

# THE "YPSI-DOODLER"

PUBLISHED THE FIRST FRIDAY IN EVERY MONTH BY AND FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE YPSILANTI REED FURNITURE COMPANY

VOLUME 1

IONIA, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 3, 1944

NUMBER 10

## ARMY-NAVY "E" FLAG FOR YPSI-REED

Presentation Ceremonies Today to be Attended by Army, Navy, State and Local Officials.



Mrs. Helen A. Green, chairman of the board of directors of Ypsilanti Reed, reads the letter of notification of the Army-Navy "E" Award to Don R. Mitchell, president of Ypsilanti Reed, and Harold Howe, president of Local 420, U.F.W.A.-C.I.O.

The men and women of Ypsilanti Reed will be signally honored Friday, Nov. 3 by presentation to them of the Army-Navy Production Award for outstandingly high production of war material.

The production of essential war materials has flowed unceasingly, with marked absence of absenteeism and labor disputes, resulting in the award of the coveted "E".

The award will be made with fitting ceremonies, with Hon. Clarence Johnson, mayor of Ionia, presiding. He will present Hon. Herman H. Dignan, Michigan's Secretary of State, who will comment on the significance of the award. Harold Howe, president of U.F.W.A.-C.I.O., Local 420, will accept the flag as the representative of the employees of Ypsilanti Reed whose efforts have earned this national recognition.

Don R. Mitchell, president of Ypsilanti Reed, will accept the award for the company.

Musical selections will be furnished by Ionia High School band, and a Color Guard from Fort Custer will provide a fitting adjunct to the impressive ceremonies.

## There's Plenty To Be Thankful For!

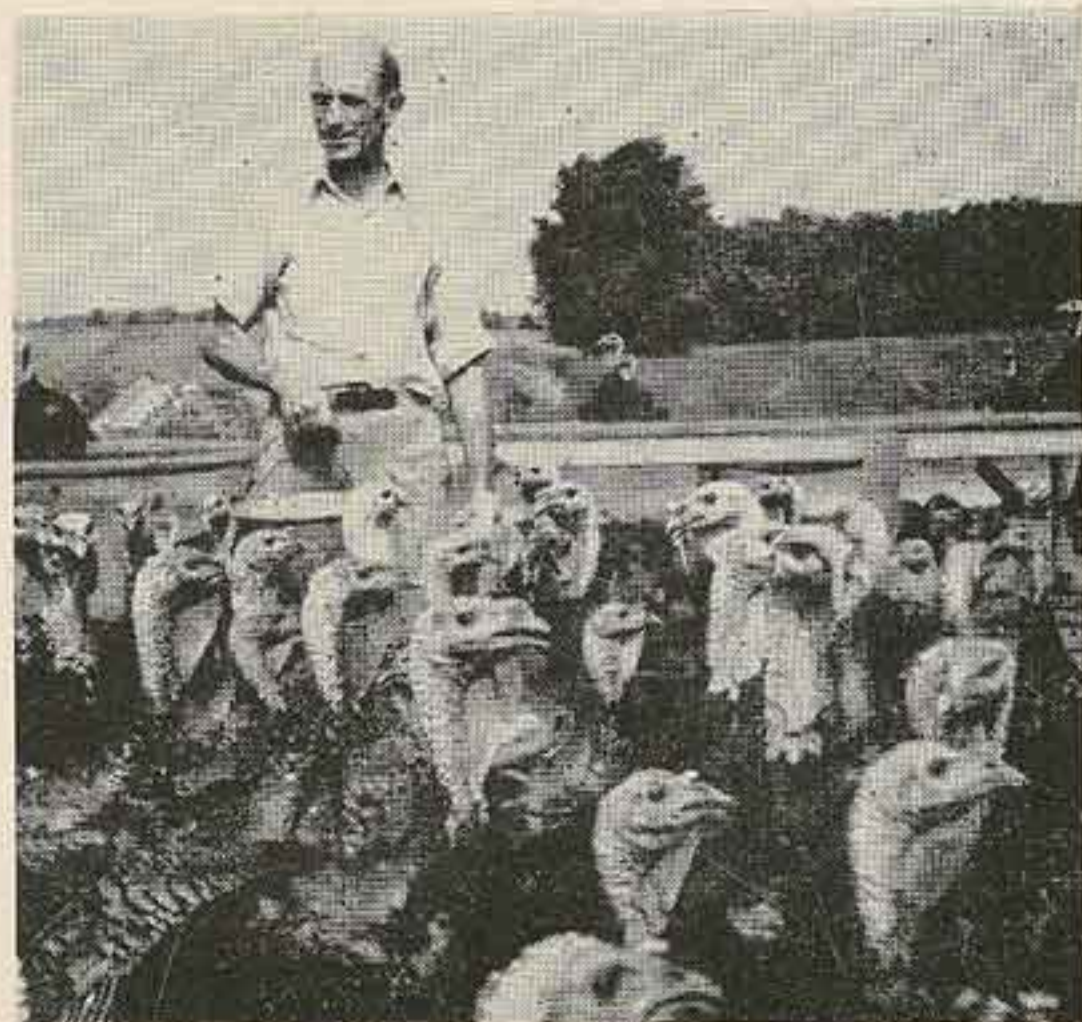
This View of Orno Lester's Turkey Flock Symbolizes the American Way of Life

