, \$1600 or \$1700 per annum, under the present provisions of public law 134. Now, as we move into that higher bracket of annuity I think it would be well for the Auxiliary to think seriously of the joint and survivorship plan of retirement. I always recommend to a rural carrier who is making plans to retire not to elect the type of plan of retirement, but to mail the blank to the Civil Service Commission and not answer question 14, simply state that he desires to be informed as to the amount he would receive under the several plans that are outlined in question 14. Then when he receives this information he is in better position to decide on the plan and the type of annuity that he thinks will best fit his individual case.

It is not going to be unusual for a rural carrier to retire under the joint survivorship plan and receive from \$1100 to \$1200 per annum, and at the date of his death his beneficiary, if she be somewhat near his age, receive half that amount, so though, of course, none of you would admit that your husband is old enough to retire, most of us have been in the service more than twenty years, so perhaps it is time for us to begin to think along those lines. It is most unusual for any group of government employees to receive two salary increases in one year. With the unity that now exists between the postal representatives in Washington and the support that we were able to receive from the field and from those of our neighbors and friends, this was possible. We can continue to make progress and to advance if we stay united and keep our feet on the ground, so to speak, that is, to have our program sound and not ask for more than we feel that we are entitled to and not ask for more than we

can support and back up to the members of Congress.

I assure you that it has been a distinct pleasure and honor to have had the privilege to work with the members of your National Board, with the members of the state boards of the several state auxiliaries, and for those hundreds of letters that we have received from individual auxiliary members we will ever be grateful. We have endeavored to give to you and to this organization the best that we had, and if we have made life a little happier for you or for any member of your family, then our efforts have not been in vain. We trust that as many of the Auxiliary members that can find time will come over and visit with us in our convention, and we assure you that you will at all times have a hearty welcome to come to the convention floor any time you desire.

I appreciate this opportunity of appearing before you and will, as long as I am permitted to continue in the service, be a loyal friend and supporter of the Auxiliary. I thank you. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you for your message to us, and I am speaking for the ladies of this convention, we wish to renew our pledge of support to the Association and will try to fulfill our motto "Cooperation Means Success." Now, before you leave the platform we have a little ditty we would like to sing, so will you stand here and take this, please? (All sang.)

Mr. Walters. Thank you and God bless you.

Pres. Myers. There is a little nine-year-old boy from the Juniors who has a piano selection for us at this time, so let's just sit back and relax, not think so hard as we have had to do for the last hour. This is Rock May from Missouri. (Piano solo followed.)

Thank you, Rock, that was delightful. Just think, only nine years old. He plays so beautifully. I imagine ten years from now when we come back you will be a grown-up boy and play for us again. (The Sergeant-at-Arms asked to present Mrs. John Barnes and was asked to do so.)

President Myers. I think that the lady who is on the platform now needs no introduction. I am happy to present one of the ladies who has had a great deal to do with the arrangements of this nice meeting place, Mrs. Barnes, who has a message.

Mrs. Barnes. Mrs. Myers, Distinguished Guests, and Friends: I didn't know a thing about this. If I had, maybe I would have at least thought of a few words to say, but I do want you to know that I have been very happy to have helped arrange your convention, and it has been wonderful to have you here and to see so many friends that I haven't seen for so many years. This is my twelfth national convention, so you know, in attending the national convention year after year there are some of these folks that get pretty close to one, and it has been indeed a pleasure to see all of you.

Mr. Barnes just finished talking over at the men's meeting, and of course he being from North Carolina, born and raised there and then came to Iowa, he especially greeted the North Carolina boys. Of course we are home nearly every two years, and the North Carolina boys told me I had been adopted, too, so to the North Carolina ladies here, I greet you. It has been indeed a pleasure to meet you, there are just a few of you that I had met before, but we are planning to make a trip to North Carolina pretty soon and we are going to come by and see all of you.

I want to say to all those that I haven't been able to greet personally, I am happy that you are here, and I have loved doing what I have done for you, but I couldn't have done it without the help of my pal Lilah, she has been a lot of help. It has been fun having you, too. Thank you. (Applause.)

Pres. Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Barnes. I am sure we deeply appreciate all that you have done, and we do hope that we have conducted ourselves as you would have us and will be invited to come again. (Mrs. Barnes said to come next year.)

Mrs. Dukes, Iowa Member. There are a great many people who have good fortune because they are born with it, some other people acquire it, but I am one of those fortunate people who have others give it to them, and it is my good fortune to represent Iowa and to present to our good friend Corinne Barnes a gift. I would like to say a little verse I have here, stolen from Edgar Guest, and I hope everyone of you will echo it in your hearts with me. This is a little gift to her from all of the girls in Iowa because we appreciate her so much. "We are wishing at this convention that we could but repay a portion of the gladness you have strewn along our way, and could we have one wish this year only it would be that we could be the kind of friend that you have been to we."

Mrs. Barnes. Thank you, Edna. I just wish that I deserved all of that, but, my Iowa folks, you are grand, you know what I think of you. My dearest friends are the carriers' wives of Iowa, and if anything would happen in my home, any tragedy, the first person that I would call would be rural carriers' wives. Thank you, Iowa, you are swell. (Applause.)

President Myers. Mr. Barnes was a former rural paymaster. He is the man who gave us the opening, and it was a beautiful opening. I hope he can come down and say a few words to us before we adjourn the convention.

We will proceed now with the order of business as given and we will have the first reading of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Ladies, you understand that this is only the first reading. There will be no additions here. If you have any, you will hand them in in writing to this committee after they have completed their report this morning, they may be added. We have the second reading and action tomorrow, so be sure you get your amendments or if you have anything to present to that Constitution and By-Laws Committee by noon of today. Will the chairman of this Constitution and By-Laws Committee come forward? This is just a reading. Mrs. Bird, our chairman.

(Mrs. Bird read the amendments which had been submitted to the committee.)

President Myers. That is the first reading. Thank you. If you have further recommendation, please get them to this committee in writing. Thank you, Mrs. Bird.

Now we will have the first reading of the report of the resolutions committee. The chairman is Mrs. Kirkhart. First reading only.

(Mrs. Kirkhart read the resolutions for the first time. They will be printed at the point in the proceedings where the action was taken upon them.)

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Kirkhart, for the first reading of the resolutions. I am going to ask Kathryn to explain something to you at this time.

Mrs. VandenBerge. I think many of you know that Mrs. Arthur Meyer, the Iowa immediate Past President, yesterday lost

her brother, but because she had obligations to this convention and had things she had to do she stayed today. Someone heard her say there was nothing that she wanted more than to receive the 100 percent cup for Iowa the present year. She had to leave a few moments ago, so will you of the Iowa delegation tell her we wanted to present the cup to her. The cup of course will now be awarded to Iowa along with the other states. We are sorry Christine could not be with us and sympathize with her under the circumstances.

President Myers. Thank you, Kathryn. Now, the next order of business is nomination of officers for next year. The chair will try to recognize the delegates as you wish to make nominations as quickly as possible, and I will try my best to give everyone the proper chance to make nominations, so don't try to hurry this through. Think it through, and I know you have.

First in order of nominations is for the office of President.

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. Madam President, we wish to nominate one who needs no introduction. Her record is her best recommendation. I know of no one more conscientious, she indeed has been much in service, possesses kindness and thoughtfulness. You know her even as we of that far Pacific state, Oregon. It is my most happy privilege and honor to nominate Margaret Myers for re-election.

Mrs. Myers. Thanks, Stella, deeply, but I decline the nomination.

Mrs. Baird, South Dakota. The lady that I would like to nominate I feel you all know well enough that I think I don't need to go into a long introduction. I would like to place the name of Kathryn Vandenberg of South Dakota in nomination for the office of National President.

President Myers. Are there further nominations? (Mrs. Roberts of Alabama seconded the nomination.) I believe we need no seconds unless just courtesy seconds. Are there further nominations?

Mrs. Greer, Arkansas. I would like to move that the nomination cease. (Seconded by Mrs. Clark of California, carried by "aye" vote, with no opposing vote.)

President Myers. Now we have nominations for Vice President.

Mrs. Cook, Texas. I wish to place before you in nomination for the office of Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary the name of Mrs. George H. Harries of San Antonio, Texas. Mrs. Harries has served ably on your Board as a committeewoman, I am sure you all know her ability and interest in the Auxiliary which she has proved.

In presenting Mrs. Harries in nomination we feel that she will fulfill the duties of this office as Vice President with honor, dignity, and efficiency.

Mrs. Schafer, Wisconsin. It is my pleasure and privilege to place in nomination the name of a candidate for the office of Vice President. I have known her personally for many years. She has a charming personality and is a most capable and efficient individual. She is a college graduate, having taught in our high schools for several years and having resumed her position as teacher as a patriotic gesture during the war years.

She has served as president of the Federated Women's Clubs in her community for two years and also as secretary. She has served in all the offices of her county R. L. C. A. Auxiliary; she has served as vice president and president of our state auxiliary. During her leadership in our state she has built the membership to its highest peak and has maintained it for a

period of ten years, our state being 100 percent during this entire time, in spite of the war years.

She has served on the National Board as your National Executive Committeewoman, and I am sure that those of you who know her, have learned to love and respect her as we do. She will execute the many duties of this office and represent your cause before the legislative bodies most capably.

In the interest of future leadership, I am happy to place in nomination the name of Evangeline Harriges of Wisconsin for National Vice President.

President Myers. (Maryland delegation gave a courtesy second.) Are there further nominations?

Mrs. Hall, Pennsylvania. Madam President, I move that nominations cease. (Seconded by Mrs. Tilman, New Mexico, carried.)

President Myers. Next we have nominations for National Secretary, the chair recognizes the delegate from North Carolina.

Mrs. Lanning. I have a name that I wish to present to this body of ladies. The lady I am going to name needs no introduction, her work speaks for itself. She is one of our own North Carolina girls that we are proud of, and I am sure that during her stay and doing her work she has made her own name. I would like to present the name of Nancy Myers.

President Myers. Are there further nominations?

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. I move that nominations be closed. (Seconded by Mrs. Gardner, South Carolina, carried.)

President Myers. Nominations are in order for the office of National Treasurer.

Mrs. Schultz, Illinois. Madam President: We ladies in Illinois would like to present the name of a lady who is well known to many of you because she has attended many of your conventions. At our state convention we decided that her books were such examples of accuracy and neatness, she was well qualified to be a member of the National Board.

She has given untiring effort and assistance to our state president because she has always had all the information at her fingertips. These are qualifications that are quite necessary for both our secretary and treasurer, and, therefore, I would like to place in nomination the name of Mrs. Glenn Folkers for the office of National Treasurer.

President Myers. Are there further nominations?

Mrs. Tara, Michigan. Madam President. We would like to present the name of a member from the Michigan Auxiliary as Treasurer. She has served us long and faithfully. She joined the Auxiliary in 1926; in 1928 became an officer in the state, and has served every year since. She has been our state secretary for the past nine years. She is very efficient, very capable, very pleasing in her personality, and for the past two years she has served as your National Service Secretary, so I feel that quite a good many of you are already quite well acquainted with her. She has not only been active in this organization, but active in all other organizations in her home town, a great church worker, works in the schools, in fact was a teacher, has done lots and lots of work in Red Cross, and was a first aid instructor for a long time during the war.

Michigan Auxiliary is 21 years old this year, so we are old enough to vote, and we voted at our state convention that we would endorse this lady as a candidate to run

for a place on the National Board. We have only had two women in this twenty-one years on the National Board, we furnished your first treasurer, and now we would like to furnish another one for you, if you see fit.

So I am very happy and proud to present for your consideration the name of Mrs. Alice Crist of Michigan as a candidate for Treasurer.

President Myers. Are there further nominations? If not, the chair declares nominations closed.

We have two members going off the Executive Committee unfortunately, so first in order we shall nominate someone for the two-year term. On account of our not having a national convention last year it happens that way. So, first is the executive committee lady for a two-year term. Nominations are in order.

Mrs. Bittle, New Jersey. Madam President, the very lovely lady I wish to nominate most of you know very well, for she has been in attendance at your national conventions for many years. She is a great worker in the New Jersey Auxiliary, and we are all mighty proud of her. I know that she would be a mighty fine asset to the National Auxiliary, and I know that she would give just everything she has in the work. Therefore, I wish to nominate for National Executive Committeewoman Mrs. John Hill of New Jersey.

Mrs. Edgar, Colorado. Madam President, I am very happy at this time to present the name of a candidate for the office of Executive Committee member for this two-year period. We have with us a very efficient lady, and we are very happy and proud to possess a person of this kind, and we do so wish to acknowledge everything that comes in her way. So at this time I want to present to you Mrs. Joe A. Hill of Colorado for the two-year term.

President Myers. Those are both Hills that are nominated, one Mrs. John and the other Mrs. Joe, one from New Jersey and one from Colorado, so let's be alert on that.

Mrs. DePriest, Tennessee. Madam President, officers, and ladies of the Auxiliary: Since Tennessee has never had a national officer, we feel this year we should have one. We have a lady very capable and a conscientious worker, very familiar with the work and would serve not for honor but for the good of the Auxiliary.

She served as state officer for six years and then a vacancy occurred and we brought her back and she has served for eight years again, and in behalf of the state auxiliary of the state of Tennessee, the state that has furnished three Presidents and Cordell Hull, and Secretary Keller who has done so much for rural carriers, I wish to present the name of Mrs. J. W. Capps of Tennessee for your earnest consideration.

President Myers. Are there further nominations for the two-year term?

Mrs. Gardner, Colorado. I move that the nominations cease. (Seconded by Mrs. Greer of Arkansas, and carried.)

President Myers. That gives us three nominations for the two-year term and next in order are nominations for a three-year executive committee member. Are there any nominations? (None) Are there no nominations for a three-year executive committee lady?

Mrs. DePriest. Madam President, I should like to withdraw my nomination for the two-year term and place it for the three-year term.

Mrs. Courtney, Parliamentarian. The house could accept it my unanimous vote.

President Myers. Since her motion has been accepted as a two-year term, it will be up to you ladies to decide that question here. With the unanimous vote of the convention she can withdraw the name.

Mrs. Walworth. I move that the lady from Tennessee be allowed to withdraw the nomination she made. (Seconded by Mrs. Winebarger, North Carolina. Motion carried unanimously by rising vote.)

Mrs. DePriest. Then I present in nomination the name of Mrs. J. W. Capps of Tennessee for the three-year term as Executive Committee member.

Mrs. Myers. The nominations are still open.

Mrs. Miller, Wisconsin. Madam President, I move that nominations be closed. (Seconded by Mrs. Spear of Kentucky, and carried.)

President Myers. That is all the nominations we have. Now I am happy to introduce to you the candidates you have nominated. (Introduced each in turn; they stood and were greeted with applause as they came forward.)

We might state here that Jean Stafflinger, your Treasurer, felt she did not wish to be a candidate this next year. She has done a wonderful job, we will give her praise and commendation a little later.

(In presenting the two Mrs. Hills, Mrs. Clark of California suggested as a means of identification the altitude of their states be remembered, that is, Mrs. Hill from New Jersey was short and Mrs. Hill from Colorado was tall.)

I shall ask the tellers to be ready for their work in the morning. Before we adjourn there are several announcements. (Announcements read) I declare the convention recessed now for lunch, to reconvene at 1:30 o'clock. Please be prompt.

FOURTH SESSION, THURSDAY P. M. AUGUST 15, 1946

Meeting called to order at 1:45 P.M. by the Vice President, Mrs. VandenBerge.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Our president has gone to do some work at the Association meeting and has given us permission to go ahead with the business. The more nearly caught up we will be and the more nearly on time we can be dismissed. So we will have first the invocation by Mrs. Lanning of North Carolina.

Mrs. Lanning. Set apart, we beseech Thee, O Lord, these thy servants to the work whereunto Thou hast called them. Endow them plenteously with heavenly wisdom; grant them Thy grace that they may be Thy followers full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, ruling in the fear of God. Make them faithful unto death, and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, may they receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Amen.

Vice President VandenBerge. Mrs. Cratsley of New York has asked permission to speak.

Mrs. Cratsley. Madam Vice President, National Officers, Ladies of the Convention: I want to correct as far as possible an error made this morning which may have seemed a lack of courtesy to Jean on the part of the New York delegation. I assure you nothing of that sort was intended. As delegate at large, I alone am at fault. My failure to present Jean's name was due to the fact that she had not expected to take the office again and I was not too familiar with the customs of the National Auxiliary. Our state convention does

not adhere to that custom, and I want to say that I am truly sorry.

Mrs. Stafflinger. Would I like to answer back—the last chance I will have to talk at you. I didn't think very much about it until several of the states approached me and said, "We would like to have heard you say no." My own state knew I hadn't planned on running, and it was entirely an oversight on their part. I hadn't said anything to them, and there was no necessity for their making this apology, but I am glad to say at this time that I should have refused in any case and tell you I have been most happy to serve you the past six years, and I am pleased to pass the office over to another, but I am sorry to leave the Board. It has been wonderful working for you and with you, and I hope for many years to come, I will still be one of you, and thanks a lot, New York State, for sort of saving face for me.

Mrs. VandenBerge. I think, Jean, the ladies in this convention know how New York feels about you, and we will miss you next year. Jean was on the board before I was and it would seem that she should always be here.

Now, Mrs. Gladden is here with her Junior officers. She would like to present them to you. She says she is having a very fine session with the Juniors, and I know as an organization we are proud of the Juniors, who are really, after all, the hope of America. Without further ado I present Mrs. Gladden, your Junior Sponsor.

Mrs. Gladden. Madam Vice President, Officers, Ladies of the Convention: I would like to read this brief report to you. I wanted to tell you that I did write a little report for the National paper last year, and this year I have written several letters to Juniors and to folks who want to know how to organize a Junior Group in their states. I will be happy to answer any letters, do anything I can to help organize the juniors in the states, because it is important to us in the national that you have a president or secretary that will come and give us a lovely report from your meetings.

We have had 68 reservations of boys and girls that are sons and daughters, and two guests. I think 70 is a wonderful number for the convention following what we have been through in the past four years. I want to say many thanks to the Board, to the Iowa ladies, and to all of you for all the courtesies, and all the nice things that you have done for me while I have been here. I particularly want to thank Mrs. Dukes. If she is in the room I would like her to stand and take a bow. She has been my right-hand man and done all the things that needed doing. She has been grand, given me so much of her time and talent. (Applause as Mrs. Dukes stood.)

Without further ado, I would like to introduce these boys and girls to you.

President next year—Morgan Fryman of Texas.

Vice President—Roby Patrick, Virginia.

Secretary—Bettie Whitman, Arkansas.

Treasurer—Harry Dukes, Iowa.

(Applause.) I think they are a fine group of boys and girls. I think our president has a word for you.

Morgan Fryman. We of the officers of the Juniors want to thank you. We appreciate the offices we have and want to try to influence you to get Mrs. Gladden back for next year. We like her very much, she has really done a swell job. (Applause.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. We are so happy you are having such a fine convention.

Mrs. Gladden. I have a special number I

would like to present. Harriet and Edwin Peterson are going to play a piano number for you. They are from New Jersey. (Music.)

I am happy to introduce one of my Ohio girls, Miss Beary, who will sing for you. (Music.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. Thank you very much, Mrs. Gladden. We are so very pleased to have you come, we hope you can come again, boys and girls, and have a good time this afternoon.

At this time the Mileage Committee will report. Our Parliamentarian says we may do it this way in order not to consume so much time from the floor, when it is so hard to hear each other! If you have a correction, it is entirely proper for you to meet the committee right outside the door on the mezzanine floor during the meeting. There isn't any point to all the delegates going at the same time, however. I think you can cooperate so we can get that taken care of in the meeting without taking too much of your time or keeping you away and keeping the Mileage Committee out. We will be ready for a final report at the close of the session, because it takes a long time to write the checks, and I know you want them to be ready when you are ready to go home.

Mrs. Bartee, will you come forward, please?

(Mrs. Bartee read her report—each stood as her state was called and acknowledged the corrections of the same. Complete report as finally adopted appears at a later place in these proceedings.)

This now is a first reading. If those people who have corrections to make will see Mrs. Bartee, then if it is your pleasure later in the session we can hear only the corrections and adopt the report. You can decide whether you want the complete report read or just the corrections. Thank you for being so cooperative.

We will have at this time the State Mother reports, beginning with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Harriges of Wisconsin.

Mrs. Harriges. Ladies of the Convention: Now comes the time on our program when you are going to tell us of the deeds that you have accomplished this past year. I know your delegates are all anxious to tell about all of these accomplishments. Since I am the first on the program, I am going to ask my daughters who represent their states to please come forward, the delegates from California, Idaho, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Washington, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and form a line in front of the table.

I am proud of everyone of my daughters, and their deeds this year will speak for their ability. The first one, taking them alphabetically, is Mrs. Maurice Clark of Exeter, California, who has been president for the past two years. She has edited a newspaper on The California Carrier and Wife activities in their group. Mrs. Clark, will you give your report, please.

Mrs. Clark. The Auxiliary to the California Rural Letter Carriers' Association during 1945-1946 has cooperated in honoring the wives of retired carriers in the Book-giving contest, the 100% membership of counties, the cancelled stamp poster or print contest, and in the selling of more than our quota of "The R.F.D."

Our membership has increased by more than 10 percent, and is scattered throughout 16 organized units, holding many meetings during the year. The Board members attend many of these and the president attended thirty-three, aside from the state

convention presenting National Program in person.

We have urged the carriers and the ladies to hold a part of each meeting jointly so that the wives might learn first hand what their husbands' problems are, and be able to discuss them together at home.

For the past four years we have had as our local state project the publication of "The News Letter" which the editor sends to each carrier in the state, whether an Association member or not. At our state convention in Sacramento on July 5th and 6th we raised our dues from \$1.00 to \$2.00 in order to have sufficient funds to carry on the News Letter. The carriers help us to the extent of fifty cents per member. The incumbent auxiliary president has been the editor of our paper. The board is in charge of the project.

We were honored and happy to have with us at convention our National Vice President, Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge of Corsica, South Dakota, who, because of close schedule, arrived by plane as we adjourned for the afternoon for the meetings of the various committees. Her addresses were very instructive. Her being the editor of the Auxiliary page in the National Rural Letter Carrier helped to bring the National Auxiliary very close to us. Since her husband had been editor of their state paper, she was also helpful in that she could advise us in our board meeting concerning our project. We thank you for sending her to us.

The 1947 convention will be held at Ventura in July, 1947.

Mrs. Harriges. Next is Mrs. William B. Lindau of Murtaugh, Idaho. She has been president for two years. They sold their quota of the Golden Jubilee Book. Mrs. Lindau.

Mrs. Lindau. Our state convention was held July 15th and 16th in the Hotel Boise, Boise, Idaho. We had a somewhat larger attendance than last year, sixteen women being registered. No one reported more than four meetings held during the year. One district, not organized last year, had been revived and sent three delegates.

No outstanding piece of work had been done. Several reported books given, but didn't give an itemized account. Since making this report, two books valued at \$4.00 have been given. Several others were trying the posters and others were starting route histories. No histories were brought to the convention.

The officers for 1946-47 are: President, Mrs. Wm. B. Lindau, Murtaugh; Vice President, Mrs. C. O. Smithson, Buhl; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Nampa; Delegate at Large, Mrs. Lindau; regular delegate, Mrs. A. G. Mayse.

Twenty "Golden Jubilee" books (our quota) were sold.

Mrs. VandenBerge was very well received and gave the women some very valuable information.

One district had made a quilt top—red, white, and blue, the Grange finished it, and it was sent to European relief.

Idaho is very much in favor of continuing the "Inklings."

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. L. L. Vise of Licedale, Mississippi, has been president one year. She has six definite goals to work on for her year's activities. Mrs. Vise.

Mrs. Vise. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to bring you greetings from Mississippi and to submit to you a brief report of our year's work. Our potential membership is 687 with a paid-up membership of 223, an increase of 49 over last year, and with 12 100% counties.

We have had a very successful year climaxed with a most inspiring and profitable state convention in July. A great many counties have been organized for the first time and the interest exemplified throughout the state is most encouraging. I am happy to state that Mississippi won by a large majority in the friendly membership contest with West Virginia.

In the beginning of the year the president assigned each officer a congressional district to Mother during the year. This proved very interesting and helpful.

We have had new copies printed of our Constitution and By-Laws and have distributed same over the state. I consider that the Book-giving contest is the highlight in the year's work. There have been 61 good books given in the name of the Auxiliary, and the value is \$86.25. Several of these books being "The R.F.D." by Gwendolyn M. Aaberg, which were placed in various libraries in the state by members of the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. W. K. Kirkhart of Oklahoma has been president for two years. She has laid special emphasis on the welfare work in that state. Mrs. Kirkhart.

Mrs. Kirkhart. With V-J Day in the background and a prayer of thanksgiving in our hearts, Oklahoma began its auxiliary year October 1st. The year's work and the peace program outlined by our national president were planned.

All districts were contacted by the officers through the year. The first district met at Lake Claremore for a basket dinner and meeting, after which the Will Rogers memorial was visited. Only those who have been through it can realize its loveliness.

The Second District met at Waggoner and a fine crowd enjoyed a basket dinner and meeting at the Community Building. Sweetpeas from the Kirkhart garden were used on all the small tables and afterward the ladies took them home with them.

The Fourth District met at Ballard Park near Tishomingo. A good meeting was held.

The Fifth District meeting was held in Guthrie Park. After a lovely dinner, meetings were held in the Community Building.

The Sixth District held two meetings in the Post Office building at Chickasha. The Seventh District meeting was held at Lake Park in Elk City, and the Eighth District held its first meeting at Enid. Dinner was enjoyed together at O'Mealey's Cafeteria. The meetings followed. The second meeting of the eighth district was held at Fairview with Ross Rizzley, 8th District Congressman, as guest speaker. Separate meetings followed.

At all county and district meetings the peace program was stressed. Instructions were given for filling out various forms including Beneficiary, Retirement, Compensation, and so forth. The four options were explained and bills pending in the national Congress discussed. Welfare reports were taken and copies of the R.F.D. were sold, 87 in all.

