

HUGE NAVAL TRAINING STATION NEARS OPERATION NEXT MONTH

(Ed. Note—The following feature is a regular release from the office of the Commandant of the Third Naval District in New York, and appears to be of particular interest to Hobart-William Smith students who were absent from the community when the nearby Sampson Naval Station received its initial publicity in May.)

On May 14, 1942, just four months ago, President Roosevelt approved a site on the east side of Seneca Lake, Seneca County, New York, for a new naval training station for schooling some of the hundreds of thousands of prospective bluejackets needed to man Uncle Sam's fast-expanding fleet carrying the war against the Axis all over the world.

Today that new station is speeding toward completion at a cost of nearly \$50,000,000. The first officers and enlisted men of its permanent administrative and teaching personnel have moved their gear into quarters on the 2,500-acre area along Seneca Lake and the first Navy mess will turn out the first Navy chow September 15. The 15,000 workers employed by the contractors are in the home stretch and next month some 5,000 boots, as Navy recruits are known, will take over the first of the six units of the camp to be completed.

Small Fleets to Arrive

Soon the first of a fleet of 150 28-foot Navy whaleboats and ten 30-foot motor sailers will be skimming over the waters of Seneca Lake, where a few centuries ago Indian canoes and the bateaux of the French fur traders were the only vessels.

From then on "for the duration" the Navy will be present in force along the shores of the largest of Central New York's picturesque Finger Lakes and from the Sampson Training Station thousands of eager young bluejackets will go forth to all corners of the world after their eight weeks' introduction to the Navy at the newest station.

The Sampson Station, which takes its name from the late Admiral William T. Sampson, fleet commander in the Spanish-American War and native of Palmyra, about 20 miles from Seneca Lake, is one of three new large naval training stations now under construction. Built on a master plan which provides for training units to accommodate 5,000 recruits each, it will be a city of nearly 35,000 inhabitants when completed and running at full blast, with water system, sewage disposal, 53 miles of road, two telephone exchanges, and a 1,500-bed hospital to care for its personnel.

Construct Similar Units

The Sampson construction includes six training units for 5,000 sailormen each. The two other large stations under construction, Farragut, at Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho, and Bainbridge, at Port Deposit, Maryland, are built on the same general plan, but while Farragut has the same number of units, Bainbridge has two less, or a total of four.

Construction of the naval training station has brought the reality of war close to the placid Central New York countryside and the City of Geneva, population 16,000, nearest large community to the lakeside site. Geneva, at the head of Seneca Lake, about 12 miles from the station site, has had a population influx for which the oldest resident recognizes no parallel, and of the 15,000 workers on the project many have had to find shelter in Auburn, Seneca Falls, Canandaigua, Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Penn Yan and other communities as far as 35 miles away.

Million-Dollar Payroll

A payroll of more than one million dollars weekly has set cash registers jingling in all those communities and many a householder, making a spare room available to a construction worker for the last few months, has made more than enough for "the winter's coal," as residents of the boom area put it.

Housing of the workers has been one of the main problems since the contractors, the John A. Johnson Contracting Corporation and the Mt. Vernon Contracting Corporation, took the job in a somewhat sparsely-settled area which obviously could not provide enough laborers, carpenters, or other workmen.

Faced Great Difficulties

What with the scarcity of gasoline and tires and no trolley lines avail-

able, the problem was no easy one. That its magnitude was recognized from the outset, however, was a long step toward a solution. The day after Commander J. C. Gebhard of the Corps of Civil Engineers, United States Navy, officer-in-charge of construction of the station, arrived at Geneva with representatives of the contractors, a meeting of representatives of all nearby communities took place in the Geneva Chamber of Commerce.

At this gathering initial plans were made to hive the swarm of workers, to transport them to and from their jobs at the station 12 miles from Geneva, and to prepare for the recruits who will begin to arrive next month.

Host to 13,000

Since that night of May 27 the area has been host to probably 13,000 construction workers from outside, for whom the company has had to provide transportation by a fleet of 67 buses, as well as housing. The editorial columns of the Geneva Times of September 5 might be quoted to tell the result:

"... Geneva has made a sincere effort to accommodate itself to the situation caused by the proximity of the Ordnance Depot and Naval Station and has succeeded unusually well..."

As R. W. Morris, Chief of Police, put it:

"We naturally made special preparations when we heard so large a group would be here for several months, but it's surprising how little difficulty we have had. It's certainly far less than one could expect and our police records show very slight change from a year ago."

In a little more than a month the rush of workers will be a memory to Central New York residents. From then on the visitors will wear the blue of Uncle Sam's Navy, and communities are arranging special facilities to extend a hearty welcome to their lakeside guests.

Sunday Chapel Service Listed for Earlier Hour

Sunday evening chapel services, held for years at 7:30 p.m., will henceforth be conducted in the form of vespers two hours earlier at 5:30.

