

Basic Bombardier

VOL. 1, No. 50

JULY 30, 1943



Youngsters were still coming by hundreds when this photo was taken and the sidewalk line was too long for the camera. Made a perfect attendance record.

KIDS TAKE OVER THEATER AND GROWNUPS FLOCK TOO FOR VICTORY'S OPENING

VICTORY THEATER, our long awaited show-house and one of Nevada's finest, opened with a rush July 23, and is in operation from 11 to 11 daily with good attendance. It's an amusement center really needed, second largest in the State, modern to the last detail, and a splendid Townsite acquisition. Seating capacity is 790.

Though the grownups were on hand in large numbers, it was the kids who really took over on the first day and had the time of their lives. Manager Brothers' free show offer brought out more than anybody knew were in this community. Junior population made itself both seen and heard! Attractive programs, including first-run films, are to be the regular order.

THIS WE OWE OUR BOYS ON THE BATTLE FRONTS

On the world's warfronts our boys are constantly on duty, fighting and dying for their country, for us, for our homes and our freedom. They're wasting no time and they're on the job regardless of the terrible hardships conditions impose. In the face of death they do their duty and we are the beneficiaries. What are we doing to back them up? Couldn't many BMI employees make a better showing?

At the close of a recent pay period, 112 time cards had two or more instances of tardiness out of the week--some two or three minutes late, others seven or eight minutes. Under ten minutes the employees aren't docked, but they lose half an hour's pay when over ten minutes late. There weren't many in that group.

The minutes lost by that many employees aggregate a number of work hours during a week, and time thus wasted, though paid for, belongs to the Government, to the company, and indirectly to the men who are doing the fighting. These minutes and hours affect production. In the long run, such waste could lose the war for us! Do you see the importance of coming on time and working until the quitting period?

PRO FIGHTERS WANTED

Professional fighters are wanted for the big BMI Recreation Fund Boxing Show on Labor Day at the Hotel Last Frontier, in which fighters from all over the country will participate. Call Dick Russell, Extension 54, BMI, for particulars.

GET YOUR "BOMBARDIER"

At convenient Clockhouse boxes, where it will be available from this time on instead of being delivered to departments. Please take but one copy --those on the next shifts will want them, too.

HORSES AND MORE HORSES

Horse owners, riders, horse lovers and others interested should attend a meeting next Monday night, August 2, in Room 10, Townsite School. An association will be formed to develop practically some plans already under way among our enthusiastic horsemen and women.

WANTA GO SWIMMIN'?

All you need is transportation to the new beach at Lake Mead, Vegas Cove area. The new road is open. It is continuation of the main road running along the Boulder City side of Anderson's. Just keep going. Floats, rafts and other facilities are being installed at the new beach.

VEGAS MERCHANTS DONATE MANY VOLUMES TO TOWNSITE LIBRARY



Learning that books were needed for the new Basic Townsite Library--used also by the school--Las Vegas Retail Merchants' Association purchased 75 volumes. They include a number on Western history, set of encyclopedia, novels, and children's books and were presented at a dinner meeting last week. Bombardier commander Bill Gais, who was at the Nevada Biltmore, to get into the picture as plant representative. He's at the left. Others are Miss Opal Earl, N. A. secretary, Inez Ferguson, vice-president, and Vic Shurtleff, president. It's a mighty nice present and thousands will appreciate it.

GROUP INSURANCE OFFERED BMI WORKERS AT LOW COST AND MANY ALREADY SIGNED

LOW COST GROUP INSURANCE, made available to all employees of BMI, without physical examination, and with DPC contributing approximately \$100,000 a year to finance the plan, found many departments of the project either over the top or well on the way to the needed 75 per cent sign-up as first returns were tabulated.

Among the first departments above quota were those concerned with accounting and finances.

C & A Accounting is way over the top. So

TOO BAD TWO WAYS

Geneva Harris of Refinery J-1 was stricken with an acute case of appendicitis and taken to Basic Hospital for an emergency operation the other day. Too bad the Group Insurance plan wasn't in effect. Sure would have helped!

is M & O Accounting, while the Treasurer's office is signed up 100 percent.

