

SO YOU didn't know you were profiteering, Joe Warworker? Well, neither did we. But, my gosh, look at those editorials! They say your real weekly wages have gone up by big percentages — so there's no need for subsidies to roll back living costs — and you ought to pay an "individual excess profits tax."

What's that? Such language! Well, it's true liars can figure. But these liars... I mean, papers, quote government figures for increased weekly earnings between January, 1941, and March, 1943, against the rise in the living cost index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

You say that index is "phony." Well, most statisticians agree it doesn't allow for "certain basic factors affecting war living costs." But I guess that means "phony."

Anyhow, Joe, you'll admit your weekly wages are higher. If you're an average non-agricultural worker, these figures say you made about \$37 a week in March, as compared with \$26 a week in 1939 — an increase of more than 40%.

Yes, it's true you can take nothing and double it, and still have nothing. And I don't suppose these liars... I mean, publishers would know how to support a wife and kids on 37 bucks at present war-time living costs.

But let's look at your pre-war wages, Joe. All right, go ahead. I'll put down what you say.

You were working short-time and not making a living wage. You only managed to get by because Joe, Jr., was also working. But now he's in the army.

Sure, your weekly wages are higher, though your hourly wage has been frozen by the Little Steel formula. But the chief reason you're making more a week now is that you're working twice as hard and twice as long as before the war.

And what happens to your higher weekly earnings? There's a 20% withholding tax, deductions for social security, etc., and war bonds — and you finally take home little more than you did before the war.

Then food prices have about doubled, and you need more food to keep up your strength because you're working so much harder. And anyone who says you're a war profiteer is a...

I can't put down that last part, Joe, and I'm not a phoney myself to question you like this. I'm just getting you to bring out some points much better than any statisticians could, because you really know, while they're just dealing with misleading averages and percentages, not live human beings.

One reason these percentages are so wrong (whether or not they stand up statistically) is that they're based on past earnings that weren't even a living wage.

In 1941, 90% of the workers were earning less than \$2,000 a year, and 82% less than \$1,600.

The University of California's Heller Committee shows that \$2,250 a year was necessary to maintain a family of four on a minimum standard, providing only 17 cents per person per meal; \$84 a month rent; one overcoat in six years; one haircut a month; only two movies a month, and so on.

Yet most of the workers were living far below that standard in 1941. And even if real wages have increased since then (which is more than doubtful), they'd still be insufficient for most war workers to maintain themselves at a proper health and efficiency level.

Don't be fooled by "averages." For every "average" war worker making the government's figure of \$37 a week, millions are making much less.

And how these weekly paychecks shrink before you get them! Here's one actual case, of a married woman earning \$30 a week. Withholding tax takes \$4.60, 10% is deducted for bond purchase, and after the other payroll deductions for insurance, social security, hospitalization, etc., she takes home about \$21 a week.

Before the war she earned \$22, which she actually took home and spent at lower prices. Yet, some of our newspaper publishers would say her weekly wages had increased by 40%, and her "real" wages by 14% — so she's now war profiteering and doesn't need any roll-back of living costs!

Just figure it out for yourself, and then go and tell some of the editorial writers, politely, they're liars who figure, even if their figures themselves don't lie.

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Here and There . . .

## Little Luther



"An-ha," intoned Mr. Dilworth, looking up from the letter on his desk. "Our physician is a very bright man."

"What did he do, Pop," asked Little Luther, "invent a drug store to keep workers from joining unions?"

"Tush and twaddle, Luther," said Mr. Dilworth hurriedly. "He has sent me a letter and a pamphlet from a noble organization of physicians which tells of all the crimes contemplated by the new social security bill."

"Crimes, Pop? You mean someone's stealing the social security dough?"

"Of course not, Luther. But the New Deal is planning to degrade the profession of medicine. They are going to abolish private medical practice. Imagine it, Luther, just contemplate it — private medical practice gone!"

"I'm trying, Pop," said Luther as he assumed an attitude of thought. "But I don't quite understand. You mean no more doctor bills?"

"Now, now Luther, you've carried it too far. But the New Deal is trying to push us into a position where we have health and hospital insurance run by the government. Of all the horrible . . ."

"You mean, Pop, that workers wouldn't have to worry about doctor bills when they get sick? That they'd be insured for that just like life insurance?"

"Life insurance is a different matter, Luther. That's run by private enterprise and the American spirit of free enterprise, of free initiative. But this, Luther — this is state medicine. Why . . . Why, doctors would work only eight hours a day instead of 24 as they do now and . . . Oh, it's tragic, Luther, tragic."