In addition to the vesper observance, the evening services will generally include a sermon delivered either by a member of the faculty and administration or by a visiting clergyman. Chaplain Stuart G. Cole has extended a cordial invitation to all members of the college community, welcoming them and hoping that they will attend regularly.

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Roy A. Weber, '42, right, Receives Commission in Marine Corps Ceremony at Quantico, Va. Maj. Gen. H. M. Smith Makes Presentation.

—Official U. S. Marine Corps Photo

SEEK STUDENT AIDS FOR NEWS BUREAU

With the college news bureau and public relations office currently operating minus the services of several student assistants due to graduation and the demands of the defense and war programs, several openings have been announced which will be filled at once by competent student help.

The posts call for student writers to handle the preparation of releases on general news and sports. Those feeling themselves qualified to work in either of these branches have been requested by Public Relations Director Clifford E. Orr to contact him for a try-out. The available positions will go to those who show themselves most qualified and remuneration will be paid in accordance with the ability and experience of the men and women selected.

In announcing the vacancies, Mr. Orr pointed out that in performing these tasks the students selected would have an opportunity to be of particular service to the colleges at a time when the maintenance of superior public relations is of utmost importance.

'LITTLE SISTERS' GUESTS AT PARTY

A Backward Party for their freshmen "little sisters" was sponsored by the Junior Class of William Smith College last Friday night. The guests were required to appear dressed inside out, and a prize was awarded to the wearer of the most original costume. Various games were also played in reverse, and again prizes went to the winners.

Refreshments were served during the evening which helped to get the incoming freshmen class well acquainted with its individual members.

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Catholic Class Has New Teacher

Rev. Raymond P. Nolan, principal of the local De Sales High School and assistant pastor of St. Stephen's Church, has taken over the duties of instructing the special Monday afternoon class in Roman Catholic religion. He succeeds Rev. E. J. Linz, of Rochester, who had taught previously. Hobart students, who are of the Catholic faith, may attend this class in place of the regular, required chapel exercises.

Attendance at the sessions is not required on the part of Catholic women at William Smith, but Rev. Nolan has extended them a cordial invitation to attend. At the first class meeting, the instructor expressed his personal gratitude to the college authorities for having made this special instruction possible.

Large Gathering Attends Freshman Tea-Reception

The annual Get-Acquainted Tea for the freshmen and all other new students of both colleges was held at Comstock House last Sunday afternoon. Hosts were Dr. and Mrs. John Milton Potter, and Albert Holbriiter, '43, serving in the capacity of President of the Hobart Christian Association.

An estimated 250 guests including faculty members, attended this annual affair which has become a Hobart tradition through the years, its purpose being to help bring the new students of the colleges closer to each other, as well as to their President and members of the faculty.

Among those presiding at the tea-table were Mrs. Foster P. Boswell, Mrs. Launt Lindsay, Mrs. T. T. Odell, and Miss Janet Seeley.

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Debaters Face Cut in Schedule

By Norman Roth

"Business as usual" is a phrase which can no longer apply to any phase of our life under present world conditions. Consequently, there are currently no definite plans as to the program of the Debating group for the coming year. Activities will be determined largely by the transportation facilities which are available.

But regardless of the existing conditions, no time is being lost in preparing round table discussions for presentation before Church, fraternal, and social organizations. Already under preparation are the following four subjects: *Election Issues and Men, What Shall We Do with Germany after the War?, Shall We Draft Ages 18 and 19?, and India.* All of these topics are highly pertinent at the present time.

Participating in the work of the group this year are several members with debating experience. This list includes Charles H. Thompson, the Misses Jane Baldwin and Ruth Glaser, Robert Fuller, Robert Emmons, Edward K. Smith, Conrad F. La Tour and Norman R. Roth. New members of the group include the Misses Phyllis Roberts and Betty Tashenberg, Theodore Theobald, William Law, Lloyd Jonnes, Maynard Ungerer and Lon Flanigan.

Although the work of the group may be curtailed somewhat this year, the efforts which are put forth by the members will undoubtedly measure up to the high standard of past years. More definite plans will be announced in future issues of the HERALD.

KAPPA SIGS ELECT MAITLAND, HUGHES

Vic Maitland, '44, of Pittsburgh, and Robert Hughes, '44, of New Hartford, were named assistant house leader and house manager respectively, when members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity held their first meeting of the college year at the chapter house on Monday evening.

The post of house manager at Kappa Sigma is officially titled *Grand Master of Ceremonies* while the assistant house leader is known as *Grand Procurator*. Maitland succeeds Al Brooks, '43, of Wellsville, and Hughes takes the post formerly held by Bill Sherman, '44, of New Hartford.

The special election was held to fill two vacancies which existed in the respective offices. Bob Yates, '43, of Rochester, was named in the Spring to the leadership of the organization and is still in college to continue with his duties at Kappa Sigma.

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