In March the association and auxiliary held a joint board meeting at the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City to plan for the state meeting. After a luncheon the boards held separate meetings.

The state meeting was held at the Huckins in Oklahoma City July 7, 8, and 9. It was a happy, friendly convention. The joint session was outstanding, starting off with the address of welcome by Oklahoma's Governor, Robert S. Kerr. The commemoration of the Golden Jubilee and the honoring of the retired carriers and their wives were unusual. The joint session closed with a memorial which was most impressive,

honoring our war dead, as well as our deceased members. As the names of the deceased were read and the candles extinguished, a large golden bell lighted up to show a cross shining through and Taps were played in the distance.

In the absence of a National Auxiliary representative, President Walters not only gave a fine address, but answered the ladies' questions in regard to legislation.

The Auxiliary session closed with the election of officers, followed by a prayer for world peace and unity.

The following welfare report, which is incomplete, was turned in: Books, 525, value \$1,050; papers and magazines \$9,000; garments 1,005, value \$1,500; Red Cross service 3,190 hours; \$800 funds to cancer; polio, etc.; \$2,583.70. Hours to youth service 2,299; canned food 50 quarts; bouquets to sick, 150; money for food \$60.00; one child adopted; all buying bonds. (Applause.) Our membership has increased, though not as much as we had hoped. Our present membership is 457, 45 paid for next year.

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. W. J. Eastman of Washington is the new president for the second time in ten years. I have noticed that they have a large increase in membership. Mrs. Eastman.

Mrs. Eastman. I am not very proud of our report. I don't think our past president, Mrs. Martin, tooted her horn enough.

Washington state held its annual convention July 8th and 9th in the city of Wenatchee. A very good crowd was in attendance.

We have 39 counties in our state. Three of these have no carriers. One has no eligible members, four are unorganized. We had thirteen one hundred percent counties this year and six hundred percent units.

Our potential membership is 260 and our membership to date is 203. We hope we can secure the other 57 by this time next year.

We participated in all the contests this year with the exception of the route history. Our history is, I believe, up to date as our vice president has been very careful in her assignments.

We made a gain this year of 22 members. There has been a great deal of community work accomplished throughout the state by our auxiliary women this past year, of which we are very proud. We have also worked hand in hand with our men for the betterment of their jobs.

In closing I would like to thank all the national officers for the help they have so untingly extended to us through the past year. We, without that help, sometimes would have found the going a bit rough. I might add we gave away 80 books valued at \$200, and we sold all of our books.

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. A. L. Gardner, South Carolina, is the new vice president. She has also held other state offices. Mrs. Gardner.

Mrs. Gardner. South Carolina has been asked to make a brief report of her accomplishments during the year. Have we accomplished anything? Our list of achievements is small, but our plans for the future are great.

Our Spring Rally was held in Columbia with Thos. G. Walters as main speaker. The meeting was a very beneficial one for all present.

County and District meetings were held all over the state, with a great deal of interest manifested.

The state meeting was held in Columbia the 9th and 10th of July, with our State Mother, Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges as our National representative. She gave us a lot

of help during the year and a very instructive address at the convention. It was indeed a pleasure to have her in our midst.

Only four counties were 100 percent in membership this year, but this is twice as many as we had last year, so if we keep on doubling our hundred percent counties, we can reach the 100 percent state goal.

Ten books were donated during the year at a cost of \$13.50. The officers were very loyal and cooperative and did much to advance the Auxiliary work.

Our membership is 235, which is an increase of 25 over last year.

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. Henry Hannasch, new president of Iowa. Incidentally, you might be interested in knowing she is the mother of four girls and four boys. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hannasch. Iowa is proud to report a 100 percent membership with 62 of the 99 counties one hundred percent plus. Our membership numbers 1053.

The Iowa Auxiliary during the past two years had adopted a program in which they endeavored to bring happiness to others. We bought a Compo Invalid Walker for the veterans at the Des Moines Hospital. We sent many song books to the hospital at Knoxville, and purchased two record players for Schick Hospital at Clinton. Besides sending books and Christmas boxes, we gave to the Blood Plasma Fund, also the Telephone Fund, in the amount of \$500.00, also purchased books, amounting to \$120.00 during the year.

Under the leadership of our state president, Mrs. Arthur J. Meyer, we reached our hundred percent goal, and abided by our slogan: "Working for Unity, Striving for Strength."

Mrs. Harriges. Mrs. Fred Miller, president for the past two years, reports for my state, Wisconsin. Mrs. Miller.

Mrs. Miller. I am very happy to give the report for Wisconsin, because we feel with the very efficient help we have in doing our work throughout the year, we are able to reach the goal we started toward at the beginning.

Our membership is 896, retired carriers' wives 123. Wisconsin is 100 percent for the 10th successive year, an accomplishment of which we are very proud. 45 counties were 100 percent in membership. There are 35 counties that reported over half of their membership by June 15th.

The state officers visited as many counties as was possible, but due to poor tires and poor train service, it was hard to go to all the county meetings.

Many letters were written and suggested plans sent out, which helped a great deal.

Our own Evangeline Harriges was our State Mother, and as I said in the beginning, always very helpful.

Wisconsin auxiliary members are all active in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliaries, and are doing everything possible to help all returned soldiers. They are all active in Red Cross work and in all other programs which are a benefit to society in general. Many of them have been teaching school the past few years during our very definite shortage of teachers. In fact, we feel Wisconsin is an all around hundred percent state.

Mrs. Harriges. Thank you, daughters, for such splendid reports, and may you have greater success in the future.

Mrs. VandenBerge. I am sure you all found some ideas from those reports to take home. Would you like to stand and take a stretch right now? I was going to let you sing, but word comes that our presi-

dent is waiting in the lobby with a Congressman. I presume it is Jennings Randolph, whom we were to have heard yesterday.

President Myers. The Congressman has to appear at the men's meeting, he has just arrived, but the men told me I could bring him here before he comes to them. (He was escorted to the platform, music and applause, all standing.)

They tell me you ladies have been working hard in my absence. You know I am very happy to hear those good words, but we did have a full program this afternoon.

I am very happy at this time to present to you Congressman Jennings Randolph, who was to be our speaker yesterday and unable to be here, but he is here now and will have a message for you. Mr. Randolph.

Mr. Randolph. Mrs. Myers and young ladies. (Applause.) It was Longfellow who said that age is opportunity no less than youth itself, though in another dress, and I thought ladies dressed properly, so age is not materially important, is it? There are however, I assure you a few West Virginia women here. Will you hold up your hands? Fine, that makes me feel at home, of course, when I see those from my own state present. When I think of West Virginia, of course I naturally think of Oregon and all of the states represented, because we are in truth just one united republic, especially in an era when the circumference of living of all peoples has been joined in common cause.

Now, I had some correspondence with the president of your Auxiliary. I told her that I didn't believe that I would find it possible, on account of an engagement that I had in West Virginia yesterday afternoon, to come to Des Moines on account of the closing of the airport, but the airport reopened, and I left Washington last night at 10:30, came to Chicago, arriving at 2:00 A. M., was to have left on another plane at 5:00 A. M., due to arrive here at 7:15. There was a very bad weather condition over this area, and for that reason I couldn't get out of Chicago until 9:30 this morning, arriving here at approximately one o'clock this afternoon. I arrived, but my luggage did not, and I hurried to the barber shop and was given a very quick shave, and without the benefit of a clean shirt I met Mrs. Myers.

Now, I am only going to take one or two moments. First of all I express to you my very sincere appreciation of the gracious invitation which you tendered for me to participate in your meeting. I think that it is important to say to you that when I went to the Congress of the United States in March, 1933, having been elected in November, 1932, the first recommendation that I had to make for a postmastership was at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. That is where the Shenandoah and Potomac meet and flow on to the National Capital. I think I should admit to you that that recommendation was not for a man, but for a woman, so the first appointment that I had to make through recommendation was of a woman, and I am happy to say that she is still on the job, Mrs. Marquette, a very wonderful person and devoted public servant.

When I speak of Harper's Ferry I might say to you it is only a few miles from Thurston and Halltown, and Uvilla, the three communities where, in 1896 the first rural free delivery was undertaken in the United States, and within the last twenty hours it has been my privilege to drive over a part of one of those first routes.

We have come a long way since the

beginning of the rural free delivery system in West Virginia, because that is where it had its birth. William L. Wilson, a predecessor of mine in the Congress of the United States, and at the time of the rural free delivery's inauguration, the Postmaster General of this country, lived at Charles Town. Harry Gibson was the first rural free delivery carrier in the United States. He died approximately ten years ago. Ike Strider, the second carrier, is also dead, and Melvin Strider, a brother of Ike, is the only man who is living of the three carriers who began that service in 1896, and if the members of the Auxiliary want to do something that I think is fundamentally right, they will cause the men of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association to see to it that through this association you put an appropriate plaque or memorial in the cemetery where Harry Gibson, the first rural mail carrier of this country today lies in an unmarked grave. I think the rural letter carriers of this country will want to see, perhaps, that the expression of remembrance is carried forward. Are there any ladies here from Charles Town today? None at all. I think we have two, do we not? I know Mr. Eby is here, I am not sure whether his wife is present. Who are they? (Someone answered Mrs. Eby and her daughter.) And Mr. Eby is a rural carrier out of Charles Town in Jefferson County.

Of course I think that any convention is the better for the women participating in it. It is said that a certain gentleman was having trouble with his wife, and finally down at the corner grocery store the boys decided to make a joke, but it would be a very serious joke, that would cause him perhaps to come to his senses. So one of them decided to attire himself as the Devil and hide behind a tree in a wooded section between the store and the man's home, and so as he went his way that night, this husband who had had trouble with his wife, out from behind the tree jumped the Devil with red attire and protruding horns, and said to the husband, "Do you know who I am?" "Yes, I know who you are." "Who am I?" The man answered, "Well, you look like the Devil." "I am. I not only look like the Devil, I am the Devil." "O, yes, I know you very well, I married your sister."

Well, now, I don't mean to say that there are always devils and she-devils, because that is not true. The story is told of a gentleman who in the olden days when building materials were available and craftsmanship didn't have to be handled through just union workers, before his marriage decided to build a cottage for his wife-to-be. After they were married he carried her literally over the threshold. "Sweetheart, this is your own little world," he said, and some of the neighbors tell me that for the last 25 years they have been fighting for the world's championship.

I see here in Des Moines a spirit of happiness between the men and women, and that is the way it should be, but if we are to have widows, we must have a better annuity for widows, and I have had something to do with the legislation which would give a preferred status, a proper status to a widow's annuity. I don't know whether you are in favor of a larger sum of money for the widows of the carriers or not, I guess perhaps you would be, but it is not just a thought, it is expressed in legislation which is receiving the attention of the Congress of the United States, nothing definitely done in the 79th Congress recently adjourned, but every reason to believe that during the 80th Congress con-

vening in January of 1947 something can be done of a constructive nature in connection with this meritorious legislation.

Mrs. Myers and members of the Auxiliary, as I take my seat I want to say this to you from my heart, and I trust that it reaches into your hearts—it was not so many months ago that I sat one Sunday afternoon in a little chapel of the Presbyterian Church in my home community at Elkins, West Virginia. We had gathered there to pay a deserved tribute of memory to a young man, Phil Williams, Junior, who, when twenty, was cut down by the enemy in Europe and never returned home again. I didn't think of Phil Williams as a soldier that afternoon, I remembered Phil Williams as a little boy. He was born in the block where I lived and I watched him as he came along the street holding his hand upward in his mother's. I remember one time, impetuous always as he was, he started across the road and I grabbed him back from an automobile. I think that made us closer, because always through the years I helped him some as he played football, basketball, and baseball, we went swimming together, we fished together. This was a boy growing tall and strong. He went to our State University, and then one day he was called to serve in the armed forces of the United States.

Phil Williams, Junior, twenty years of age, as I have said, never came back to his family nor to his community nor to his nation, and I have wondered over and over again why is it that the Phil Williamses multiplied into millions of young men who never have an evil thought against any individual or any nation, are the boys who have to do the fighting in all the wars in which this country engages. And you say, "Why do you tell the story to us this afternoon?" It is simply for this reason—if ever peace, permanent and just, is to come to America and to the world, it will be spearheaded not only by the thoughts, but by the affirmative actions of the women of America. It will never come through any other avenue of approach other than your united efforts toward building firmly for a world at peace. I want you to do something more than think about it. I know you want to do it, and I know you can do it. Make an affirmative stand in this country toward our participation with the other nations of the world in the keeping of the peace of the world. If we do not do it, in the years ahead your sons or daughters will not have the opportunity of meeting as do you this afternoon in a convention in the United States of America, for if world war 3 comes, we will destroy the semblance of the civilization which we believe in this country we have wrought, and you say now to yourselves, I know, inwardly, "What can I do about it, I am helpless. There are forces everywhere which cause war, and I can't thwart them."

I say to you that those people who believe there are forces and powers which cause war other than men, they are wrong, and if man makes war, man can unmake war, and is it too big a task, is it too great a challenge to the women of America that they join in the unmaking of wars which, after all, are made not by forces which we can't see, but made by the evil which men and countries themselves do, not only far away, but sometimes here at home.

It was Tennyson who said, so long ago, "Earth at last a warless world, a single race, a single tongue." I hope that the women of this convention, interested of course in legislation, interested in their husbands as they do a necessary job for the

Government of the United States, interested in your homes and in your communities, will somehow or other widen your circumference of thinking and living and make a great force for the keeping of the peace of all mankind. Thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Myers. Thank you, Congressman Randolph. I think I can sum up the thoughts of the ladies of this convention in just a little rhyme. As I sat here wondering how I could express our appreciation for your appearance here, I thought of this:

Since the happiest business in the world

Is that of making friends

And no investment on the street

Pays higher dividends.

For life is more than stocks and bonds

And love than rate percent,

And you who give in friendship's name

Shall reap as you have spent.

Now, ladies, I am going to ask you to stand, and we are going to sing "Let Me Call you Sweetheart."

(The Congressman retired and the ladies enjoyed community singing for a few moments.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. Iowa has requested that their two Past National Officers be presented. Will Mrs. Courtney and Mrs. Durrell please come to the front of the room?

Mrs. Ruth Miner, Iowa. Mrs. Durrell and Mrs. Courtney, for your devotion, loyalty, and unwavering help and advice, we the ladies of the Rural Letters Carriers Auxiliary of Iowa, wish to present you this little gift. I am doubly happy to present you ladies with these gifts because I am from that district and from Lilah's county, and we are proud of our past national officers.

Mrs. Durrell. Thank you kindly. It has been a pleasure to see our girls tripping about helping out. Thirteen years ago you helped me so faithfully and loyally, then this year all I have to do is just come, but I did sit in my rocking chair at home and make several of these little corn souvenirs that you have. I do thank you a lot. I love everyone of you.

Mrs. Courtney. I, too, want to thank the Iowa ladies. I assure you this gift is a surprise, but I shall cherish it, though one of the things that I have cherished the most all through my tenure of office as state and national president was the co-operation and loyal friendships of my own Iowa ladies. It has been grand and still is, and I don't believe that I will ever enter into any work with any group of women who can be more loyal and kind than our Iowa group, and, Iowa, I do thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mrs. VandenBerge. For National I will say, thank you, Iowa, for giving us two such fine national officers.

President Myers. We are running behind a little bit, but if you knew how important it is to have Congressmen coming before groups like this, you would be patient I know.

At this time we are going to give a man from Ohio permission to use five minutes' time to present to you a problem from that state, something for you to think about, Mr. Young of Ohio.

Mr. Young. Madam National President, Delegates, and Guests. I deem this a privilege to have an invitation up here so I can give, if possible, a little help to your organization.

I am aware of the fact that our payroll would be much less if it hadn't been for the

good work of your national officers of the Ladies Auxiliary, therefore, we would like to help them in every way possible. However, I would like to see the membership get up as high as the men's membership, though, I imagine that would be an impossibility.

I have a little pet story that I usually tell to the men, but after hearing what a man was last night and what a census taker was, I don't think you will mind hearing this story. You know, after all, money is not yours, it is just yours to use and God gave this to you because you have done some little thing to earn it, and that reminds me of the little story that I often tell of the old darkey woman whose husband sued her for divorce and got it. She came out of the courthouse and looked up at it, of course there were some arguments to whom the children belonged, and she saw the word "justice." "There ain't no justice" she said, "my husband sued me for divorce, got it, they gave him the house and mule, and now they done give him the chillen, and they didn't belong to him no how." So, after all, this money doesn't belong to us, and if you can just spend a little of it for the benefit of the organization, the pay-rolls will always be a little higher.

What I want to talk to you about is a grave marker for the Ladies Auxiliary. Perhaps some of you don't know I was the originator of the grave marker for the men's organization. I conceived the idea that a grave marker would be a mighty fine thing. I don't know how it is set up in your county, parish, or district, but in our county we have a flower committee and we go to them and ask them if they would rather have a grave marker or the flowers, and most of the time they say they would rather have the grave marker, and there have been several given there in our county and they are proud of them. They last on and on and on.

Now, at your request, I came here to explain the grave marker. As I have worked this out with the Gordon B. Miller Company in Cincinnati, they will not accept a contract for a cheap one. The men's is made out of oxidized bronze, you have seen the pictures. There is an outer ring and an inner ring and the words National Rural Letter Carriers Association inside, a horse and buggy and a letter, and on that letter a postage stamp, a profile of George Washington, all raised and polished, made out of the best bronze. It won't chip with the weather or tarnish. The remainder of the marker is of oxidized bronze, and it makes a very pretty setup.

I have corresponded with your national officers, knew how much work it was to work out anything of that sort, and I offered what little help I could be, and we have worked out something. I think it was in 1941 in Cincinnati that you passed a resolution to adopt a grave marker for the Ladies Auxiliary, and materials have been so tied up since then we couldn't even have any made for the men's organization, but now I am assured we can provide those, they are proceeding to make those for our men's organization at \$4.50, which is cheaper than a nice basket of flowers.

What we have worked out with the co-operation of the Ladies Auxiliary and our Secretary is something like this. We have the outer and inner rings, the same as the men's and around it Ladies Auxiliary. For the active members we could change that to "of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association," and the airplane which is your emblem, and then "organized 1924." You could work out whatever you care to. The

men have a little emblem riveted on, so many years of service. This is not entirely worked out, and I have just one suggestion, which is that on your emblem you haven't the airmail envelope, and as we are going to put those emblems on the plaque in the State Capitol grounds in Ohio at the buckeye tree which is planted there, we would like very much to put the airmail envelope there also, so I think a great deal of this has been left with the secretary, Mrs. Myers, and I hope you will be able to finish up the project. I thank you.

President Myers. Thank you, Mr. Young; and I am sure if anyone is interested you will contact Mr. Young or the National Secretary. He will leave information with her and she can inform you as to where you can get the information you require.

I will ask Gladys Grathouse to come forward and take the spot I promised her on this program, our Past National President.

Mrs. Grathouse. Madam Chairman: I know you are tired, ladies, and I am not going to take very long, but I know that you are going to be happy to know that finally your project for 1943-44 has been finished. The idea that was formulated in the mind of Mrs. Whitlock of Nebraska was wonderful, and the way that you girls helped to carry that plan through has also been wonderful.

As you know, we started with a project to buy a disaster unit to send overseas, but before we had gotten very far we found out that we couldn't send it overseas, there was no more demand for it, so then we went ahead with the clubmobile idea. By the time we got to Cincinnati we had not only enough money to get one, but to buy two, and we also found out at that meeting we could not send them overseas, they would have to be used for domestic purposes. We thought we had it all worked out, we were going to have those clubmobiles working by that fall, but it is slow work, we have had letters going, we have had telegrams going, we have had telephone calls, everything, trying to get this straightened out, and so I didn't want to come to this national convention without our having this all finished. I had some letters to read here, but I know you are too tired for me to do that, but finally in May of this year I got the word from national headquarters that an ambulance had been bought for the General Hospital and a picture would be sent right away. I was going to have a picture in the paper. I waited and waited, but no picture came. Three weeks ago I frantically wrote the office and told them I didn't want to come without the pictures so I could make a report. They called and said they thought we had the pictures long ago, it was slow work, and they would see that we got them, but two or three days before the convention they still weren't there, so I sent a wire and Mr. Smith called and said they would send them to Des Moines, but when I got here they weren't here until Monday night about two o'clock when I went to the room the pictures had come and the next day a letter. I am going to put the pictures in the back of the room so you can see them, and the last letter I think you will want to hear: "I do hope the pictures of the ambulance which was donated to the Crile General Hospital by the Ladies Auxiliary to the R.L.C.A. reach you on time in good condition. The Post Office assured me they would reach you in ample time. I want to explain to you the delay. The ambulance arrived in May just when the army was leaving the hospital and the Veterans Administration was taking it over. The pic-

tures were not taken as originally scheduled. The Veterans Administration accepted the ambulance from the army and you and put it into constant use. It has been invaluable in moving ill and handicapped patients since June. It was in such steady use it was difficult to find the time to take the picture.

"Crile General Hospital and the American Red Cross want to express sincere appreciation to your organization for this generous and valuable gift. We regret the delay in getting the pictures to you, but we hope you will understand. The Veterans Administration has asked that I inquire from you the commercial name of the color. They are so pleased with the color of green they would like to make the entire motor crew conform with it.

"Thank you so much for your interest in the welfare of our patients. Very sincerely yours, Florence Tupper, Field Director."

Ladies, I know you are as happy over this as I am and that you will be quite glad to go back to your states and carry the report that the wonderful work they did that year proved that "Cooperation Means Success." (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you so much, Gladys. I am sure we were all interested in that project, and now that it is completed I think we owe Gladys a great big hand for carrying that through. Let's give her a big hand. (Applause.)

At this time I would like to have Clara Winter, our chairman of the Canceled Stamp Poster Contest, show the winning posters. The judges have been here and judged, but could not stay. We are sorry about that. I want Clara to show the winning posters here and take them to the men's meeting and show them there, but to bring them back here again. The men are interested and would like to see all the posters if they were in one place.

Mrs. Winter. The judges said when I first wrote them they couldn't imagine what this was like and they thought it would be simple, but they were delighted to see what beautiful work you had done. They wished they could give a prize to everyone, everyone deserved a prize, and I thought so, too. You don't know how much I appreciate what you have done to help make this contest a success.

The judges were Mrs. Elsie Temple, who is Art Director of the Advertising Department of Younkers. She said she really wished she could have these posters to display in Younkers where they have unusual features. Mrs. Guy Lambert, President of the Y. W. C. A., Des Moines, and Miss Edna Squires, teacher of art in the elementary schools of Des Moines. These judges were recommended by Miss Bernice Setzer of the public schools of Des Moines. They were delighted with the display, and the first prize goes to Pennsylvania, second to Oregon, and honorable mention to North Carolina, Colorado, and Indiana. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you so much. This has been such a wonderful project, and I am really delighted with it.

Coming back, I found you have been given one of your state group reports, and now we are going to have Lola Harries' state group reports at this time.

Mrs. Harries. Madam President: The fine group of states that I had as state daughters this year is ready to report. Their cooperation the past year has been greatly appreciated, and now I shall ask Colorado, Florida, New Hampshire, Maine, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas to come up.

The first state that I shall ask to report

is Colorado. I have asked these girls to make their reports brief, but to tell lots of good things, so I hope that is what they will do. We will hear from Mrs. Joe Hill of Colorado.

Mrs. Hill. Colorado this past year has accomplished a number of "Firsts" and several progressive steps have been made. This report will summarize them briefly.

1. The Auxiliary purchased a hektograph for use of officers, thus defraying printing costs. This has proved quite useful.

2. A definite program was outlined and letters mailed each member in this regard on November 19, 1945.

3. Photo Album project—the object being for each person to send a picture or snap, with a short sketch, to the chairman. This created considerable interest at the state convention and district meetings.

4. Route History project. Eleven were completed, and the story of Rural Route No. 1, Pine, Colorado, was awarded first place and is on exhibit here.

5. Canceled Stamp Posters. Four very beautiful prints were made and on display. The Delphinium by Mrs. Lee Kent of Wellington, Colorado, was given the first prize, and is being shown at this convention.

6. Colorado state officers and executive board met for their first mid-winter conference and luncheon in the tea room of the Denver Dry Goods on January 15th, in Denver.

7. The Book-giving Contest doubled last year's amount, now \$87.10, or tripled.

8. Steps are being taken to have the first twenty years of Colorado's Auxiliary History permanently recorded with the State Historical Society in Denver.

9. The Credentials Committee reported 132 paid-up members, an increase over the previous year.

10. The convention program of July 3rd and 4th is herewith attached for the information of all, and the above résumé constitutes a record of the accomplishments achieved with the splendid cooperation given by each Colorado Auxiliary member.

Mrs. Harries. Florida is next, and Mrs. Carlan, the new president, will report.

Mrs. Carlan. The Auxiliary to the Florida Rural Letter Carriers has shown increased enthusiasm, interest, and sincerity for the past year. The lifting of many war-time restrictions has made it possible for more district meetings to be held.

Realizing the power of numbers, membership has been particularly stressed, and we are happy to report 147 paid members.

The state convention was held in the beautiful city of Orlando early in July. We were delighted to have Mrs. Clara Winter, National Committee member, as our guest for the occasion. She was very helpful and inspiring to the group.

Many districts sent articles for the state Bazaar. These were sold and the proceeds placed in the state treasury.

The retiring president, Mrs. McCully, had charge of the R.F.D. books. She reported 32 books sold. There were also 20 books reported given in the contest.

Mrs. Harries. Reporting for New Hampshire, Mrs. Moody.

Mrs. Moody. We held our State meeting at Jaffrey, New Hampshire, on June 22nd and 23rd at Shattuck Inn, carrying out the unfulfilled plans made for the streamlined meeting which was held the year before at Manchester, New Hampshire, with a few added attractions making this meeting a gala victory affair. We were greatly honored by having as our official guest the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary,

Mrs. J. Paul Myers of St. Helens, Oregon, who brought us a great deal of inspiration and information.

Some of our counties are still unorganized, because the carriers are so scattered. Due to the war conditions of the past few years, the collection of dues has been difficult, but we are looking ahead to coming back one hundred percent.