"You bet, Pop," Luther nodded. "Why don't the docs go to the War Labor Board about that 24-hour stuff?"

"That's not what I meant, Luther. Why . . . why, just think of it! Not a single doctor would have an interest in any patient. You see, the patients wouldn't be paying him."

"You mean interest like you get clipping those coupons?"

"Not at all, son, not at all. I mean a personal interest, an attachment, an understanding, a feeling, a love. . . . Understand, Luther?"

"Not quite, Pop. You see the cop on the corner isn't paid by us, but he's got an awful interest in our new maid."

### RETURNING SOLDIER REFUSED JOB BACK UNTIL UNION GOES TO WORK

LOS ANGELES (FP) — Mike Rafferty, former union shop steward at the Boyle Co., U. S. Steel subsidiary here, came back to work after being honorably discharged from the army. He was greeted with a gruff: "Fill out a new employee's application."

But, 3½ days later, he was back on his old job, with his old seniority rating and with 3½ days' pay in his pocket. For Local 2172, United Steelworkers (CIO), had gone to work.

SAN FRANCISCO (FP) — Free initiation into all American unions for returning members of the armed services will offset carefully laid anti-union plans of American fascists, Sec. Edward Vandeleur of the California Federation of Labor insists.

### NOTICE TO REPORTERS ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Those people who have gathered news and have written for the paper will have a meeting of reporters at the CIO Hall, Wednesday night, September 1st, at 7:00 P. M.

The Editorial Committee will discuss with the members the type of material and the amount needed from each Building for the paper.

There will also be a discussion on the setting up of a Schenectady Literary Club for those who are interested.

# ELECTRICAL

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



# UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

Vol. I

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — SEPTEMBER 6, 1943

No. 3

## Local Members Have Always Supported Our Armed Forces

Now, in this month of September, is our great opportunity to further support the Invasion, not with a gift, but by making the safest investment in the world.

President Edward Wallingford's appeal to the members of Local 301 for full support to the invasion troops follows:

To-day the American soldiers are victoriously attacking on every front, they are invading the enemies' strongholds.

We the working people, on the home front are the link between one soldier we know and victory.

Maybe he's a son, a husband, a sweetheart or a father. He may be just a friend. You know, the boy who used to crack your evening paper against your front door around dinner time.

Where he is, to-day, — on one of the invasion beachheads, or awaiting the signal to open still another front, he's your boy, and he's counting on us.

### ARE WE GOING TO LET HIM DOWN?

What it comes down to is this: Are we going to buy enough War Bonds during the 3rd War Loan Drive to pay for the weapons he needs?

Our country is asking for 15 billion dollars worth this month, to be purchased by individuals. That means you must put every dollar you can scrape together into War Bonds now.

### WE CANNOT DO LESS

We can't do less and remain Americans. You know what America means — it means freedom. All the bonds we buy this month will still be a lot less than freedom is worth to us, and to them. And it's a lot less than they are paying right now to keep freedom a living, breathing reality.

### PROUD OF LOCAL 301'S RESPONSE

We are proud of the way the thousands of members of Local 301 have always responded to the call for help by America. In the First and Second War Loan Drives our members opened their hearts and their purses, and invested generously.

But this is no time to say, "Sorry, I've done all I can." Not when our troops are smashing ahead on every front.

Not when the cry from every front is for more tanks — more guns — more planes to strike the knockout blow.

To-day, everyone of us who possibly can, must invest in at least one extra War Bond. More if we possibly can. That's in addition to our regular subscriptions.

### INDIVIDUAL SACRIFICE

Yes, it's a big job, and for most of us it's going to mean getting along without many of those things we had planned to buy. We'll have to get along with the old rug, with the same old furniture, with the same old suit of clothes. Yes, it's going to mean individual sacrifice.

But, can we look into our hearts and say to the Invasion Troops, have we done enough?

Of course we can't! No true American can! So now, when America needs our help as it never has in all its history; let's make up our minds to do more this month.

### SAFEST INVESTMENT IN THE WORLD

Let's invest in the safest way in the world! Invest out of our current income; out of idle or accumulated funds.

And another thing, the bonds we buy are not GIFTS, they're investments. Investments in victory and our family's future. They are installments on the brave new world, which we all will help to build after the war is won. With them, we will be able to buy added comforts and enjoy greater opportunities for ourselves and those we love.