Other groups which were early with an above-quota return, are Chlorine and Caustic, carpenters (Maintenance) and Maintenance roofers.

A large number of small divisions are also above quota. Application blanks are being delivered hourly to Joe Schulman's office in new Personnel building.

Seventy-five per cent of all full-time employees must sign up before the plan goes into effect--but it will go into effect on the day that quota is reached.

This is possible because DPC will pay the first month's premium for all employees who join. In addition, DPC will contribute month by month. The plan, offering life insurance, cash if illness lays you low, money for hospital care and cash if you have to undergo an operation, is extremely low in cost because so many will participate and because of DPC contributions.

The liberal program offered to employees was the result of months of study by management, seeking a plan which would tide employees and their families over the rough spots when sickness, accident or death occurs.

Instrumental in making the plan available were James R. Hobbins, President, and F. O. Case, General Manager of BMI, and Jesse Jones of Defense Plant Corporation.

All workers are urged to turn in their application cards at once. The sooner 75 per cent sign-up, that much sooner will protection be available for all who join.

PLANT MAKES POSSIBLE MAGNESIUM STOCKPILES FOR ALL WAR PURPOSES

THE ARMY'S SIGNIFICANT celebration here of full production, with the Memphis Belle's crew honored representatives, brought out information of particular interest regarding the BMI metal.

One point is that incendiary bombs cause relatively greater destruction in enemy industrial centers than block busters and similar high explosives; and another that this plant's output has for some time set huge fires in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe, and now probably constitutes a major portion of the blazing vengeance exacted by United Nations flyers. Gordon Reed, director Aluminum and Magnesium Division, War Production Board, told in his address of the precarious shortage as late as 1942, and stated that BMI is now turning out the metal in the enormous quantities demanded by the war's various needs and for the first time making stockpiles possible; and that his board has informed our Army, Navy, England and Russia that magnesium is available for all war uses.

Mr. Reed, out from Washington as speaker for the War Production Board, said: "When you read that 2000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cologne you can pretty well assume that well over half the weight was magnesium incendiaries and that a goodly share originated in Las Vegas. Incendiary warfare requires large and unpredictable amounts of magnesium and huge production and stockpiles are essential. Nobody cares to predict just how much magnesium will be necessary to set fire to the island of Japan."

ARMY'S DAY INSPIRES GIFT



Presence of the Memphis Belle's famous fighting crew at BMI so impressed Theodore J. Tedrick with the war's nearness that he conceived the patriotic idea of presenting a \$1000 Victory Bond to Mrs. Tedrick as a wedding anniversary token. A happy inspiration and a good turn for both home and country! Ted is chief interviewer, Personnel, and their home is 66 Magnesium Street. He's a veteran employee and proud of the fact that he's never lost even an hour on the job.

Purchasing

LOUISE HILL and Bessie Zeurlein returned from vacations--Louise in San Jose to see No. 1 man, and Bessie in Los Angeles.

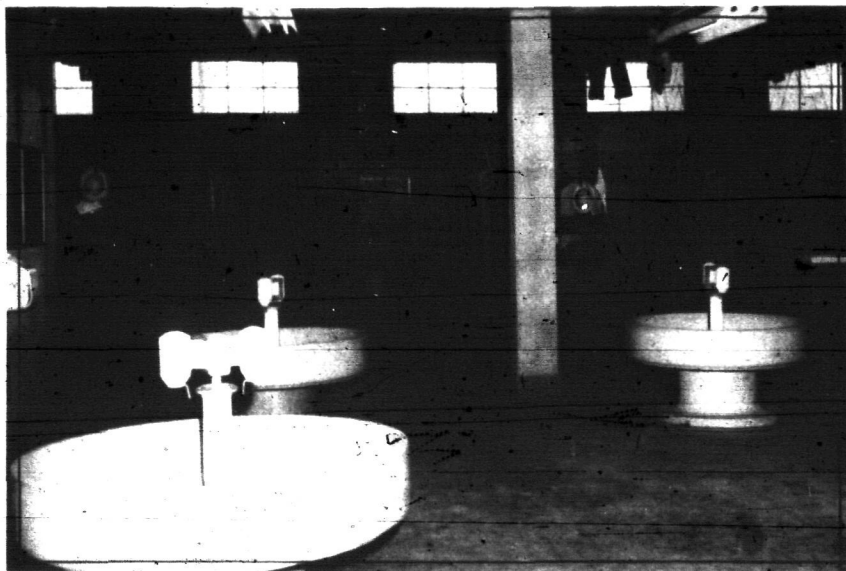
OUR CASUALTY if Marjorie Bertolini. First a rough motorcycle ride burned one of her limbs severely. Then she accidentally hit a foot against the wall and smashed a toe but she limped to the job.

