

# THE "YPSI-DOODLER"

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

VOLUME 2

IONIA, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY 2, 1945

NUMBER 2

## YPSI-DOODLER MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY



The above photograph shows the YPSI-DOODLER staff at work, compiling and editing the news. Left to right are Ardith Harris, Editor in Chief; Katherine Train, Assistant Society Editor; Dorothy Glasson, Assistant Editor; Gladys Smith, Circulation Manager; and Letha Candiff, Society Editor. Our lone man on the staff, Mike Wizorek, Sports Editor, was ill at home, nursing an infected sinus, and our photographer, Aileen Walsh, was busy taking the picture.

### Staff Appreciates Ypsi-Readers' Past Cooperation and Urges all to Contribute

Your YPSI-DOODLER is a year old. It came into being on February 3, 1944, minus an editorial staff but with a fixed purpose which was expressed by the management in these significant words:

"It will mirror the activities of the more than 800 Ypsi Reed war workers. It will express their views, spotlight their personalities, report their vital statistics and compliment their individual and group achievements. It is, in every sense of the word, **your** publication."

That policy has been strictly adhered to. There has been no deviation from it, either in letter or in spirit, in the months which have passed so quickly since Volume One, Number One rolled off the presses.

There has been news of engagements, weddings, births, deaths—a cross section of life in the typical American community that Ionia is. With photograph and story, the passing year has been mirrored. Side by side with our production achievements has run the interesting sidelights of Ypsi-Readers at home, at play—their group activities, their community efforts, their vacation plans, their sports, their families.

It's been a thrilling year—a serious year—a year of hard and patient toil for everyone associated with Ypsi-Reed. The biggest news story of the year was the Army and Navy "E" Award, and the most interesting story of the year has been that of our service men and women—the Ypsi-Readers and the sons and daughters of Ypsi-Readers—under the heading of "Service Notes." Just as Ypsi-Reed is producing the tools of victory for them, so too is the YPSI-DOODLER for them, all the way, all the time. In this regard, it must be noted that the YPSI-DOODLER has been reaching out to them all over the world. By train and plane and ship, each issue has gone to a mailing list that includes, hidden beneath a New York or San Francisco post office, half the face of the earth. And back has come a grateful vote of thanks for the job we're doing.

We want no more thanks than that. The staff has worked patiently to make this publication a success, and its continued success will be made possible by the earnest, and much needed, cooperation of everyone all along the line: management and union, office and factory.

In embarking on this, the second year of the YPSI-DOODLER, we hope and pray for a better publication based on this same spirit of unselfish cooperation. We pray too that this year's big story will be that of Victory!



**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

**GOAL SET FOR 1945**

Responsibility for the safety and health of the people he supervises is one of the important items in the job of every supervisor, but this responsibility does not end there. Each employee must give his full cooperation in seeing that unsafe acts of himself and fellow employees are corrected, that his work area is kept neat and clean, that aisle-ways are kept open at all times, and that all injuries are reported to First Aid promptly.

Safety has come to be considered as one of the important problems, not only in industry, but in the home, at school, and on the highway. Everywhere we see posters and other reminders that warn us against hazards, accidents, and unsafe practices. The problem is of interest not only from the human viewpoint, but also from the viewpoint of loss of earning capacity, damaged material, and destroyed property.

Let's all of us cooperate and make 1945 the safest year in the history of Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Co.



The Ypsi-Readers in the photograph above were caught writing their letters before leaving for home and before reporting for work on the night shift. Left to right, they are Winona Haney, Victor Jeffery, Madge LeMasters, Elmer McClow, and Bessie Price.