### ONE EXTRA BOND!

Back the invasion with at least one extra War Bond this month. I am sure that we all want to be able to hold up our heads and say, "We have done more!" Just as our boys are doing more all over the world to-day.

IT'S BETTER TO PRODUCE AS FREE MEN FOR THE MAN WITH THE LONG WHISKERS THAN IT IS TO PRODUCE AS SLAVES FOR THE MAN WITH THE LITTLE MOUSTACHE.

### An American Hero



Heavy Jap Naval bombardment of our forces on a Pacific Island destroyed our communications. Then Marine Corporal George J. Conlon went out to help lay a telephone trunk line between headquarters, the base radio and other strategic points. Caught in the open, he kept on working throughout five bombing attacks, and vital communications were restored. He won the Silver Star. Will you keep on investing everything you can in Payroll Savings?

## Labor Day Message of Local 301 Officers and Executive Board to the Membership

We are proud of the way the members of Local 301 have lived up to their responsibilities under the stress and strain of war time conditions.

The membership of no other labor union in the country can boast of a finer record.

We have contributed our all out effort to the production of the vitally needed war material.

We have contributed all our available finances to the purchase of war bonds.

We are contributing whole heartedly to the Blood Donor Drive through thousands of individual blood contributions.

We are especially proud of the thousands of members from our union who are in the fighting forces. No effort or sacrifice on our part is too great to back up our fighting men.

In the months ahead the thousands of members of Local 301 will not rest on past achievements, but will head every call for further war endeavor in every field of its activity.

On this Labor Day we dedicate ourselves above all to increased and undivided effort to support the glorious offensive of our armed forces and to speed the day of victory over the axis.

The success and advances of the army of the United Nations must lead to no let-down of effort on our home front. On the contrary, every such advance increases the tempo of conflict and leads to ever greater demands on war production and war supplies. American labor must match every forward step by our fighting men with increased effort and enthusiasm to bring our boys home victorious at the earliest possible moment and with the least possible casualties.

Our union has grown in strength and influence during the past year, because its patriotic aims and activities reflect and implement the heart-felt desires of the American working people. We have expanded our membership to the highest point in its history. This basic union work must and will continue, for it is only through

(Continued on Page Four)

TO-DAY IS LABOR'S OWN DAY OF CELEBRATION  
ALL-OUT TO CRESCENT PARK AT 7:30 P. M.

ORIGINAL TORN

# Who Wants Big Business For Boss?

The Gallup Poll (American Institute of Public Opinion) is an institution financed by big-business publishers, to check up on the effectiveness of their own propaganda. Its findings are usually most encouraging to its sponsors.

For instance, big-business concerns are reducing their taxable incomes these days by spending millions and millions on full-page advertisements to tell the public what they are doing to aid the war.

The newspaper reader is warmed with glowing pictures of the patriotism of corporations turning out so many tanks, ships, planes, etc., for our armed forces.

No tactless reference is made to profits that have increased so enormously (even after taxes) over pre-war levels—and still less to corporation practices that hold up production.

As to the fact that working people, usually unionized, do the actual producing, this too is generally overlooked in the ads.

On the other hand, the news columns do not overlook labor if anywhere any small group of workers is guilty of the slightest misdemeanor; and the editorial columns are full of attacks on labor.

## What's Wrong With This Picture?

So—if all you know is what you read in the big-business press—you're liable to have a mental picture of big-business executives and coupon-clippers rolling up their white shirt-sleeves and soiling their manicured hands to produce an endless stream of tanks, planes and ships; while the million-many organized workers stand sullenly by cocking snooks at the patriotic big businessseers.

Needless to say, a little reflection will reveal there's something wrong with this picture.

## Oh, To Be Bossed by Big Business

Nevertheless, the enterprising Gallup Poll has been able to discover enough believers of what they read in the papers to make the claim that 45% of the American public prefer big-business control of government to labor-union control, as against only 26% who prefer labor to big business.

Of course, a breakdown shows the upper income group most enthusiastic for big-business control, while the lower-income groups lean to labor. And one may wonder whether the many millions with low incomes don't outweigh the few thousands with high incomes, and whether the methods used by the Gallup poll really result in a true picture of public opinion.

## Danger to Democracy

But supposing there are any substantial numbers of Americans who crave to be bossed by big business, and who fear the democratic influence of the organized workers, this is indeed a sorry state of affairs.