WE WELCOME back to Purchasing Building Don McCollum, made chief posting clerk and assistant office manager of the DPC warehouse office force.

J. M. TRUSEL has been appointed General warehouse foreman. Inventory time there and everybody pitching in to help count things a-bobs and doomajiggers! Hard to tell whether nuts counting screws or vice versa, someone remarked.

DONE YOUR BIT BY BUYING VICTORY BONDS?
THEN DO YOUR BEST BY BUYING ALL YOU CAN!

SEVEN MODEL CHANGE HOUSES FOR BASIC WORKERS NOW IN USE



Conveniently located in proximity to the various units and scientifically designed and equipped, these large buildings afford every facility for their purpose--the comfort and health of the men. Each is a heavy concrete structure 80 x 90 feet and contains 474 suspended steel clothes basket lockers under strong ventilation, 16 showers, and a washroom with four huge basins. There are also foreman's quarters with 23 lockers. Attendants are on duty day and night and lockers may be obtained by applying to them. The photo shows a comparatively small portion of the interior, the central section. Note the basket lockers beyond the washroom, both raised and down.

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COMPLIMENTED BY ASSOCIATES



Bob Lawson, transferring from Recovery to Technical Service, was honored by 29 associates in the former department, with an unusual testimonial and gift of a \$50 Victory Bond. "Bob has been our friend, instructor and 'boss' since the hectic starting of Recovery operations last August," the citation read in part. "Now that the department is in full operation and the men all trained, we are happy to see him step into a department where his technical and executive abilities will find an even greater utilization."

General Office

MARRIAGES: Ruth Beiswinger and Ken Hasse at Flagstaff; Marjorie Lee and Bill De Wolf, Vegas.

SALESMAN coins apt verb. Going to his dentist to be "durationized."

TEN FRIENDS gave Cynthia Schwenson a swan song lunch in Jack Walsh's blue room. Cyn is retiring to become housewife for her Jack and concentrate on ration book.

TEDDY HANDY, friend who left for a while, back in DPC Housing, penthouse At market.

FAMILIAR VOICES answering from new locations: Mrs. G.G. Dahlquist, Camp Maintenance, across highway, and Martha Bell, Transportation.

NOW AN ARMY OFFICER

Edward C. Bunker, former Chief Clerk, Plant Protection, and later in Investigation Section, has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from The Adjutant General's School, Fort Washington, Md. His good field service record won him the school opportunity.

Chlorine

LONNIE SMITH, Chlorine area veteran, and Elizabeth Gerhardt, McNeil purchasing, to be married about August 1 and spend the honeymoon in Salt Lake City.

MR. AND MRS. LARRY WHITNEY observed their fifth wedding anniversary with a dinner party at the Hotel Last Frontier.

BOB KOLATH promoted from Cell renewal to Liquefaction relief operator.

HOLLIE SCRIVENS enjoyed a visit from his Navy son, George B. Scrivens, Camp Ward, Idaho. Just graduated from Boot Camp and came on 15-day furlough.

UNPLEASANT REPORTS--peeping toms in area.

NEW PRINT SHOP HELPER

Gary Wayne Perkins expects soon to be helping his old man supervise things at the print shop. Gary Wayne was born July 9 and his pa, Wayne the First, says he looks like an offset printer.

