

Journal Jan 11, 1942

# Victory Book Campaign Starts

It isn't house cleaning time, so don't haul out that dusty set of volumes sold you by the traveling book salesman.

Don't poke around for that book so horribly dull it cured insomnia. Don't part with that number grandpa liked as a boy in 1865.

Don't send those dejected, dog-eared, yellow, antiquated volumes that only the trash man covets.

These books are going to lively, curious, quick-thinking, active young Americans, somewhere between 17 and the mid-30s, and the more pertinent, up-to-date, entertaining they are, the better the reception at San Diego, Rolla, Mo., or Fort Dix.

Let your conscience be your guide when choosing contributions for the Victory Book campaign which starts in a big way tomorrow—January 12.

### Share The Books

If that conscience isn't too overgrown, it will dictate that you share the books your sons, nephews, boy friends, brothers, and cousins, young masculine America, have enjoyed. Khaki or blue doesn't turn the boys into persons who want to read a volume even the author avoided.

Should your pride be a collector's library, don't shift this book burden to your neighbor. A couple of dollars will get a reprint of quantities of recently published fiction and non-fiction.

This intensive drive has been planned to collect reading matter for soldiers, sailors, and marines. **The goal is 10 million books for**



MISS JENNINGS

the USO houses; camp dayrooms, where the boys gather in their leisure; ships; naval bases; any center in which American boys are located with defense forces.

Librarians of the country are providing the skill to put this across. The USO and the American Red Cross are providing any necessary financing. You — and you — and you are providing the books.

In Nebraska, the State Library association, of which Mrs. Naomi Ellsworth, Fairbury, is president, and the Public Library commis-

sion, of which Miss Nellie M. Carey, Lincoln, is executive secretary, are co-sponsors of the drive. Miss Althea Warren, librarian of the Los Angeles library, is on leave with the USO in New York City to direct the national effort.

### Goal Here 200,000

Miss Anna V. Jennings, former librarian of Kearney State Teachers college, is state chairman, and insists Nebraska is capable of contributing 200,000 books to the cause. The duration of the drive is four months, but, believing a whirlwind picks up more than a



MRS. ELLSWORTH



MISS CAREY

zephyr, Miss Jennings plans to have the Nebraska job completed in six weeks.

Others on the executive committee are Clara B. Johnson, Lincoln, supervisor, statewide WPA public library project; Miss Elsie FitzGerald, Lincoln, executive secretary, Red Cross; and K. B. Cary, Lincoln, USO.

"Books for Our Defenders" is enlisting the aid of many organizations. Among those represented in Nebraska are A. A. U. W., American Red Cross and Junior

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Red Cross; Bar association; Boy Scouts; Business and Professional Women's club; Camp Fire Girls; Catholic Library association; Chamber of Commerce and its women's auxiliary; churches, Sunday schools, and ministerial associations; Civilian Defense Council Volunteer Participation Committee; colleges and junior colleges; D. A. R. and other patriotic groups; fraternal orders; fraternities, sororities, and alumni groups; Future Farmers of America; granges, farm bureaus, and 4-H clubs; Federation of Women's clubs; Girl Scouts; Junior League; labor organizations; League of Women Voters; medical and nursing associations; merchants associations; P. T. A.; National Recreation association; schools; service clubs; veterans groups and auxiliaries, and Friends of the Library.

**Collection Points.**

Depositories are to be placed at convenient locations, as chambers of commerce, schools, department stores, apartment houses, motion picture theaters, office buildings, railroad and bus stations, and similar places. Arrangements are being made with various youthful groups, as the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts, to pick up the donated books. In one community, where the drive has been going on informally, every housewife with books for the Victory campaign hung a red signal on her door.

Miss Carey has one of the tougher jobs. She is the liaison librarian for the Seventh Corps area, including Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. She is working with the corps area librarian in various capacities, one of which is to determine the destination of the books. The volumes are to be sent from central receiving stations to the camps and bases where certain types of reading matter are in particular demand, rather than carting all to one city and possibly sending a share back to a dayroom at the point of issue.