We have participated in the book-giving contest, the friendly membership contest, the poster contest, have had our history and reports in on time, and sold our full quota of R.F.D. books allotted to us.

Our State Fall Supper was held last October, the first time since the war started, meeting at Chester, New Hampshire, with a very good attendance. We plan to have a State Picnic in August.

Our potential membership is 155; our present membership is 95.

As one of the states under Mrs. Lola Harries as our National Mother, we have enjoyed cooperating with her, as well as her many friendly messages. New Hampshire sends greetings to you all and pledges to carry on the best she can during the years ahead.

Mrs. Harries. For Maine Mrs. Ralph Pearl will report.

Mrs. Pearl. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to bring you greetings from the Pine Tree State.

Three fall picnics were held in different sections of the state. There was a good attendance at these meetings. Somerset County held a social meeting at the Lancy House in Pittsfield in November. Several state officers were present, a chicken dinner was enjoyed by all.

The counties all held their annual meetings this year. A great deal of interest was shown at these meetings. Six counties had a gain in membership, and two were 100 per cent. The state officers have tried to attend as many of these as possible.

Our State meeting was held June 28th and 29th at Pinewoods Camp in Canton. The meeting opened Friday morning with a joint session. After listening to the fine addresses of welcome and response, the ladies retired to their room. Our opening exercises were in charge of our State Chaplain. Address of welcome was by past president, Rena Howe, response was by Grace McCully. A very interesting book program was carried out along with our regular business as time permitted. Two book reports were given, also a book exhibit called "Books Across the Sea." It was voted to give five dollars toward more books like these for the children in England.

We were very happy to have Mrs. Margaret Myers, National President, as our special guest. She gave us a very inspiring address. Friday afternoon a joint memorial service was held. After this service we listened to a very fine address by Mr. Winquest, Vice President of the National Association, and also a representative from the New England Conference. At the banquet Friday evening an original poem was read, and our State Chaplain, Inez Fitz and Mr. Fitz were presented with a cake as it was their 35th wedding anniversary. During the evening pictures were shown and singing was enjoyed. Addresses were given by our guests, Margaret Myers, Mr. Winquest, Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis, and Mr. Cook from Sears, Roebuck. Several prizes were given away.

Saturday the usual business was continued. There were seven cancelled stamp posters. Waldo County had the winning poster. We sold all of the R. F. D. books and

took orders for more. In the book-giving contest we gave 46 books at a total cost of \$63.75. We had a gain in membership of sixteen, making a total of 162 members. It was voted to give \$5.00 to the Red Cross.

Mrs. Harries. Reporting for Missouri will be Mrs. Bartee.

Mrs. Bartee. During the year 1945-46 Missouri has carried on the work of the Auxiliary under the slogan, "Perseverance and Industry Overcome All Obstacles." We have kept in touch with our officers and board members by means of a bulletin called "The Bugle," put out each month by the president, carrying news, information, greetings to our people.

As president of the group, we traveled over 4,743 miles over the state of Missouri, wrote over 400 letters, many of which went to Congressmen and Senators in behalf of pending legislation for rural carriers, and later words of thanks for their part in the passing of such legislation.

Our main project for the year was in keeping with the national program, and was the 100 per cent County Membership Contest. We are happy to report 44 one hundred percent counties in Missouri and a membership of 887 at last report. This is a nice gain over last year, showing that the trend of times and personal contacts made this year have helped very much.

We participated in the Friendly Membership Contest, having been paired with Pennsylvania, and won. Our canceled Stamp Poster contest created great interest in the state, with the result that 12 posters and 2 prints were entered at our state convention. There was one entry in the Route History Book Contest and that book is here at the National. The results of the Book-giving Contest in our state show 46 books reported given, having a value of \$48.00.

Since there was not a National Convention last year, we did not have the honor and pleasure of attending as a delegate, but we were able to attend ten district meetings in the state and a number of county meetings, many of which were organization or reorganization meetings.

Articles were contributed to the national paper at the request of the editor, Mrs. VandenBerge, and we have tried to keep the membership informed by means of articles contributed to the columns of our own state paper, "The Missouri Rural Carrier."

The result of the 100 percent county contest in the state was 19 counties 100 percent by June 20th for the past three years, to whom awards were given, but there were 41 one hundred percent counties on June 20th for this past year. There was a gain of 78% in the district that won the contest for greatest gain in percentage over last year's membership, and in one district alone eight counties were organized or reorganized.

Our state convention was held in St. Louis at the Jefferson Hotel on July 13, 14, and 15, with an attendance of 150. We were pleased to have Mrs. Ed. J. Harriges, Chairman of the National Executive Committee, with us, and were deeply sorry that Mrs. Chas. Stafflinger was not able to be present as planned. National President, Thos. G. Walters, and Treasurer Ellis were our guests and spoke to our convention. Mrs. Roy Gwinn, Past National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, was present and acted as parliamentarian.

Our total membership at convention was 833, with a potential membership of 1262. Our retired carriers' wives were recognized, and eighteen ladies who had attended the last ten state conventions were presented gifts. We found that our state executive

committee had traveled well over 15,000 miles during the year in the interests of the Auxiliary.

Our Juniors were present again this year and reported a good meeting with more than 20 members for the year. Officers were elected and plans were made for the year. Mrs. Ollin Drennan of Kirksville will again serve as Junior Sponsor for the state.

Immediately following the close of the convention the new state Executive Committee met and formulated plans for their work in the coming year. Helps were given the new members and assignments were made for articles to the state paper.

Mrs. Harries. The Missouri ladies certainly have traveled this year. Reporting for Pennsylvania will be Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. Hall. The Pennsylvania State Convention was held at Easton, July 15, 16, and 17. Our guest speaker was Mrs. H. C. Myers, Lexington, North Carolina, who gave a very interesting talk on the accomplishments of our Auxiliary. Mr. Manning addressed the ladies. We honored our retired carriers' wives. Prizes were given for canceled stamp posters and scrap books. 87 Jubilee Books were sold. There were 16 Juniors present, and they entertained the ladies.

Pennsylvania's Junior scrapbook took first prize, as well as Pennsylvania's poster.

We have a membership of 1002; 24 one hundred percent districts; 33 one hundred percent counties; and 140 retired carriers' wives.

Mrs. Harries. The next one on the program will be Mrs. DePriest reporting for Tennessee.

Mrs. DePriest. The 17 Annual Convention of the Tennessee R.L.C.A. and Ladies Auxiliary met at the Andrew Jackson Hotel in Nashville, July 4th and 5th, 1946. Nashville is our capital city and boasts of being the "Athens of the South."

The convention opened at 9:30 A. M., July 4th, in a joint session. After the regular procedure of opening the convention we were favored by splendid addresses by T. M. Hatcher, Post Office Inspector, and the Hon. J. Percy Priest.

The Ladies Auxiliary had its formal opening of the convention at 1:30 P. M. in the same hotel. Mrs. H. C. Myers of Lexington, North Carolina, Secretary of the National Ladies Auxiliary, gave a most interesting and informational address. Recognition was given to retired carriers' wives and six past state presidents.

The convention was adjourned for the joint memorial service, which was conducted by Mrs. B. J. Ramsey, Sneedville, the vice president of the Auxiliary. This was indeed a very impressive service.

The second day of the convention was called to order by the president, Mrs. O. B. DePriest. We were delighted to have with us Mr. W. L. Manning of Ponce DeLeon, Florida, a representative of the National R.L.C.A., who gave a most interesting address. A roll call of state officers and yearly reports were given and accepted.

Tennessee entered the Book-giving Contest and about 200 books were reported given to schools and so forth. The sale of the "R.F.D." by Mrs. Aaberg was very successful, and many of these books were reported placed in school libraries.

Tennessee also entered the Canceled Stamp Poster Contest. This contest was won by Mrs. O. B. DePriest. This poster is the Tennessee state flower, the Iris.

Letters of the year's plan of work by the president were mailed to each member, with a personal letter by state officers and

executive committee, thereby gaining a few new members. Tennessee has 95 counties in the state. Seven do not have enough eligible members for an organization. We have 75 counties sending in reports and 22 one hundred percent counties. We have a total of 516 members.

Mrs. Harries. The next to report will be Texas, and Mrs. J. E. M. Hamilton will report for the new president of Texas who could not be here. Mrs. Rennels was all packed, had her reservations and had all the necessary papers, when her husband had a serious heart attack, so she could not come. Mrs. Hamilton.

Mrs. Hamilton. Texas wishes to submit the following report: Due to O.D.T. restrictions we were unable to hold a state convention in Texas in 1945. As representation from each district amounted to more than the limit of 50 allowed by the O.D.T. a streamlined conference was held in Fort Worth to conduct the necessary business and to make plans for this year.

More than 2000 cards and letters were written for membership, which showed a definite increase.

The Auxiliary edits a page in the "Texas Carrier" each month, and we were responsible for the entire paper for the month of January. This proved very successful.

Telegrams and letters were sent to our congressmen by all the members of the board in support of the national legislative program.

Several new locals and districts were organized this year, and our locals and districts cooperated in the Book-giving contest. The state organization contributed \$25.00 for the purchase of books which were distributed to veterans' hospitals. Books were also sent to the Eastern Star Home. All books carried the Auxiliary label.

Cards and other games were sent to wounded veterans in hospitals. Contributions were made to the cancer and infantile paralysis funds. We participated in the sale of the R.F.D. books.

Although distances are great in Texas and many carriers have been unable to obtain new cars, our membership in our state is over 500, not counting the retired carriers' and substitute carriers' wives.

We took part in the Canceled Stamp Poster contest. We held our state convention in Waco in July, and we were celebrating not only the Golden Jubilee of the R.F.D. service, but also our 100th year of statehood. There were over 500 in attendance, and we were happy to have our own Mrs. Lola Harries, National Committeewoman, with us. We were privileged too, to have Mr. J. Ed. Cooper, Department Representative, and Mr. Walter Gray, Committeeman from the R.L.C.A., address us.

Texas has had a successful year, and we are proud of the fact that interest and membership have increased steadily.

Mrs. Harries. I am sure you have always heard that mothers should not brag on their children, but they do so. I am going to brag on mine and say we all show an increase in membership, we have given many, many books, some of which have gone to England and Germany; we had good stamp posters, as you realize, as two of the ones being judged were from our state group as winning prizes, and these girls have been very cooperative in every way. I thank them very much for the year's work and fellowship that we have had. Thank you.

President Myers. Thank you, Mother Harries. We will proceed, have a few more of these, Kathryn Vanden Berge's group.

Mrs. VandenBerge. The persons representing Alabama, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Virginia, Wyoming, and South Dakota will come forward. Every officer, I think is sure she has the very finest group of states. That is my feeling. We will proceed first with the report from Alabama by Mrs. Roberts, the retiring president of that state.

Mrs. Roberts. Alabama is proud of its record this year. We reached an all-time high in membership. We have 500 paid members out of a potential membership of 704. This is a gain of 100 members over last year. We have 31 hundred percent counties, which is 46.2 percentage of 100 percent counties. These were given certificates of achievement. All counties were called on to give county reports, and many reported regular meetings held.

We held two board meetings during the year, one in the early fall to plan our year's work, and one in the spring to plan our convention. We tried as best we could to follow the objectives outlined by our National President, Mrs. J. Paul Myers. We were grouped with Arkansas in the Friendly Membership Contest, and won in this contest.

Alabama ladies gave 180 books in the Book-giving Contest, valued at \$335.00, we sold most of our portion of the RFD book. There were three posters made of canceled stamps, and one selected to represent Alabama at the National. Wives of retired carriers and widows of deceased carriers were recognized and honored at our convention. A bow of red, white, and blue ribbon was pinned on each and a section of seats near the front ribboned off for them to sit.

Our state convention was well attended, and much enthusiasm manifested. A very beautiful and impressive memorial service was held in joint session with the Association. Also a banquet was enjoyed by the carriers, their wives, and visitors present. Our state was honored by having with us Mrs. Clara Winter, National Board Member; Mr. G. M. Ellis, National Association Treasurer; and Mr. L. L. Moneyway from the Postoffice Department in Washington. Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge was our National Mother. She proved very helpful and instructive with her correspondence. She also kept round robins going between the presidents, first vice presidents, and secretaries in her group of states.

We feel that Alabama has made a fine record this year, and we are looking forward to even a greater record next year.

Mrs. VandenBerge. From Massachusetts we have Mrs. Vida McKinstry, who is likewise the new president.

Mrs. McKinstry. The first meeting of the Auxiliary year was held in Berlin, Sunday, November 4th, with an excellent attendance, considering we had our first snow storm. A turkey dinner was served. Congressman Philbin and State Representative Staves were guest speakers.

As vice president I attended all district meetings, which were well attended and very much enjoyed, all districts giving an excellent report on the book-giving contest, except two, and they had not held meetings for three years.

The annual State meeting was held at Taunton and was a great success, for which we give special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Walker of that town. We were happy to have as our guest Mrs. Margaret Myers of Oregon, our National President. We did enjoy having her and hope she comes again.

Our book-giving contest amounted to \$80.95 value; number of books given 56,

with District 1 giving one book in Braille to the Institute for the Blind. Mrs. Cronin furnished the Honor Roll, for which we gave thanks for her fine work. Mrs. Childs' poster was also well received. Quite a sum of money was realized from the birthday stockings. Seventy-five copies of the R.F.D. were sold. We received a prize in the Retired Carriers' Wives contest and the blue ribbon in the history contest. We are paired with New Jersey in the membership contest and hope we come out on top.

We resolved that all carriers' wives show their appreciation to Mr. Walters and his associates for their untiring efforts to make the pay increase a reality.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Next, Mrs. Lee Arnold of Minnesota. It was my special privilege to attend their convention. Mrs. Arnold.

Mrs. Arnold. This report was written about ten days ago, we were anxious to have Mrs. VandenBerge receive it in time, and there are little changes since then which you will hear when I report.

This has been a busy year for our Auxiliary. We held our state convention this year at St. Paul, our capital city. It was the first large convention since before the war, and was well attended. We were happy to have with us Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, National Vice President, who is our "Mother." She helped immensely to make our convention a worth while one. It was a busy convention. Besides the sale of the R.F.D. books, since our treasury was low on funds, the State Board decided to conduct a fancywork sale at the convention. All the members responded with great enthusiasm, and the proceeds of the sale amounted to the neat sum of \$148.00, and really was great fun. I am just going to add here that Sears, Roebuck was kind enough to furnish a blanket for us on which we sold clothes pins three for a quarter and the chances were thrown in, and we made about \$50.00 from that beautiful wool blanket.

We voted to revise our State Constitution as there were several needed changes, one of which was that all Minnesota members who are past National Officers shall have the status of delegate at all National conventions they may go to. The most important change was to raise our state dues to 50c per year, since 25c was inadequate for our needs and expenses.

We have at present 788 members, but expect to have more, since at least four counties have not yet been heard from. We have 27 hundred percent counties and several that lack just one member of being one hundred percent.

As president of the Auxiliary I had wonderful cooperation from all our state officers and members and enjoyed so much my work with them, as well as the letters from the National officers. We emphasized the need of getting more members, and are confident that we will have a substantial increase when October 1st comes around, and we of Minnesota will pledge our full support to the National Officers and all measures to be undertaken by our National Auxiliary.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Next we will hear from Mrs. John L. Hill, Secretary of the New Jersey Auxiliary.

Mrs. Hill. New Jersey is very happy that the war is over and we can return to a normal convention again. During the war years New Jersey held a state conference annually, and the attendance was good. Several counties held their meetings regularly and one county had a banquet each year. Our victory convention was held on July 13th with Mrs. H. C. Myers, our National

Secretary, as our guest. The attendance was large.

We sold our quota of books, The R.F.D., and the returns have been sent to Mrs. Aaberg.

Ribbons were awarded in the following manner:

A blue ribbon to the county which was the first to send in dues.

A red ribbon to the one hundred percent counties, four of them.

A white ribbon to members having 10 years' successive membership.

A gold ribbon to charter members.

Retired carriers' wives were honored, as were past state presidents.

New Jersey won over Massachusetts in the Friendly Membership Contest. Our membership is larger than last year. We have 77 members to date.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Virginia's report will be submitted by Mrs. Inge, Vice President.

Mrs. Inge. The Ladies Auxiliary of Virginia held its state convention at Charlottesville, Virginia, July 18th to 20th, 1946. The convention was well attended, considering the condition of cars and other ways of travel. We were happy to have with us Mrs. Clara Winter.

Virginia did not enter any of the contests, I am sorry to say. We honored our retired carriers' wives and each gave a prize; we had a fancywork sale which amounted to \$25.00. This was used to help pay the expenses of an extra delegate to the National.

Our membership is 261 and we have four one hundred percent counties. Now that we are drifting back to normal times, we hope to have a much better report next year. Our meeting closed with election of officers who were installed by Mrs. Winter.

Mrs. VandenBerge. From Wyoming we have Mrs. Henry Larson, also vice president.

Mrs. Larson. Our state convention was held at Torrington on July 6th with the largest attendance ever. Our Auxiliary was 100 percent for 1946. We sold most of our R.F.D. books.

Mr. and Mrs. Winquest of Holdredge, Nebraska, were our visiting national officers. Our next convention will be at Cody.

Mrs. VandenBerge. I am still sorry I didn't get to come to Torrington. Closing our reports is South Dakota's report to be presented by Mrs. Paul L. Baird, their new president.

Mrs. Baird. South Dakota is proud to report to a very substantial gain in membership this past year, having 373 members out of a potential of 410. We have 24 one hundred percent counties out of 50 organized counties. There are 69 counties in our state, but a number have no rural routes. Most all of our organized counties reported interesting meetings during the year. We offered prizes to the counties which were 100 percent before June 1st, and all members of counties that were 100 per cent at convention time were given 100% ribbons to wear at the convention. The officers worked all year for a one hundred percent membership and failed by only 37. We made a gain of 71 members.

We were happy to have our own Kathryn as National Vice President and our official visitor at the state convention in Mitchell.

We sent out special invitations to our retired carriers' wives, and a program was arranged to honor them. Mrs. R. O. Nelson was our Junior Sponsor. At our annual banquet during the convention we carried out the 50th Anniversary theme in decorations, program, and song.

We sold our quota of 75 books of the R.F.D. About fifty books were reported given in the Book-giving Contest. Several members took part in the Stamp Poster Contest, we had a nice display of stamp posters at the convention, and sent an entry to the National Contest.

We have a beautiful large Service Flag that has 252 stars on it, 19 for active carriers and 233 for our sons and daughters. Mrs. R. R. Patterson, our vice president, made this flag. It is here at the convention for you all to see.

We gave a Past President's pin to our retiring state president. We have a page in our South Dakota Rural Carrier. This report is submitted by Mrs. A. G. Olsen, president for 1945-46.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Now, I think you are ready to agree this group of girls have done their share toward achieving the total of fine work that has been done in our Auxillary this year, and I thank you all very much.

President Myers. Thank you so much, Kathryn. Now, we are coming along just fine, this is a wonderful group of ladies, you are so patient, but we have a lot ahead of us yet. At this time I am going to have Mrs. Harries take charge of honoring these retired carriers' wives.

Mrs. Harries. Will the ladies who are retired carriers' wives please come to the front. Come up and tell us who you are and from where you come?

Ladies, I feel greatly privileged this afternoon to have been given the duty of honoring these retired carriers' wives and to present to them these little Golden Jubilee bouquets which we thought they might like to have to wear the rest of the day.

These ladies have worked long and hard during these years, and we shall always be grateful to them for lighting the pathway on which we are now traveling. May we always do what they think we should and may they always be proud of us. I shall ask each of you to give your name, the name of your town, and then you may be seated after we have given you your little bouquet.

Mrs. Harry Turner, Michigan
Mrs. Alice Schmoyer, Pennsylvania
Mrs. James Bailey, California
Mrs. M. Burris, Wisconsin
Mrs. Detweiler, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Edward Coon, Michigan

Mrs. L. L. Steadwell, Iowa
Mrs. John McBurney, Stuart, Iowa
Mrs. W. B. Durrell, Ames, Iowa
Mrs. William C. Stevens, Maryland
Mrs. Edward Reader, Maryland
Mrs. J. H. Allen, Iowa
Mrs. Olmsted, Afton, Iowa
Mrs. Stark, Boone, Iowa
Mrs. L. E. Beery, Salem, Ohio
Mrs. Wm. J. Evans, Indiana
Mrs. Ural Reeder, Rushville, Ill.
Mrs. Ed. Simpson, Clyde, Kansas
Mrs. John Olson, Minnesota
Mrs. Colin Stearns, Springfield, Vermont
Mrs. L. G. Richards, Kentucky
Mrs. W. J. Eastman, Washington

Mrs. Harries. You ladies who cannot see this, it is a little bubble vase which they can take home and keep always as a gift from the National Auxiliary. I would like to read these few lines to finish this little ceremony, which we have felt was appropriate.

THINGS THAT COUNT

It is the warm hand-clasp, the friendly How-do-you-do,

The pleasant smile, the pat on the back from friends kind and true;

'Tis thinking of others, forgetting self,

'Tis cheering, loving, giving,

'Tis lending a helping hand that makes life worth living.

'Tis thinking deep, looking ahead,

Adding little things to the amount

As onward through life we go,

They are the things that really count.

(Applause.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. We say thank you, Mrs. Harries.

Now, our president tells me she and our song leader, Agnes Clark, are going to sing a duet.

Mrs. Myers. We sang this for the men and thought you might enjoy it here, entitled "My Own America." (The duet was beautifully done and much enjoyed by all.)

Mrs. VandenBerge. We all enjoyed that very much. It helped us get the kinks out and be ready to go on for a little while as we have to now.

President Myers. At this time I am going to ask the mileage committee to read the corrections. Will the chairman come forward, please?

(The complete Mileage Report follows as read and corrected by the Committee.)

Town and State	Delegate	Mileage	Amount
Portersville, Alabama	Mrs. A. O. Reed	921	\$ 55.20
Bessemer, Alabama	Mrs. Fred Roberts	921	55.20
Tucson, Arizona	B. A. Skjerseth	1568	94.08
Des Arc, Arkansas	Mrs. Ralph Greer	650	39.00
Exeter, California	Mrs. Maurice E. Clark	2000	120.00
Pine, Colorado	Mrs. Joe A. Hill	735	44.10
Pomfret Center, Conn.	Mrs. Dorothy Nelson	1318	79.08
Dover, Delaware	Mrs. Frank McKee	1175	70.50
DeFuniak Springs, Fla.	Mrs. Loy Carlan	1125	67.50
Lawrenceville, Georgia	Mrs. R. W. Fortune	988	59.28
Enigma, Georgia	Mrs. A. C. McMillan	1208	72.48
Murtaugh, Idaho	Mrs. William B. Lindau	1564	83.84
Bartlett, Illinois	Mrs. E. C. Schultz	317	19.02
Sutter, Illinois	Mrs. Walter K. Gumble	261	15.66
Nashville, Illinois	Mrs. Lloyd Setzekorn	429	25.74
Valparaiso, Indiana	Mrs. Charles Magnuson	392	23.52
Elwood, Indiana	Mrs. Bruce Johnson	525	31.50
Carroll, Iowa	Mrs. Henry Hannasch	100	6.00
Elkader, Iowa	Mrs. Arthur Meyer	190	11.40
Jewell, Iowa	Mrs. Ed Mott	55	3.30
Niles, Kansas	Mrs. Chas. Kellogg	396	23.76
Wichita, Kansas	Mrs. J. E. Shafer	432	25.92
Smith Grove, Kentucky	Mrs. Edward Spear	641	38.46
Lake Charles, La.	Mrs. O. S. Johnson	970	58.20
Detroit, Maine	Mrs. Viola Pearl	1700	102.00

<i>Town and State</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Queen Anne, Maryland.....	Mrs. Wm. Stevens.....	1184	71.04
Southbridge, Mass.....	Mrs. Vida McKinstry.....	1372	82.32
Lucedale, Miss.....	Mrs. L. L. Vise.....	1009	60.54
Port Huron, Michigan.....	Mrs. Lucille Quaine.....	697	41.82
Coopersville, Michigan.....	Mrs. H. G. Laug.....	562	33.72
Brownston, Minnesota.....	Mrs. Lee Arnold.....	270	16.20
Hamel, Minnesota.....	Mrs. Lucian C. Hamel.....	290	17.40
Sturgeon, Missouri.....	Mrs. M. A. Bartee.....	245	14.70
Chesterfield, Missouri.....	Mrs. Henry Muehlendyck.....	358	21.48
Froid, Montana.....	Mrs. C. E. Knick.....	1050	63.00
Bellwood, Nebraska.....	Mrs. Allen Whitney.....	224	13.44
Greenland, New Hampshire.....	Mrs. Richard Moody.....	1400	84.00
Great Meadow, New Jersey.....	Mrs. John L. Hill.....	1194	71.64
Cameron, New Mexico.....	Mrs. A. B. Tillman.....	1000	60.00
Hector, New York.....	Mrs. George Cratsley.....	1040	62.40
New Woodstock, N. Y.....	Mrs. Ross Mathews.....	1188	71.28
Flaxton, North Dakota.....	Mrs. Arthur Bird.....	925	55.50
Winston-Salem, No. Car.....	Mrs. R. C. Lanning.....	1129	67.74
West Alexandria, Ohio.....	Mrs. Russell Landis.....	534	32.04
Bethesda, Ohio.....	Mrs. R. V. Gladden.....	838	50.28
Ripley, Ohio.....	Mrs. S. Eveslage.....	769	46.14
Cherokee, Oklahoma.....	Mrs. Warren Smith.....	533	31.98
Deer Island, Oregon.....	Mrs. Frank Walworth.....	2032	121.92
Corry, Pennsylvania.....	Mrs. Clyde Hall.....	832	49.92
Townville, Penna.....	Mrs. Archie Squier.....	836	50.16
Sinking Springs, Penna.....	Mrs. Geo. Weidman.....	1077	64.62
Greene, Rhode Island.....	Mrs. Norman Baxter.....	1393	83.58
Salley, So. Carolina.....	Mrs. A. L. Gardner.....	1250	75.00
Frankfort, So. Dak.....	Mrs. Paul Baird.....	500	30.00
Lobelville, Tenn.....	Mrs. O. B. DePriest.....	758	45.48
Sneedville, Tenn.....	Mrs. B. J. Ramsey.....	957	57.42
Grapevine, Texas.....	Mrs. J. E. Hamilton.....	755	45.30
Smithtown, Texas.....	Mrs. John E. Pierce.....	790	47.40
Rochester, Vermont.....	Mrs. Wm. O. Kent.....	1303	78.18
Brookneal, Virginia.....	Mrs. D. M. Inge.....	1224	73.44
Lake Stevens, Washington.....	Mrs. Mabel Eastman.....	1902	114.12
Weston, West Virginia.....	Mrs. Murray McWhorter.....	866	51.96
Pewaukee, Wisconsin.....	Mrs. Mike Schafer.....	353	21.18
Spooner, Wisconsin.....	Mrs. Fred Miller.....	355	21.90
Albin, Wyoming.....	Mrs. Harry Larson.....	650	39.00
Wilmore, Kentucky.....	Mrs. R. E. Greathouse.....	691	41.46
			\$3,415.44

President Myers. Does the Resolutions Committee have any added resolutions to read for the first reading? (None)

Now, I want the approval of this convention for time of meeting tomorrow morning. We have quite a bit of business to transact, and if we don't start earlier we will have to go into an afternoon session. Would you be willing to assemble at eight o'clock tomorrow morning?