TURN THEM OUT LIKE NEW
PLANT TIRE SHOP'S RULE
AND THAT'S WHAT'S DONE

BMI HAS THE DISTINCTION of being one of the few defense plants with tire service on the spot, and this Tire Shop does the job in a big way. And it's a fundamental job, too, for when your tires are gone it's all off with the car or truck. In this thoroughly-equipped shop tires up to small truck size are recapped and those rebuilt come out practically like new. The success achieved is remarkable in view of the use of wartime materials. Most tires must be repaired before recapping.

Fully 200 tires are recapped monthly, and only 156 new ones have come along since the first of the year. About 850 flats a month are given attention. Operation is underway 16 hours a day by two shifts of experts. No wonder Mel Oerter, tire shop foreman is proud of his gang and their operations. And Bob Adams, supervisor, has a right to strut since Daniel H. Heaton, District Tire Examiner, wrote the War Production Board that he has found here some of the best repair work he has ever seen, including tires that most stations would have junked, but which are rebuilt to give thousands of miles service.

ALWAYS MAKES GOOD
GETTING THE GOODS

Willard Walter, whose job as chief expediter was a bang, crash rush during the flush days of construction, is leaving. His work, of course, is finished. Willard has many an exciting yarn about getting materials to the big project on time. Here's one of them.

A big crusher was needed for installation in the prep plant. None was available. Willard was tipped off one day by a manufacturer that one had been sold in 1926 to a Ladies' Seminary at Mundelein, Ill. He phoned, talked to the Mother Superior and several priests. They recognized that Basic needed the crusher more than did the seminary, so they sold it. And it's operating down in the prep plant today.

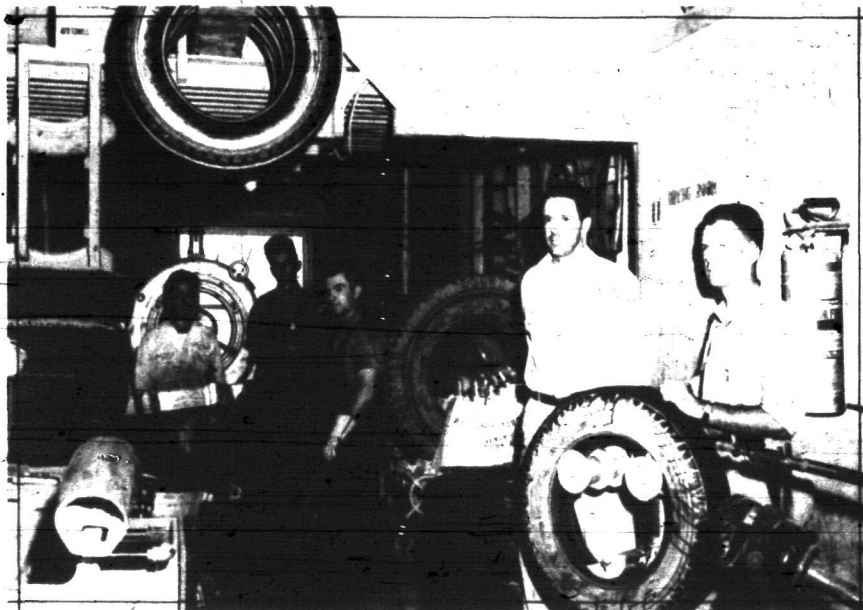
LOCKED UP THEN WED

O. Robert (Bob) Simon, Investigation, and Cathaleen Agnes Bender, BMI Hospital nurse, were married July 14 and went to Los Angeles on their honeymoon. Before the happy event, Plant Protection enjoyed a little fun at the expense of the pair. Guards locked Bob in the stockade recalcitrant individuals sometimes cool off in and then brought in the bride-to-be, handcuffed and a bit frightened, for a brief term. The joke was enjoyed by all, including the victims, who then went and had the sacred knot securely tied.