Out on Orno Lester's farm near Saranac, some 400 plump turkeys strut about these days, unmindful of approaching Thanksgiving Day. And Orno, at his job in Ypsi-Reed's Tent Department, is rightfully proud of his flock of turkeys.

Thanksgiving Day and turkey are traditionally American, dating back to that first successful harvest in old Massachusetts more than three centuries ago when the Pilgrim Fathers gave thanks to a Bountiful Providence.

Again this year, as in all years past, Americans have plenty to be thankful for . . . as our men in uniform inch closer to Victory day by day, as our cities and our countryside remain unmarred by the ravages of war, as we live—all of us—in this land of freedom.

(See Poem on Page 2)



THE "YPSI-DOODLER"

Published on the first Friday of each month by the employees of Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company, Ionia, Michigan

Editor-in-Chief..... Ardith Harris
Assistant Editor..... Dorothy L. Glasson
Society Editor..... Letha Candiff
Assistant Society Editor, Katherine Train
Sports Editor..... Mike Wizorek
Staff Photographer..... Aileen Walsh
Circulation Manager... Gladys D. Smith

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORTS



TURKEY TIME

With all his turks, both hens and gobs
As time draws near to Fall,
Our Orno says of all his jobs,
Raising them is best of all.
Cheer up now folks, both young and old
For the war is nearly won.
We'll eat those birds both hot and cold
With biscuit, bread, and bun.

-R. I. Gates

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Boy's Used Bicycle. Nearly new,
prewar tires, balloon type.
TOM BLACKMORE
COST DEPT.

CARD OF THANKS: We wish to thank the
C.I.O. and all employees of the Ypsilanti
Reed who gave to the collection, also the
blood donors. We sincerely appreciate
everything that all of you have done for
us.
MILO MILLER & FAMILY

CARD OF THANKS: We wish to thank the
management, the personnel, and mem-
bers of all departments of the Ypsilanti
Reed Furniture Co. for their kind expres-
sions of sympathy in the loss of our son,
John. They were greatly appreciated and
will always be remembered.
MR. AND MRS. JOHN L. SULLIVAN

For the 4th consecutive period the fire and safety committee has reported that no fire hazards exist in the plant.

In November, 1943, the fire department was reorganized, and on their first trip found 27 potential fire hazards. Through constant vigilance and regular semi-monthly inspections the number of fire hazards in the plant has been reduced to zero.

There are about 53 firemen located throughout the shop, 2 or 3 per department. These firemen alternate making the inspection trip, and are constantly on the lookout for any new hazards in their own departments.

George Micks, chief of the fire department, expresses his thanks to the employees for their cooperation in preventing fire hazards by keeping places cleaned up, but he asks that special care be exercised in smoking rooms. Flying sparks and smoldering cigarette butts are real potential fire-breeders.