(After discussion it was moved by Mrs. Shafer of Kansas, seconded by Mrs. Vise of Mississippi that we meet at 8:30 A. M. A standing vote was taken and motion carried.)

President Myers. We will meet at 8:30, and we will have to start on time or we will have to carry over if we don't get through.

We have a matter to be taken care of this afternoon. Kathryn will make a correction on that.

Mrs. VandenBerge. You will notice we neither read the minutes nor had the roll call. It is perfectly parliamentary to use the mileage committee report for roll call if it is unanimously agreeable. The minutes for both sessions can be read tomorrow morning. Is there any objection? (None) Since there is none, we will not have them now.

Pres. Myers. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee should give a first reading of any further amendments proposed. Is that committee ready? (They were still in session.) That must be read before we leave the hall, and please do not leave the hall while we are drawing for prizes. We will do that now.

Iowa Representative. We want to say that any lady receiving one of these gifts will

find the name of the firm donating it. She is asked to write and thank the firm, and if those who got them yesterday didn't understand that, they will please not forget to send a note of thanks, too.

Mrs. Hamel, Minnesota. I move that the final report of the Mileage Committee be adopted as read and corrected. (Seconded by Mrs. Schultz, Illinois, carried.)

President Myers. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee I believe, has something further to read—first reading only. They will just read it and you will think about it during the evening and the morning.

Mrs. Bird. We propose to amend Section 5a, Article VI, page 12 to read:

Vital questions arising between conventions that require immediate action shall be decided by a majority vote of the Executive Board. This may be taken by letter and the vote shall be confirmed in writing.

Delete Section 1c of Article VI, page 7 and re-letter subsequent paragraphs of the section.

President Myers. Mrs. Courtney asks that she might give a little explanation on that.

Mrs. Courtney. The word "immediate" seems to bother, and that doesn't necessarily mean in the next hour, it could mean for some time between conventions and perhaps a few days. And it says may be by letter. If it is of vital importance, something that wants to be settled in the next 24 or 36 hours, she would have the privilege of sending a wire to each officer and she in turn to wire back, and Western Union will send you a copy of that, and that could be mailed to the president and then she would

have that on file to carry that out. Some wondered a little about the word "immediate," but immediate could mean two or three weeks, you see. I would just like to make this explanation now. Margaret has had this read to her and explained, and so has Kathryn. We don't want anyone to feel there is anything here that is reflecting on them. In talking to Kathryn, she said she would like to have it, so I don't want any of you to feel that this change was to hurt anybody's feelings, that is the farthest from my mind. We are a big organization, and the way the Constitution is written up—I have been a national president, and I have had just wonderful cooperation, but we will have a lot of younger ones before long, we don't know in ten years from now what they and we might come up against. If we have this in the Constitution and our president wants a reply, say within two days or even a week or so, she should have that reply, or that officer isn't living up to her Constitution and By-Laws. We have been fortunate to have ladies conscientious about it. But she can have a reply back that much faster this way, and each one of the seven officers will assume a certain responsibility, because her reply will be on file.

I am sure Margaret and Kathryn look at it as I did. I recall one time when I was in Washington, D. C., perhaps many of you wondered why I was staying there so long. The first ten days I was there I was busy contacting senators and representatives and working on retirement legislation, I was to appear at this hearing, and then there was a lull, and I couldn't tell from day to day what to do. I realized I was there spending the Auxiliary's money, and it bothered me. I didn't want it on my shoulders! I felt I should rely on the judgment of my officers. I wired each officer or sent a letter, and with 24 hours I had a wire or letter back telling me their opinion and I abided by their opinion. That explains a little bit what is back of this.

President Myers. Thank you so much, Lilah. That is something for us to think about and we will take action tomorrow.

Now, will the color bearers please come forward and retire the colors?

(The colors were retired.)

You are now at liberty until tomorrow morning at 8:30.

(The convention recessed at 5:15 P. M.)

FIFTH SESSION, FRIDAY A. M. AUGUST 16, 1945

Meeting called to order at 8:30 A. M. with the advancement of colors and care being taken that the delegates were seated in their proper places, followed by the singing of America, and the invocation.)

Mrs. Lindau, Idaho. Our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we exalt Thy Holy Name. We sing praises unto Thee. We look up to Thee as a little child looks up to his earthly father, knowing that we are utterly dependent upon Thee. Open wide for us the windows of the spirit that we may look beyond the little world that we call self to the great, wide world of Thy love and mercy.

We thank Thee for Thy many blessings and beseech Thee to comfort those who mourn.

Heavenly Father, in this closing session of our convention we would ask Thee to speak to the heart of each one that she may do what is right and wise in Thy sight. Guide us through the coming year and make us a blessing in the land. Father,

God, bless and direct those in power in our nation, and may we live in peace with all peoples till time shall be no more. These things we ask in the Name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Myers. We will now have the reading of the unapproved minutes.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Ladies of the convention, you understand on yesterday's note-taking I was interrupted; I asked the secretary of the executive committee to take notes, so you will understand if this is not too smoothly done. (Read minutes of Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon. There were no corrections or additions and the president declared the minutes approved as read.)

President Myers. We shall proceed with the roll call by our secretary, Nancy Myers.

(Called roll of officers, all present; call roll of states, giving only delegates at large.)

Mrs. Pearl. Madam President. The Auditing Committee has audited the books and found them correct and in very good order August 15, 1946.

President Myers. Do you wish to accept this report of the Auditing Committee?

Mrs. Nelson, Connecticut. Madam President, I move that we accept the report of the Auditing Committee. (Seconded by Mrs. Eveslage, Ohio, and carried with no opposing vote, so ordered.)

President Myers. Now we will have the final report of our Secretary.

Mrs. Nancy Myers. 1945-46 Financial Report.

RECEIPTS

	Per Capita	Miscellaneous
1st Quarter (Oct. 1 to Dec. 31).....	\$ 756.50	\$ 68.83
2nd Quarter (Jan. 1 to Mar. 31).....	641.00	16.36
3rd Quarter (Apr. 1 to June 30).....	3,781.00	16.78
4th Quarter (July 1. to Audit, Aug.).....	3,361.50	682.22
	\$8,540.00	\$ 784.19

DISBURSEMENTS

1st Quarter (Oct. 1 to Dec. 31).....	\$ 1,415.44
2nd Quarter (Jan. 1 to Mar. 31).....	337.41
3rd Quarter (Apr. 1 to June 30).....	2,962.18
4th Quarter (July 1 to Audit, Aug.).....	2,515.58
	\$7,230.61
Balance on hand October 1, 1945.....	\$ 7,926.14
Total Receipts for the year.....	9,324.19
Making a grand total of.....	\$17,250.33
Total Disbursements for the year.....	7,230.61

Balance in hands of Treasurer.....\$10,019.72
In addition to this we also have
U. S. War Bonds (Maturity Value)..... \$600
Dated August 14, 1946.

Mrs. Laug, Michigan. Madam President, I move that the Secretary's Financial report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. DePriest of Tennessee, carried.) *

President Myers. Now we will call for committees that have not yet reported. We are most anxious to know if the Route History Committee is ready to report. Will you advance to the platform and give your report?

Mrs. Spear. We the ladies of the Committee on Route History Books submit the following report: First—Indiana; Honorable Mention, South Dakota, and Missouri. All the books were very fine, and we regretted that we didn't have prizes for all of you.

President Myers. Is the Junior Scrapbook Chairman, Mrs. Kellogg, present?

Mrs. Kellogg. Madam President. I didn't know that I was to give this report, but the child from Pennsylvania received first prize. There weren't very many of the scrapbooks handed in and one really wasn't considered at all, because it was just a little personal book. The Pennsylvania winner was Lucille Everett.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Kellogg. We are reading these reports now and we will give the prizes at the close of our meeting, so those people who are winning prizes, will you be in the convention room at that time?

May we have the report of the Parliamentary Usage—the chairman is Mrs. O. B. DePriest.

Mrs. DePriest. The Parliamentary Usage Committee reports the sale of 12 books, total \$12.00.

President Myers. May we have a motion? There was money involved here. (Mrs. Baird of South Dakota moved to accept the report, seconded by Vermont, carried.)

We will also have the report of the Emblem Committee.

Mrs. Inge. Madam President, all the emblems were sold to the amount of \$21.00.

Mrs. Lindau. Madam President, I move that the report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Clark, California, carried.)

President Myers. We would like to have the Pages that have worked so faithfully come to the platform and take a bow—all of the Iowa pages—will you line up? I won't introduce you personally, but I just

Auxiliary Membership Enrollment June 30, 1946

Alabama	444	63%	vs. Arkansas	93	15%
California	211	56%	vs. Maine	0	
Florida	132	53%	vs. Connecticut	0	
Georgia	508	53%	vs. Oklahoma	409	54%
Illinois	793	53%	vs. New York	615	46%
Indiana	669	74%	vs. North Carolina	313	37%
Iowa	860	73%	vs. Texas	277	17%
Idaho	46	62%	vs. New Mexico	26	40%
Louisiana	34	10%	vs. Colorado	118	42%
Minnesota	544	55%	vs. Michigan	0	
Mississippi	160	21%	vs. W. Virginia	0	
Missouri	793	63%	vs. Penna.	637	51%
Maryland	75	50%	vs. Oregon	0	
Nebraska	385	52%	vs. Kentucky	88	12%
New Jersey	43	26%	vs. Mass.	0	
New Hampshire	69	42%	vs. Montana	67	20%
Ohio	600	46%	vs. Tennessee	304	28%
Rhode Island	21	58%	vs. Arizona	20	61%
South Carolina	120	24%	vs. North Dakota	162	29%
South Dakota	302	75%	vs. Virginia	0	

want you to come up to the front. It is a job to be a page at a national convention. They are busy, busy folks. If anything goes wrong it is all blamed on the pages. (Applause as five of them came forward.)

Will the color bearers come up? Thank you so much, girls, that was nice to appear before us. I am going to ask one of the delegates if she will look up the Manager of the Hotel and bring him in so he can take a bow.

I have another lady that has been a hard worker at this convention, and I want her to come to the front of the room and take a bow. I know you know her, but I think she should walk all the way up the aisle and let you take a look at her again, that is our Sergeant-at-Arms, Alice Fifield. She has done a fine job.

Now we shall proceed with the final report of our National Treasurer, Mrs. Stafflinger.

Mrs. Stafflinger. Financial Report of National Treasurer as of August 16, 1946.

Balance on hand October 1, 1945.. \$7,926.14
Receipts for the year..... 9,324.19

\$17,250.33
Disbursements for year..... 7,230.61

Balance at Convention,
Audit '46 \$10,019.72
Plus War Bonds, Maturity Value \$600.00

Mrs. Whitney, Nebraska. Madam President, I move that the Treasurer's report be accepted. (Seconded by Mrs. Gardner, South Carolina, carried and declared accepted.)

President Myers. Will the delegate from Kentucky who has a little mission to perform and asked that it might be done at this time, please come forward?

Mrs. Spear, Kentucky. Madam President, Ladies of the Auxiliary: I am happy and proud at this time to be permitted to present a picture of one of Past National Presidents, our own Gladys Greathouse of Kentucky. I know you all love Gladys like we do and appreciate the fine things she did for our Auxiliary when she was president, and I would like for this picture to hang in the hall of fame with the pictures of our other past national presidents. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Spear. We will be happy to place this picture in our Hall of Fame.

Let us hear now from the Friendly Membership Committee—the final report. Does the Secretary have that report ready?

Mrs. Nancy Myers. I shall read the results which are as follows:

Washington	184	65%
Wisconsin	732	83%
Wyoming	21	81%
Total Membership at end of Contest 11,660.		

vs. Vermont	137	65%
vs. Kansas	630	63%
vs. Delaware	16	29%

The percentage was figured on 1944-45 potential membership.

Wisconsin tops the list with 84% paid membership by June 30th; Wyoming is second with 81%. Other states with 50% or more are: Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Maryland, Nebraska, Arizona, South Dakota, Washington, Vermont, Montana, and Oklahoma, a total of 19. States winning against opponents, with less than 50% are Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and North Dakota.

President Myers. Thank you, Nancy. If there is no objection, we will accept that report.

We will have the book-giving report, the final one. But first, the Sergeant-at-Arms tells me the Manager of the Hotel is present. (Applause as Mr. Whalen came forward.)

Ladies of the convention, I told you at the beginning of our session that it would have been impossible if it hadn't been for some of the good folks of Iowa in arranging places for our meeting, and we have on the platform this morning the Manager of the Hotel Savery, who made it possible for us to have this beautiful meeting room and has provided us with many things, which was very hard to do at this time, and for which we are grateful. Mr. Joe Whalen.

Mr. Whalen. Thank you very much, Madam President and Ladies. As I was coming up that aisle it was a little strange to me, and when the lady started the piano I was afraid it was going to be a wedding march.

We are glad to have you here, and I want to apologize quite a little bit for the condition of our facilities around here. We have been working at this for eighteen months, and some of you who had projects at home or have been trying to get new cars to deliver the mail, will understand some of the difficulties that confronted us.

When we first talked about this meeting I made the comment to Mr. Brayton, Secretary and Manager of the Convention Bureau, that I hoped we would have cool weather. Well, Mrs. Myers brought some of her Oregon weather with her for a couple of days, but it didn't last long.

I hope we have the opportunity of entertaining you at some future convention, and I assure you at that time we will have, if not good weather outside or cool weather outside, we will make it cool in here, because we will have the air conditioning. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

President Myers. Thank you, Mr. Whalen, I am sure everything you have done has been deeply appreciated.

Ruth Grace has asked to talk to the ladies a moment.

Mrs. Grace. Friends, Iowa is always glad to have company and we hope that you have had such a good time here. Several ladies have asked us if we weren't selling anything to help defray the expenses. We talked about it last night, and we had tried not to sell anything to make it seem like you were sort of helping to pay the grocery bill, but we do have the cook books, and the money is to be used as a defrayer of expenses. Last night my president asked me if I would remind you ladies to each take one home with you. I have some from other states and enjoy them a lot. I have no

recipe in there so I can boost it. They are for sale outside the door. If you would like to have one for your collection, we would be happy to sell one to you, and it would help us a lot. Thank you.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Grace. Now we will have the book-giving report. *Chairman from Missouri.*

	No. Books	Value
Alabama	180	\$ 335.00
Arizona	12	34.25
Arkansas	50	50.00
California	40	74.33
Connecticut	331	605.00
Colorado	49	87.25
Delaware—No Report		
Florida	20	25.00
Georgia	277	554.70
Idaho	8	10.00
Illinois	75	75.10
Indiana	256	427.80
Iowa	70	120.00
Kansas	35	65.00
Kentucky	40	35.00
Louisiana	96	96.00
Maine	46	63.75
Maryland	20	30.00
Massachusetts	56	80.95
Michigan	413	906.16
Minnesota	9	24.50
Mississippi	61	86.25
Missouri	46	48.00
Montana	35	48.00
Nebraska	43	65.86
New Hampshire	1	2.00
New Jersey—No Report		
New Mexico	2	4.00
New York	190	226.00
North Carolina	28	45.00
North Dakota	23	27.25
Ohio	45	95.00
Oklahoma	525	1,050.00
Oregon	156	225.00
Pennsylvania	50	60.00
Rhode Island	9	17.50
South Carolina	10	13.50
South Dakota	50	75.00
Tennessee	200	200.00
Texas	200	200.00
Vermont	22	26.75
Virginia—No Report		
Washington	80	200.00
West Virginia—No Report		
Wisconsin	382	1,435.00
Wyoming—No Report		
Total Number of Books for 1946, 4,246.		
Total Value \$7,850.63.		

President Myers. I am very grateful for the final report on the book giving. It shows that you girls really have been interested in the project and have done wonderful things. The contest closed on August 1st you know, and the reports were a little slow in getting here on account of having the convention so early, but that is the report as we have it now.

The total for two years in the whole book-giving project is 6,338 books—\$11,657.51. I think that is wonderful.

Does Mrs. Joe Hill of Colorado have any report on the Golden Jubilee Books of the convention?

Mrs. Hill. Madam President. This is the R.F.D. sales report.

During the past few days of this convention the R.F.D. book has been on display and an effort made to contact as many as possible. In the joint morning session of Tuesday, August 13th, the committee sold

\$27.00 worth. Since then books in the amount of \$21.00 have been distributed, bringing the total up to \$48.00.

I would like to express appreciation to Mrs. John Grace and Mrs. McBurney of Iowa, who in my absence took over the duties and sold 21 books. This amount has been turned to Mr. Hannasch. And may I inquire as to whom I should turn over the money and the books?

President Myers. The money is to be returned to the Washington office, Mrs. Gwendolyn Aaberg, and I believe the President, Mr. Walters, will take care of it. Make the report to the Washington office, so many books at so many dollars at the National Convention.

(At this point Mrs. Corinne Barnes said good bye to the convention.)

President Myers. Now, we will have the report of the Editor, Mrs. VandenBerge. *Mrs. VandenBerge.* Madam President. The editorship of the news of the Auxiliary in the National Rural Letter Carrier takes more hours than you who (we hope) read it every week, would realize.

In the unsettled times through which we have just passed, we have had many departures from tradition. Probably the biggest one was the publication of our so-called Auxiliary Issue October 27th to take the place of the convention proceedings. An effort was made to gather into one issue the things you would find useful all year.

It was gratifying to see officers using it in meetings many times.

The policy was to have one page of Inklings and a state page every issue, except the weeks the quarterly financial statement appeared. Cooperation on both was heartening. It takes approximately six pages of double space typing to fill a page of Inklings, so you can see it took considerable additional time for each officer to assume this additional task. As a group we have tried earnestly to give you ideas for your Auxiliary work, items about your friends and worthwhile things we would like to share with you.

Clara Winter and Lola Harries have been outstandingly faithful to this task and came to the rescue with an additional set when the Washington office needed a schedule farther ahead than they ordinarily did. For myself, I wrote six Inklings, one of which was lost in transit to the printers. Miss Murphy and later Mrs. Aaberg in the Washington office, have been most helpful.

The state pages, I feel, have been outstanding this year. The promptness with which each state met its schedule made my work much easier. Many of you sent items of interest which helped to keep our section interesting to read. For all this help I do thank you from the bottom of my heart, realizing it was not extended entirely to me, but to make stronger and better this Auxiliary.

At the Chicago meeting of our Board where they asked me to continue to serve as editor, it was decided to request a new spread. With the assistance of Miss Murphy, who was then Associate Editor. This was accomplished and we hope you like it.

State convention reports which you have sent will appear as soon as space is available. Other years the National Convention has been covered by the Washington office, but this year your editor was requested to do it, hence the assiduous note-taking.

Chief adverse criticism has been that it takes so long to get anything in the paper. If the way the material is handled, is explained, it would perhaps be easier to understand. Material goes to the printers

ten days before the date which appears on your paper. Hence from my home or yours to Washington and this time for printing, very few articles appear under two weeks. Unless something has a particularly timely significance, the Auxiliary news is used in the order in which it is received from the editor. As I understand it, things sent directly to the Washington office come at the bottom of the file.

All material has eventually appeared except for the few unfortunate circumstances when it was lost. Sometimes when the Association had "hot news" our Auxiliary news had to wait longer and was not as timely as we could have wished. This is especially true of Inklings. Understanding the situation, I felt might make you more tolerant of difficulties.

Again my sincerest thanks for your loyalty and cooperation. Will you continue to give it so that we may have good reading in our News of the Auxiliary?

President Myers. Thanks, Kathryn, for that splendid report. It is quite a lot of work to get things to the paper when they should be there, so we are very grateful for all that you have done. If I hear no objections to this report, it will be accepted.

Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the young boy in the room to my left to the platform? Ladies, this boy belongs to the United Artists Bureau. His name is Bill Perkins, and he has been sitting behind the door all during the time we have been in session. Each time he asked when we would begin, and I never came into the hall but what Bill was right there ready to serve you. It was through the efforts of your fine chairman of the convention in this city that we were able to secure his services for our convention, and we are most grateful to Bill for handling this mike by the control in the back of the room. Thank you, Bill. Do you wish to say a word.

Bill Perkins. It has been a pleasure to serve all of you. Thank you.

President Myers. The Courtesy Committee has not yet reported. Will the chairman give a report at this time—Mrs. George Cratsley of New York. She will read them all the way through first.

Mrs. Cratsley. Madam President. We, the Courtesy Committee of the Ladies Auxiliary to the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, in appreciation of the services rendered by the State of Iowa and the hospitable City of Des Moines, submit the following report

Be It Resolved, that we extend our sincere thanks to each of the following:

1. To the Hotels Fort Des Moines and Savery for their splendid accommodations and cooperation.

2. To the Iowa Auxiliary and the R.L.C.A. for their gracious hospitality which will make our visit a memorable one.

3. To our National Officers for their excellent leadership.

4. To the Hon. J. Ed. Cooper and Hon. Robert Ramspeck, and all other guest speakers for their inspirational talks.

5. To Mrs. E. J. Harriges and her assistants for the impressive Memorial Service, and to Mrs. Lola Harries for the Golden Jubilee Program on the night of the reception.

6. To Davidsons and to Younkers of Des Moines and to Aldens of Chicago for the numerous door prizes.

7. To those who contributed flowers which added their touch of beauty to our convention room.

8. To Mr. Ramspeck and United Air

Transport for the lovely corsages so generously donated.

9. To the stenographer who has served us so faithfully.

10. To the Poster Judges, Miss Edna Squires, Mrs. Guy Lambert, and Mrs. Elsie Temple, all recommended by Miss Bernice Setzer, Director of Art of the Des Moines public schools, for the contribution of their time and talent.

11. To the music committee and all others who provided entertainment.

12. To all others who served in any way to help make this convention a success.

President Myers. Does the convention wish to accept these as a whole? (All answered in the affirmative.)

Mrs. Arnold, Minnesota. Madam President, I move that the convention accept the report as read. (Seconded by Mrs. Spear of Kentucky, carried.)

(Mr. Shepherd was escorted to the platform, applause all standing.)

President Myers. Ladies, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to this audience a man of Iowa who has been appointed and assumed the work of arranging for this National Convention. He has served as National Convention Chairman and has done a splendid job—Harley Shepherd of Newton, Iowa.

Mr. Shepherd. Madam President, Officers of the Auxiliary, and our Guests: I hardly understand why you are prone to give me the kind of reception you have just accorded me, and I assure you I am conceited enough to appreciate it deeply. However, I want to pass on to the members of the Iowa Association and Auxiliary any credit that may be due to us for the effort that we have put forth in arranging all of the details, particularly in these trying times, for your entertainment, comfort, and convenience while you are in Des Moines. If there is any discredit, I am perfectly willing to assume that.

The Iowa Association and Ladies Auxiliary created a general committee, and for some reason, appointed me as its chairman. We have tried as best we could to make your stay in Des Moines comfortable, interesting, and profitable. We hope we have succeeded. I know that you realize that the conditions under which we have had to operate have been unusual. For instance, I know this room is not as cool as it should have been or as we would have liked for it to be. We have, however, provided you with the typical Iowa weather up until yesterday afternoon and today, when we had a hot spell blow in from Missouri, and we can't help that. If there are any other things that have not been just to your particular liking, it is something that we have not been able to control.

We are particularly happy that so many of you have been able to attend the convention this year and that, of course, you have come to Iowa and Des Moines. We haven't relaxed our interest or vigilance in the least and will not until we know you are safely on your way home, so that we are still acting in our room, Parlor D, and the ladies out here at the table. We are still interested in your comfort, we hope that you will continue to call on us when we can be of service to you. We are particularly happy to be hosts to you this year; we have enjoyed your coming.

They told me just a moment ago that Mr. Brayton, when he speaks to the Association and to you folks this morning, intends to invite you back next year. I assure you if he does and you should accept, we will be right back on the job again trying as best we can to make you

happy all the time you are with us. Thank you. (Applause. All sang Iowa Corn Song.)

President Myers. Thank you, Mr. Shepherd. I am sure all you have done is deeply appreciated by this group.

We will proceed with the resolutions that were read yesterday by the chairman of the resolutions committee, Mrs. Kirkhart of Oklahoma.

Thank you, Madam Chairman, and now we shall take each up separately, and if there is no objection, with the tap of the gavel, they will be accepted.

Mrs. Kirkhart. Madam President, Members of the Auxiliary:

Whereas, through the mercy of God, we are at peace and permitted to assemble in this Victory Convention, celebrating the Golden Jubilee Year which represents fifty years of Rural Free Delivery, and

Whereas, God in His wonderful goodness has blessed our nation, and our organization has received much beneficial legislation this past year,

Be It Resolved that we thank Almighty God for the many blessings we have received and for the strength He has given us to meet the tragedies that have come to us individually.