WE'RE INFORMED THAT RIGHT HERE'S THE BUSIEST PLACE IN TOWN



Can't be any doubt about it, for this is Basic Ration Board, 107 Water Street, where customers fairly roll in, even at closing time, and the personnel hasn't time to draw long breaths. This photo, taken after hours in a recent evening, shows what goes on. Left to right the workers are: Mrs. Betty Parker, clerk; Mrs. Margaret Bertolini, Basic clerk; C. Odene Drury, chief clerk, and Mrs. Sarah Brandt, clerk. Miss Helen Kelley, Basic clerk, is obscured in the background. There is also occasional volunteer help in disposing of heavy volume of work. Note the crowd in front of the counter. Gordon W. Helm is chairman of the nine-member board. Hours effective now are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30 to 12, 1:30 to 7:30; Saturday, 9 to 12, noon.



Near-miracles are wrought in this unique Tire Shop to keep Plant equipment rolling. There's probably not another in the country rendering as much and as good service. Mould Room is shown here. Workers, left to right: Lee Montoya, Lawrence Bracker, Fay Galloway, Foreman, Mel Oerter and Thomas P. Tweedie. You bet they're all experts!

BADGES TO HONOR THOSE
WORKERS WHO STAY WITH
THEIR JOBS TO PRODUCE

Because "presentees"--men and women who work day and in day out with no AMOL--are the real soldiers of the production front, BMI is going to honor them.

Management is preparing merit badges to be worn by employees who stay on the job without layoff.

The worker who is present for a full month receives a badge which reads "On The Job 100 Percent for One Month." If he follows through the second month without absence he receives a Two-Month Presentee badge and so on up to six months, at which time he will receive a "Six Month Presentee" badge which he may retain. Other awards for "presentees" beyond the six months period will probably be worked out.

First badges will be given out on Sept. 1 covering the month of August.

PARK COMMUNITY HOUSE

McNeil has finished moving half of an Anderson's dorm. to Trailer park, where it is being fitted up as a Community House. It's air cooled, will be used for meetings, recreation, religious services.

PLANT'S PRODUCTION
RECORDS HITTING UP

Magnesium production records still continue to topple day by day as BMI crews turn out the white metal for Uncle Sam's fighting men.

Just how much is being turned out daily is a military secret--but it's running well above the rated capacity of the plant.

The increase over rated capacity has reached almost 10 percent.

This tonnage--over and above the most optimistic estimates--is a credit to all departments.

Recovery

R. A. FLETCHER, Recovery helper in Units 7 and 8, is a composer and concert pianist, and offers his services at the piano for any BMI affairs. He recently had a radio audition. Favorable possibilities.

RECOVERY foremen were taken on an inspection tour by Supt. Mair and J.D. Keyes, Personnel Training. Lake Mead Pumping Station, reservoir and booster station were included. Supt. O'Neill, Water and Disposal, arranged authorization.

BABY BOY, and H. G. Gulley proud daddy.

Instrument Dept.

MANY REGRETS on departure of Mr. Wetherill's popular secretary, Dee Mackings. Husband goes with McNeil. Thirty from the department honored them with breakfast at Last Frontier, presenting Dee with fine luggage. Catherine Gianella takes her place and is welcomed.

ONLY MALE SURVIVOR of Gas Mask Repair Shop, Lee Crain, now in the Army, Camp Callan. Mildred Gregg in charge of mask repairs, and they'll be ok.

JOHN O. LISLE'S joining the pipefitters gang heralded with a baby boy in Las Vegas Hospital.

WALTER MINZER, an electrical engineering professor, has joined office force as acting assistant engineer.

SUPER-SMILING Annie Roberts, our truck driver, smiling even more. Been visiting husband Cpl. Jennings at Basic Training, Fresno. He was formerly in Metal Units.

ELWOOD GRIGGS, incomparable welder, also real host. Entertained for birthday dinner at Hotel Last Frontier.