Shown in the accompanying photograph, left to right, as they make their inspection tour, are Lee Roberts, George Micks, Frank Morse, Carl Seabrook, and Walter Cooper.

Hears From Prisoner Son

Ypsi-Reed Mother Gets Word from Flight Officer
Son Shot Down Over Germany

Mrs. Anita Richardson, of the Furniture Sewing Department, has received a communication from her son, Flight Officer Bert Richardson, who was shot down over Germany in May, 1944, and who was later reported a prisoner of war of Germany.

The accompanying photograph shows the crew of F/O Richardson's ship before they left the United States. Bert was the co-pilot, and the entire crew was captured. He appears second from the left in the back row of the picture. Bert formerly worked in the Bus department and his mother has been here eleven years.



Official Photograph, U. S. Army Air Corps

# BOWLING SEASON OFF TO FINE START

by MIKE WIZOREK  
Sports Editor



These boys don't seem too happy about their bowling scores. Shown from left to right, front row, are Leo Sweet, Gordon Anderson, Clinton Kline, Clarence Jeffery, and Vern Hoffman. In the back row, left to right, are Claude Stowe, Fred Font, Ivan Clark, Paul Warden, and Elmer McClow.

Well, back again, with more aches, pains, and charley horses. Seems to be the topic of the day . . . charley horses, I mean. Wilson Dalzell would gladly have given one away the other night but now it would cost money so far as bowling is concerned. He's proud as a peacock with a score of 136. And we have another friend, I mean Laurence Friend—rather a modest little fellow with a big score, 116. Nice going for a beginner. Well here comes Willie J. Smith, better known as Smileox, with 131. Better get a bigger shirt, Bill. Next, curve-ball Pierce; nice hook, Leon! We'll see Sherman about wider alleys. Oh well, 151 isn't bad. Lots of noise coming up. Just Arthur Randall. Better pull in your chest before you step on it, Art. (155—Lucky stiff!) Somebody hurt? Naw, just Ralph Blesing; he seems to get a strike with any kind of hit. Oh. I guess we'll call him Stinky Blesing, getting 175 on split hits. Look out, here comes a Mr. McClelland, our new Govt. Inspector, better known as Butch. 160—not bad for a little fellow.

## SOCIAL NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Harding entertained with a family dinner Sunday, October 8th in honor of 1st Lt. Clifton Miller. Lt. Miller is a pilot of a Flying Fortress and has completed 31 missions over enemy territory. Lt. Miller has been returned to this country after being shot down over enemy territory and evading capture by the enemy. He wears the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster.

Those present at the dinner were Lt. and Mrs. Clifton Miller, Mr. and Mrs. George Miller and daughter, Mrs. Bert Fitch of Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollenbeck and daughter Ann, of Belding.

Lt. Miller was a former Ypsilanti Reed employee in the Automotive Trim Department. He is a nephew of Mrs. Norman Harding, and a brother of Glenn Miller of the Bus Dept.

\* \* \*

Have you noticed the broad smile on Jim Poole's face? Why not, there's good money in rabbits.

Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Milton Jenks, who recently celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary.

\* \* \*

Vance Kauffman has decided that his luck has run out. He shot at six cock pheasants on the 16th of October, and missed all of them.

\* \* \*

Speaking of hunters, we believe Paul Leslie is the laziest one we've heard about. He sat by a tree and shot a rooster as it flew toward him.

\* \* \*

Employees of the Tarpaulin Department are wishing a speedy recovery for Elthea Haag, who is in the Blodgett Hospital for major surgery.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Viola Moon is taking a leave of absence during the visit of her son, Sgt. Howard Moon, who had his first furlough in five years.

(Continued on Page 6)

Well, let's see what our girls are doing. Virginia Zick seems to do well on bowling with a nice game of 104. Violet Demond, doing well with 77—but you will have to make up your mind and you will be doing better. Who said (I can't stand it) as soon as Dorothy Glasson gets caught up with her Secretary work she claims she will bowl better. What's wrong with 90 score? And what I would like to know is: who is Lucile Wilson's coach. 92 seems to be a good average. Well, what we are looking for is a bigger ball. Ardith, you can't get a strike or a spare every time! Golden Hackett and Katy Train seem to do real well. Mrs. Hackett 120, Miss Train 95.