Be It Further Resolved, that we humbly ask His guidance through the coming year and pray for peace and unity in the world of tomorrow.

1. Resolved, that we favor having the Memorial Service conducted by the state entertaining the National Convention.

(Accepted at tap of gavel.)

2. Whereas, a difference exists in the time it takes for mail to reach our National Secretary,

Be It Resolved, that our National Board set a postmark closing time for our Friendly Membership Contest.

(Accepted at tap of gavel.)

3. Whereas, time would be saved and the committee could function more efficiently,

Be It Resolved, that resolutions be voted and approved at the State Conventions and then be presented at the National Convention.

Mrs. Courtney. I am afraid that I don't just approve of that. We send our delegations into the convention with their hands tied, and there may come a time when some problem that will need to be decided after they leave the state will come up. If that has to be approved in the state before they come here, we are just tied and we can't do anything about it. It seems to me we have always handled these resolutions nicely as they have been brought before, and I believe for the good of the organization it would be a mistake to adopt that.

I move that we reject this resolution, that is that resolution be voted and approved at the state conventions and then be presented at the National Convention. (Seconded by Mrs. Clark of California, carried with no dissenting vote.)

President Myers. Resolution No. 3 is rejected.

4. Be It Further Resolved, that we continue to work for a satisfactory widow's annuity.

5. Be It Resolved, that we pledge anew our support to our National Officers and that we endorse and support the legislative program of the Rural Letter Carriers Association.

6. Whereas, womanhood throughout our nation protests and abhors ruthless bloodshed and Whereas, we believe that war is caused by greed, selfishness, and misunderstandings, and is wholly unnecessary

in settling disputes between civilized countries, and

Whereas, we believe that profit in war encourages its pursuance,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that we urge upon Congress the enactment of such laws as will provide for an adequate national defense and also remove the profit element.

7. Be It Resolved, that the Ladies Auxiliary to the Rural Letter Carriers Association go on record as opposing all liquor advertisements in our National Rural Letter Carrier.

8. Resolved, that we continue to support and contribute to cancer research and control.

Be It Resolved, that we strive to carry out the principles embodied in our Auxiliary Creed, that we may build a better and stronger organization.

Signed by all members of the committee. (Resolutions No. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were all read and each declared accepted with the tap of the gavel, there being no objection.)

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Now we will have a motion to accept these as amended. (It was so moved by Mrs. Newman of California, seconded by Mrs. Lanning, North Carolina, and carried.)

(Mr. Taylor of Oregon wished to be recognized.)

Mr. Taylor. Good morning, Madam President and Ladies of the Auxiliary. It is a very happy moment of my life to be able to come before this assembly as a member of the Oregon delegation. We are quite proud in Oregon that we have as your National President, Margaret Myers, a lady from our home state, and it does give me great pleasure at this time to be able to present to your president a slight token of our esteem for her from the rural carriers of Oregon. (Applause as he handed Mrs. Myers a gift.) Thank you, folks.

President Myers. Thank you so much, Bob. They have supported me just wonderfully in my state, and I am more than grateful for all the tips I have received from Bob Taylor. When I was selected as state president Bob and his good wife were there, and he gave me tips then and has guided me all the way, and one thing he says is "Have a good time wherever we go." Thank you, Bob. (Applause.)

If you will excuse the board for just five minutes, we will step out there and allow the photographers to take our picture. I am going to ask the musicians to give us some good music. Will the board retire? (Music in the interim.)

Thank you so much, ladies, that was fine. Will my page escort our guest to the platform?

We have a very busy man on the platform. We enjoyed his good humor the other night and felt it would be a treat to have him come this morning. He knows that we are finishing up our work and have quite a bit to do, so I am giving him a few minutes with us this morning to build up our morale; maybe I have worked you too hard. So it is a great pleasure indeed to present at this time Mr. Brayton, Chairman of the Convention Bureau in Iowa.

Mr. Brayton. Madam President, Ladies: It is a great pleasure to see you again now that you are in business array, after the delightful social evening we had the other night. I would like to invite your attention to the fact, in case you haven't noticed it, we thought we would turn on a little Iowa weather today and yesterday. We heard so many of the ladies say they were so dis-

appointed at the cool weather, and we felt we didn't want you to miss anything. I would also like to tell you that on days and nights like these in Iowa you can hear the corn grow if you listen very attentively, and that is popcorn.

I must tell you that Wednesday one of the Oregon ladies came to see me to get the maps and said one of the Iowa ladies had said, "I don't want to go out in the rain," the lady from Oregon answered by saying "that is duck soup for me" and paddled out.

We have enjoyed having you here very much, because in many years August is rather a quiet month in Des Moines until we get into State Fair time, and we are about ready, so you have filled up the gap for us with your many activities, and I know that Mr. Whalen has enjoyed having you here. This hotel, you know, has undergone quite a few changes in the past four years. Four years ago this month our office was over there where Mr. Whalen's office is. For many years the Convention Bureau and Chamber of Commerce had offices here. In August of 1942 we were asked to leave and make room for other lovely ladies, 2000 Wacs. This is where they got their start. We felt proud to have them born here. And after they left the hotel stood idle for a year and a half, and then a year ago now opened up, but due to labor and material shortages this is really the first time this ball room has been used since the hotel opened a year ago, so you have made history here in many ways, and I think you have helped to straighten us out. I believe this is the second time you have been here. It was in 1933 when you were here—I was not in the convention business then and was out of the city, but we hope it won't be thirteen years before you come back again.

We would like to invite you back as soon as you would like to come to Iowa, because this is sort of a good average happy medium state. Things are a little confused sometimes. I heard about a new bride and groom, a G.I.—he came home one day and she said, "Honey, what do you think, I made a pie this long."

"What did you make such a long pie for?" "Well," she said, "I couldn't get the rhubarb any shorter." That is about as corny a one as I heard lately, but I think you folks helped to get things straightened out.

My greetings to you are that we appreciate what you have done for Des Moines. I am not kidding, I hope you read the editorial about the rural carriers the other day. You had an editorial, so I am sure you will agree you have had excellent publicity for all your meetings, and one reason is that you brought so many outstanding people to Des Moines because of your convention.

Now, conventions are, to our way of thinking, a very special treat, and we believe and we hope that you will agree that Des Moines people like convention visitors. We try to instill in them the idea that this is a friendly town, and lots of times I know people tell me they stop convention visitors on the street and ask them if there is anything they can do for them—not to them, we don't want to get that reputation.

Anybody here that was here in 1933? Oh, a lot of you. We hope you feel that Iowa and Des Moines have kept pace with the rest of the nation, the many states from which you have come, and we really do want to have you come back again, because we feel that if you will go to your convention every year you will find the solution to many of your problems and when you

get back home you will be able to face those problems with the "calm confidence of a Christian," said Mark Twain, adding, "who holds four aces." I judge that means you have a pretty good hand, I don't know. But I will say of all the conventions we have had this year—this is about 229,—you have given us as much fun and as much good inspiration and information as any, and we do really want you back again just as soon as you can make it to the Tall Corn State. Thanks for everything, it is a pleasure to see you this morning. (Applause.) I must tell you, and I mustn't overlook the fact, that your state group, the Iowa Association of Rural Letter Carriers, had its convention here a month ago, and they really, as if you didn't know it, have been putting in a lot of good licks for this national meeting, in fact, most of the business of the state meeting had to do with the national meeting. One of your National Officers was here, Mrs. Harriges. It turned out she is from one of my adopted states, Wisconsin. I told her I used to be a big cheese up there, and she said she was from the cheese center of that country and looked at me as if she had seen me before. So don't overlook the fact that the Iowa gang is always working for you.

President Myers. Thank you, Mr. Brayton. I am sure it wouldn't have been perfect without some rain. (Applause as Mrs. Van Hemert escorted Mr. Brayton from the platform.)

We have some more reports that have to come in, but next in order of business, we will take up the Constitution and By-Laws report. Will the chairman please come forward, Mrs. Bird of North Dakota, she will read the amendments, or their report, in its entirety first, and then we will proceed further.

(Mrs. Bird read report. She stated following the reading of the third amendment, namely to Sec. 5 (a) of Article VI, page 12, that the committee rejected that amendment.)

Our Constitution and By-Laws tell us that we must have a two-thirds vote. I will ask the parliamentarian to explain just how the vote can be taken by this convention.

Mrs. Courtney. Our Constitution and By-Laws read "This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Auxiliary." You do have the privilege of having the roll call of states and casting the number of votes that each state is entitled to, the same as for election. However, that will be a long drawn-out affair, and you are running short of time, and since this does not state which way it should be done, we have the privilege of relying on the good judgment of the delegates who are seated.

Perhaps I better pause there and say that I will just take for illustration my own state of Iowa. We have 22 votes, perhaps the 22 ladies aren't here, but those that are here will go ahead and vote. If we have roll call Iowa will be given 22 votes, and if we vote this other way, perhaps only 20 are here. If you will rely on the good judgment of the delegates that are seated and be willing to let us count the delegates that rise, and if two thirds of them vote to reject or accept, we can take care of it in that manner and perhaps save hours of time.

Now, we would like for you to make your decision. Do you want to vote by two-thirds of those present voting, and stand and we will count, or do you want to have a long, drawn-out roll call?

President Myers. The chair will entertain a motion.

Mrs. Vise, Mississippi. I move that we vote by the delegates present, two thirds standing. (Seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, Alabama. By rising vote it was carried unanimously.)

President Myers. Now we are ready for the re-reading of the first proposed amendment, and we will take action before proceeding farther.

Mrs. Bird. Madam President, Members of the National Board, and Members of the Ladies Auxiliary: We have Constitutional amendments as follows:

Article IV on page 4 Membership and Representation.

Section 1. (a) now reads: The membership of this Auxiliary shall consist of the wives of the rural letter carriers and wives of retired carriers.

Now, Whereas, the men's constitution is more inclusive allowing them a more substantial differential whereby they may attain 100% membership and in order to make our Constitution more closely coincide with theirs, we recommend that Section I. (a) be made to read as follows:

"The membership of this Auxiliary shall consist of the wives of rural carriers, auxiliary rural carriers, legally elected substitute rural carriers, temporary rural letter carriers, and carriers who have been retired on annuity.

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. I move the adoption of that amendment. (Seconded by Mrs. Winebarger, North Carolina.)

Mrs. Greer, Arkansas. May I ask, if you add these carriers' wives, or if this motion passes, does that raise the states' potential membership?

President Myers. It does not.

Mrs. Hill, New Jersey. Are widows of carriers included?

President Myers. That is taken care of in another place farther on in your constitution.

Mrs. Dukes, Iowa. I would like to know what we have to offer these women. I don't see that we are offering them anything but padding the payroll a little bit here, I just can't see it, maybe I am wrong.

President Myers. Would the mover like to explain that?

Mrs. Walworth. I think we would offer the same as the men.

Mrs. Dukes. The thing I see for the men is that the sub-carriers and temporary carriers and all get the advantage and raise in pay, but these women can't get a thing from the Auxiliary. We carriers' wives do have annuities and things to look forward to, but what have these?

Mrs. Ranlett, Washington. The lady asks what we have to offer. In my opinion we have to offer the same thing we do the regular carriers' wives. Our duty is to support our substitutes. As far as the annuity is concerned, they will get as much as without.

Mrs. Barron, New York. What is an elected substitute carrier?

Mrs. Winebarger. I believe I understand that—it is the regular substitute of the regular carrier. They have to be bonded the same as the regular.

Mrs. Dillon, Illinois. I am wondering if these ladies would be eligible to hold national office.

President Myers. Do they in the men's association?

Mrs. Dillon. I don't know myself, but if we accept them as regular members, they should be eligible to hold office.

President Myers. The men accept them in their delegation.

Mrs. Durrell, Iowa. This is a subject that has come up before our National Convention at different times, and it has always been defeated for the reason that these ladies can receive no beneficial legislation. If we come before Congress and we have this list and say we want this legislation for these ladies, they will say, "Who are you representing?" Well, we would have to bring in these other subs' wives, and they receive no benefit, and they would say, "We can't pay any attention." So, to include these would spoil our efforts for legislation for the benefit of our wives.

Mrs. Walworth. I am on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and that matter was studied over at the time, but you will note that it also is included, "Whereas to make our Constitution more closely coincide with the men's." Now, the men are allowed a differential over the women. In other words, we must obtain our 100 percent membership from a much more confined list than the men. And in the second place, as far as what benefits the women derive, that is why it is legally elected substitute carriers, and the temporary wives would never be able to step too far into our organization because they are the ones that are taking our husbands' places. But a good many states do allow the membership and, therefore, the national is only making this constitution to coincide with the men's.

Mrs. Lindau, Idaho. Personally, I haven't found that many substitute carriers' wives care to belong to our organization, but if the man joins the men's organization, shall we say, "Come, we are glad to have you, but leave your wife at home."

Mrs. Kurtz, Iowa. This is an old question, talked years ago when our Auxiliary first started, and we have taken care of the subs' wives very nicely in our county—now I am saying "county" understand. We have some subs' wives that are more faithful than some of the carriers' wives, and they are very willing to pay dues. However, we just accept 25c from those faithful ladies that are always at the meetings and willing to help, for county dues. They understand they don't get any benefit, couldn't get any. They say they want to help in the county, and we appreciate that, but we don't feel that we should take their money even for state dues because they would have no vote when they come to convention. They do pay their county dues, and we are glad to have them, and if those ladies want to help in your county, let them, but I don't see how we can pad our roll with those names, as years ago we were told those names would be thrown out in any legislation that we presented to our congressmen, because those names were useless, they couldn't gain any benefits.

Mrs. Schafer, Wisconsin. I have never made up my mind about what I want to do, but I can't see why we pad the rolls with substitutes' wives and the men don't pad them. Surely, they are the ones that get the legislation. How does it happen they are not padding the rolls with all the ones they take in?

Mrs. Miller, Wisconsin. I just wanted to tell the lady from Iowa that is just the way that Washburn County, Wisconsin, takes care of its substitutes' and temporary carriers' wives—they come, pay their county dues, and attend and take part, but personally they have never had a desire to belong. Personally, I have no feeling one way or the other, but that is the way we have taken care of it in our county.

Mrs. Edgar, Colorado. This is rather an

amusing question when one stops to think of it, inasmuch as we all have substitutes. If you only stop to realize what would we do without them, and the only two weeks' time our husbands take off, how would you expect a substitute carrier's wife to participate in our behalf in the individual work we receive? As one lady spoke, what would they want to do if we just invited the men to our meetings, what would we do with the wives? How would you expect to keep a substitute on your route if you did not entertain the wife, and I would think myself, personally, I would be very much insulted if I weren't invited if my husband was. I think this question is very much out of the way, because there is a certainty we cannot get along without these substitutes, and I don't think they are expecting any great big benefit for two weeks, work a year. I am in favor of their going in, and if they wish to join and pay the dues in their districts and enjoy the sociability and the entertainment that our districts and counties put on, I think that is the thing we should do—recognize our substitutes' wives definitely. (Calls for the question had been given.)

President Myers. The question has been asked for, is there further discussion before the chair calls for the vote?

The chair wishes to call the vote. All those voting in favor of the proposed amendment please stand. (An accurate count was taken by those standing numbering and then being seated. There were 124 affirmative, 128 negative.)

(The chair declared the motion lost and the amendment rejected.)

President Myers. We will pass on to the next amendment.

Mrs. Bird.

Article XII Page 15.

Section I. (b) now reads. The Auxiliary year shall be from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.

Whereas, there is a great deal of confusion caused throughout a great many states by ending our year after convention time, and in order to more closely coincide with the men's organization, we recommend that Section I. (b) be made to read:

"The Auxiliary year shall be from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Mrs. Eveslage, Ohio. I move the rejection of this amendment.

President Myers. Will the mover make the motion in the affirmative? You can vote negatively, but when you state your motion please state it in the affirmative. There is no barring voting against it when it is proposed, but when it is negative it causes confusion.

Mrs. Winebarger, North Carolina. I move that we adopt this resolution. (Seconded by Mrs. Greer, Arkansas.)

President Myers. Now we are open for discussion, and your negative will mean that you reject.

Mrs. Merryfield, Ohio. As your fiscal year reads now, from October 1 to September 30 of the following year, this date coincides with the change of personnel in your National Auxiliary.

Secondly, the plan of work as outlined by your National President comes to your state in October—you have a full year's time to prepare and carry out this plan of work as outlined by the National Board.

Third, it gives ample time for you to get your membership in to State and National. Last, but not least, it provides a specific date for the turning over of your books to the new secretary and treasurer.

Ladies, I believe we are putting too much stress on the date of our fiscal year for

other reasons. You only pay your dues once during the year, and if it makes it easier for your national and state officers to make the change of personnel in their respective positions and the turning over of the books of the secretary and treasurer by having the dates October 1st to September 30th of the next year, we in Ohio are in favor of the date as outlined in the constitution and by-laws now. You have already gone through the turmoil in your state of changing that fiscal year, you have this plan in evolution right now. If you go back and say that we have changed the fiscal year again, you are going to create a chaotic condition in your state.

Mrs. Winebarger, North Carolina. Of course I wasn't in when you had the confusion before, but in our state we would like to see this change made. We discussed it at our last state convention. I can't see why it wouldn't be just as easy to turn the business over to the new officers the latter part of June or after the state convention as it is to take it to October. It causes a great deal of confusion with the women about paying their dues. In our state they say, "Am I paying for this year or next?" We would rather have it end as the men's year does.

President Myers. Any further discussion? It is open for discussion.

Mrs. Gwinn, Missouri. It would seem to me that if we made our year from July to June 30, in most instances in every state, as well as National, you would be closing your books before you would ever have a convention and elected officers to take them.

I move that we table this amendment. (Seconded by Idaho Delegate.)

Mrs. Newman, California. I rise to a point of order—can we table this? We can vote it down, but can we table? It is out of order.

President Myers. The Chair will rule the motion out of order and proceed with further discussion.

Mrs. VandenBerge, South Dakota. I am not particularly concerned with the mechanics, but I want to ask you to think about one thing. When we changed before we faced a tremendous drop in membership, and if we move this closing of fiscal year again, we are going to have to set ourselves, I fear, for another drop in membership. If what we are going to gain is worth that drop in membership, we will take it; but think very carefully before you vote whether you think it is worth it.

Mrs. Staflinger, New York. Not only do we face a drop in membership, but I wish some of you knew how we had to talk to get that thing set for October 1st, and we have the majority of our states and counties understanding it that way and if you go and change it—oh, when I think of the talking we had to do around the states to explain to our ladies that they weren't to pay two years' dues in one year and it was to simplify the whole thing—and with our receipt cards and everything all fixed, it seems an awful thing to ask us to go back—I mean just the work involved.

President Myers. This is your convention, you are entitled to your viewpoint. Anybody else.

Mrs. Clark, California. I feel that this date could be the same as it has been, but that where we have our conventions and want to work in cooperation with the men, as soon as one convention in the state is over we can begin collecting our next year's dues. We have been doing that in California. The ladies know the receipts read from October 1 to September 30, but it

makes it convenient for the women to send in the dues with the husband's dues oftentimes. It is a sort of custom to do that, but we have no confusion in California by beginning to collect dues even at the convention. It would simplify things, I believe, if we kept the dates as they are, but in our own states, if we wish, begin collecting dues at convention time. You know we tend to let these dues go to spring, but you know the gas bills at home are supposed to be paid by the 10th of the month, we wouldn't wait until the end. It simplifies things for the secretary if we begin to collect dues as soon as the convention is over and as our state officers make their visitations.

President Myers. Are you ready for the question? (Many calls for the question heard.)

(A standing vote was taken.) The majority against is overwhelming, and the motion is lost.

We will proceed with amendment 3. (Mrs. Bird read this amendment. She also stated same was rejected by committee.)

"All question arising between conventions that require immediate action shall be decided by majority vote of the Executive Board. This may be taken by letter but the vote may be confirmed in writing."

"Delete Sec. 1c of Article VI page 7 and re-letter subsequent paragraphs of the sections."

Mrs. Courtney. There has been some objection to the wording of that, but it was far from the ladies' thoughts to put anything in that that might curtail the president or any other officer. However, we feel that there should be some changes and be a little more specific, and I would like to offer this rewording, instead of this that was handed to our committee.

"Vital questions arising between conventions that require action shall be decided by a majority vote of the Executive Board. This vote may be taken by letter, wire, or phone, and shall be confirmed in writing."

I move that this be adopted as a substitute.

Mrs. Schultz, Illinois. I second the motion.

Mrs. Newman. We have to have a motion made first to adopt this amendment, then have the substitution placed in place of that motion.

President Myers. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee said it was not approved as it was read to the convention.

Mrs. Courtney. I want to apologize a little. I have my parliamentary here in the room, and I introduce her, Mrs. Zuch of Des Moines, a registered parliamentarian, who has been my teacher for several years.

President Myers. Mrs. Zuch, will you please instruct us?

Mrs. Zuch. You should first have a motion to adopt the amendment that this chairman read. Then it is in order to move to amend by substituting that which Mrs. Courtney reads, for that which the chairman has presented. Then vote on your amendment, if you want the change, then vote on the motion as amended, which will be the motion that Mrs. Courtney presents. If you do not want the change, vote down Mrs. Courtney's motion. You will still have the original motion that the proposed amendment be adopted, to vote on. Do you understand? (Many said they did not.)

President Myers. I am not sure the chair is clear. May we have a motion from the floor to adopt the amendment that has just been proposed by the committee.

Mrs. Bailey, California. I move that the amendment as proposed by the committee

be adopted. (Seconded by Mrs. Greer of Arkansas).

President Myers. Now we are ready for discussion and then action.

Mrs. Courtney. I feel like I am the one that is to blame for this. I was so interested in the rewording, and when it came to my attention I was quite concerned to think that anyone might think we were trying to curtail anyone's privileges and rights, have been quite concerned and even lost sleep, hence my rewording to try to have it just a little more agreeable, and I will state it again.

I move the adoption of this amendment as a substitution. (Seconded by Mrs. Newman of California.)

President Myers. Now we are ready to vote on the substitute amendment, the amendment just read by Mrs. Courtney. (Took a rising vote.) It is unanimously carried.

Mrs. Zuch. First you vote you would substitute it, now you vote you will adopt it.

President Myers. This is the final vote this time. It is open for discussion. Will you adopt the substitute amendment? We will pause a minute or two.

If there is no discussion, then, we are ready to take a vote on this. (Took rising vote.) It is unanimously carried. Thank you so much, Parliamentarian.

(Mrs. Bird read the final amendment about the deletion and relettering.)

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. Madam President, Ladies of this Convention: I think that I ought to call this to your attention. This was presented rather late. This is what your Constitution and By-Laws now call for,—Section 1 (c) page 7 reads:

"Her decision upon all questions of law shall be final during the recess of this Auxiliary. She shall report all such decisions to the Auxiliary at its annual meetings for approval or rejection; such decisions, when approved or revised by the National Auxiliary, shall have the effect and force of the general laws of the Auxiliary."

That is in the Duties of the President. Further, I want to state we have adopted Madam Fox's Parliamentary law which reads: "The decision of any parliamentary question is made by the presiding officer, and he is at liberty to accept the opinion of the parliamentarian or not. If he chooses he is at liberty to consult any other parliamentarian before making a decision. The assembly is at liberty to appeal from the decision of the chair of the presiding officer." The question is, then, whether or not the assembly will sustain the decision of the chair.

I do not think it is necessary to delete this authority of your president, it merely is her decision upon all questions of law, it doesn't pertain to anything else but just questions of law. In other words, parliamentary questions.

Mrs. Newman. We must delete this part since we have adopted the other, because it is in direct conflict.

President Myers. We have adopted the other, and it seems to make it imperative. We just want to delete this to make it in harmony with what we have already adopted.

All in favor of making this deletion please stand. (There was one opposing vote). The motion is carried, and the amendment adopted. We will now dismiss the Constitution and By-Laws Committee with thanks. (Applause.)

The Chair wishes to recognize any committees that have not reported and have a report to present. Mrs. Crist of Michigan has been serving as Service Secretary dur-

ing the war. It was felt there was so much extra correspondence, the Board felt it wise to appoint a service secretary. That was to contact families that had members in the service and try to keep them cheered up a little through our organization. Mrs. Merryfield had handled that up until last year, and she asked to be relieved, and Mrs. Crist was appointed. So, Mrs. Crist, if you will make a report on that, please.

Mrs. Crist. Madam President, Honored Guests, National Officers, and Ladies of the Convention: My activities as Service Secretary for the past two years have been very limited. As I think back to the time when this office was created, I believe the thought in mind was to keep in contact with the boys and girls in the service and whenever possible, arrange for them while they were in camp to meet with carrier families in the camp area.

I have had the pleasure of making several of these contacts and I trust they were thoroughly enjoyed. This, and sending messages of sympathy to those who have lost dear ones, and writing messages in the paper a few times consists of about all that I have done.

Shortly after Mrs. Myers asked me to take over this work I received two or three lists of names and addresses of the sons and daughters of carrier families in the service. I sent these at once to Washington for publication, and within a few days I had a reply that the War Department would not permit them to be published, and that is the reason that they have not appeared in the paper.

We rejoice that the war is over and that many of our boys and girls are home again and are making a satisfactory adjustment to civilian life. Our records show that we have between 2000 and 3000 boys and girls in the service. We have before us the thought of those who are not coming back. Our records show this number to be 142. Shall we pause a minute in their memory, and as we pause may we think along this line—that

They did not go for wealth or fame

Or to add glory to their name.

No, they went, they gave their all

Because they had heard their county's call,

To keep the farms and homes, you see

For just such folks as you and me.

And so, let us folks right here today

Not throw our liberty away.

The things they gave cannot be bought,

Let's keep those things for which they fought.

And so silently let us pause with bowed heads in memory of these noble deeds, the deeds of kindness they have sown into a beautiful garden now have grown, while the love and loyalty they have shown clings to our hearts as our very own. So think of the good that each one has done, toiling for us until the setting sun, and now that their work on earth is done, they sweetly rest in God's beautiful garden of love. I thank you.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Crist. (Mrs. Crist's report was accepted.)

