

What My Community Should Do in Postwar Planning

By Geneva Bush Gibson
"GOING my way?" inquired the soft-voiced smiling marine sergeant as we boarded the same train at our mutual home town station.

Editor's Note: This article won the first prize in a contest sponsored by Western Newspaper Union in connection with the recent Midwestern Writers' conference at Northwestern University. Miss Gibson, the author, lives in Sheldon, Ill., a town of 1,000 population in Iroquois county, which is one of the leading agricultural counties of the Prairie state. After graduation from the school of journalism at the University of Illinois, she became a teacher of journalism at the Champaign, Ill., senior high school. At present she is a free lance journalist and chairman of public information for the Iroquois County Chapter of the American Red Cross.



Miss Gibson

During the two-hour ride into the city we talked of many things including the fact that he wanted a small business of his own after the war perhaps on the Al-Can highway.

How I wish I might have said, "Before you make an Al-Can deal, get in touch with our home town Re-Employment Committeemen." I couldn't, however, for my community has not yet undertaken collective postwar planning.

Newton county, an agricultural county of 10,775 population in northwestern Indiana, has announced its Co-operative Planning, the result of a year's study by a committee of 25 comprising men and women representative of all phases of community life. Full-page advertisements paid for by various service clubs of the different towns were run in all of the weekly papers in the county.

Re-Employment of Veterans.

The ad began, "More servicemen will return home with the progress of the war. The Re-Employment Committeemen of Newton County, Indiana, in conjunction with its advisory committee and the Agricultural advisory committee, are on the alert. All citizens, both in service and not in service, should realize that the return of the servicemen will mean certain adjustments. This will be so whether he returns to his former civilian job or seeks a new civilian job."

"The servicemen of our country are asked to co-operate with the Re-Employment Committeemen and the citizens by marking the information questionnaires below. Please do not sign. Return to _____ (name of paper)."

Under the general section were listed the following questions: "Do you plan to live in Newton county when discharged from service? Do you plan to seek employment in this area? Do you plan to go to school or take up a special training course under G.I. Bill of Rights? Do you plan to go into business as an employee, as an employer, as an individual, or as a partner? What business?"

"Do you contemplate establishing a new business or taking over an established business? Do you have previous experience in the business? Will you need any additional capital? What source do you contemplate using, private or G.I. Bill of Rights arrangements? Will you need a house? Household equipment?"

Under the agricultural section were these questions: "Are you interested in taking up farming as a landowner, renter, one-third share operator, or hired man? Have you previous experience? What size farm do you have in mind? What type of farm do you desire: livestock, grain, or general? Is there a house available? Do you have a farm in mind to rent or buy? Will you take over from father or relative? Will the farmer you replace retire, seek another farm, or share his operations with you?"

The advertisement concluded, "With the information thus assembled, we shall endeavor to anticipate your return home."

An Excellent Pattern.

Surely, that is an excellent pattern that my community could afford to follow in starting postwar planning immediately. Instead of a county-wide basis, however, I would suggest that we use our high school district and our consolidated grade school district as the basis for our community boundaries.

Since our men's service organization is the Lion's club, the officers of that organization could ask the officers of the Women's Club, American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary to meet with them to discuss appointing committees for postwar planning, such persons to be selected from the entire personnel of the community. These committees might well be three: Re-Employment, Memorial, and Education.

Seven members could constitute a Re-Employment committee: a business man, a farmer, the banker, the lumber man, a grain man, the Red Cross home service chairman, and a minister. I should prefer for the business man and farmer to be Legionnaires and to act as co-chairmen. To lend advice on the possible success of new business ventures is the reason for suggesting the banker.

The lumber man, on the other

hand, can head a subcommittee of the building interests whose task it will be to supply the additional homes and business structures. As the grain man deals with farming interests, yet resides in town, he should be able to see both sides of the picture. The Red Cross home service chairman and a minister are recommended because of their contacts with servicemen.

When this committee has worked out an information questionnaire, it can be published in the local paper, for our weekly paper goes to all the boys and girls in the service.

With the questionnaires returned, the committee can begin to compile information. Then they can canvass the community to see what jobs will be available so that when Sam, who wants to be a partner in a grocery store, comes home, he can be sent to see old Mr. Fuller who wants to retire from active work and become a silent partner.

On the second committee, the Memorial, I would have five members, all men interested in sports: the high school board athletic chairman, the grade school board athletic chairman, a business man, a farmer, and a veteran, the latter to be chairman.

Trees As Memorials.

Windstorms have played havoc with the beautiful trees for which our town is noted. What better memorial to our war dead than stately trees? I should like to see the village, which is now free from debt, plant American elms and hard maple trees in the parking: the American elm because it is a quick growing tree and the hard maple because it has the most beautiful autumnal foliage of any tree I know.