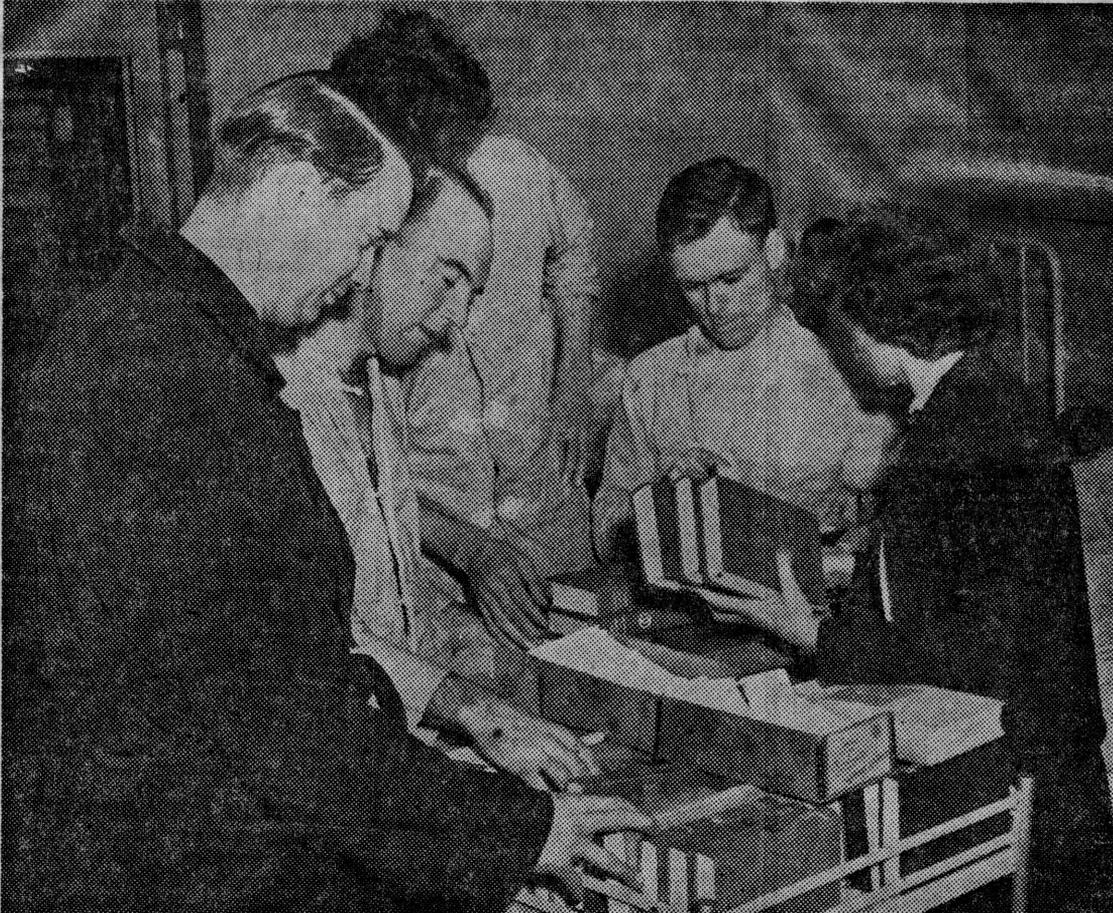
**Survey Needs.**

The librarian for the Seventh Corps area took a swing around her territory to survey the book needs. Some of the largest camps have libraries, but the smaller units have very minor facilities. And, wherever there are a few book shelves, the demand for recreational reading is usually far greater than the supply. Books secured through this campaign will supplement what the government has been able to do. Men "at ease" depend on the dayrooms of their company and of the USO houses for their reading.

Miss Sylvia Tubbs, just returned from her research, said:

"The Victory Book campaign offers an opportunity for everyone to share the joy of reading with the men in our armed forces.

"I wish it were possible for the civilians to hear at first hand the expressions of appreciation



**T**HE Seventh Corps area takes a library to the hospital at Fort Leonard Wood. Everybody awaits its coming, whether it be those who can meet the unit half way or whether it must make a bedside stop.

Pvts. Winston Fisher, Clifford Warrick, Willie J. Deaton and Merlyn Ross select their reading matter from the cart brought in by Librarian Bernice Finnegan.

But it seems too bad to have to go to bed just to get a book.

The healthy creatures at the cantonment, and at all other camps in this and other military areas, also could use fiction, non-fiction and textbooks.

They hope you plan to be an out-of-season Santa Claus with gifts of books in the VBC drive.

and enthusiasm of the men now using our camp libraries. More books are needed on every post; the collections of new books purchased by the war department are pushed to supply the demand.

"I want to assure the general public and all of those who are working with the USO, the Red Cross and the American Library association in putting on this drive of my most sincere appreciation and co-operation. Camp libraries are used and your gifts will be enjoyed by the men in service."

Nebraska's governor, Dwight Griswold, a serviceman in World war No. 1, knows that reading of the type a man likes is one of the happiest things to find in camp. "This is a worthy cause," he has said, "and I bespeak the hearty co-operation of citizens of Nebraska in the Victory Book campaign."

**What Do They Want?**

What do the men WANT and LIKE?

What are the books worth parting with?

Pvt. Louis A. Kenny, Dorchester man now with the forces at Camp Callan at San Diego and a graduate librarian, has written Miss Jennings, with whom he worked in Kearney, of reading that is tops with the boys. Callan has fortunate surroundings, for it has more than 5,500 books, to make it the largest and best camp library in the Ninth corps area. The Seventh, with its little acorn libraries waiting to become oaks, has a long way to go and needs all the help you can give.

Books on applied psychology have been markedly popular at Callan—volumes of the Dale Carnegie winning friends and getting ahead, self-help, personality development sort of thing. Whether it makes them generals now or captains of industry later, the soldiers demand popular treatments of psychology, psychoanalysis, ethics, etc., in a spirit of getting ready.

**Like Thrillers.**

In addition to the call for current best sellers and recent fiction, there is heavy demand for mysteries and western thrillers, the complete escape from the cares that infest the day. Mr. Kenny, assigned to library service to help an overworked librarian on the day he had hoped to sail for Alaska, with his company, finds that a proportion of the men want the classics, Dickens, Dumas, Cooper, Hawthorne, Trackeray, Balzac, and Tolstoy.