We are getting along—there is still much to do. We have three state mother reports that have not been given, they are long. I wonder if the convention body wishes to do this about them. Do you wish to have them omitted here and typed into our proceedings, instead of reading them at this time. (Applause.) Is there any objection?

Mrs. Stevens. Some of the states have special projects, and we would like to have those reports read at this convention. I

feel we should take time for their reports.

President Myers. There is objection, so we will put it up to the convention.

Mrs. Stafflinger. I think it is too bad we have to be so rushed. I think some of the states are willing to have their reports printed, and I would make the motion that those states that do have special projects and would like to read them, let them do it. It won't take as long as to read the whole group. I would make that motion, Madam President, (Seconded by Mrs. Shafer of Kansas.) that we permit those to read who wish to have them read. (Motion carried.)

President Myers. Then, those who have things to read, we would like to have you come to the platform quickly.

Mrs. Stafflinger. I feel badly that all the states can't read reports, but I am glad Maryland has something they want you to hear. Maryland is one of my states, and I am happy to present Mrs. William C. Stevens.

Mrs. Stevens. It is with pleasure that I extend greetings to the National Auxiliary from this Free State, home of the Black-eyed-Susan flower, and a land of plenty for those who are willing to do their part. Having served as president for this state for five years, not consecutively, however, this will be my fifth report to the National.

First, we are happy to report an increase in membership over last year. Sorry we are not reporting 100 percent, but we are living in hopes.

Our organization has taken active part in many projects during the "war" years, and we expect to shoulder our responsibilities during the post-war period.

We do not have a poster to display at the convention, but we have, under the direction of Mrs. W. C. Stevens, accomplished much in the cancer research work. Many garments for the Red Cross have been made by our members. Books have been placed in schools, church homes, and to individuals. Our quota of R.F.D. Jubilee Books has been over-sold.

We were so happy to have Mrs. H. C. Myers with us at our state convention at Ocean City July 8th and 9th.

We hope to have an active Junior organization during the coming year. A new organization of this group was held at our state convention under the sponsorship of Mrs. Stevens.

There was a very good attendance at our state convention, and much interest was shown. We had interesting talks given by Mrs. Myers at both our association meeting and at our banquet, and needless to say everyone fell in love with this charming lady.

We won in the Friendly Membership Contest. Our membership is 126, an increase of 20 members over last year. One group, the Mid Shore, has 100 percent members. Over 1000 garments have been cut and made for the Red Cross and our 20 books given value \$30.10. Many of the R.F.D. books were given to public libraries, school and hospital libraries.

The "special project" of the Auxiliary, a "Funds for Cancer Research" was a complete success, \$70.00 being raised and sent to the Maryland Division of the American Cancer Society.

At our re-organization meeting of the Juniors money was given to them to buy food for the starving children abroad. Our juvenile delinquent is being cared for in a carrier's home. Clothes and board are being given by the carrier and his family. Our work must go on now more than ever;

every state has its loyal workers, and ours is no exception. Our state has tried to carry out the program outlined by our National Officers and to give them cooperation at all times.

President Myers. I am going to ask the Mothers of those groups that have not yet reported to check and be responsible for collecting the ones that are not read, but having permission to ask if there are any of her states that wish to report, so we can keep them in Mother Groups.

(Mrs. Stafflinger's states follow here in alphabetical order. Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, New York, and West Virginia, Maryland report just proceeding, with the exception of West Virginia.)

Mrs. Greer, Arkansas. The work of the Auxiliary in Arkansas for the year 1945-46 has gone well under existing conditions. The first part of the year we had our Board meetings in Little Rock and mapped out a course of action. This included better county and district organizations and complete cooperation with plans suggested by our National President. We have succeeded in reaching some of those aims. Regular Board meetings were held throughout the year, and one or more meetings were held in each of our seven districts. The visitation of all these meetings by state officers was impossible until restrictions were lifted.

Our ladies sent letters to congressmen and Mr. Walters in appreciation of legislative benefits we have received. A good response came from individual book-giving, and the Auxiliary bought \$25.00 worth of books at our State Convention and presented them to a children's home and the Army and Navy Hospital. Our ladies in all districts have been active in civic organizations and have cheerfully responded to the calls for Red Cross work, the infantile paralysis drive, and so forth. Flowers were sent to hospitals and cards and letters to our sick and bereaved. Especially have we tried to be kind to carriers' families whose sons did not return.

Our State Convention was held in Hot Springs, July 18, 19, and 20. Our State Mother, Jean Stafflinger, could not attend this meeting, and we felt keenly our loss. We were more than happy to welcome Mrs. Lola Harries in her place. We appreciated so very much that she could come to us. It was also our pleasure to have Mr. Ed. J. Cooper and Mr. Walter Gray in convention with us there.

Although we have not increased the membership, we have held our own and wish to report 138 paid members, the same as last year. We lost in the friendly states contest, but felt proud to lose to our neighbor state, Alabama.

We have a fine corps of officers for the coming year, who have set out on this new year's work with the determination to bring a better report to you at next year's convention.

Mrs. Frank McKee, Delaware. Greetings from the little Diamond State. She has but twenty members this year; she gave five dollars to the cancer control fund. We, the members, enjoyed having Mrs. Harriges with us for our annual convention, and she gave us much that was of value to us.

Mrs. Schultz, Illinois. Although our state program was drawn up several weeks before we received the National, it coincided, with the exception of the cancelled stamp poster contest.

Meetings were still curtailed, due to the condition of the average car.

We wrote letters and sent telegrams to our congressmen and senators regarding favorable legislation.

Books valued at \$75.10 were given to institutions, and one county gave two magazine subscriptions. We sold 154 R.F.D. books, and had the honor of presenting one to our Governor, who attended our banquet.

Some of our members are still sewing and knitting for the Red Cross; clothing and food have been sent to the devastated countries; and over ten thousand magazines have been distributed.

We enjoyed a visit from our National Committeewoman, Mrs. J. R. Winter, and we were very happy that our mother for 1944-45, Mrs. George Harries, found it convenient to spend some time with us. We extend our sympathy to our "mother," Mrs. Stafflinger, and understand the handicaps she has encountered during the past year.

We have 527 blue stars on our Honor Roll and 15 gold ones. The Gold Star mothers were sent a special Mother's Day greeting by our chairman.

Our motto for this year was "United We Stand." Our Auxiliary could be compared to Edgar Guest's poem, "The Stick-Together Families."

It's the stick-together family

That wins the joys of earth,

That hears the sweetest music

And that finds the finest mirth;

It's the old home roof that shelters

All the charm that life can give;

There you find the gladdest playground,

There, the happiest spot to live.

And O, weary, wandering brother,

If contentment you would win,

Come back unto the fireside

And be comrade with your kin.

Mrs. Kellogg, Kansas. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Kansas Rural Letter Carriers Association has finished the year's work with a membership of 700.

Owing to travel restrictions we did not hold a State Convention last year, which somewhat curtailed our usual activities, but with the restrictions removed, we are now on the upward trend. More enthusiasm is being shown in county meetings, district meetings are again in full swing, fourteen being held during the year.

We carried out a twelve-point program prepared by the president, which included most of the projects of the National's Peace Program.

Many letters were written by the officers in support of postal salary legislation, and material was sent for publication in the national paper, as requested by Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, National Vice President.

The year's activities were culminated in a well attended and spirited state convention held at Pratt, July 21, 22, and 23. The usual program was carried out, highlighted by the presence of the Hon. Harrison Parkman, Purchasing Agent of the Post Office Department, and George M. Ellis, Treasurer of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, who was kind enough to favor us with a few remarks, because of the absence of our own Jean Stafflinger who was unable to be present due to illness.

A very outstanding and impressive Memorial service was conducted under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Moore of Topeka, Kansas.

Our Junior organization was outstanding in interest and attendance. The Auxiliary presented them ten dollars to assist their most able sponsor, Mrs. W. F. Colburn, in making it a very gala occasion.

Mrs. O. S. Johnson, Louisiana. Greetings from the state of Louisiana. Our state is divided into the congressional districts, each containing so many parishes, or counties to most of the sister states. All of the districts except two are active. In one of the districts in the northern part of the state an annual chicken fry is held.

Our membership is 78—75 active and 3 retired. By a unanimous vote, we raised our dues to \$2.00 per year.

We took part in the Book-giving project. We entered a cancelled stamp poster at National. We remembered our sick and bereaved members during the year.

Our State Convention was held in July, and was a great success. We enjoyed having Mr. Winquest, but regretted not having Mrs. Harries with us. We sold our allotment of R.F.D. books.

Mrs. Cratsley, New York. I am very happy to represent New York State as its newly elected president, and I should like first to give credit to the retiring president, Mrs. Ross Mathews, for the excellent work she had done during her term of office.

The 22nd annual convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to New York State Rural Letter Carriers' Association was held at Saratoga Springs, July 25th to 27th, with an excellent attendance.

Reporting on our objectives for the year, we are glad to say we had at convention time 885 national members, an increase of 42. We now have 890 members, an increase of 47 over last year. We have 27 one hundred percent counties, an increase of three.

Twenty posters or prints were submitted for the Cancelled Stamp Poster Contest. The splendid work done on each of these represented many hours of work. First, second, and third prizes were given.

In addition to special duties given the Executive Committee, each member of the State Board was asked by the president to take charge of seven counties. Letters were written to the counties in each group emphasizing the objectives for the year, and round robin letters were circulated among each group.

In the Book-Giving Contest 190 books were given with a value of \$226.00. Our Service Flag was kept up to date and displayed at the Memorial service, showing 458 blue stars and 14 gold. Retired carriers' wives and past state presidents were recognized at the convention. Members of the Juniors contributed several musical selections which were a delightful addition to the convention program. The bazaar was a decided success, receipts amounting to \$130.68.

The three-year achievement chart project was successfully completed. We were very sorry that our state "mother," Mrs. Charles Stafflinger, was unable to attend. Everyone missed her.

The interest and enthusiasm shown at the state meeting seem to promise well for the future. I have asked of the women of New York that in this new year we cultivate within ourselves the spirit of good will, which is the foundation of peace, and that we preserve the high ideals and the finer values of life that have always been a part of the Auxiliary.

Mrs. H. C. Myers. My state daughters were Arizona, Connecticut, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Michigan and Vermont.

Mrs. Skjerseth, Arizona. The Auxiliary to the Arizona Rural Letter Carriers' Association held two meetings of the Executive Board and a joint meeting with Arizona

R.L.C.A.'s Executive Board during the past year.

On May 30, 1946, the Arizona Rural Letter Carriers Association and Auxiliary met in Tucson, Arizona, for our State Convention. Our guest speakers were Postal Inspector R. Nye, and the Superintendent of Mails of the Tucson Post Office, Mr. Pritchard.

We as an organization wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our national officers for the part they played in piloting H.R. 5059 through Congress, which means so much to the carriers and families. Again we say "Thanks."

Mrs. Dorothy Nelson, Connecticut. The Auxiliary in Connecticut has a present membership of 72, an increase of 20 percent over the year 1945. Seven of its eight counties are organized, and six have held regular meetings through the year.

331 books have been given to hospitals, institutions and servicemen throughout the state. These were valued at about \$605.00.

As a money-making project, more than 100 boxes of greeting cards were sold this past year.

There were between 30 and 40 ladies present at the annual State meeting held at Vernon in May. At a joint session with the men we were privileged to hear National Treasurer Ellis, and Mrs. J. R. Winter of the National Executive Committee was our own special guest. She charmed us all with her pleasing manner and southern accent, and besides impressing upon us the need for cooperation in our efforts, aroused our interest in the cancelled stamp poster contest.

Mrs. Laug, Michigan. The Michigan Ladies Auxiliary to the R.L.C.A. held their state convention at Bay City, July 15, 16, and 17. We were honored in having our National Committeewoman, Mrs. Clara Winter, with us. Her inspiring message gave us much food for thought. We regretted that because of train schedule, she could not remain to install our officers. Mrs. W. G. Armstrong, a past National President, installed them. Mr. Barney Winquest also spoke to us.

Under Americanism, Mrs. H. G. Turner, chairman, encouraged our membership to carry out the following projects: Four wheelchairs were given to returned war veterans as a permanent gift. Money was pooled by different counties for the purchase of two picture or rather book projector machines, and as many micro-films as possible. \$408.50 was given for the above project. 413 books were given to various organizations and libraries, values at \$906.16. Michigan was 100 percent in selling her quota of R.F.D. books. Many counties gave cookies, canned fruit, and gifts to be used as bingo prizes at veterans' hospitals. Eleven counties prepared Year Books, and a prize was given for the best.

This was the second year for our Cancelled Stamp Poster project. This past year it was carried out as a national project. The idea originated in Berrien County, and the original poster is being exhibited. Mrs. Winter graciously consented to act as one of the judges in this poster contest.

A trophy was given to the county having the best report on Americanism. 6,536 magazines were given in the Magazine Exchange.

We have 887 members, an increase over last year, 128 of whom are retired carriers' wives and 25 widows. Our Conservation chairman, Mrs. Lafern Tremper, who so capably filled out the unexpired term of Clara Anderson, carried on the well laid out plans for the year. Several posters de-

picting game, fish, wild flowers and trees were exhibited.

Our educational program, "Know Michigan Better," was developed by Mrs. Gladys Davis. Our county units worked in pairs. Questions and answers of counties were exchanged, games were played bringing out the cities, rivers, and industries of our state. The histories of many counties were written.

A very fitting Memorial Service was held at our State Convention. Five golden candles in a golden candelabra were lighted in memory of those who have passed on during the fifty years of our rural service. Red and white candles were used for those passing on this year.

Charter members and wives of retired carriers were honored at a special tea celebrating our 21st birthday.

Mrs. Whitney, Nebraska. During the past year Nebraska has tried to carry out parts of the National Auxiliary program which we felt were workable in our state. We have participated in the book-giving contest with our state Auxiliary donating \$25.00 to be used to buy books for the Hattie Monroe Home for Crippled Children in Omaha, Nebraska. Last year the same amount was given for books for the Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln, and we know they were appreciated very much.

The funds for such donations are raised through the selling of greeting cards, gift wrappings, and correspondence note paper. Through this means we have also bought bonds.

Our state is divided into five districts, and we have a committeewoman for each district who is responsible for the membership in that district. Our membership shows an increase over last year. Some of the districts and some counties have regular meetings. Two district meetings were held on February 22nd throughout the state.

Added attractions at our state meeting this year was a book review, in keeping with the book-giving contest. Special numbers were given by a newly formed trio. During the joint banquet a large birthday cake decorated in gold was presented to the men, and as a special feature a Golden Jubilee song written by one of our Auxiliary members, was sung to the men as a surprise. We also are taking part in the stamp poster contest.

We enjoyed having our National President, Margaret Myers, as our Auxiliary visitor, and received much help from her. We were also grateful to have our own vice president of the R.L.C.A., Barney Winqest, as a national visitor and received help and inspiration from both of them.

Mrs. B. A. Tillman, New Mexico. The State Convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the R.L.C.A. of New Mexico was held at Clovis, New Mexico, May 29th and 30th, 1946. Members enjoyed a picnic supper at Clovis City Park on the evening of the 29th as guests of the mail carriers of Curry County.

The first meeting was held jointly with the R.L.C.A. on the evening of the 29th, and all enjoyed a talk by Mr. Walter Gray of the National Board.

Business meetings were held at the Clovis Hotel on the 30th and Mrs. Harries, National Committee member, addressed the group, giving a very inspirational message, and assisted in the installation of officers.

Members voted to buy two books and present them in the name of the Auxiliary to two Veterans' Hospitals in the region. Orders were taken for Mrs. Aaberg's book on the R.F.D.

New Mexico Auxiliary has at present 26 members.

Mrs. Lanning, North Carolina. This report of the Ladies Auxiliary of North Carolina will not be lengthy. We will not tax you with a lot of figures, even though they were interesting to us who have worked hard to achieve our goal.

Our work got under way in earnest at our fall Board meeting, which was held in Lexington, North Carolina, at Hotel March in November, 1945. This was a joint meeting with the North Carolina Rural Letter Carriers. Attendance was more than 100, and included a number of distinguished guests. Notable among these were our own National Secretary, Nancy Myers, National Committeewoman, Mrs. J. R. Winter, and Mr. Winter of Winterville, Georgia, National President Thomas G. Walters and Mrs. Walters, and Superintendent and Mrs. J. Ed Cooper of Washington, D. C. Talks by these were inspiring and informative. After a banquet and business meeting and these wonderful speeches, we left with a determination to do our best.

From then to the opening date of our State Convention on July 4, 1946 we waged a relentless campaign for members. The score at the final count stands:

Number of members—active carriers' wives	380
Numbers of members—retired carriers' wives	16
Number of members widows	2
Total members for the year.....	398
Gain	127

We sold 70 R.F.D. books at our State Convention at Raleigh, July 4, 5, and 6. Our organization gave a number of books and good magazines during the year, but I do not have at hand the exact figures.

We organized some new counties during the year.

The Ladies Auxiliary gave a reception at the State Convention for the retired carriers and the new carriers. This was conceded to be one of the highlights of the whole convention.

Our aim is set higher for next year, and we not only hope for but anticipate, greater achievement.

Mrs. Kent, Vermont. The 22nd Annual State Meeting was held in Barton, June 24th and 25th, with a very good attendance. Eleven of our twelve organized counties were represented. We regret to report only three one hundred percent counties. Our membership is 144.

We were very fortunate to have our National President, Mrs. J. Paul Myers, with us. Her discussion of the organization work was very helpful and instructive, and we deeply appreciate her effort in crossing the continent to attend the state meetings in the East.

We were grateful to Mr. Winqest, National Vice President of the Association, for a very fine discussion on widows' annuity.

The R.F.D. Golden Jubilee Book was heartily accepted and our quota was sold during the session. Vermont was the first state to send money for the books.

The Canceled Stamp poster from Windsor County is being exhibited at this convention.

Contributions were voted to the Red Cross and children's aid.

The Memorial service was held in joint session, and was directed by the Chaplains of the two organizations.

Mrs. J. R. Winter. I am very proud of my daughter states as all mothers are. They

included Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Oregon, and Rhode Island. If there is anything special you would like to say, will you please come forward, and then all of you hand me your reports, please?

(Mrs. Eveslage spoke, stressing the work of Ohio with the Junior organization especially, stating the state was proud of Mrs. Gladden and hoped that she would be considered again when a National Junior Sponsor was selected for the ensuing year.)

Mrs. Ware, Georgia. I would particularly like to say we have been very proud of having Clara Winter as a National Officer and Mr. Walters in the Association. We did join with the men in giving a new automobile this year to show them how much we thought of them. (Applause.)

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. Margaret belongs to us, and we are going to take her home pretty soon. Because of our Margaret we at last become a one hundred percent state.

President Myers. I am proud of everyone of you, your work has been splendid during the year. It shows you have done more than we have ever accomplished, with all due respect to what has gone before. You have all come forward this year, and I am most grateful for your work. (Applause.) (The typed reports of each state follow.)

Mrs. Ware, Georgia. Membership, 703, the highest in the history of the Georgia Auxiliary, a gain of 140 over last year, and the second state in gain of members. We lost in the Friendly Membership Contest by only 1%, having had 49 counties that were 100 percent. We also participated in the canceled stamp poster contest.

We interested the 7th grade teacher in Meriweather County Grammar School in our project. Her pupils made posters first to show the district officers in planning a meeting on February 22nd.

Nearly all districts had fall banquets, at which time I presented the year's program.

Georgia Rural Letter Carriers Association and the Auxiliary presented National President Walters and Mrs. Walters a new Ford automobile at the State Banquet in Atlanta, Georgia, in his honor. Guests at this banquet were Mr. and Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Winter, Mrs. H. C. Myers, Mr. Willard Manning, Governor Arnoll of Georgia.

Enthusiastic interest was shown in book giving. Our men cooperated in this, as well as our membership. 277 books were given at a value of \$554.70.

Our year's work climaxed in a Golden Jubilee Convention, said to be one of the best, if not the best, we ever had. During the convention Mr. Walters, Mrs. Winter, my husband and I were interviewed by Enid Day, well known radio personality, on her program over WSB, paying tribute to our rural carrier husbands and in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Rural Free Delivery.

Mrs. Magnuson, Indiana. Our State Convention in the Hoosier State was held at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee, July 7th, 8th, and 9th, with a fine attendance and a fine spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm. A band concert was enjoyed on Sunday afternoon, the 7th. In the evening a joint meeting was held, with a very impressive Memorial service.

On Monday evening, July 8th, a fellowship dinner was enjoyed by about 280 at Oakwood Park Hotel, after which the group assembled in the Auditorium for a joint meeting.

Honored guests at the convention were; our own Mrs. Ross E. Immel, Past National President; Mrs. Geo. H. Harries, member

of the National Executive Board; Mr. Glen Folkers, National Secretary; and Mrs. Folkers.

Our Junior organization headed by Miss Artman and sponsored by Mrs. Guy Artman, gave a very interesting program, after which a lovely tea was served the ladies by the local committee, and was much appreciated.

Special recognition was given the 100 percent counties, of which there were 34, now 41. The counties were honored by a representative placing an airplane sticker to fly to the Statue of Liberty, which was painted on a large poster.

Twenty-seven retired carriers' wives were present and received recognition in the form of a small gift.

Our state is divided into ten districts, each district having its own officers and holding one meeting each year. These meetings are well attended and are a great help to the state officers, as well as to the members. Each of our state officers is assigned to one or more districts to carry to them the National Program plans at their meetings.

Several counties displayed cancelled stamp posters, Route History books, and printed Year Books. The report of the Book-giving Contest at the time of the convention showed \$421.80. 99 R.F.D. books were sold.

Membership at the close of the convention was 608 regulars, 118 retired carriers' wives, 26 widows, 21 subs' wives. Our potential membership is 900. We have 92 counties with 68 organized, and 34 one hundred percent counties at the time of the convention. One new county was organized this year and reported 100 percent at the convention. Membership 822—25 subs to date.

We, the officers, have tried to follow, as nearly as possible, the program as outlined by the national officers, and hope we have not been a disappointment to them. We want to thank the national officers, and especially our State Mother, Mrs. J. R. Winter, for the help and inspiration so freely given.

Naturally we are happy to have won in Friendly Membership Contest with North Carolina.

Mrs. Spear, Kentucky. I bring you greetings from Kentucky, the Bluegrass State.

I fully realized the responsibility that was mine when our State President told me she was leaving for Florida in May. It was very hard to take over at that time, with the State Convention just ahead, programs to be planned, and so many things to be done. However, the state secretary and all the ladies were so grand to help me that I got through.

I am happy to report we have a gain in membership of 31 over last year, making our membership 233 now.

Our 21st Annual Convention was held in Louisville on July 4th and 5th. The meeting was enthusiastic and full of interest. Our national guest, Mrs. Ed J. Harriges, was an inspiration to us, an ever-ready help in every way she could. Her timely advice and helpful suggestions won her a lasting place in our hearts. Her address was greatly appreciated by all.

Mrs. Robert Greathouse, Past National President from Kentucky, brought us greetings. We enjoyed the interesting and instructive address given by National President, Thomas G. Walters.

Instead of our usual bazaar, a silver offering was taken in order to keep money in our special fund. We sold 61 of the R.F.D. books.

The round robin letter made its third trip around and was greatly enjoyed. I have enjoyed also our state Mother's most enthusiastic guidance throughout the year.

We hope in the coming year to follow up our present slogan, "Let us go forward together," to an even greater extent than in the past.

Mrs. Knick, Montana. I bring you greetings from the state of Montana. The Montana State Convention of the Auxiliary met at Glasgow, July 12th and 13th. The business sessions were well attended.

Membership attained, 88. Out of 56 counties in the state of Montana, we have carriers in 37 counties, with 11 attaining one hundred percent membership.

Thirty-five books were given in the contest, valued at \$48.00. The full quota of the R.F.D. books for the state was sold.

A tour, arranged by the city, of the Fort Peck dam, the largest earth-filled dam in the world, was of much interest.

Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, National Vice President, was a help and inspiration at all our sessions.

Mrs. Arthur Bird, North Dakota. I wish to submit the 1946 report of the activities of the North Dakota Rural Letter Carriers Auxiliary. Our state convention, which was held at Williston, July 21st to 23rd, we feel was a success in every way. Though our attendance was not as large as at other conventions in the past, a very active and interested group met for all sessions, and we are glad to report that so many of our past officers were there to greet us, this being our first state convention since 1943. Fifty-eight were registered, and our National Vice President, Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, was our guest speaker and National representative. She gave us some very interesting, as well as valuable, information in her inspiring talks and cleared up many of the postal questions for us.

We contributed \$30.00 to help publish the Auxiliary page in our state paper. We sold our quota of 75 R.F.D. books allotted to our state, before and at the convention, and turned the money over to our national representative.

On June 30th we had a membership of 162, and would have won the Friendly Membership contest had our dues reached the National office in time. At the state convention July 23rd we gained 100 members, making our membership 262 members. We now have a total membership of 268 and have three counties that are 100 percent.

We have one canceled stamp poster on exhibit at this convention, having had two at the State Convention. We have a record of 23 books given by the North Dakota Auxiliary, using the Auxiliary sticker, and valued at \$27.25. Our units also compiled several History books and some counties have Route History books.

Many of our members contributed their time, work, and money toward helping the Red Cross. Some of our units also have service flags, and our whole state a Service Roster.

Mrs. Eveslage, Ohio. The 21st annual convention and Golden Jubilee celebration of the Auxiliary to the Ohio Rural Letter Carriers was held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio, July 14th to 17th. A joint memorial service was held on Monday A. M. honoring the deceased members, and special tribute was given to sons and daughters who paid the supreme sacrifice in the recent World War.

Monday evening a Golden Jubilee entertainment was enjoyed in the ball room under the direction of Martin Merryfield,

leader of the Ohio R.L.C.A. band, and our vice president, Julia Merryfield. The program was given by members of the Auxiliary and Juniors in Gay Nineties costumes. The festivities ended by crowning the Ohio President, Mrs. Karl Rogers, the Golden Jubilee Queen. Corsages of yellow roses were presented to the wives of retired carriers.