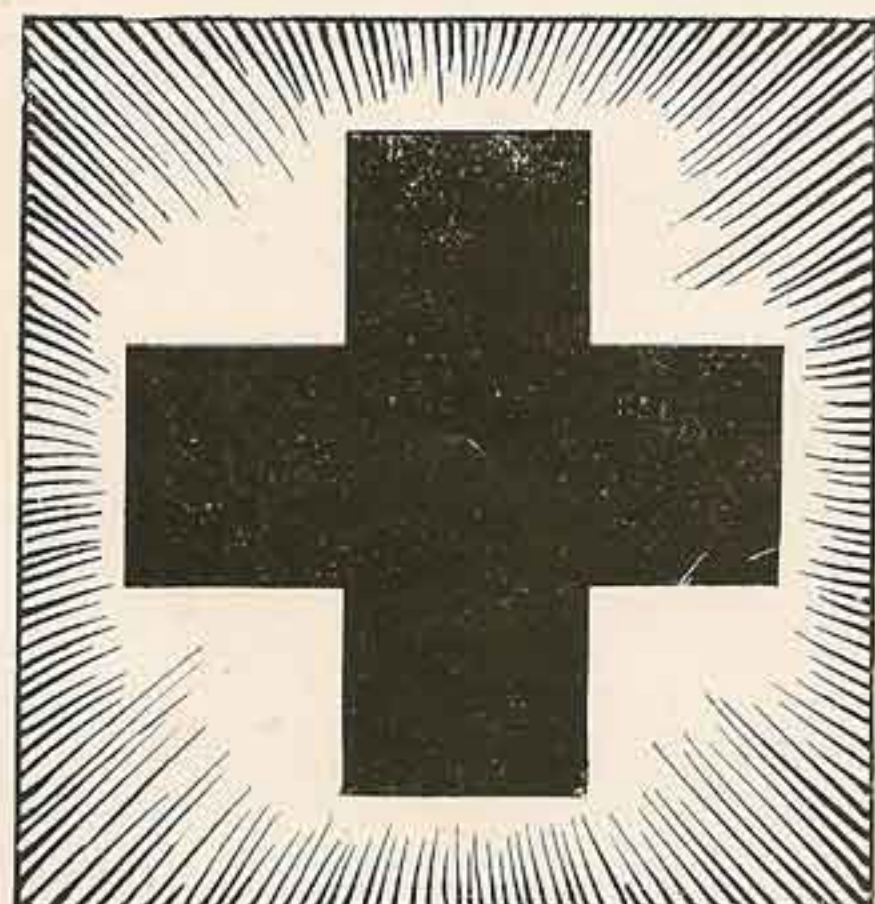
**AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL OUR SERVICEMEN**

Knowing that letters from home are of the utmost importance to you and to encourage more and more letter writing, Ypsilanti Reed has placed in the factory entrance a table with plenty of equipment for writing letters to you. With this before our employees at all times, we're sincerely hoping that a day won't go by for you in which you go without receiving a card at least from someone at home. If you don't get letters, it isn't that we really intend to neglect you, but "we can't think of anything to say." Things seem pretty routine—but those are the things you'd like to know about, aren't they? That is what we are trying to tell our folks here. So, if you are not getting letters, you can help us by letting us know and you can bet we will do everything we can to get a letter on its way.

As Kate Smith says — "If we don't write — we're wrong" — and WE DON'T WANT TO BE WRONG.

**A WORTHY CAUSE**

The Red Cross is sponsoring a Blood Bank to be held February 19th to February 26th. All persons between the ages of 21 to 50 are urged to donate a pint of their blood so that our fighting men may have a better chance of returning home. If you are under 21, you must have a written permit from your parent. All those interested in contributing blood should register with Mrs. Brock, the nurse in the First Aid Room, by February 7th. In December, 1943, there were 61 donors from Ypsilanti Reed. Let's see if we can't beat that record by a large number.





☆ SERVICE NOTES ☆



The above photograph shows Leonard and Edna Ingvarlsen with their son, Edwin, PhM 2/c of the Navy, who has been serving with a Marine detachment of the Fleet Marine Corps, hence the Marine uniform. Edwin enlisted in the Navy in December, 1942, and trained at Great Lakes, Parris Island, S. C., Cherry Point and Bogue Field, N. C. He was attached

to a Dive Bombing squadron and worked in the Field Medical Division, and spent 14½ months in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands. Before entering service, Edwin worked in the framing room and the machine shop. His father is an inspector in the spring room, and Mrs. Ingvarlsen works in the Tent Dept.

