

## Army Recognizes Peacetime Heroes With Soldier's Medal

WASHINGTON — The Army has long recognized that heroism does not exist solely on the battlefield.

Since 1926, the Soldier's Medal has been awarded to more than 13,000 officers and enlisted men for heroic action involving neither actual combat nor aerial flight.

Established by Congressional action, the medal consists of an eagle standing on the traditional fasces—a bundle of rods—between two groups of stars of six and seven. The eagle is displayed on a one and three-eighth inch bronze octagonal "For Valor" is written across the face of the medal.

One of these peacetime heroes was Sergeant Vincent Lecchi, stationed with the 122nd Army Service Unit at Fort Dix in November, 1952, when he heard an explosion in the impact area. He discovered a detail of men had entered the area on their way to a brush fire and had detonated a live grenade.

Fully aware of the density of unexploded grenades in the area, the 24-year-old sergeant of New London, Conn., ran in gave first-aid to three wounded men prevented panic and led out the detail. While guiding the men, Lecchi heard a second explosion.

Coming back he found four men injured and the range officer killed. Again he administered first-aid, prevented panic and led the remaining men of this second group to safety.

For his prompt and selfless action, Lecchi was awarded the red - white - and - blue ribbon that represents the Soldier's Medal this past January.

Private First Class David C. MacNichol of New York City, received the award this year for his heroic action near the Charleston, S. C., Transportation Depot in February.

MacNichol, then with the 534th Transportation Detachment, was in the vicinity when

a civilian employee of the Depot fell into the Cooper River.

There was a swift tide flowing. MacNichol, without hesitation, plunged into the water fully clothed. He swam approximately 25 yards to the man's rescue, overpowered him and swam with him to a nearby tugboat where the two men were pulled out of the water by by-standers.

The prompt action of the 23-year-old soldier saved the man from drowning. In the citation of his award, MacNichol's "courageous action" is deemed reflecting "great credit upon himself and the military service." He is now with the 7278 General Reserve Unit, Transportation Terminal Command at Baffin Island, Labrador.

Chaplain (Major) Edward A. Curran of Washington, D. C., is another from the group of heroes. Stationed at Camp Drake, Honshu, Japan, in September, 1953, he was called to the scene of an attempted suicide and found an enlisted man perched atop a 70-foot smokestack, threatening to jump to his death.

Immediately, the 48-year-old chaplain climbed to the peak of the stack, took a position directly under that of the soldier and clung to a steel upright for support as the man tried to dislodge him. After a 50-minute conversation, the chaplain succeeded in persuading the soldier to descend a ladder to safety.

Chaplain Curran is now with the 4052 Service Unit Antiaircraft Artillery and Guided Missiles Center, Fort Bliss, Tex.

These heroes are of every rank and include also servicemen of Allied nations. Some are inductees; others enlistees. Some are combatants; others, like Chaplain Curran, are non-combatants.

They have one thing in common, though—voluntarily, they gambled their lives to save the lives of others.

## Now You See It; Now You Don't



Plattsmouth Midget Manager Bob Richter, right, and Tom Winscott, the Platters double-no-hit pitcher, had the District B American Legion tournament trophy in their hands Friday afternoon but today Beaver Crossing has it as an umpire developed a few anti-fans. Plattsmouth defeated Beaver Crossing in the finals of the tournament at Louisville Thursday night by

a score of 19 to 4 but the victory wouldn't stick. The plate umpire called a Beaver Crossing batsman out on a dropped third strike. An inning a half later, Beaver Crossing protested. Saturday the protest was allowed at Hastings. Saturday, the two teams played the game over from the fourth inning and Beaver Crossing won 7 to 6. Richter is now protesting the protest allowed.

—Journal Photo.

## Syracuse and Beaver Crossing Win District Legion Tourney

### New Coach Signed At Louisville High

LOUISVILLE — A new high school coach has been signed here. He is Ernie Lee, a 1954 graduate of Omaha University and a former tackle on the Indians' football team. He will serve as all-sports coach here. Lee replaces Bill Plasterer, who resigned to take a job as assistant coach at Grinnell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa.

**UNUSUAL ACCIDENT.** SALZBURG, Austria. — When lightning struck an electric cable which supplied power for a cable elevator high in the Austrian Alps, the elevator jarred to a sudden stop, throwing about 50 persons 100 feet down a steep slope. Two were killed and thirteen seriously injured. The break in the power line immediately put on the emergency brakes.

**LEAVING LENA?** HOUSTON, Tex. — While Fred Raemer was sitting in his car waiting for a red light to change, another car plunged off the roof of a three-story parking garage and fell on Roemer's car. The second car belonged to Elvin Steen, 35, who had it up on jacks while making some repairs. He forgot the engine was running and in gear and let the car down off the jacks. "It just took off," Steen said. Raemer was not hurt but his car was a mess.