C. R. GARRETT and V. West promoted from instrument helpers to calibrators.

"VICTORY SHARE THE CAR" PLAN MEANS FILLED SEATS DRIVING TO OR FROM WORK

IF YOU HAVE A CAR and can give a fellow employee a ride, or if you are a worker needing transportation to and from the plant, the plan carefully developed at BMI will solve the problem.

This plan, insisted upon by the OPA and fully explained in a pamphlet issued to every employee, is designed to conserve tires and gas and means that empty seats in automobiles will be filled. If not, the owners face drastic reduction of gas and tires by the Ration Board. Uncle Sam is talking strictly business and demands that reasonably full loads of passengers be carried by and of defense workers.

This program of car sharing and ride sharing by groups of BMI employees is the result of considerable study and all will find it to their interest to cooperate, says Supervisor of Employee Service J. D. Schulman, as complete records will be kept in that office.

Every effort has been made to simplify the procedure for all concerned, cards, racks, and receptacles having been placed in convenient locations on the project and pick-up stations designated in the various zones, Las Vegas and elsewhere. The stations are for BMI employees only and all those employees driving cars are expected to stop and bring them to work. Members of U. S. Armed forces are also privileged to use these stations and should be accorded the courtesy of rides. Stations are sheltered and clearly shown by signs thereon.

It is BMI management's desire and policy that employees use public transportation rather than private cars whenever practicable. To facilitate this Pony Express is re-arranging its schedules to meet all shifts, thus helping solve the problem.



Here's where you get together on planned transportation! If you want a ride, can give a ride, or desire to alternate cars with another owner, simply go to one of the racks and deposit proper card. Follow instructions and you can't go wrong.

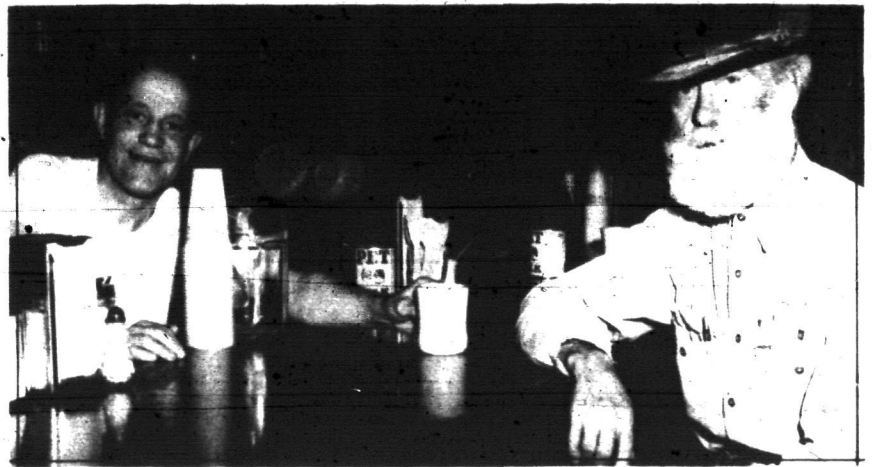
DANCE TO AID KIDS' SUMMER RECREATION

For the benefit of the kids--little kids, middlin' kids, big kids--a special committee of the Townsite Co-Ordinating Council will stage a big dance in the High School Auditorium, Saturday night July 31. All proceeds above expenses will go to help finance the summer recreation program sponsored by the various civic agencies. It's a good cause.

For example--a portable boxing ring is needed for the 60 youngsters who are learning the manly art of self-defense each week. Needed, too, is a quantity of gymnasium material, clay for modeling books for story reading (little girls go for this in large numbers). Tickets are \$1 per couple, Buy 'em at BMI reception desk--or from the folks who buttonhole you.

GRIDIRON FOR HIGH SCHOOL

There will be a football team at Basic High School next fall--and they'll play on a grass gridiron. Bill Norman, landscaper, came back from Arizona to superintend seeding. The work is well under way. Development of the field will include bleachers and running track. Work will start soon on concrete tennis courts and volley ball and basketball layouts.