Wow! Helen Cottrell, 141. Better join up with the men's team! Nadene Tyler claims she could do better than 96 only she is tired. Marge Sanders—also plays a mean game with 96, only she seems to "bank" her shots. Space is limited as we have more crying to tell about, so till next month, will try and get more alibis for you. As for you fellows in the Army and the Navy, here's hoping you have a strike on every shot!



## SERVICE NOTES



Pfc. Wm. Dreger was a visitor in the plant the other day, having just returned from six months in the southwest Pacific. After his furlough he will return to Vaughn General Hospital, and there be assigned to a new position. His sister, Eleanor Tichemann works in the Bus Department. Bill said he drove a 2½ ton truck in New Guinea and that most of the tarpaulins on these trucks were made by Ypsilanti Reed.



Sgt. Edward Wiczorek, formerly of the Jeep Dept. is another of our servicemen who report that they find the YPSI-DOODLER very interesting. Ed is now stationed in the Marshall Islands.



Miss Genevieve Foreman, Tent Department employee, has enlisted in the WAVES and is now taking her Basic training at Hunter College, in the Bronx, N. Y. Genevieve worked here about 2 years in the Gun Cover and Tent Departments.



Pvt. Michael Wizorek has sent his parents, Mike and Olive Wizorek, the piece of shrapnel that hit him and laid him up for a while. Mike says he's getting along fine now, and is ready for more active duty.



The welding department was pleased to see former employee George Lance home on a furlough.



Charles Ball, S 1/C was through the plant recently with his father Lyle.



Shown in the photograph below is Pfc. Basil Linderman, of the Marine Corps, with his brother, Otis, who works in the Cargo Body Loading Department. Pfc. Linderman took part in the Tarawa campaign and the landing on Saipan. It was during the Saipan operation that he lost his right arm. After he has had a



furlough at home he will return to the U. S. Naval Hospital at Mare Island, California. He entered service in January, 1943 and trained at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. and the Recruiting Depot at San Diego, Calif. There are three other Linderman boys in service, brothers of Otis and Basil. Maurice is stationed at Camp Grant, Texas, Glenn is with the Maritime Service, and Faude is at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Incidentally, we received a letter from Faude, saying that his papers have caught up with him after going half way around the world and back. He thinks the paper is a good way to keep track of all his friends that move around a lot.

Shown above are, left to right, Jack Stair, C Ph M, Hattie Stair, John Stair, and John Turner, FC 2/C as they visited Jack's parents. Jack has been in the navy 5 years and was stationed in Bermuda when Pearl Harbor was attacked. His friend, John Turner, is from Santa Monica, California, and the two are now in Wooster College taking an Academic refresher course before their flight school. Hattie and John Stair both work in the Tent Department.



The above photograph shows Pvt. Wesley L. Preston with his father, Cass Preston, who works in the Pipe Shop. Wesley entered the service in May, 1944, and received his basic training in the infantry at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He worked in the millroom before entering the army. We think his father has something of a record, in that he has worked here for 26 years and has been absent only 38½ days in that time, including a week's vacation in 1922.



## WORLD WAR I VETS GET TOGETHER

In 1917, over 100 of Ypsilanti Reed's workers left the plant to "save the world for democracy." This year, there are seven of the original group who left 27 years ago, who are still part of the Ypsi-Reed family.

When they came back from fighting that "war to end all wars," they were given the exact jobs they had left. Mr. F. W. Green had promised that their jobs would be waiting for them, just as in this war, our returning fighting men have the opportunity of starting where they left off, if that is their desire.