We were honored by having National Committee member, Mrs. George Harries of San Antonio, Texas, as our guest, who attended all the sessions and gave us much information and help, for which we were grateful. Also Walter D. Gray, Ohio Committee member of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, was present and gave an inspiring talk.

There were five posters submitted for the canceled stamp poster contest. Mrs. J. J. Kinder of Lancaster, the winner, was presented a prize.

There were 49 books given in the Book contest at a value of \$95.00. Our Auxiliary sold 130 copies of the R.F.D. books.

Ohio won in the Friendly Membership Contest with Tennessee. Our Juniors were reorganized and had splendid meetings under the leadership of Mrs. Paul Morton, who was appointed leader when Mrs. R. V. Gladden, our committee member, took over the National Juniors, and we are justly proud of the grand work Mrs. Gladden is doing.

The annual Bazaar was a success and the proceeds of \$87.35 were given to the O.R.L.C.A. Band to buy supplies. The band was reorganized after the war years, and all were happy to have them playing for us again.

We have a page in the Ohio paper where news of interest is printed each month.

Mrs. Clara Winter of Winterville, Georgia, was our "Mom" this year, and her letters and cards were an inspiration and most helpful.

At the close of the convention our membership was 862 active and 47 associate. We have 32 one hundred percent counties and two districts that are one hundred percent, with a gain of 82 members over last year.

All officers were re-elected, and installed by our National visitor, Mrs. Lola Harries.

Mrs. Walworth, Oregon. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Oregon Rural Letter Carriers Association met in conjunction with the men in Grants Pass, Oregon, July 25th to 28th. Our own Margaret represented the National Family. Her enthusiasm made it possible to report, and we are proud to be able to report, that we are one hundred percent in membership.

We gave 156 books at the value of \$225.00 to various libraries and hospitals, including Navy and Veterans Hospitals, schools, ships, and recreation centers. We bore in mind good books where they were most needed. We sold 80 R.F.D. books at the Convention. We entered a stamp poster in the national contest.

At our Convention there were two features—an "Old Timers" Banquet honoring retired carriers and their wives, and the "Gold Theme" carried out at the formal banquet honoring the Golden Jubilee of Rural Carrier Service.

Mrs. Baxter, Rhode Island. Our little state has a membership of 30, with an increase of 3 members. Our goal toward which we are working, is six additional members.

In the book-giving contest there were nine books given away.

The Rhode Island Auxiliary is a small organization, and its activities, therefore, are necessarily limited. We have the same

difficulty that some of the larger states experience in getting out a full attendance at meetings. Only a certain proportion attends.

We also have difficulty at times in securing material for our state officers. Sometimes the members present feel they are not competent to hold office or are unwilling to serve.

President Myers. Does anyone have any unfinished business?

Mrs. Teisman, Ohio. I have been asked by Mr. Young, the man with the grave markers, to explain to you that no grave marker can be bought unless your National President selects the firm he told us about as the official jeweler."

I move that you instruct your National President to select the Gordon Miller Company as your official jeweler, of Cincinnati, Ohio. (Seconded by Mrs. Gladden, Ohio.)

President Myers. That just includes the grave marker, doesn't it? Am I correct? We at the present time have another jeweler at another place for the pins. I thought your motion just included the grave marker. So you ladies understand it is just for the grave marker. (Motion carried with one opposing vote.)

Mrs. Clark, California. Madam President: There are 124 ladies here today who are apt to go home a little unhappy, I think, so I would like to make a suggestion about how this matter of substitutes' wives and auxiliary helpers' wives and so on can be handled.

In California we have a happy way of doing it, and it has worked very well. We take them in as state members when they want to come, but we do not pay per capita. They pay state dues and work along with us, and everyone is happy. In that way we have many rural carriers who have gone into the mounted city service, and they like to keep up their connections with the rural carriers, naturally, and we have the wives of those carriers as associate members. I just want to offer that as a suggestion to you folks.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Clark. Is there further unfinished business?

Mrs. Hamel, Minnesota. Madam President: It is my understanding that the members of the Credentials Committee had to come a day early in order to work and thus had one night extra hotel bill, so I would at this time like to move that the members of the Credentials Committee each be allowed \$5.00 extra expense for this purpose.

President Myers. The Constitution and By-Laws asked them to come a day early and they worked all day Monday, started work at eight o'clock.

Question. Didn't they eat that day?

President Myers. They did, and paid one extra hotel bill. (Motion was seconded by Mrs. Crist of Michigan. Carried with no opposing vote and was so ordered that they each be paid the additional \$5.00 per day extra.)

Mrs. Hamel, Minnesota. I would like to ask the question, will there be uniform state report blanks for next year?

President Myers. The convention has not taken action on that at this time. It would be a matter for you to present, if you wish, and request that the board take it up and make a decision. Would you like to make that motion?

Mrs. Hamel. I would like to move that the Executive Board select a uniform state report form for next year. (Seconded by Mrs. Tara of Michigan. Carried and was so ordered.)

President Myers. Are there any retired carriers' wives in the room who did not

receive their little glass buttonnieres? We would like to present these to these ladies who were not in the session when they were presented.

Mrs. Harries. Mrs. George H. Walker of Massachusetts, Mrs. Gazelle of Pella, Iowa. We are sorry these ladies were not here yesterday when we honored the others, but we love them as much this morning as we did yesterday afternoon, and we are happy to give them these vases. Mrs. Gazelle says she went to a wedding yesterday and that is why she couldn't come.

President Myers. The next order of business is election. The prizes, however, for the different contests are going to be awarded while we are counting votes. But first, Jean has the county memberships we haven't recognized yet, and we want that report.

Mrs. Stafflinger. It seems like toward the tail end of the convention we just rush and overlap things until you don't know "where you are at." This membership parade idea was to really be quite nice. The states with the largest percentage of 100 percent counties, based on the number of counties in their states, were to head the parade and so on down the line. I had everything all arranged and was going to ask these ladies to go to the back of the room and we were going to parade down the aisle to the front with music. We still can if you so wish. We didn't plan prizes for this contest, it was new, and we wanted to see how it would work.

To the very best of our ability we have judged and credited your state with the right percentage of one hundred percent counties. They may not be as accurate as you think they should be, but we have looked up every record we could to make sure they are right. Would you like to eliminate the parade and just have me read the results. I have nine plants for the nine winners. The list is as follows:

States with Largest Number of 100% Counties	
Wisconsin	67.8
Iowa	62.6
Oregon	53.3
Pennsylvania	50.
Alabama	46.3
New York	45.
Indiana	44.1
South Dakota	42.
Minnesota	40.7
(Nine Highest)	
Illinois	38.3
Washington	37.1
Missouri	36.3
Ohio	36.1
Oklahoma	33.7
Georgia	30.
Michigan	27.2
Tennessee	25.
Vermont	25.
Kansas	22.7
Nebraska	21.9
California	21.5
New Jersey	21.
Montana	20.
New Hampshire	20.
Maine	15.4
Mississippi	15.
Connecticut	14.2
Kentucky	10.3
Colorado	9.
South Carolina	8.7
North Carolina	5.
North Dakota	5.
(The following had None Each)	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
Delaware	

Florida

Idaho

Louisiana

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Mexico

Rhode Island

Texas

Virginia

West Virginia

Wyoming

(The delegates of the nine states came forward and received their little plant and each in turn said thank you and expressed their happiness over the increase in their membership. They each gave all members full credit for the work done to bring about the increases.)

Mrs. Stafflinger. I don't know, maybe by judging this another way, we might have had first, second, and third prizes, but there are the first nine that came up above 35 percent in their one hundred percent counties in membership.

President Myers. The hour is getting late, I am going to put this up to the convention. We still have election of officers and prizes to present in the contests and then our installation and closing. It is now 12:30, does the Convention wish to continue or would you rather disband and come back this afternoon? We will have to decide that question. It is up to your decision.

Mrs. Shafer, Kansas. Of course I realize it is selfish, but my train leaves at 4:30. I move that we continue and move on as fast as possible. (Seconded by Mrs. DePriest. Carried.)

President Myers. We will now proceed with the election. Will the tellers come forward quickly? (The tellers distributed ballots.)

We are now ready for balloting. Your candidate that you nominated yesterday for President is Kathryn VandenBerge. There is only one candidate for that office. Our ballots were already printed and they provide a place for each officer, all on one slip of paper. This is important—you will see we have President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee and there are three places under the Executive Committee. The first one you name will be your two-year and the second one you name will be your three-year term vote.

We will proceed, then, with the complete election. If there are any that wish to write a name in that has not been presented on the ballot, though nominations closed yesterday, you are privileged to write that name in and it will be counted.

The reason the blackboard is here, some people didn't know how to spell the names, and some were so much alike, the Board felt it would make it easier if we wrote here the name of the one nominated so that you would know the spelling of the ladies' names.

Mrs. Miller, Wisconsin. There has been so much discussion about the spelling of names, I can appreciate your feeling. I am just wondering, to further the cause more, after they write the name of either Hurriges or Harries if it wouldn't be proper for them to write Wisconsin or Texas as the case may be, and the same for the Hills.

Mrs. Stafflinger. I was asked to write the names of the candidates for the contests, I didn't stop to think whether one was nominated first or not. There is a question now that one was nominated ahead of the other. I just wrote them down to show them just so you would know how to spell them.

President Myers. The secretary will call the roll and the delegates at large will stand.

(The Secretary called the roll of votes as follows and each state was given the ballots by the tellers sufficient to cover the number of votes called:)

	Votes
Alabama	11
Arizona	1
Arkansas	4
California	5
Colorado	4
Connecticut	2
Delaware	1
Florida	4
Georgia	15
Idaho	2
Illinois	22
Indiana	17
Iowa	22
Kansas	15
Kentucky	6
Louisiana	3
Maine	4
Maryland	4
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	18
Minnesota	17
Mississippi	5
Missouri	19
Montana	3
Nebraska	9
New Hampshire	3
New Jersey	3
New Mexico	2
New York	19
North Carolina	9
North Dakota	6
Ohio	18
Oklahoma	10
Oregon	4
Pennsylvania	21
Rhode Island	2
South Carolina	6
South Dakota	8
Tennessee	11
Texas	11
Vermont	4
Virginia	6
Washington	5
West Virginia	4
Wisconsin	19
Wyoming	2

Each National Officer 1 Vote each and the Junior Past President 1 Vote.

Total number of votes..... 397

President Myers. Please bring the extra ballots to the chairman of the tellers.

Before you vote I am going to ask the candidates to appear before you on the platform. Before we introduce them, we have a guest in the room who wishes to say a few words.

Mr. A. K. Dickinson of Florida has an announcement at this time.

Mr. Dickinson. Madam President, Officers, and Ladies of the Convention: The convention for next year has just been awarded to Tampa, Florida, and my office is Director of the Tourist Bureau at the Chamber of Commerce, so I will be happy to arrange facilities for you and get up the entertainment, and so forth. I have been to the last three meetings since St. Louis, Columbus, Cincinnati, and this one and St. Paul during the war, so I know what you require. We will have a very nice hotel which will have air conditioning in the meeting room, a beautiful place. All the ladies that come there from around the state go to this hotel, and I know you will enjoy it and be comfortable there.

I won't take up any time now, but you

will be welcome in Tampa. We will be looking for you. Good-bye.

President Myers. Thank you, Mr. Dickinson. We will be there with bells on.

I have on the platform the nominees. (Introduced each.) You may clear your ballot now and vote. This does not prohibit you from writing in anyone you wish to. You will proceed with the voting and complete your ballot.

I would suggest that before you place your ballots in the box that you lay them at the side of the box until you get your complete vote counted and then put them in, put them face down, of course. You must vote all your ballots or they will be thrown out.

We are ready to cast our votes now, and you are requested to be very quiet so we can hear the count. Arrange yourselves alphabetically down the aisle here to expedite matters.

(Each delegate voting approached the ballot box, counted her ballots aloud, placing them face down outside the box, and upon completion of her count, placed them in the box. In one or two instances, to make sure, a recount was taken so that the voter would not lose her votes, and at the close the secretary announced that the total number of votes cast was 397.)

President Myers. We will now excuse the tellers who will withdraw to the rear of the convention hall, not leaving the hall. Will the pages stand guard near the door? They are not to communicate with any person until the count is completed, and I shall station a page back there to keep everyone away from where they are counting.

Now, while we are counting the votes, I am going to ask the different girls to present the prizes that have been won in the different contests. First, the Friendly Membership Contest. I have asked Clara Winter.

Mrs. Winter. It is a pleasure to award the prizes to the winners of these states. I hope you win again next year, and will enjoy the prizes we have for you. (See this report at a previous place in these proceedings for the winning states. Each state thanked Mrs. Winter and thanked the members and officers for helping the state win.)

President Myers. Next, Route History Book contest. Kathryn will present the prize.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Will the delegate from Indiana come forward? I am very happy to give you this prize for the best Route History Book. Route History Books, I feel, grow more valuable as the years go along, and I would commend them to all of you as something that will be useful in education to your membership as the personnel changes. Congratulations, Mrs. Magnuson.

Mrs. Magnuson. Thank you, Mrs. VandenBerge, we are very happy to receive this gift.

President Myers. The Book-giving Contest, Mrs. Harriges.

Mrs. Harriges. Will the delegates from Connecticut and Oklahoma please come forward. Connecticut is first, having given 4.5 books per person, amounting to \$8.42 per capita. Oklahoma is second, having given 1.17 books per person amounting to \$2.35 per capita.

I am sure that much good will come from this book-giving project. We all know that a book is the highest delight.

President Myers. Now we have the Junior Scrapbook Contest.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Pennsylvania won. It

is quite fitting that Mrs. Hall should take home to one of her juniors the prize for the best scrapbook, because she was the Junior Sponsor from Pennsylvania. To my knowledge, this is the second time Lucille Everett has won a prize for her scrapbook in a Junior Contest.

Mrs. Hall. Thank you very much. It makes me very happy to take this back.

Mrs. Gladden. We had three scrapbooks. Pennsylvania took first and third, and Ohio rated second. Stewart Morgan, our state secretary's son, submitted it. It was on Indians and was very good. I saw the Pennsylvania books, and they were grand.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Gladden. I am sure she has done a wonderful job with the Juniors this year.

Next we have one hundred percent states. Mrs. Harriges has charge of that.

Mrs. Harriges. Will the delegates at large from Oregon, Wyoming, Iowa and Wisconsin please come forward?

You ladies have won one of the highest honors given by the Auxiliary, that of having your state one hundred percent in membership. When the prizes are given for one hundred percent in membership they carry with them the stipulation that the hundred percent must be won three years in succession to retain the prize. Since this is the first year for Iowa, Oregon, and Wyoming, they will now be presented with a loving cup. Since Wisconsin has had three loving cups, so this year we are starting Wisconsin on the first year of a briefcase, and when these four states win prizes for three years in succession, they become their permanent possession. I wish you success in the next two years in maintaining top membership so that these gifts may be permanent.

Mrs. Hammach, Iowa. Again, I regret very much that our retiring president, Christine Meyer, is unable to be here to receive this cup, because it was during her administration that we of Iowa accomplished this one hundred percent membership, and I am receiving it for her and for all of our Iowa girls. We are so happy to receive it, and hope we can continue to hold it.

Mrs. Wakworth, Oregon. In the name of Oregon, I am very happy to receive this loving cup. I feel that it is the past president and past secretary who owe more thanks than we could ever begin to say to Margaret Myers for the inspiration of having a national officer in our midst. It makes it mandatory, absolutely to have a one hundred percent membership.

Mrs. Larson, Wyoming. Wyoming wishes to thank you for this. We are so happy that we could be one hundred percent, and I know it is through the efforts of Mrs. Stafford, our President, and Mrs. Mong, our Secretary, who have done so much work. I am just here to receive it, and am sorry they couldn't be here.

Mrs. Miller, Wisconsin. If it hadn't been for our state Mother, Mrs. Harriges, always being right next door so that we could call on her at any time for any information we wanted and get set on the right foot, I am sure we wouldn't have been as successful as we were. I don't claim the honor of receiving this. I feel that the members throughout the state with our State Mother's help, are the ones to whom credit is due, and I thank you all very much.

Mrs. Harriges. And to the rest of the states who have come so close to that goal of one hundred percent, I know how hard you are working and I wish for each of

you the one hundred percent cup for next year.

President Myers. Thank you. I deem it quite an honor to have Oregon go one hundred percent this year especially. In our retired carrier group they were divided into five separate groups. We grouped the smaller memberships according to membership, hence there are five prizes to be presented, and the winners in this contest will receive their gifts now. Mrs. Harries.

Mrs. Harries. Following through with the Jubilee honoring of retired carriers' wives yesterday, they thought perhaps I would like to award the prizes to the states who had the most retired carriers' wives, so I shall call these names, and will you come up. Under 100—Idaho; 100 to 250—New Jersey; 250 to 500—South Dakota; 500 to 1000—Wisconsin; All over 1000, Iowa. We know these states could not have won had their carriers' wives not been loyal. However, it took planning to get these in, and for this reason it gives me great pleasure to award these gifts. When these ladies have finished they will pass them on to their successors for use on their desks.

Mrs. Miller, Wisconsin. It seems like Christmas, rather than convention time. This is three or four times I have been up here. I appreciate this gift more than you will know, because I consider it an honor to have our retired carriers' wives stay with us and feel that they are one of us, and I hope they will continue that way all over the United States.

Mrs. Harries. All these prizes were wrapped the other night between twelve and one o'clock by your committee members, so if they are smashed a bit you will pardon us.

Mrs. Baird, South Dakota. Thank you, and I am very happy to receive this for South Dakota.

Mrs. Hill, New Jersey. We are proud of our retired carriers' wives, they really are very loyal and some of them very, very good workers.

Mrs. Hannasch. I am so happy to receive this, too, in honor of our retired carriers' wives. We also appreciate them very much in Iowa, and during our past state convention just recently we had a special centennial tea in their honor, and we do appreciate this for them.

Mrs. Harries. If any of you see the Idaho delegate, will you tell her the gift is up here at the table? Thank you.

President Myers. Will you place it on her chair, then she will be sure to get it.

Now we have the presentation of the ribbons for the History. Some of you get blue and some get red. Kathryn has those for you. You will take your ribbon home and turn it over to your state.

Mrs. VandenBerge. This is going to be a delegates' procession as there is a ribbon for everybody, 42 blue ones and 4 red ones. If the delegates at large are getting tired feet, they could send their vice presidents, for the vice president is the historian. These aren't prizes, but recognition of the fact that you have completed a duty. So far as I know, it is the first time that the whole file has been complete at convention time. I will read the list and Mrs. Winter will give you the ribbon. (Read list and ribbons were presented.) These you will take home to your state just as a recognition that you have completed that necessary piece of work. The files have been here, and I know that some of you have gotten valuable assistance from them. They are useful to the national officers when we want to look something up, and they are useful to you if anything happens to your

state records. Then the National has something on file, something with which you can replace statistics of years gone by.

(All received blue with the exception of Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, and Virginia.)

President Myers. The next is the Canceled Stamp Poster Contest, Mrs. Winter.

Mrs. Winter. The first prize goes to Pennsylvania. Then Oregon, North Carolina, Indiana, and Colorado.

Again I want to thank you, and each one of you, who had any part in helping to make this contest a success. When it was assigned I wondered what we could do with it, and you have made it a success. I am glad Mrs. Myers assigned this pleasant task to me. I have enjoyed working with it, and I appreciate anything you have done. These are just tokens of our appreciation that you helped to make it a success.

Pennsylvania's poster was entered by an individual. The second place goes to Oregon, and I understand this was made in a group, and this is something we think they as a group may enjoy. The ones who have received honorable mention—I wanted you to see them, and I wanted to tell them how much I appreciate what they did. So many people have talked about the poster with the zinnias on it. I wanted her to know that everybody thought it was so pretty. I wish I had a prize to give to each one of you who entered a poster. I thank each one of you, and this is proof that "Cooperation means Success."

(It was stated that Mrs. Lanning made the North Carolina poster. Mrs. Kent made the one for Colorado.)

I believe honorable mention should go to all of you. And then, too, I want to tell you that I have all the boxes and wrappings for the posters that were mailed here, up in my room so that you may get those to return your posters.

President Myers. Thank you so much, Clara.

I believe this concludes the gift giving. Is there anything else the convention body would like to bring before this group?

Mrs. Greer of Arkansas. May I take just one minute to tell you that Mrs. Phinney from Arkansas, your Past National Treasurer, sends you greetings.

President Myers. Thank you, Mrs. Greer. Anyone else wish the floor?

How many of you ladies would be willing to stay for the installation if we give you your checks now?

Mrs. Stafflinger, Treasurer. Those six ladies who held up their hands will get their checks and the rest of you will have to wait. (Laughter and then they all agreed to stay.)

(Mrs. Stafflinger distributed the mileage checks.)

President Myers. I want to say a word of appreciation for the work that Jean has done during my term of office. She is very efficient, she is a lady that we like to see at this period when we receive those checks. Jean is going to leave the board this year, but I just want to say this that I do appreciate everything that Jean has done when she has worked on the Board. Her work has been perfect.

Mrs. Stafflinger. I think she is stretching it a little bit, it has been far from perfect, but so we won't be taking up time with flowery speeches a little later, I would like you ladies to know that the six years I have been on the Board have really been the happiest years I have had. I have enjoyed working with you and for you, and I just hope for years to come I will be able to come into your state and meet

some of you and attend as many conventions as I can. I will always have the interests of this Auxiliary at heart. It has been grand working with every officer. This last board has grown dear to my heart. I hate to go, but I am happy to turn it over to whoever the lucky lady may be. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

President Myers. Are the tellers ready to report? (Not ready) Let's have some music and let's give our musician a big hand, Mrs. Ware of Georgia. I had asked her to be Johnny on the Spot and stay at the piano, and she has complied in every way, as well as our song leader, Mrs. Clark. (Applause and community singing.)

The ladies of Nebraska were the ones that inspired this Golden Jubilee song, and I think Mrs. Maude Whitlock of Nebraska wrote most of the words, and one of the delegates seated in this convention, Mary Morton, who was here yesterday for a short time, presented that song at the opening session Monday night. She informed me they had a wreck on the way here, the car demolished, but she was not hurt, though badly shaken up and bruised.

When I was at their convention it impressed me so I asked if we might use it for National, and it is with their permission that we are.

(Following community singing, Mrs. Greer sang "A Perfect Day," dedicating it to Margaret Myers, President.)

Thank you so much, that was beautifully done. Ladies, I do hope it is the end of a perfect day for you, but I am afraid I am not going to be able to say it is a perfect day for me.

I would like to take this opportunity while we have a little extra time here and save speeches after a while, to thank those who have given me gifts and for all your courtesies. This gift was given to me by the Western Conference and I had not opened it as yet, but I sent for it so those in the western conference who hadn't seen it may do so. They know I have a collection of cups and saucers—this makes my 47th—and I am proud of it, it is beautiful china. Another thing, this is our 20th convention, and I believe that is china, so that makes it just a little more appropriate and I appreciate it. The gold set is one that Robert Taylor presented from my state.

You have all been so grand, and if I have contributed to any of your happiness, I am most happy to have done so. I will end my remarks of thank-yous there, and those people will receive personal letters later on.

(It was at this time that the long wait for the tellers to report began and the ladies entertained each other with stories, songs, poems, and what-have-you.)

The tellers came in at 3:40 with their report.)

President Myers. The following is the report of the tellers which you have waited for so anxiously for so long.

For President, Mrs. VandenBerge, 385.

Vice President, Mrs. Harriges, 165; Mrs.

Harries 232. (Necessary to elect 199.)

Secretary, Mrs. Myers, 374.

Treasurer, Mrs. Folkers, 170; Mrs. Crist,

222.

Two-year Term Exec. Bd., Mrs. John Hill,

135; Mrs. Joe Hill, 200.

Three-year Term Exec. Bd., Mrs. Capps,

356; Mrs. Greer, 16; Mrs. Joe Smith, 1.

Mrs. VandenBerge is elected President;

Mrs. Harries Vice President; Mrs. Myers

Secretary; Mrs. Crist Treasurer; Mrs.

Joe Hill for the two-year term; and Mrs.

Capps for the three-year term.

(Mrs. Harriges, Mrs. Hill and Mrs.

Folkers each moved that the vote be made unanimous for their opponents.)

President Myers. Thank you very much, ladies, we will make the record that way. Will these officers-elect please come to the front of the room. I wish to introduce your elected candidates, and then I will turn the gavel over to our installing officer, so real quickly, will you line up in front of the platform?

By the vote we declare these candidates duly elected.

Mrs. R. J. VandenBerge, Corsica, South Dakota, President.

Mrs. George H. Harries, San Antonio, Texas, Vice President.

Mrs. F. C. Myers, Lexington, North Carolina, Secretary.

Mrs. Alice Crist, Deerfield, Michigan, Treasurer.

Mrs. Joe Hill of Pine, Colorado, for two-year term on executive board.

Mrs. J. W. Capps, Camden, Tennessee, for three-year term on executive board.

These are your officers elect, and now I am going to turn the rest of the meeting over to our installing officer, Helen Gwinn. I have performed my mission among you, and I have three or four words I want to say—I love each and every one of you, thank you so much. (Applause.)

Mrs. Gwinn. I should like for the officers elect to retire to the rear of the room and be escorted in. I shall ask our pianist to play a march as they come. Will the past national officers line up to save time, and I won't tell you to escort any certain one? (All stood as the processional came forward.)

(The Installation Service as printed in the Constitution on pages 16 to 20 inclusive was used, each officer being given her badge after hearing the charge, also a white rose, with the following words to the President.)

And now, inasmuch as white is the emblem and stands for purity and is used for love, sympathy, and understanding, I want to pin this rose on you, and since you are to be the light of our Auxiliary and from you each of your officers will receive inspiration and light, so to speak, I hand you this candle, and as each lady is installed you will light her candle for her.

(Mr. VandenBerge presented his wife a bouquet of red roses from the South Dakota Association.)

Mrs. Baird. Dear Kathryn, to have a National President from our good state of South Dakota seems like a dream come true. We know folks are very proud of you. We love you truly, Kathryn dear, we wish you joy throughout the year; may success follow your footsteps wherever you go; please accept this little gift with love and esteem from the South Dakota girls.