For if our democracy means anything, it is the working people and associated low-income groups who represent the great majority and who should exert the predominant influence over government. On the other hand, control of government by a tiny big-business minority is a complete negation of democracy.

The chief lesson of this Gallup poll, therefore, is not the pat answer of Barnum that "there's one born every minute." But rather it is the danger to democracy of big-business control of the press and other means of misinforming public opinion.

Labor's answer must be to build a great labor and people's press; to increase its efforts to inform public opinion in every possible way; and above all to expend its political activities so that democratic influences may prevail over those of big business.

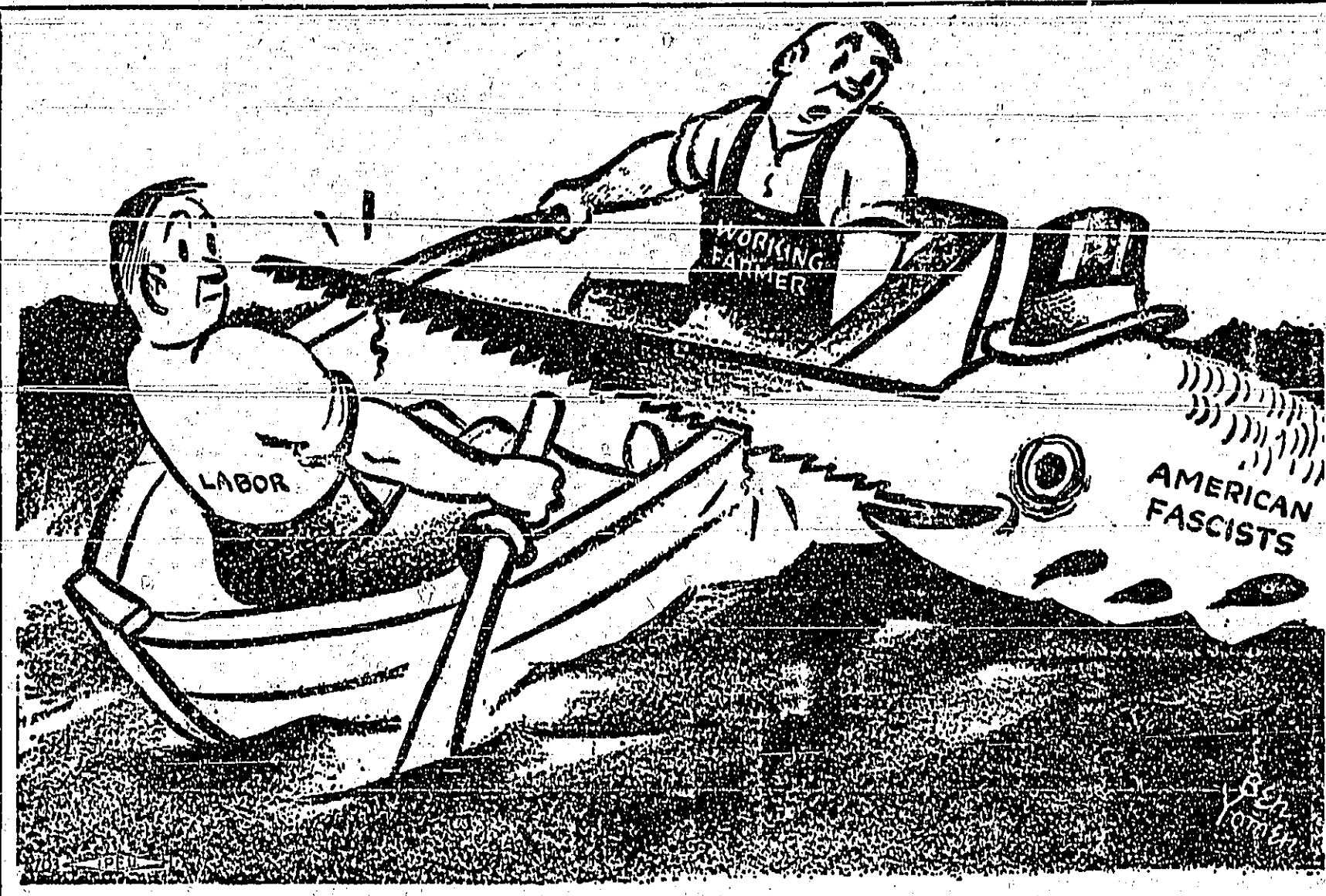
## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Published by  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL 301

301 Liberty Street Schenectady, New York

Editing Committee:

ED. WALLINGFORD EDWARD BAZAN  
WM. HODGES S. M. VOTTIS



## The Real Political Test

For, fortunately for our democracy, the big-business press is not all-powerful. We recall quite a few elections (not unrelated to Pres. Roosevelt and his New Deal) in which the voters have effectively repudiated all the promptings of the big-business press.