Sgt. J. Victor Feehan, who has been with Gen. Mark Clark's 5th Army, is home on furlough for the first time in two years. His mother is employed in the Jeep Dept.

says, in part: "During my five months overseas I have not slackened in any respect to do my part, however small it may be, to speed victory. Each time I remember the old crew at this factory, I remember the energetic spirit in which the work was turned out. I don't know what, if any, changes have been made, but I feel certain that you are doing your

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The employees of the Tarp Dept. received an interesting letter from former employee Sgt. William Vermilya, who

full share to bring the enemy to naught." He ends with the wish that everyone has a "happy and productive New Year."

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Private Frank Maynard, former employee of the Shipping Dept., was home on furlough from Fort Bragg, N. C. He says it's "just like being in Paradise to be home and touring the plant."

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Freddy McCord, former mechanic, toured the plant while home on furlough from Virginia. His father is employed here.

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Ensign Carl Ruehs, of the Merchant Marine, is shown in the accompanying photograph below with his brother, Eddie, of the Time Office. Ensign Ruehs is the third mate on one of the Liberty ships and has seen convoy duty in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, during his ten months in the Merchant Marine. He went to school at Fort Trumble, New London, Connecticut. "Getting this picture taken is the toughest job I've had to do," Ensign Ruehs remarked.



### Ionia Again Honored By Army, Navy

In a presentation at the Ionia Armory, Friday, January 12th, upwards of 1,500 employees and officers of the Ionia plant of the AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors Corporation were awarded the coveted Army-Navy "E" for excellence in the production of vital war materials.

It is significant that only 3,400 of the nation's 85,000 war plants have received this distinctive honor. Coming just two months after the men and women of Ypsilanti Reed received the same award from the Army and the Navy, we are sincerely conscious of the feeling of pride that imbues our neighbors of AC Spark Plug.

It is an honor richly deserved, and everyone at Ypsi-Reed joins in this message of hearty congratulations. As Ionians, and as the folks next door, we're mighty proud of this new honor given our community.



## YPSI-REED SPORTS

Old King Winter has been exceedingly kind to our sports enthusiasts this winter by giving them crisp, cold weather—excellent for skating, skiing and tobogganing. The Bertha Brock Park is open every week-end for all winter sports and many of our folks have availed themselves of the opportunity to be out and enjoy themselves at their favorite pastime. Wilson Dalzell went out too, to assist in seeing that the "tobogganists" were safely tucked on and to send them swiftly on their way. (Must have done a good job,



too, as he was observed rubbing a sore arm all day Monday.) Virginia Zick and Gerry Moore were out too and gave their toboggan a real work-out. Shown in the accompanying photograph are H. McDonald, M. Moore, Virginia Zick of the Order Dept., and Geraldine Moore of the Time Office.

There are many others who regularly go to the Park and your Ypsi-Doodler sports editor will greatly appreciate it if you will turn in pictures and items on what you did at the Park.



Shown in the above photograph are some more of our lady bowlers. The back row, left to right, includes Evelyn Culp, Letha Candiff, Marie Coates, Gerry Moore, and Ardith Harris. Front row, left to right, are Lucile Wilson, Virginia Zick, Dorothy Glasson, and Marguerite Mason.

## YPSI-REEDERS GO FOX HUNTING

Our fox hunters saw a fox on Sunday so now the hunt is on in earnest. Sunday, January 13th, George Spratto, Laurence Friend, Albert Slowinski and their guests "Bill" Bannon and "Pike" Christensen, and "Sally" (their dog, not a girl friend) set out at 9 o'clock in the morning to hunt the sly fox. They reached their destination, which on this particular day was around Orleans, and they spotted a fox. They chased "Mr. Fox" for five hours. Then as Laurence came up on top of a knoll, he spotted the fox again but he was out of range to shoot, so Laurence dug himself a "foxhole," civilian style, to wait for "Sally" to bring the fox around. However, "Sally" lost the track and Laurence

lay waiting for a half hour and in the words of George Spratto "the fox had out-foxed them once again" and went in the opposite direction. "Sally" was eager to keep going but it was now nearly 6:30 and our weary hunters decided they had better give up for the day. (They won't admit it but "Sally" and the fox had them all tired out.)