As a memorial to our gallant fighters who return, I should like to have a well-run sports program. A number of things may be considered, among them an outdoor swimming pool at the high school, with the school showers and dressing rooms available to the swimmers. The initial cost might well be met by popular subscription with the school operating the pool afterwards.

During the summer vacation, the pool could be open suitable nights from 7 to 11 with swimming classes scheduled certain afternoons from 4 to 6. The athletic coach should be the director. In the winter the pool could be flooded and used for ice skating.

Softball might well be revived, for the grounds are still available and it would not take long to hook up the lights. Four organizations such as business firms could each sponsor a team with one or two nights a week set aside for double header games. There should be no admission charge, but a collection should be taken to pay for the lights. Moreover, consideration should be given to reinstating croquet courts in the park for the youngsters and marking off space for horseshoes for the oldsters.

My town faithfully follows high school basketball, which provides excellent winter recreation. A survey should be made, however, to see how the high school gymnasium may be used winter evenings for adults for calisthenics, volley ball, handball, basketball and folk dancing. In all of this sports program the goal must be to use available community resources to provide a varied program to reach the greatest number of people.

Educational Needs.

Last but not least is the Education committee which should consist of five members: the high school principal, the grade school principal, a town father who has children in school, a farm mother who has children in school, and a high school alumnus, the latter to be chairman. The business of this Education committee should be to make a survey of the postwar educational needs

and make recommendations to the boards of education.

Perry L. Schneider, head of the evening elementary school division of the New York City board of education, says that there is a growing demand for adults for short non-credit courses in cultural subjects such as history, global geography, economics, current events, literature, music, art, crafts, and hobbies. He believes that it will be necessary to educate parents for reduction of juvenile delinquency.

Reflex action, as you probably know, is co-ordinated response of eye, brain and muscle to some situation. For example, in boxing the eye sees an opening as brain and muscle respond in a split second.

There's no wasted delay. But as one gets older reflex action gets slower. The eye will see the opening but the muscle usually arrives a trifle too late.

As a concrete illustration consider Mel Hein in football. Year after year Mel had a quick flash of what was happening and he was usually on top of the play. He can still see what is

taking place in a half-flash, but naturally after so many seasons of wear and tear his legs may not quite get there in time, although it is still amazing how many times big Mel is on hand at the right second.

Instinct and reflexes are something that can't be taught. You have them or you don't have them. Eddie Arcaro and Ted Atkinson will tell you that in any close spot it is instinct that directs the next move, for it must be done in less than a breath.

The instinct and the reflexes of such ball players as Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and other leaders worked perfectly as a rule. They did the right thing subconsciously without any direct conscious thought attached. They rarely did the wrong thing. Jack Dempsey will tell you in his two closing fights with Gene Tunney that he could see openings which he could have used effectively in his earlier years. But he was no longer the Dempsey of Toledo, especially against the cleverness of a Tunney.

Perhaps eighth grade boys should be taught simple cookery, selection and care of their clothes, bedmaking, and room care in a course called, "Every Day Living for Boys." Both boys and girls might be taught simple gardening practices and encouraged to have their own garden plots during the summer.

As a part of the high school survey it would be right to consider if the history courses are providing the citizenship training we want and if the English classes in addition to teaching our young people to speak and write correctly are giving them the proper evaluating standards so that they will know how to judge a newspaper, magazine, book, movie, and radio program, thus discarding the trash and fastening their minds on the things worth remembering.

Since cooking and sewing were required of eighth grade girls, it would seem sensible to require of the freshman girls a home management course which could incorporate some principles of home nursing. Then during the three summer vacations of their high school days they might undertake such projects as canning vegetables, house cleaning and cooking, with credit to be given for such projects after due inspection by the teacher in charge.

A first aid course comparable to the one taught by the American Red Cross should be required of every boy and girl after he is 16 years of age and before he is graduated.

In a recent forum on divorce conducted by the Town Club of Chicago, Samuel A. Rinella, divorce attorney, declared, "Our schools train students in everything from carpentering to radio announcing but not enough, if anything, is done about instructing men and women in marriage."

Mr. Rinella's statement is so true that I think the Education committee should consider recommending a required semester's course in the senior year for both boys and girls in general sociology, marriage and the family.

In 1865 the folks of Pleasant Valley, a little village in the foothills of the Alleghenies, piled the relics of the Civil war that had just ended, the old brass cannon, the battered muskets, the broken swords, and the rusted bayonets into one heap. They melted them down and from them cast the gentle bells of Pleasant Valley to ring out over green fields and fertile farms as a memorial to their loved ones lost in that war.

Likewise, it is my hope that the Postwar Planning of the Re-Employment, Memorial, and Education committees will result in making my community a Pleasant Place in which to live.

Most Notre Dame teams have been keen, alert, able concentrators on the next play. "I want your bodies physically relaxed - your minds always alert," Knute Rockne told and taught them.