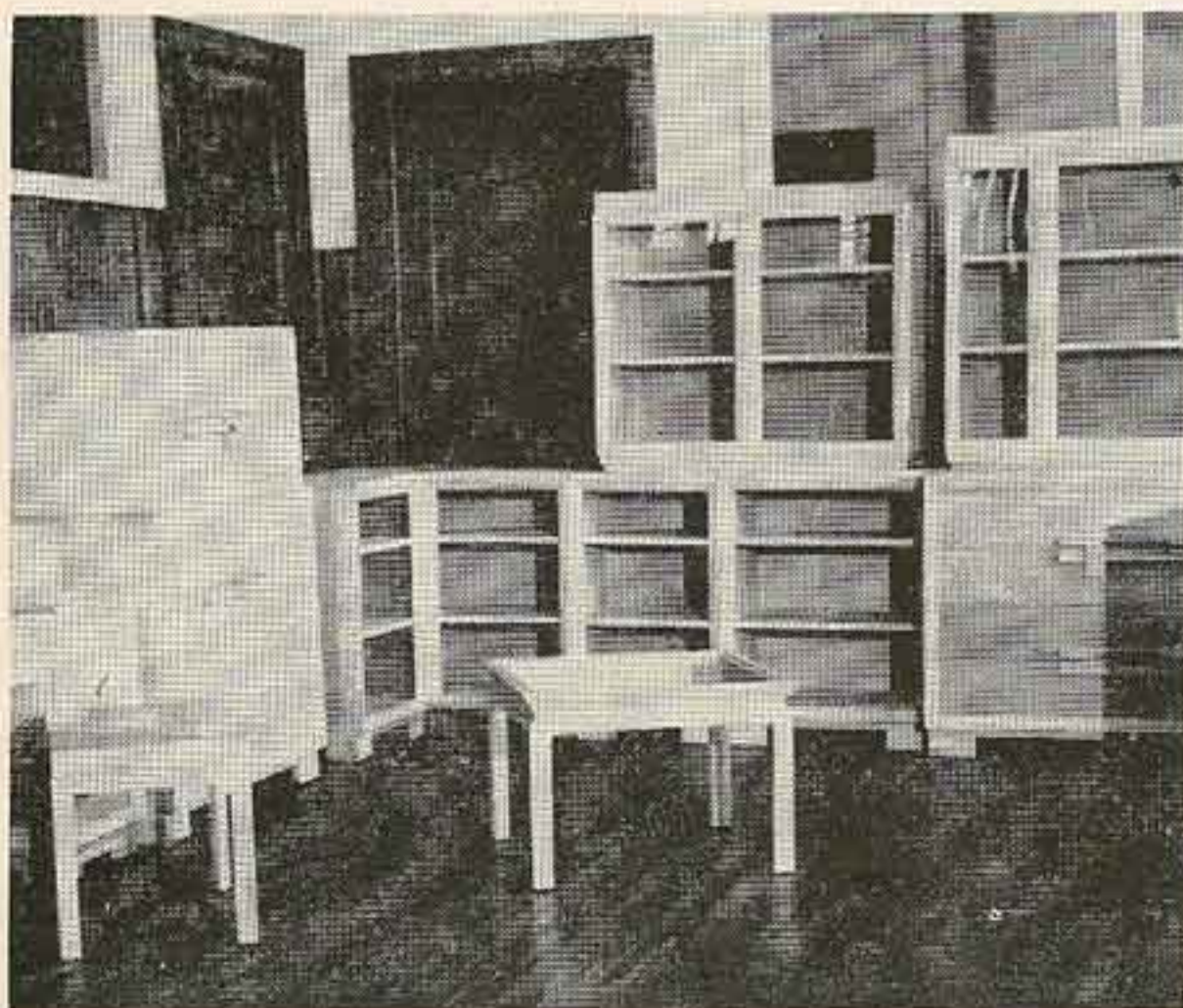
Our veterans who have been through two wars at Ypsilanti Reed are shown in the photograph above. Left to right are Paul Leslie, Maxwell Smith, Leon Lockwood, Sr., Nick Colbrese, Laurence Friend, Michael Krywanski, and Lial Losey.