After all, elections are a much better test of American public opinion than all the little selective polls conducted by big-business publishers for their own comfort and edification.

And we still doubt whether the American people will knowingly vote for frankly big-business candidates in preference to candidates of labor and the common people.

## Basic Facts on Third War Loan

These are the basic facts on the Third War Loan:

1. Dates—Campaign opens September 9.
2. Goal—15 billion dollars from non-banking sources.
3. One-fifth of this amount, or three billions, to be raised in E Bonds—the People's Bond.
4. Permanent Goal—Leaders of management and labor urged to increase regular Payroll Savings purchases, now amounting to 425 million a month, through special drives at this time.
5. Individual Goal—Purchase during the Third War Loan of an extra Bond by every person in the nation.
6. Plant Goal—Over all average of an extra Bond per employee, to be paid during the Third War Loan either in cash or extra payroll deduction.

## U. E. 301 War Bond Credo

As a Local 301 member, I am proud to buy United States War Bonds regularly through Payroll Savings and extra purchases in the Third War Loan to the best of my ability, BECAUSE—

- 1—This is my war and it takes my money to help win it.
- 2—This is my family's war and I want to protect their future liberties.
- 3—This is our children's war and I want to insure their future security.
- 4—This is my buddy's war and I want to send him all the munitions he needs to win it.
- 5—This is my sweetheart's or husband's or son's war and I want to help get him home with victory achieved as soon as possible.
- 6—This is my country's war and I want to help fight it in every possible way.
- 7—This is my union's war and I want to preserve the democratic rights of free labor.
- 8—This is a world war for what I believe—for freedom from want; freedom from fear; freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

# Shop Shorts of Local 301 Members in G. E.

## Third Shift East Gallery — Bldg. 60

By FRED MATERN

Pat Vottis was supposed to have had a week off for a vacation, which means rest. Pat had a week off, but he put in his time at Union headquarters.

Fred LaCast, Sr. is spending his vacation on his poultry farm. Frenchie has a laboratory on his farm where he is experimenting on how to raise chickens with 4 legs. Tony Davidson claims that Frenchie has achieved partial success.

Theodore Monesko from East Gallery enjoyed a good rest at Friends Lake.

William Woolcock is a good example for all of us to follow. He was one of the first to donate blood to the Red Cross. He has contributed 5 times and is ready to contribute again when called upon.

## Stockroom — Bldg. 60

By EARL GULTMAN

We welcome a newcomer, Lena Iacovuci to our midst. If by chance you see a streak of fire and a puff of smoke go by, you'll know it's just Lena with her wheelbarrow.

Beatrice Jones, formerly of 60x1 stockroom, joined the "slack crew" in 60x6. Good luck "Bea". A fellow who came to 60x8 about two months ago fitted into the stockroom so well that he never was given a formal welcome.

## Building 81

By WILLIAM MASTRIANI

The military club of Transmitter Dept. Bldg 81 held a party at Ted's Grill Thursday night in honor of Miss Mary Sukup, who has joined the Spars. Best of wishes, Mary. A swell time was enjoyed by all.

An election was held for new officers. They are as follows: President, Harry Palumbo; Vice-President, Anthony Bricola; Treasurer, Lester Smith; Secretary, Delia Bertrand. Board of Directors—Frank Bala, William Mastriani, J. Clune, Joseph De Lorenzo and Thomas Andrews. The former President Mr. Farro was made a President of Honor.

Mary Sukup from the drill press group was given a rising cheer of patriotism because she has enlisted in the "Spars". Billy Mastriani gave a wonderful talk on the founder of the club and wished Sukup a lot of luck in keeping up the same fighting spirit as she had in the shop.

## ALL OUT TO CRESCENT PARK TONIGHT

The following were picked as chairmen of the blood donors on each shift. First Shift—William Harris and Cora Hess. Second shift—Mike DeGennaro and Mrs. Hoffmyer. Third shift—J. Miller.