Jack Johnson's concentration was almost entirely on defense—Jack Dempsey on attack. Ty Cobb used to map out certain plays weeks in advance, and then be ready to use them when the right time arrived. He rarely overlooked the right time. Without concentration you might not be able to use such natural gifts as reflexes or instinct.



THIS matter we are about to tackle may be a trifle over our head, but we'll take a shot at it just the same. It concerns concentration, reflexes and instinct, which at least work together, although entirely different. But they are the main foundations of any winning effort.

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Mental Discipline

But concentration is another affair. It doesn't call for the split-second, the powder-flare speed of the other two ingredients demand. Concentration demands the discipline of the mind or brain that in turn controls muscular movement. It is one of the rarest of all the competitive species, since it goes with mental punishment. It is something that must be forced and watched. It can never be taken for granted as it may slip from your hold like a greased eel.

To begin with, any extended concentration means punishment. "One of the reasons I quit tournament golf," Bobby Jones told me, "was that I got tired of taking the beating I had to take through 72 holes of play, where I knew I couldn't afford to take my mind off the job."

Jones was one of the best of all concentrators. "I find I can hit the ball as well as ever," Gene Sarazen says, "but I can't keep concentrating as I used to. I can't keep thinking through every shot to be played. My mind begins to wander."

Tunney was one of the best concentrators in all sport. Gene worked as hard on directing his mind as he ever worked on his legs or arms.

A few hours before facing Dempsey in Chicago, Tunney read some book—I've forgotten the name. But he could tell you everything he had read in that book. That means the top of mind control—with a million dollars at stake—and Jack Dempsey's punch just on ahead.

Few would believe the number of hours Tunney forced himself to practice this combination. "And it wasn't any fun," he added. "It was the hardest sort of work."

Walter Hagen could kid with you and laugh with you one minute, and a second later concentrate entirely on the shot to be played. Few are that lucky.

Think of Next Play

Few football players know the value of concentration as Mel Hein knew it. While the opposing team had the ball, he continually faced the possibilities of a pass, a hidden ball, a line thrust, a spinner or an end run. A good defensive back or a defensive lineman must have complete control of his thinking apparatus through every playing second. Hamberg of Navy belonged in this class. Blanchard and Davis of Army have this ability.

W. B. Stout, past president of the Society of Automotive Engineers, predicts that an atomic engine no bigger than a human fist will some day drive an auto for life. There will probably be some fellow who will always complain that he is not getting high test electrons.

HONK! HONK!
His motor ran by atoms—
He thought that it was swell;
He merely pressed a button . . .
Farewell, old man, farewell!



McGOFFEY'S FIRST READER

Oh, see the automobile! It is a new automobile! How do you know it is a new automobile? Because no door is hanging by one hinge and most of the windshield glass is still intact.

Who is the man looking at the new auto? The name is Joe.

Will it do Joe any good to look at the new auto? No.

Why will it not do Joe any good to look at the new auto? Because it is just a sample.

Is it the only sample of the postwar auto? No, some company brings out one every week.

What is the sense of letting Joe see samples of the postwar auto if Joe cannot buy one? The idea is to cut Joe in on a peek into the future, f.o.b. Detroit.

What has the postwar auto that the present models lack? Everything, including a windshield wiper that works, and handles that don't come out in your hand.

Has the postwar auto many innovations? It photographs as if it had.

What's so different? The front. But don't they always change the front of an auto? Yes, but this time they have gone the limit.

What is that big thing behind which the car seems to be hiding? That is the postwar bumper.

Will there be more collisions in the postwar world? Perhaps not, but they will be louder.

Where is the engine? The engine is where it always was.

Wasn't there some talk of putting it under the rear seat? Yes, there has been talk of that ever since Henry Ford first frightened a horse.

Will there be an engine under the rear seat some day? Not until they develop asbestos pants.

Is the gas tank in the same location? Yes, the gas tank is in the same location.

Couldn't they put that up front as a novelty? Only if you think fireworks constitute a novelty.

Oh, look at Joe. He is getting into his old flivver. Yes. Why?

Because Joe knows a wreck in the hand is worth two blueprints in the bush in covering a distance between two given points.

9. John Hancock and Benjamin Franklin. After Hancock had affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence, he said: "We must all hang together, gentlemen." And Franklin added: "Or we will all hang separately."

10. Hydrogen.

1. The Western Reserve in Ohio. 2. It is fixed in the United States by an act of congress. 3. Only south. 4. "To reach the bottom." 5. By purchase from Spain. 6. Manx cats. 7. As a scout and pony express mail rider. 8. Statesman (in referring to the preponderant influence or authority of a state).