## BRIDAL SHOWER FOR LUCILLE LESLIE



Mrs. Gayle Leslie, the former Lucille Kyser, was the honored guest at a shower given by Dorothy Glasson. Shown in the photograph are, back row, left to right, Mae Randall, Tress O'Donnell, Nell Brown, Hazel Hawkins, Wilma Merrieth, Geraldine Moore, Ethel Melvin, Karen Warner, Ethelyn Warner, and Lucile Wilson. Seated, are, left to right: Maren Brock, the guest of honor, Lucille Leslie, Genevieve Knickrehm, Mary Schafer, Veneta MacDonald, Virginia Zick, Glenna Douglas, Elaine Misner, and Doris Dancer. Seated at the front are Ardith Harris and Dorothy Glasson.

## PROGRESS IN POSTWAR PATTERNS



### Evidence that we have passed the "Blue-print" stage.

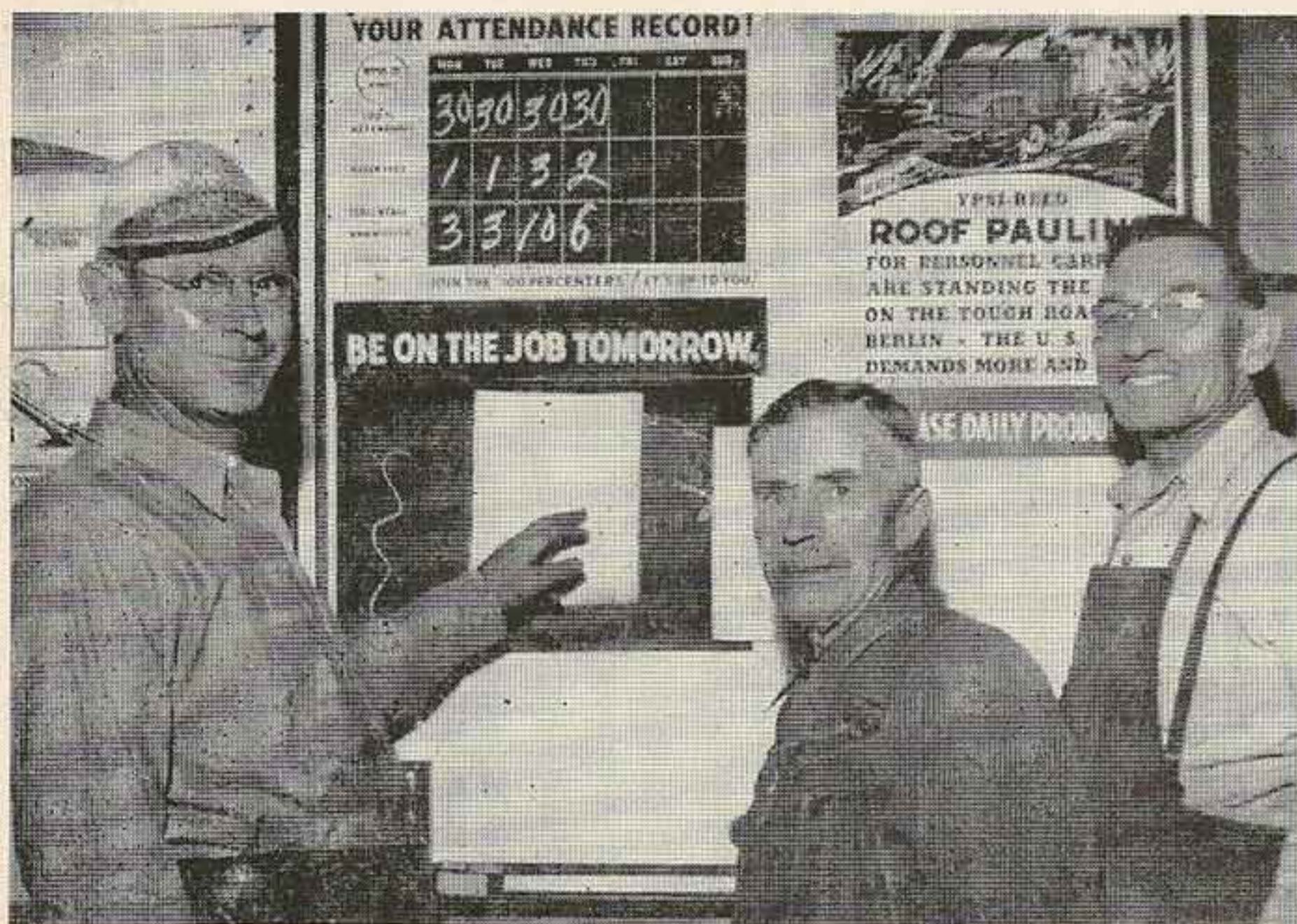
While we can feel confident that our post-war line will receive ready acceptance when offered to our dealers, every effort is being made to eliminate any possible criticisms.