The blood donor rallies will be held September 7th for 1st and 2nd shift. The third shift will hold their rally on Sept. 10th. Representing the management will be Art Graham, general foreman in Bldg. 81; on third shift will be F. Perrant, general foreman; and from Labor, William Mastriani. We are all out to get the most donors so Bldg. 81 can take honors from Transmitter.

Don't forget to sign up for the bowling league which is being organized in Bldg. 81.

John Ray, our set-up man from drill press gang who is all out for production tops the list for putting in most All Out War Production suggestions with an average of two a week. Aron Shaw from inspection running second.

We welcome to Bldg. 81, Transmitter Dept., Pete (Buck) Pisano, who was transferred from Bldg. 60, 2nd shift. He was a Union committeeman in Bldg. 60. Here's hoping he will stay awhile.

Gordon Repice committeeman in layout group has taken up a side line by hiring out saddle horses. Don't forget boys, if you ride see Gordon.

COME TO THE LABOR DAY RALLY AT CRESCENT PARK TONIGHT AT 7:30 P. M.

## Building 285

By ADAM GRIFFITH

A farewell party was held at the Friendly Social Club in Scotia on Tuesday evening, August 24th in honor of Frank Berry and Henry Smeaton, who are leaving to serve in Uncle Sam's Navy. The Assembly Dept. of Bldg. 285 was well represented and all reported a very enjoyable evening.

Bldg. 285 is proud of its 5-time blood-honors. Congratulations to Bud Rosa, W. R. Burrows, Jr., Danny Mulligan, Tony Polachek, J. W. Coblin, L. D. DuTrain, J. Janco, Mary I. Greenwood, J. Wickert, A. C. Lohner, Allan Helps, Elton Fullar, Raymond Swart, Ralph Lobdell.

Robert Mitchell had an enjoyable trip to Minneapolis, Minn. last week visiting the Northern Pump Co.

Best of luck to our former brother Carl Schilling on his appointment as foreman on the train indicator regulator.

## Welded Products — Bldg. 52

FREDERICKS and GEIER

Our sympathy goes to Roy Van Aernem on the loss of his wife.

What is the big attraction in the stockroom from Minnie McClung? Tomatoes?

There will be another dance Sept. 25th at the P. N. A. Hall on Crane Street for the "Boys in Service" Fund. Gordie Randall's orchestra will furnish the music from 9 to 3 A. M. Let's all get behind this and make it a big success.

Anyone with an extra alarm clock, bring it to Norman (sleepy) Huministon; he says his wrist watch doesn't wake him up at all.

It must be a secret spice Steve Nadej uses on his food. Some of the boys ate it once, and their heads started to swell up.

Ed Slovack has added another boat to his navy. He bought out Herman Smith, Jr. this week. Junior is now making one-out-of-Ivory soap to be sure it floats.

What's to the story about Ben Borzy giving up bowling for shuffleboard?

Percy Denham was awarded the gold medal for raising the best and largest corn in his victory garden. The race for the best "taters" is between John Canders and Louis Chicoine. John is ahead so far.

Alex Johnson brought in proof that he really does know-how to grow tomatoes.

Frank Nappi has a new deputy sheriff's badge. You should wear it all the time Frank, it's real becoming.

Bill Weinand's goats "are now" working on a production basis. Anyone needing goat's milk see Bill.

Bea Walsh recently changed her name to Mrs. Wall. Congratulations!

## Sheet Metal Dept. — Bldg. 73A

By CHARLES CAMPBELL

So this is Labor Day. The men and women of this Dept. may justly be proud of their effort to win the war for freedom. Our shop has been honored twice by letters from the Navy Department praising us for work well done. We can really rejoice this Labor Day for we are soldiers of production and deliver the goods.

Our members in the Spotwelding group and Stockroom have been outstanding in their suggestions to the All Out War Production Committee. An award of \$100.00 and two at \$50.00 were won by Jerome Rynning, Tony Caputo, and John Stimson respectively. Committeeman T. Caputo knows how to produce the ideas, as he has many awards to his credit. He also has a way of encouraging his co-workers.

## TWO OF OUR BOYS MISSING IN ACTION

It has been reported that two of our boys are missing in action. Robert Sheets, who handled our crane at the lower end of the Dept., and Robert Shultz of the office who worked with our vouchers on the day shift.

Robert Shultz of the marina and Robert Sheets of the army. We are living in the hope that we will hear of their safety.

EVERY UNION MAN ON FIRST AND THIRD SHIFT SHOULD BE AT CRESCENT PARK TONIGHT!

# ORIGINAL TORN