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Yearling race horses are bringing terrific prices at the summer dispersal sales. The average is around \$7,000. In some cases they are bringing \$30,000 and more. A few years ago at Saratoga there was the other extreme and we recall Tom Platt, a noted breeder, withdrawing his yearlings in a huff when the auctioneer found it hard to get bids much over \$500.

THOUGHTS ON A SUNDAY NIGHT RADIO PROGRAM
Does mother quarrel with her kin? Does dad get ugly on one gin? Oh, daughter, will you ride or hike Quite swiftly to the nearest mike?

Does little Jennie think her pop Loves some girl in a barber shop? Does popper think it's wrong or right You'll have to listen Sunday night!

Does little Edgar, nearly eight, Play pool and drink and stay up late? Should he be spanked or viewed with pride? The air-wave judges will decide!

Their troubles some folks love to share When they can get upon the air: Their private lives to all they'll show— If they are on the radio.

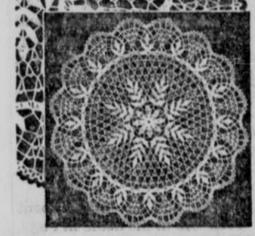
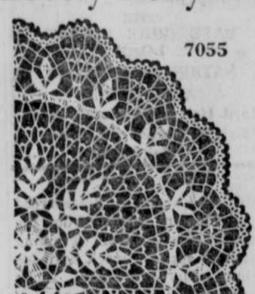
There will be poems very deep With organ tunes to make you weep; I think I'll beat my wife up so We'll both get on the radio!

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He thought that it was swell;
He merely pressed a button . . .
Farewell, old man, farewell!

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ASK ME ANOTHER? A General Quiz

The Questions

1. What part of the United States was once known as New Connecticut?
2. What determines the price of gold?
3. If one could stand at the North pole, in what direction might one face?
4. Can you complete the following proverb, "When you take out and do not put in, expect—?"
5. How did the United States acquire Florida?
6. What is the name of the breed of tailless cats?
7. In what capacity was Buffalo Bill connected with the U. S. government?
8. Which of the following are likely to use the word hegemony, a mining engineer, statesman or chemist?
9. Who said, "We must all hang together, gentlemen, or we will all hang separately?"
10. What is the common element contained in all acids?

The Answers

1. The Western Reserve in Ohio.
2. It is fixed in the United States by an act of congress.
3. Only south.
4. "To reach the bottom."
5. By purchase from Spain.
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564 W. Randolph St. Chicago 20, Ill.
Enclose 16 cents for Pattern
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Name _____
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Generally So
"What is the feminine of bachelor?" asked the school teacher. There was no reply until a small boy sang out: "a lady in waiting."

The most certain thing about a mule is his uncertainty.

Fly Away, Fly Away
"Are you an angel, Daddy?" asked Elsie.
"Well—er—not exactly, dear. Why do you ask?"
"Well, I heard Mummy say she was going to clip your wings."

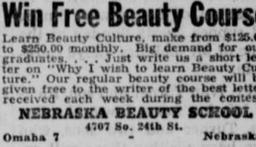
Not in Reverse
Mrs. Katz—I want to know how much money my husband has drawn out this month.
Teller—Sorry, Mrs. Katz, but I can't give you that information.
Mrs. Katz—Aren't you the paying teller?
Teller—Yes, but I'm not the telling payer.

HOW TO "KNOW" ASPIRIN

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MARY MARTIN
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Here's the heater for your home this winter... the famous WARM MORNING. Exclusive, patented, interior construction makes possible amazing heating results... with remarkable fuel economy.

Semi-automatic, magazine feed. Model 420
Holds 100 lbs. of coal. Burns any kind of coal, coke or briquets. Heats all day and night without refueling. Holds fire several days on closed draft. Start a fire but once a year. Your home is WARM every MORNING regardless of the weather!

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Model 520
LOCKE STOVE CO., 114 West 11th St., Kansas City 6, Mo.

Future Prosperity of U. S. Depends on Sound Postwar Planning

Historically, America's economy had its beginnings in farms and in small towns. As more goods were produced and as farms multiplied, more towns came into being and some of them grew into large cities. The existence of the large cities does not, however, detract from the importance of rural communities. About one-fourth of our people are farmers and dependent upon the production from their land for nearly all their income. Roughly, an

other fourth, living in small towns and to some extent in the cities, depend on farm trade in one form or another for a livelihood. These two groups represent at least one-half our population.

The importance of prosperity in rural America to the rest of the economy is indicated by the fact that approximately 70 cents of the farm dollar goes into the purchase of things which have to be manufactured. The farmer's prosperity,

therefore, makes a maximum contribution toward the creation of payrolls and jobs.

Sound postwar planning should result not only in more jobs in your community but in permanent advances for the United States. In a democracy, progressive community action is essential to social and economic progress. — From "Postwar Jobs and Growth in Small Communities," Committee for Economic Development handbook.