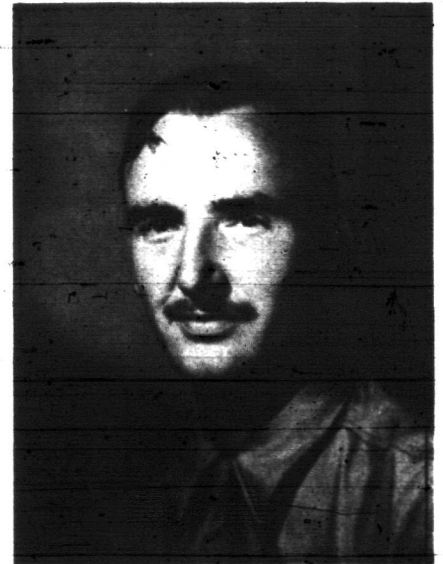


Two good men of Gabbs--which isn't saying they're not all good there. Ensnared in the deep whiskey wilderness is Ralph H. Brown, former Wyoming cattleman, and rated a top-notch plant worker. Genial "Shorty" Eddie Wright, behind the lunch counter, is a Massachusetts man with a record as a jockey. He recognizes that customers are human beings and sets an example of friendly food service, a Gabbs characteristic.

HOSTESS CLUB PARTY FOR GUNNERY SCHOOL

BMI HOSTESS CLUB held a Sunday party at the Nevada Biltmore for permanent personnel of Indian Springs Gunnery School, Army Air Corps. Festivities opened with swimming, followed by refreshments and dancing, then a patio-dinner, afterward more dancing and a midnight swim. First such entertainment by the Basic Magpies. Its success encourages more "wing-dings." The club plans more out-of-town trips, including Kingman for a party by the Hospital Corps there, one to Camp Ibis, near Needles, and another to Indian Springs. A swim-luncheon for new members soon, too.

HIS BOMBS HIT OLD TOKYO!



Technical Sergeant Aden F. Jones was a bombardier on Gen. Doolittle's historic Japan "tow" and saw his own blasts and many others rip things up satisfactorily. A number of his buddies, forced down in China, were murdered by the fiendish Nips. Since that raid the sergeant spent sixteen months in China and India and was on sixty air missions over Jap-occupied territory blowing up the enemy. Now the modest hero, whose home is Pasadena, is on leave, and last week visited his friend Herbert R. Payne, Accounting, and Mrs. Payne, 310 Water Street. Escorted over the plant his comment was: "Great". The bombardier has had plenty of close calls and shows the strain of grueling service. He has been honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross and cluster, the Air Medal, and Chinese decorations. Reports his India-China stations hotter by far than Nevada deserts. Men of his stamp leave no doubt of Allied victory.

Gabbs

HELEN YOUNG, Mr. Crocker's "girl Friday," hid herself to Vegas and married an old-time beau, Sgt. F. L. Nightingale, now with A-A Training Corps, Camp Irwin.

VACATIONERS: Daisy and Paw Bell back from June Lake, hale and hearty; Herb and Alice Woodward returned from their lodge at Mt. Charleston; The Hullums about to take a two-week trek up and down California--if Jimmy finishes inventory work.

"DPC" and Mrs. Smith; and Mrs. Jane Chapin of Oakland, guest of Mrs. T. C. Russell, her sister.

FAREWELL, "CONSTRUCTOR" YOUR JOB'S WELL DONE!

An esteemed contemporary--The McNeil Constructor--has published its last issue. It was a cracking good paper, ably edited by Jerry Watterson, whose service as editor some months ago placed her in contact with the McNeil photographer. They up and got married. All of which clinches the fact that the Constructor was a success romantically as well as journalistically.

The Constructor recorded the week-by-week details of the great construction job here and we hate to see it pass on. But its editors and staff have the satisfaction of knowing they did a grand job. So brethren of the pastepot and scissors--Hail and Farewell.

SUNDAY FOURS OF PLANT

Sunday tours of the BMI plant are open to families of employees, except children under 10. Phone Extension 62 before Saturday noon for reservations.

Tours for administrative personnel are being made each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Reservations must be made before noon of the day preceding the tour.