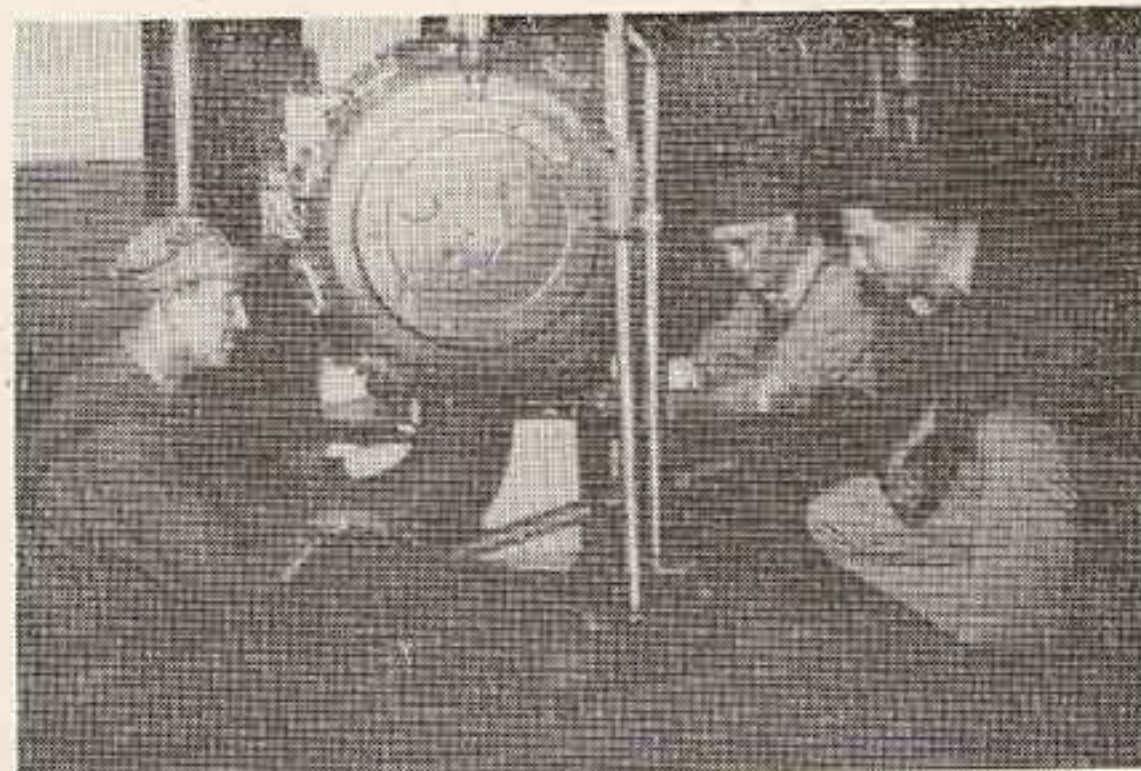
Anyone who wants to go fox hunting should be at Ray Reister's home, 451 Harter Street, by 9 o'clock any Saturday or Sunday after a fresh snow fall.

Come on, boys, let's get together and help rid Ionia County of all the fox we can this winter.

## NEW AIR COMPRESSOR

Greater production being the goal brought on by the big demand for supplies necessitated the installation of another air compressor. This brings the total number of compressors in operation in our plant to three. The latest addition to the "Air Compressor Family" is a 60 H.P. 305 C.F.M. Air Compressor. These units supply compressed air to the spot welders, spray guns, portable air tools and many other pieces of equipment throughout the factory.