VBC sponsors are asking for fiction, non-fiction, and textbooks (it is hoped the schools will provide the last), as numbers of the men give part of their time to personal refresher courses. As a coast artillery camp math at

Callan possibly is more important than in some cantonments, but all contributions can be absorbed.

Private Kenny writes: "Mathematics is by far at the head of the list of non-fiction. Introductory and elementary textbooks in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus are wanted badly. And as principles in math do not change, older editions of 10, 20, or 30 years ago will serve.

"We also have calls for standard textbooks of chemistry, physics, and the useful arts, particularly engineering and electricity.

"Volumes on art, antiques, music, poetry, plays, and humor—all are popular.

"Books of travel in the Philippines, China, Japan, and Hawaii interest the readers at camp. We have a satisfactory selection of biography, but I have a feeling they are not read as much as they should be."

Technical and scientific books earlier than 1935 generally are not useful. Texts in present use in law and medical schools are wanted by men who have given up professional training for enlistment.

**List Outlined.**

Miss Tubbs, in common with other area librarians, has the following certified list of books that will serve a real purpose and won't clutter up the shelves:

- Applied psychology
- Current affairs
- Military publications
- Crime and the F.B.I.
- Police systems and fingerprinting
- English grammars
- Arithmetic
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Calculus and tables of logarithms
- Mathematics books are needed in the study of ballistics and for many promitional examinations)
- Up-to-date technical books
- Accounting
- Shorthand
- Business and salesmanship
- Lettering and mechanical drawing
- Photography
- Cartoons
- Well-illustrated books of all types
- Books about music
- Sports
- Novel- and playwriting
- Poetry and individual plays
- Geography
- Travel (of the last ten years)
- Biography (especially the shorter, more popular type)
- History (particularly Europe and North and South America since 1900)
- Fiction.
  - Adventure
  - Aviation stories
  - Historical novels

**Humor  
Mystery  
Sports  
Western**

The state has been divided into 13 regions corresponding to the division set up for the Nebraska Advisory Defense committee. Books will be collected and sent from each section—competent persons have been selected as directors, but Miss Jennings says if anyone doesn't understand book packing, she'll come out with information gained over 34 years of service.

**A And B.**

Taking a leaf from the cinema book of knowledge, fiction and nonfiction go in two lots, A and B, according to quality and condition. The remainder, unfit for transmittal to the cantonments and bases, will be sold as waste paper, the funds returned to the VBC for purchases. It's pretty silly, nonetheless, to load down the volunteer librarians and aides with a lot of unnecessary work. After all, this contribution is a part of your home work for the boys in the forces, not an easy means of getting rid of a lot of old books.

The Nebraska Commercial Truckers association is a top flight volunteer. Its men and its trucks are taking the books from the receiving points to the terminals.

Lancaster, Seward, and Otoe counties are included in Region No. 12. Magnus K. Kristoffersen, librarian of the Lincoln city library, is chairman.

**Other Setups.**

- Other regional setups follow:
  - REGION 1. Dr. Robert F. Lane, librarian, Omaha Municipal university, chairman. Counties: Douglas, Cass, Sarpy, Washington.
  - REGION 2. Mrs. Anna D. Johnson, librarian, Madison Public Library, chairman. Counties: Boyd, Holt, Knox, Antelope, Pierce, Madison, Platte, Boone, Stanton.
  - REGION 3. Yale Kessler, assistant librarian, Wayne State Teachers college, chairman. Counties: Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Thurston, Wayne, Cuming, Burt.
  - REGION 4. Alma Wickman, librarian, Scottsbluff Public Library, chairman. Counties: Banner, Kimball, Morrill, Cheyenne, Garden, Deuel, Box Butte, Grant.
  - REGION 5. Mrs. Chester Hugo, assistant librarian, Gothenburg Public Library, chairman. Counties: Lincoln, Dawson, Logan, Thomas, Hooper, Perkins, Keith, McPherson, Arthur.
  - REGION 6. Margaret Caffall, librarian, Kearney, chairman. Counties: Custer, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Buffalo, Valley, Sherman, Wheeler, Greeley, Howard, Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance.
  - REGION 7. Mildred Palmer, librarian, Fremont Public Library, chairman. Counties: Dodge, Saunders, Butler, Polk, Colfax.
  - REGION 8. Irene E. Faulder, librarian, State Teachers college, Chadron, chairman. Counties: Cherry, Sheridan, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Sioux, Dawes.
  - REGION 9. Millicent Slaby, librarian, McCook Public Library, chairman. Counties: Frontier, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Gosper, Furnas.
  - REGION 10. H. A. Sieving, librarian, Hastings college, chairman. Counties: Phelps, Harlan, Kearney, Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, Franklin.
  - REGION 11. Madge Evans, librarian, Beatrice Public Library, chairman. Counties: Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Fillmore, York, Thayer.
  - REGION 13. Eloise Ebert, librarian, Falls City Public Library, chairman. Counties: Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Richardson.