Mrs. Gwinn. Now, ladies, as the Bible verse goes, "Let your light so shine before the world that all men may see your good works." I hope you will ever be mindful you are the shining lights of our Auxiliary; we have chosen you to represent us; we have placed our trust in you; and I hope it will never be betrayed. (Completed with the words to the delegates as printed. Vocal solo by Mrs. Muhl "I Would Be True.")

Now, Kathryn, I present you the gavel of our organization, and I hope you will always use it with dignity and credit to yourself and the organization, and I am sure you will.

And now by the virtue of my office as past national president of this Auxiliary, I declare these officers duly installed for the year 1946-1947.

I am going to allow these ladies to take their seats before I present the Past Officers Pins. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms present, please, Mrs. J. Paul Myers?

Margaret. I am very happy to present you this Past President's pin. It has been well earned, and we know that during your years in office you have always had the best interests of the Auxiliary at heart. I am sure you will be happy and proud to wear this pin and I know it will be with dignity that you do wear it.

Mrs. Myers. I am most happy to receive this pin, and I shall continue as I have here in the past.

I thank you so much, you have been a grand convention body to work with, and I hope that you shall not forget me. Thank you.

Mrs. Gwinn. Jean, as our Past Treasurer, I am most happy to present you this Past Treasurer's pin. We appreciate all the work you have done with us, and we know though you are a past treasurer, your interest will still be with the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Stafflinger. You may be sure I shall treasure this Past Treasurer's pin. You know, we are sort of acting like this is a gloomy old funeral, I am awfully sorry for going off the board and I want to cry because I am, but I want to laugh because I am happy because I will see many of you next year and be as I have been in the past, working with you, and I hope you have a safe journey home. I want to thank the Iowa delegation for the lovely things they have done for me during this convention, the trip to Pella and dinner, the lovely flowers, and though my thanks are belated, they are nevertheless sincere, and I do thank you much for all those things.

Mrs. Gwinn. Mrs. Harriges, as retiring Committeewoman, we thank you, too, for the fine work you have done as our Executive Committeewoman. We appreciate it very much. I am sorry you couldn't all go on and be Vice President, but there is only one. I am sure you will enjoy very much the wearing of this pin.

Mrs. Harriges. Thank you for this past officer's pin. I shall always cherish it. I have enjoyed the privilege of being on your executive board, and I assure you I have always worked for the best interests of the Auxiliary. May I thank each and every one of you who have been so grand to me.

Mrs. Gwinn. Now, ladies, these are your officers for the ensuing year, and I will turn the meeting over to Mrs. VandenBerge.

Mrs. VandenBerge. We thank you, Helen, for this lovely installation service, and I assure you that we will always try to live up to the obligations that you have so beautifully stated for us today. You have been just a grand body of delegates, and if I can have you stay by me next year as you have by Margaret this year, I will certainly be happy.

No officer by herself, or board by themselves, can accomplish very much, in fact, almost nothing, but with the help and co-operation of you people and the people at home whom you represent, we can do great things. So we solicit that help and loyalty and cooperation that you have always extended to the Auxiliary.

You have given me a fine board, and we will go to work to do the best that we can for you. It is unfortunate that at the close of the session that we are weary, because that is the time we need to make plans for the next year. That is the only time unless it is accidental, that we see each other until next convention time. If

you have any ideas that you would like incorporated in next year's program, will you see that we get them very, very soon after you go home. We can't wait for the proceedings even to make out a program, because you want to go home and get to working. If you will help us, we can give you a better program than we could if you leave it entirely to us.

There have been so many lovely things done for us at this convention. Iowa has been the perfect host, and we do appreciate all the things that they have done. My daughter states thinking I looked wilted, sent me a fresh corsage to wear, and the South Dakota carriers sent me this lovely bouquet of roses with my husband to present them, and almost best of all was the South Dakota song. We used to say in a national convention we couldn't have the national president because we didn't have a song, and they did something about that.

I promise you the very best I can do on this big job you have laid out for me, and I hope you won't be disappointed. Now, I would like to have you meet my other officers. They have been co-workers, and all but two have been my state daughters, so I know the work they are capable of doing. I know you would like to hear from your Vice Presidents, Mrs. George H. Harries of Texas.

Mrs. Harries. Madam President and Friends. I am deeply grateful and very humble in taking over this office. I know there is a great deal of work and much responsibility in it, but I shall do my best to be an assistant to the President. It is very fitting that I, if I were going to go on in this office, did go on in Iowa, my native state.

I want to thank the Iowa ladies for all their many courtesies; we have been showered with attention and lovely things, and the beautiful bouquet in my room when the convention started is lovely; the cook book is a delight, and I am going to use it when I get home.

There is one thing I have said in every state convention during the war. San Antonio is still a military area, there are still boys being sent there, and if any of your boys, nephews, or close friends come there and need help or need a friend, my husband and I are always ready to bring them into our home. I thank you.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Now our Secretary, Nancy Myers, whom we know well.

Mrs. Myers. Ladies, I greatly appreciate the honor you have again bestowed upon me. I promise I shall continue to do the best I can and work for the upbuilding of this organization. I want to thank my many friends for the lovely gifts they have given me since I came here, the Iowa ladies for the flowers and cookbook, lovely kerchiefs, and things they have given me; my North Carolina ladies for the lovely ear pins that I am wearing today, been presented me since I came into this room; and for the other gifts that I have received from my friends. I thank all of you and I love all of you.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Next, our Treasurer, Mrs. Ivan Crist of Michigan.

Mrs. Crist. Ladies, I want to thank you sincerely for this high honor that you have conferred upon me. It is really an overwhelming feeling when you get up here and think what all is before you, but I want to assure you I am here to do the very best that I can and I hope that I shall never disappoint you in any way and I thank you again.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Next, Mrs. Joe Hill

of Colorado, who is the Executive Board member for the two-year term.

Mrs. Hill. Ladies. I am more or less astonished at this being on my shoulders, and I deeply appreciate the trust and honor you have placed on me. I shall try to not disappoint you and fulfill my duties as well as my predecessor. I surely do thank you.

Mrs. VandenBerge. Knowing Mrs. Hill as I do, I know when she undertakes a job, she gets it done.

Now, Mrs. Capps from Tennessee, Board member for the three-year term.

Mrs. Capps. Madam President, ladies and friends: I wish to say thank you. I realize that with honor comes also responsibility, but I pledge to you the best that is within me. I thank you.

Mrs. VandenBerge. You all want to hear from Clara Winter of Georgia, who is the one-year member now on the Executive Board. We elected her two years ago. We are going to need her more than we

normally do, because she is going to have two new members on her committee.

Mrs. Winter. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve you ladies. I have given you the best I had, and intend to give it to you in the future. I am glad to serve with Kathryn and the others on the Board. Thank you.

Mrs. VandenBerge. To these girls who have gone off the Board—we will miss you, but we will count on you just like we do on the other members of this past officers group, for the advice that grows out of experience and for the help in those emergencies that always seem to arise.

It seems that we should have had ample time to have finished any business that there is, but I will ask once more if there is any unfinished business.

Mrs. Courtney. Madam President, I move that the new corps of officers be given the power to correct the last minutes of this meeting. (Duly seconded and carried.)

President VandenBerge. Is there any other thing which we have neglected?

Again, we do thank you just more than we can say for staying with us through this long, long session. Plan to come next year to Tampa. The Florida president had to leave before the session closed. She said, "Ask the ladies to help us, because this year we only had fifteen in our state convention, what are we going to do?" I told her she needn't worry, this group would help her out.

Are we ready to have the colors retired? (Colors were retired by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mrs. Ralph Fifield of Vermont.) Again, we thank you all. Drive carefully going home, and come next year.

Mrs. Kindler, Ohio. Madam President, I move that we adjourn until 1947. (Duly seconded and carried unanimously at 4:22 P. M.)

Convention adjourned
4:22 P.M.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

The rural carrier with a pleasant smile
Delivers news to you.
Through storm and flood,
Through snow and sleet and mud,
He always brings it through.

The rural carrier makes a lot of friends
Along his daily route,
By doing many little kindly deeds
He never talks about.

CHORUS:

Service, service, service with a smile,
Service, service, loyal all the while.
The rural carrier gives it to the
Very last long mile.
Service, service, service with a smile,
For the only kind worth while,
On the rural route where he hands it out—
It's Service with a Smile!

Note: The slogan, "Service with a Smile," is credited to Mary Lee Andrews, daughter of Rural Carrier and Mrs. Lucian Andrews, Whitewright, Texas. Mr. Andrews was Treasurer of the National Association.

ROSTER OF STATE PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS & SECRETARIES

ALABAMA

Mrs. A. O. Reed, Portersville
Mrs. O. V. Porter, Lexington
Mrs. Ray R. Hester, Tuscumbia

ARIZONA

Mrs. B. A. Skjerseth, Tucson
Mrs. J. B. Llewellyn, Tucson
Mrs. A. J. Walker, Higley

ARKANSAS

Mrs. L. R. See, Rector
Mrs. J. R. May, Rose Bud
Mrs. L. R. Arnold, Monticello

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Maurice E. Clark, Exeter
Mrs. Clark H. Reed, R #2, Fresno
Mrs. H. P. Hayden, Lancaster

COLORADO

Mrs. Joe A. Hill, Pine
Mrs. Clyde Reynolds, Haxtun
Mrs. Lester Arbuthnot, 1729 Fifteenth Ave., Greenley

CONNECTICUT

Mrs. Edith Arnold, North St., Willimantic
Mrs. Maurice Peck, Old Lyme
Mrs. Grace C. Parsons, Somers

DELAWARE

Mrs. Walter Mills, Greenwood
Mrs. Millard Macklin, Bridgeville
Mrs. J. Lemont Jones, Middleton

FLORIDA

Mrs. Loy Carlan, DeFuniak Springs
Mrs. J. H. Avent, Orlando
Mrs. C. B. Emerson, Micanopy

GEORGIA

Mrs. R. W. Fortune, Lawrenceville
Mrs. W. R. Zachry, Cusseta
Mrs. A. C. McMillan, Enigma

IDAHO

Mrs. Wm. B. Lindaw, Murtaugh
Mrs. C. O. Smithson, Buhl
Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Nampa

ILLINOIS

Mrs. Leo C. Dillon, Green Valley
Mrs. J. Blaine Marlow, Mt. Vernon
Mrs. Walter K. Grumble, Sutter

INDIANA

Mrs. Charles Magnuson, 208 Elmhurst Ave., Valparaiso
Mrs. Guy Lonigan, Milltown
Mrs. Reid H. Long, Marysville

IOWA

Mrs. Henry Hannasch, Carroll

Mrs. John Grace, McIntire

Mrs. Harry Bloodgood, Paullina

KANSAS

Mrs. Chas. Kellogg, Niles
Mrs. Leroy Hudson, Wilsey
Mrs. J. E. Shafer, 201 N. Meridian, Wichita

KENTUCKY

Mrs. Edward Spear, Smith Grove
Mrs. H. K. Galbraith, Germantown
Mrs. F. F. Radcliff, Jeffersontown

LOUISIANA

Mrs. O. S. Johnson, Lake Charles
Mrs. B. L. Herring, Shreveport
Mrs. H. P. Clinton, Clay

MAINE

Mrs. Viola Pearl, Detroit
Mrs. Lucille Warren, Philips
Mrs. Nellie Downs, Carmel

MARYLAND

Mrs. A. W. Myers, Finksburg
Mrs. Elmo Powell, Princess Anne
Mrs. F. K. Markline, White Hall

MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. Vida B. McKinsty, Southbridge
Mrs. Earl Goff, Rehoboth
Mrs. Alice E. Popp, Bolton

MICHIGAN

Mrs. H. G. Laug, Coopersville
Mrs. Harry G. Turner, 314 Superior St., South Haven
Mrs. M. J. Freeland, Freeland

MINNESOTA

Mrs. Lee Arnold, Brownton
Mrs. Odin S. Blexrud, Karlstad
Mrs. Lucian C. Hamel, Hamel

MISSISSIPPI

Mrs. L. L. Vise, Lusedale
Mrs. Earle Rochester, Jackson
Mrs. J. L. Coleman, Meadville

MISSOURI

Mrs. M. A. Bartee, Sturgeon
Mrs. Randall Davis, Brookfield
Mrs. G. V. Laws, Cabool

MONTANA

Mrs. J. E. Doerr, 419 8th Ave., Helena
Mrs. John L. McCammon, Huntley
Mrs. C. E. Knick, Froid

NEBRASKA

Mrs. Allen Whitney, Bellwood
Mrs. John C. Wright, Jr., 602 Mississippi Ave., Alliance
Mrs. Marvin Lutt, Niobrara

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mrs. Richard Moody, Greenland
Mrs. Howard Holman, Fitzwilliam Depot
Mrs. Robert Bennett, Newmarket

NEW JERSEY

Mrs. Walter K. Bittle, 89 Jackson Road, Berlin
Mrs. Emmett Fergerson, 37 Walnut St., Sussex
Mrs. John L. Hill, Great Meadow

NEW MEXICO

Mrs. Willard Welsh, Melrose
Mrs. Cruse Adams, Dexter
Mrs. Floyd H. Gay, 1310 N. 5th, Albuquerque

NEW YORK

Mrs. George Cratsley, Hector
Mrs. Clarence Osterhout, Delmar
Mrs. Giles Hollenbeck, Erin

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. R. C. Lanning, Winston Salem
Mrs. T. H. Clay, Timberlake
Mrs. Eldan Adams, Carthage

NORTH DAKOTA

Mrs. Carl M. Mortenson, Hampden
Mrs. Mathew Colwell, Zahl
Mrs. A. R. Newnam, Parshall

OHIO

Mrs. Karl Rogers, Lore City
Mrs. Martin Merryfield, Middlefield
Mrs. Sylvester Eveslage, Ripley

OKLAHOMA

Mrs. J. Warren Smith, Cherokee
Mrs. Henry J. Conn, Chickasha
Mrs. John Banks, Kellyville

OREGON

Mrs. Drucilla Walworth, Deer Isl.
Mrs. Clara Vincent, Central Point
Mrs. Bertha Lange, Scappoose

PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. Clyde Hall, Corry
Mrs. Willis Potter, Coudensport
Mrs. Archie Squier, Townville

RHODE ISLAND

Mrs. Florence E. Sprague, Chepachet
Mrs. Norman Baxter, Green
Mrs. Mabel Bixby, Little Compton

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Latta
Mrs. A. L. Gardner, Salley
Mrs. N. R. Davis

Roster of State Presidents, Vice Presidents & Secretaries

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mrs. Paul L. Baird, Frankfort
Mrs. R. R. Patterson, Gregory
Mrs. H. H. Laird, Westport

TENNESSEE

Mrs. B. J. Ramsey, Sneedville
Mrs. J. W. Cappa, Camden
Mrs. H. E. Swift, Hermitage

TEXAS

Mrs. Glenn Rennels, Avoca
Mrs. C. D. Box, San Angelo
Mrs. W. K. Quisenberry, Handley

VERMONT

Mrs. William O. Kent, Rochester
Mrs. Ralph McKinzie, Hinesburg
Mrs. Collins W. Stearns, Springfield

VIRGINIA

Mrs. J. G. McCoy, 1701 Lansing
Ave., Portsmouth
Mrs. D. M. Inge, Brookneal
Mrs. W. R. West, Evington

WASHINGTON

Mrs. J. W. Eastman, Lake Stevens
Mrs. Vern Anderson, Edwall
Mrs. Guy R. Smith, Clinton

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Hollis Sutton, Buckhannon
Mrs. Fred Wilt, Buckhannon
Mrs. R. E. Straight, Morgantown

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Mike Schafer, Pewaukee
Mrs. Alton Williams, Verona
Mrs. Fred Thole, Cassville

WYOMING

Mrs. C. J. Stafford, Chugwater
Mrs. Harry H. Larson, Albin
Mrs. R. E. Mong, Yoder

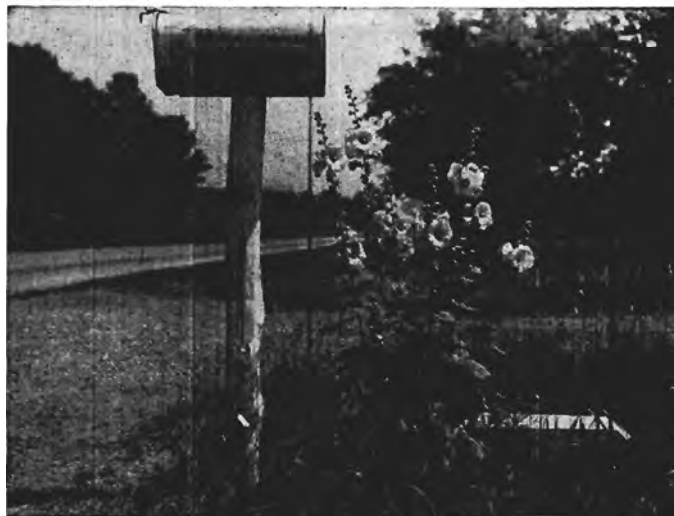


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NATIONAL OFFICERS

of the

“R. L. C. JUNIORS”

1946-1947



MORGAN FRYMAN,
President
Henderson, Texas



MRS. R. V. GLADDEN,
Sponsor
Bethesda, Ohio



ROBY PATRICK,
Vice-President
Roanoke, Virginia



BETTIE LOUISE WHITMAN,
Secretary
Malverne, Arkansas



HARRY L. DUKES, JR.,
Treasurer
Centerville, Iowa

"The R. L. C. Juniors"

The first group of Juniors was started a little over eleven years ago, in July, 1935, at the state convention in Nebraska, under the guidance of Mrs. Marie Mutchmore, of Beatrice, Nebraska. The same year, at the national meeting in Boston, the idea was presented to the Ladies' Auxiliary, who voted to organize and sponsor such a Junior group.

The following were elected as the first National Officers of the Juniors: President — Howard Beaver, Arcadia, Nebraska

Vice-President — Margaret May, Kuna, Idaho

Secretary-Treasurer—Mildred Cooper, Elwood, Illinois.

Mrs. Marie Mutchmore was appointed their National Sponsor.

Membership and voting privileges were restricted to sons and daughters of rural letter carriers and of the Ladies' Auxiliary members attending the conventions, but there were also honorary memberships for any friends of the Juniors present. Age 12 was required in order to vote. Dues were to be 25 cents for all members 12 years old or over, and 10 cents for those under 12.

At a contest held in Washington in

1938, "We Help to Serve" was chosen as the official motto, and an emblem was selected.

For several years the Junior organization made wonderful progress, but during the war their meetings were greatly curtailed, due to difficulties of travel and streamlined conventions. This year they are very alive and active, under their National Sponsor, Mrs. R. V. Gladden, Bethesda, Ohio, who outlines their program for 1946-1947 as follows:

"After much thought it was decided we could support a really worthwhile project this year. We have chosen to support the Sister Kenny Foundation. They do a very wonderful work for children who have infantile paralysis. A prize will be given to the state turning in the largest amount of money to this project. It is suggested that the money could be earned by box socials, cake walks, entertainments, or by contributions from each Junior. Tag days might be a way, too.

"There will be another Scrapbook Contest this year. This year the book is to be a book of postmarks. The prize will be offered for the best book—the one containing the most postmarks, most attractively and neatly arranged. One way of getting postmarks is for the Juniors to write to each other.

"Will all the State Junior Sponsors please send me their names and addresses, so I may send you a copy of the By-Laws of the National Organization. There are Charters for the State Organizations at very small cost.

"Then, finally, let us support wholeheartedly all the youth programs and the youth activities in our home town and communities.

"We trust this program meets with the approval of all of you.

Mrs. R. V. Gladden."

The "R.L.C. Juniors" are the leaders of tomorrow, and the object of their organization, according to their Constitution, "shall be to unite fraternally and socially all members attending the National Convention." It is to be hoped that their activities as a part of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association will be continued, and will expand into ever widening circles of helpfulness, for their presence is greatly needed. Their youthful approach is invaluable to the future development of the Association. They are the hope of our future, for they will be the citizens of tomorrow.

With faith in their loyalty and trustworthiness to carry on the great work of the R.F.D., the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association honors "The R.L.C. Juniors."



Photo by Courtesy of Library of Congress

In Conclusion

In reading the Golden Jubilee Edition of The National Rural Letter Carrier, we trust you have found as much to enjoy as we did in compiling it. Ever since the work began last March, our task has proved a fascinating one, with numerous contributions of very worth while material. Some of it has already been published from week to week. More of it will follow from time to time as space allows.

We are indebted to all those who so willingly gave of their time and effort. Needless to say, it has entailed hours of labor, but we trust that our efforts in compiling the Golden Jubilee Edition will merit your approval.

With the many photographs, in addition to the reports of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Ladies' Auxiliary and Juniors, we found our book becoming an impressively large one. Counting the illustrations in the center, there are 152 pages in all, or enough news print for several novels.

The printers estimated it would take 26,000 pounds of paper, and the full time work of at least a dozen people for at least five weeks to complete this immense undertaking.

It is significant, too, that it was written in two cities, Des Moines, Iowa, and Washington, D. C., but published in Baltimore, Maryland. In its initial stages it was forwarded by train and bus several times through a number of great city terminals. After it was in final form, it traveled hundreds of miles in mail cars, on its way to your local post office.

It has been a long time in the making. Its delivery at your door is a matter of no little importance, for it is the record of your Golden Jubilee celebration, the historic document of 50 years of the R.F.D. You will want to refer to it time and time again, so give it a favored spot in your library. It marks the 50th milestone of rural free delivery. It is your gift from the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.



Objectives for 1946-1947

▼ ▼ ▼

1. Sell the Postal Service to the public. Cooperate with the Department to increase its revenues. Build good will through the rendering of good service.

2. Strengthen and perpetuate our present National Association. Increase its efficiency and aggressiveness. Fortify its position.

3. Support the secondary road program.

4. Sponsor the improvement and clean-up of rural mail boxes and approaches.

5. Assist our members to obtain automobiles, parts and tires to replace their worn out equipment.

6. Secure relief and additional equipment allowance for heavy route carriers.

7. Improve working and office conditions, especially in third and fourth class post offices.

8. Advocate removal of restricted delivery of "Red Letter" pension checks.

9. Increase maintenance allowance two cents per mile per day.

10. Urge the pre-stamping of first and third class mail.

11. Increase retirement annuities.

12. Liberalize the disability retirement law.

13. Maintain our present federal retirement system.

14. Exempt retirement annuities from income tax.

15. Secure relief from handling relay mail.

16. Secure statement from the paying postmaster of the number of days' vacation and sick leave for employees on May 1st of each year.

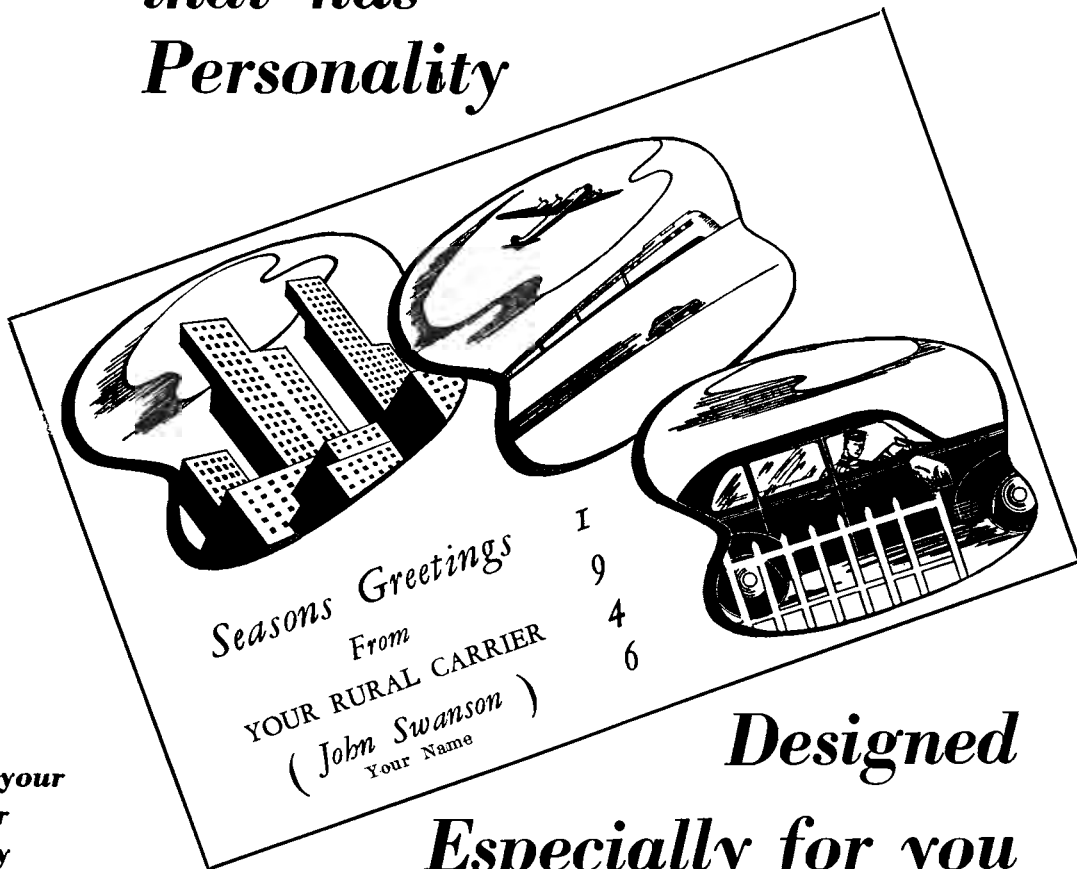
17. Secure twenty-six days of annual and fifteen days of sick leave each fiscal year.

18. Have the Civil Service Commission set aside suitable positions, that when vacant, shall be filled by World War II veterans who have lost one or more limbs in active service.

19. Work for thirty year optional retirement and widows' annuity.

20. Achieve 100%-PLUS MEMBERSHIP in 1947. / \

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