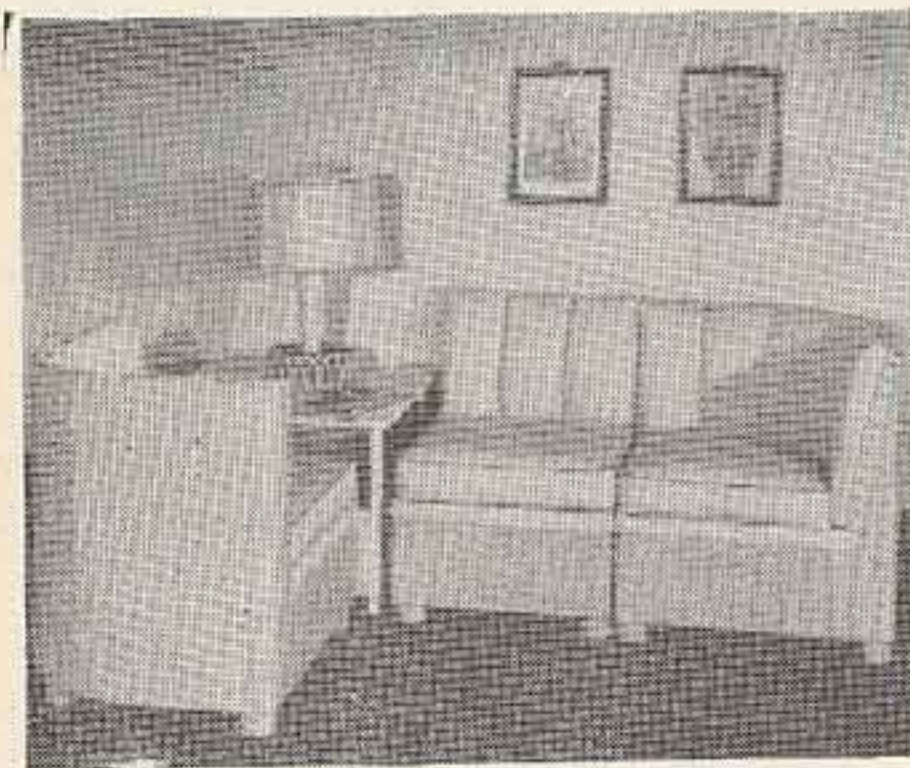
Shown putting the finishing touches on the installation are, left to right, Archie Nevins, Cass Preston and Ronald Burrows.





# FURNITURE MARKET A SUCCESS

The recent furniture market was probably the most hectic in the whole long series of markets. Especially in the Furniture Mart, the rush resembled mob scenes in the movies, with buyers shouldering each other in the attempt to get on and off the elevators. The Merchandise Mart, in which our exhibit is located, was more dignified and orderly, but the pressure was great there, too. Fortunately for us, our production was carefully planned and allocated to our various accounts before the market opened, so our represent-



atives were able to operate smoothly and efficiently, even though they were kept on a dog-trot all day and every day.

Left to right in the picture are Ralph Blesing, who acts as secretary during the market; "Bill" Allison, who pinch hits for Lt. Paul Donovan in looking after the western territory; King Ambler, who roams the southwest; Walter Patton, Chicago and the northwest; Lin Forbes, Ohio, Kentucky, western Pennsylvania and

West Virginia; Dave Gray, Michigan and Indiana; E. A. (Johnny) Fenske, New England, New York, eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland; E. E. VanDamm, Florida and the south generally. Missing from the picture are Herman Leverenz, representing the midwest, absent on war plant duties, and Sales Manager E. J. Houghton and Assistant Manager Bill Smith, who modestly retired when the picture was taken.

Helen Cottrell is home for a few days helping her children entertain Scarlet Fever.

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Bob Carpenter has been added to the staff of mechanics.

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Pete Hunter, of the Material Control Dept., received a letter from his son Jack, somewhere in New Guinea, that he was living in an Ypsilanti Reed Squad Tent.

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The cheerful smile and kind words of Sarah Edinger will long be remembered by the employees of the Tarp Dept. and those who knew her. Miss Edinger, who had been an employee of Ypsilanti Reed for the past two years, died suddenly January 7th.

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Clinton Kline and Kay Train skated the New Year in at Avalon Gardens.

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Harry Cuttle is acting steward for the Reed Room until Harry Storch returns.

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Martin Wilder and Henry Shalfoe of the Mill Room are among the few who report ice fishing very good this year. Where?

## SOCIAL NOTES

Speaking of ice fishing, Burrows and Spratto were having quite a time trying to build an oil burner and fish box for the sport. And here's a poem dedicated to ice fishermen who are down on their luck:

The snow is blowing,  
The frost is biting,  
The lakes are frozen  
And my feet are dozin'.  
For my hands and feet are frozen.  
The hooks I bait,  
They just look and say,  
"Try it on some other day."