## Rummel Rites Held Saturday At Plattsmouth

Funeral services for Mrs. Margaret Rummel were held at 1 p.m., Saturday at the Sattler Funeral Home in Plattsmouth. Rev. J. W. Taenzler conducted the rites. Burial was in Oak Hill cemetery.

Mrs. Rummel died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Louise K. Graves at Burbank, Calif., on July 25 after an illness of five years.

Music for the funeral was by Mrs. E. A. Ernst, vocal soloist, and Mrs. J. Howard Davis, organist.

Flower bearers were Mrs. Wayne Gorton and Mrs. William Schmidtman, Jr.

Casket bearers were George A. Kaffenberger, Fred Tschirren, Ed Meisinger, Victor Meisinger, John Wehrbein and Lester Thimgan.

Mrs. Rummel was born at Darmstadt, Germany, on March 11, 1872, the daughter of Henry and Catherine Falter Hoffart. She came to Plattsmouth at the age of 10.

She was married on Feb. 23, 1893, to William Rummel. They lived on a farm west of Plattsmouth until they retired and moved to Plattsmouth to make their home. They had 60 years of married life. He preceded her in death on Oct. 22, 1953.

Mrs. Rummel was a member of the First Presbyterian church in Plattsmouth and a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Home Chapter No. 189. She was confirmed in the Lutheran church and transferred to the Presbyterian church in Plattsmouth. Surviving children are Mrs. Florence C. Hall, Lincoln; Mrs. Mable E. Hill, Burbank, Calif.; Mrs. Louise K. Graves, Burbank; Elmer J. Rummel and Robert T. Rummel, both of Burbank.

Also surviving are nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Falter, Bancroft, S. D.; Mrs. Mary Hoferer, Verdigris, Neb.; one brother, Louis Hoffart, Plainview, Neb. One son, John W. Rummel preceded her in death on March 15, 1952.

Services were held at the Eckerman Funeral Home in Burbank on July 27. Rev. Chester Bulley officiated.

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## Safety Inspector Positions Are Open

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination for Safety Inspector for positions paying \$3,410 and \$5,060 a year in the Bureau of Motor Carriers, Interstate Commerce Commission, in various cities throughout the United States.

A written test will be given. Appropriate experience is required. Successfully completed college study in transportation or mechanical engineering may be substituted for all of the experience required for positions paying \$3,410, and for part of that required for the higher grade.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Henry A. Hughson, secretary, Plattsmouth Post Office.

## Good Old Days Were Not So Good as Now

CHICAGO—The good old days weren't as good as right now when it comes to work accidents. The on-the-job accident rate for 1954 was the best on record, according to the 1955 edition of the National Safety Council's statistical yearbook, "Accident Facts," just off the press. It marked the eighth consecutive year in which the accident frequency rate of the Council's industrial members has come down.

The 1954 rate is less than a fourth of the 1926 rate.

**THE BARGAIN TRAIL LEADS to the Classified PAGE**

## Kostal Heads Heart Group In Nebraska

Dr. O. A. Kostal of Hastings takes office this week as president of the Nebraska Heart Association.

The Hastings heart specialist was elected in February to succeed Dr. Frederick G. Gillick of Omaha. The new president-elect is Dr. George W. Covey of Lincoln, editor of the Nebraska State Medical Journal.

Dr. Kostal is the first non-Omahan to serve in the presidency since the Association was founded in 1949. Honored as a fellow in four honorary medical organizations, Dr. Kostal also is a commander in the U. S. Navy Medical Corps, Reserve. He is on the Naval Affairs Advisory Council for the Ninth Naval District and is a national director and Nebraska president of the Navy League of the United States.

Five other officers assuming duties this week are: Dr. Edward Langdon, secretary, and Mr. David F. Davis, treasurer, both of Omaha; Dr. J. E. Meyer of Columbus, first vice-president, and Dr. H. A. McConahay of Holdrege, second vice-president.

Twenty-six trustees also are starting new terms, including retirement President Gillick. The Creighton Medical School Dean will serve three-years on the Executive Committee, too.

These officers and trustees will direct a budget of \$118,000 to fight heart disease, almost double the previous year. They will guide the Heart Association's program of Research, Education and Community Service.

## HOUSE STOLEN

GAINESVILLE, Ga. — The sheriff's office was recently notified by Mrs. Margaret Seay that someone had stolen her house, located on Thirteenth Street. When last seen by the owner, the two-room house was wearing white paint and black screens.

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**Rev. Roger Grow Resigns as Pastor**

WEeping WATER — The Rev. Roger D. Grow, pastor of the First Congregational Church here, has resigned effective Sept. 1 to accept a call at the First Congregational Church at Beresford, S. D., it has been announced.

Rev. Grow has been pastor at the Weeping Water church since Jan. 1, 1953.

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