We have confirmed, through contact with key customers, the fact that our designs and treatment of woods is a new note in modern furniture ensemble. Now, before the time for quantity production, each individual pattern must be "laboratory tested" to insure durability of construction.

The next phase of our program will be to produce these pieces in the most economical manner. We intend to manufacture furniture after the war, in the same "line-production" method we are using to make tarps, tents, cargo-bodies, etc., at the present time.

Many more patterns will be added to these illustrated. When our samples are completed we'll invite all of our co-workers to a preview in the showroom on the second floor.

# SHORT HISTORY OF ARMY-NAVY "E" AWARD



The above photograph shows Harry Fell pointing to the letter notifying Ypsi-Reed men and women of the award of the Army-Navy "E". Shown with him are Tony Pfaff and Ralph Dumond.

On October 7th, the men and women of Ypsilanti Reed were notified of the award of the Army-Navy "E" for excellence in production of war materials and equipment, in a letter signed by Robert L. Patterson, Undersecretary of War.

Originally, the "E" award was made by the Navy for excellence in gunnery. Later it was presented for outstanding performance in communications, engineering, and various other activities. The realization came, following Pearl Harbor, that the men and women in American industry and our fighting forces are partners in a great struggle for human freedom. From this was created the Army-Navy Production Award, a symbol of appreciation by the Army and Navy for exceptional performance in the production of vital war material.

The award consists of one flag, which is to be flown immediately below the United States flag, and an "E" pin for each employee in the company. Official presentation of the award will be made November 3rd at the Ionia Armory, at 4:30, E.W.T.

The accompanying photo shows Harry Fell pointing to the photostatic copy of the letter notifying Ypsi-Reed men and women of the award. Shown with him are Tony Pfaff and Ralph Dumond. All three of these men work in the Rough Mill Room. Take notice of the attendance record shown on the board. A low rate of absenteeism is one of the essentials for winning the award.

## SOCIAL NOTES (continued)

The Welding Department can be proud of their new champion pool player, Eliza Ward, who has challenged Johnnie Duplek of Toledo for a match November 8th.

Robert Howe is really our champion duck hunter. He got five ducks with one shot and reported for work on time.

Bill Stebbins, John Stair, and Walter Tyler all left and fought with the Ionia Company in the first World War. They

were pals over there and still are. How's that for lasting friendship?

Ronald Burrows, Frank Hall, and George Spratto went duck hunting the opening day of season and each got one duck. However, Frank now has some nice tail feathers to make fish flies.

Pvt. Ivan Connor, son of Mrs. Sylvia Connor, Jeep Dept., recently spent a furlough with his parents.

## Lions Club Inspects Plant

### Members Get First-Hand Evidence of Ypsi-Reed's "E" Award Performance

As a part of the day's program, about 30 members of the Lions Club were conducted on a tour of the Ypsilanti Reed factory on October 3rd. They were shown around in small groups by various members of the plant.

Shown in the accompanying photograph, watching Clinton Kline operate a sewing machine in the Jeep Department, are, left to right, Maxwell Stebbins, Allen Williams, Melbourne Stebbins, Leo MacAlary, Sigurd Strand, and Ralph Blessing. Ralph conducted this particular group on their tour.

Leon Lockwood, Jr. gave piano selections, before the club came down to the factory.