—Author unknown

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Art Hansburger of the Finish Mill is ill, suffering of a heart ailment. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

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Harry Storch, who has been in the hospital, has had two operations, and we hear he is waiting for another one.

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The Tent Dept. extends their deepest sympathy to Erma Reeder in the death of her husband, Ray. Mr. Reeder was employed here as a mechanic.

S/Sgt. Dale Cope was home on a 12-day furlough, and while here spoke his marriage vows with Miss Elaine Stout, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stout of Morley.

(Continued on page 6)

### CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: A good Housekeeper—for the summer or lifetime. I have a good home and a swell farm. I have a good job and I am single.  
FRED STRONG  
Electric Shop

LOST: Gold plated Identification Bracelet, with no name on it. Please return to the Jeep Dept.

CARD OF THANKS: Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for the flowers and your kind expression of sympathy.  
MRS. AVERY HOUGH  
AND DAUGHTERS

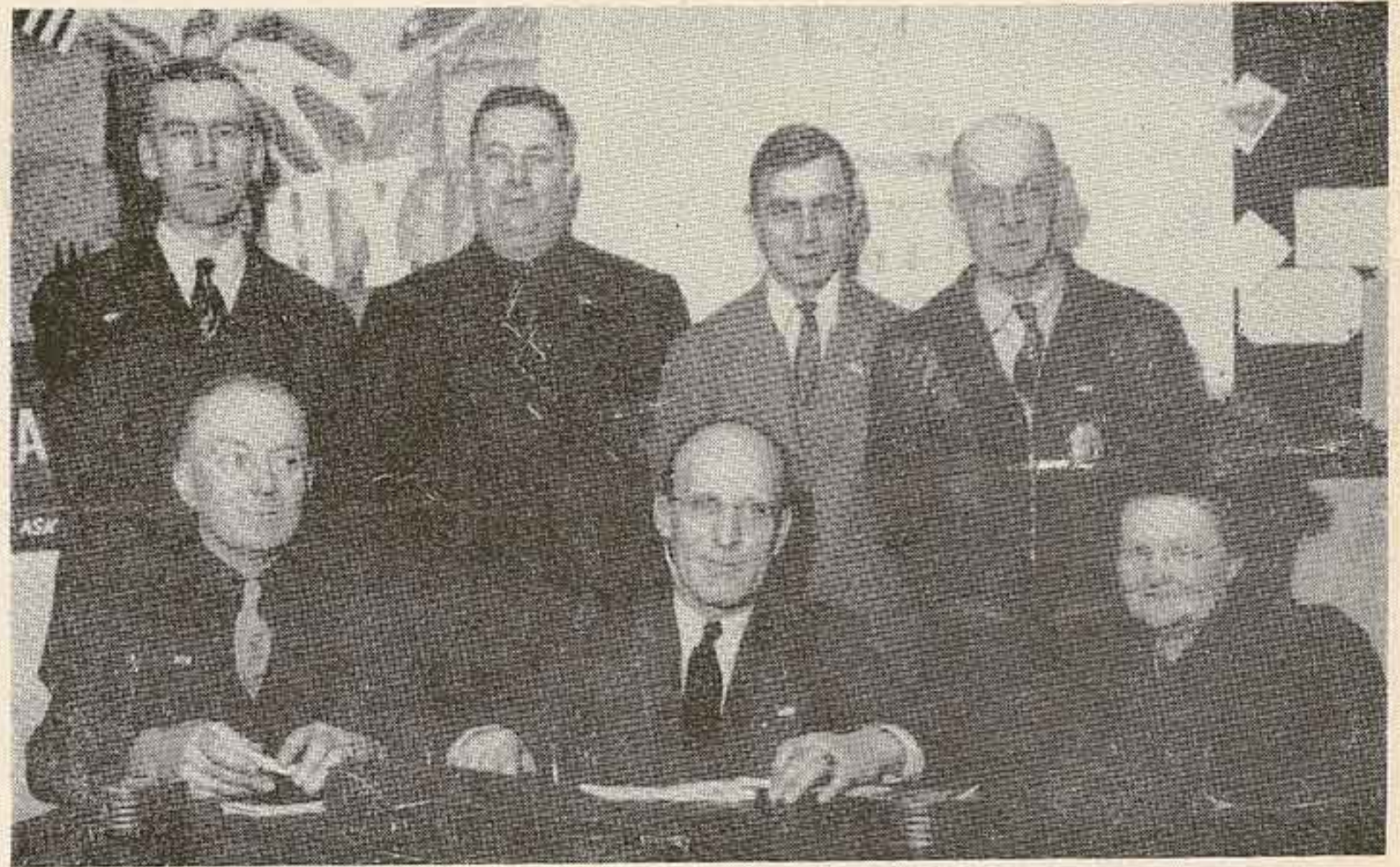


# NEW UNION OFFICERS EXPRESS HIGH HOPES

"Victory in 1945 and a continuation of the fine cooperation we have had between management and labor" are the hopes of the new officers of Local 420 United Furniture Workers of America, C.I.O. This was the expression of Lyle Ball, newly elected President of Union speaking on behalf of all the members of the Committee and Executive Board.

"We sincerely appreciate the cooperation the management has given us and we want to continue on with the good feeling which we have gained. We hope that we will be able to keep these gains and carry on into our post-war planning.

"Last year's Executive Board did an excellent job and it is our hope that we can continue the good work which they were doing. At the present time we are striving to do our part to bring the war to an end and this is the goal of prime importance. A smooth running organization is a compliment to our efforts and we want it to keep running as it has in the past."



Shown in the above photograph reading from left to right are, (back row) Harold Howe, Ray Crowner, Donald Ferguson, and Harry Cuttle. (Front row, left to right) Lawrence Kane, Lyle Ball, and Mary Christensen.

S/Sgt. Ed Repik, formerly of the Pattern Dept., reports that the YPSI-DOODLER has again caught up with him in the Philippines. S/Sgt. Repik, who is with the Army Air Corps, has been overseas 35 months and has spent time in New Guinea, Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.

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The Reed Room extends their sympathy to Margaret Livingston in the loss of her sister who passed away recently.

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Mrs. Emma O'Connor, of the Jeep Dept., has received a fur jacket from her son, Cpl. Leo, who obtained the jacket when Aachen was captured.

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Ypsilanti Reed sponsored a banquet for the Ionia High School Band at the Masonic Temple on January 30th. About 75 persons attended. Don Mitchell was the Master of Ceremonies and Mrs. Fred Green gave the address of welcome. Don Crane, music director, responded for the school and John Barnes gave the response for the band. Entertainment consisted of movies and dancing, with an orchestra made up of band members.

## SOCIAL NOTES

(Continued from page 5)

Melvin Bissell was married Saturday, January 20th. The Tarp Dept. employees presented him with a gift, and were in turn treated to candy.

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Jim Phelps is counting the days until he can come back to work. He wishes to express his appreciation to the CIO and Cargo Dept. for the gifts and money sent him while he was in the hospital.

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About 100 Ypsilanti Reed employees attended the Hunting and Fishing Club Annual Fish Dinner at the County Park, Thursday, February 1st. The affair was strictly stag, and Ronald Burrows was the chief cook, frying up the bluegills, perch, oysters, and shrimp. Even Bates Lucas said he got his money's worth; but your reporter certainly would like to have had the Bromo and aspirin concession for just today—the day after the night before.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rathburn, both employees of Ypsilanti Reed, were notified that their son, Clinton, was wounded January 9th. He is now in a Belgian hospital.

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A recent survey discloses that 94% of the Ypsilanti Reed employees have signed authorization cards for deduction of 10% or more of their weekly wages for War Bonds. This is a pretty good record, but wouldn't it be splendid if Ypsilanti Reed could go on record as being a 100% plant? It would only take 6% more.

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Congratulations are in order for Ruth Cummings, who celebrated her birthday January 26th.

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The latest check-up on our servicemen's table (letters to our servicemen) shows that in the first ten days a total of 193 letters and postcards were written to the boys. This is an average of more than 19 letters per day—and we'll wager that it will be much appreciated by the servicemen receiving those letters.