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Svithiod **LIFE**

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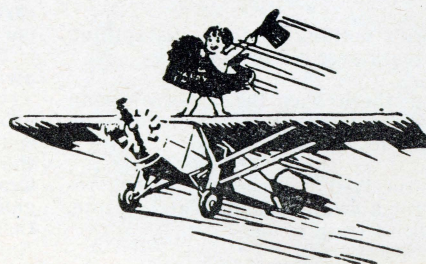
Vol. VII

JANUARY, 1946

No. 1



A Happy and Prosperous New Year
To All Our Members
and Friends!



SVITHIOD LIFE

January, 1946

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Sent Free to Members

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The Editor Says—

The January issue of LIFE has been intentionally delayed so as to give you readers the final account and pictures of the many club activities during December. It has been a great month at old Svithiod, and made happier for many by the return of our service men and women.

The Christmas decorations this year were beautiful, and Okeh did himself proud with the Julmiddag smörgåsbord, and the Chorus rose to new heights with their fine rendition of the Christmas Party concert.

As 1945 draws to a close, I would be particularly ungrateful if I did not acknowledge with deep appreciation the loyal help of my staff—so, my sincere thanks to John Harmon, Joel Soderlund, Harold Grevin, Al Ziegelbauer, Sven Ahlstedt, and Mabel Edgar, and to our photographer, Werner Schultz, and artist, Jimmie Walker; and a special word of thanks for the help rendered LIFE by that fine committee from the Ladies' Auxiliary: Karin Soderblom, Jennie Hawkinson, Mrs. Ed Rentz, and Eve Carlson, who so faithfully mailed LIFE to all our service men and women, and to Ann and Erick, who mailed to the members.

To all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year from all of us on SVITHIOD LIFE.

* * *

"Curly" Ferguson says a bald-headed man is a live wire with the insulation worn off.

* * *

It pays to be a "good egg"—not everyone will like you, but some people just don't like eggs.

* * *

At Christmas time a woman wants her past forgiven and her present remembered.

* * *

There's nothing so futile as spilling fresh tears over old griefs.

* * *

Then there was the supersalesman who sold a package of bird seed to go with a cuckoo clock.

* * *

We received no response to our request for a swap column. Watsamattar, nothing to trade?

* * *

You can't hold another guy down without staying down yourself.

GOODFELLOWSHIP PARTY,
DECEMBER 1

"A Modern Cotillion" brought out a splendid crowd of good fellows for this party sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary for the benefit of the Svithiod Service Fund. This evening's affair was under the leadership of Edith Valette who also served as chairman of last year's successful party. Through a special arrangement engineered by the Ladies, our steward served a tasty roast beef dinner with all the trimmings and the wine "By Okeh" helped settle things and left the folks in a tolerant mood for what was to come.



The Chairman of the party, Edith Valette.

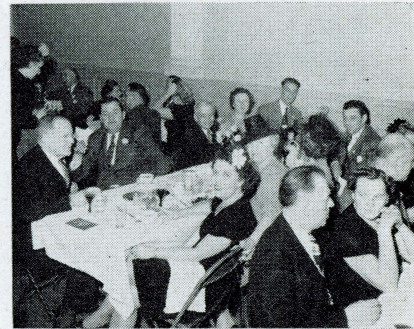
Edith welcomed the guests and briefly explained the need for increasing the Service Fund. We do not know just how this money will be spent on our veterans but we suspect that when more of the boys are back an outstanding affair will be launched to honor our boys in some special way that will long be remembered and in which the Auxiliary will play an important part. They are also contributing to the "Save the Children" program and have arranged to underwrite the care and upkeep of two youngsters left homeless by the war for one year. Many of these children as you know are being cared for in Sweden but financial support is urgently needed.

The tables and chairs were cleared away and the highly advertised George Troseth took over. The guests sat around the walls leaving plenty of space in the middle for action. With the aid of an assistant and a whistle Troseth had the folks go through the games and dances much in the same fashion as a caller at a barn dance. Naturally this provided a lot of fun for both the participants and the on-lookers. In the Hula number (grass



A few of the good fellows.

skirts and all) Curly Ferguson and Conrad Bovik rated tops on the applause meter and were awarded a pineapple and a grapefruit respectively, for their efforts. In another number 8 girls put on cute little aprons each of a different design. On the other side of the room 8 stalwart men were furnished with a sealed envelope con-



Al Ziegelbauer's Party.

taining the "pocket" and at a given signal each was to try and match the pocket with the apron and claim the girl and the first couple on the stage would receive a prize. Bill ("Helan Går") O'Donnell and Lauretta Kemp were the lucky couple and richly deserved the applause which followed.



Standing: Col. Delo, Spiczak, Ferguson. Seated: Mrs. Spiczak, Mrs. Alm, Mrs. Gibbons, President Webner and Bud Linn.

Strictly Personal

Dr. Orrin Baumgarth narrowly escaped serious injury when, driving back from Hot Springs to see his little daughter take part in the children's party, he collided headon with a loaded coal truck. Doc's car was demolished, and he was bruised and shaken up, but he said he was going to see the party if he had to come on a stretcher.

* * *

Dr. Axel W. Akesson, one of our oldest members, is seriously ill at his Lawrence Avenue home, and would appreciate visits from his friends at the club.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Lindquist, Master Mechanic, Pere Marquette R. R., Grand Rapids, Mich., and his assistant Mr. Ed Cole and wife, were guests of Mabel and Russ Edgar at the club, Sunday, December 15. Mr. Cole and his wife are familiar with Svithiod, having been here previously. In fact, Ed called Russ and insisted that they wanted to visit Svithiod, so Russ promptly obliged, including four other guests accompanying Mr. Lindquist, who evidently was in Chicago to check up on the Pere Marquette's purchase of several Diesel engines at the La Grange plant of General Motors.

* * *

Carney and Ede Valette have a most unusual and beautiful outdoor Christmas display this year, and it is worth your time to drive out to 6450 North Artesian to see it. The entire corner is lighted with 520 colored lights—outlining a large Christmas tree and a huge Santa Claus. A visit to their playroom, Carnivedita, is also an interesting experience.

* * *

John Spiczak gave a party in the Marine dining room, December 27, honoring Captain J. McCarty, U.S.M.C., who was just awarded the congressional medal of honor by President Truman. Among the guests present were Secretary of State, Ed. J. Barrett, and National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Tom Sweeney.

* * *

A lonely and pretty little two-year old girl named Judy, from a home down state, was made very happy just before Christmas when she was taken into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Neidl. Their youngest son, Dick, 4 years old, has taken on the job of being the big brother protector. The Neidls have two other children: a daughter, Jeanette, just released from the Women's Marine Corps, and a son, Peter, Jr., who is still in the Navy.

* * *

Seaman 1st C. Tommy Ferguson arrived home from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to spend Christmas with his parents, Curley and Olive Ferguson. This is Tommy's first leave since entering the Navy 16 months ago, and was made possible with the help of Admiral "Bill" O'Donnell.

* * *

John M. Weber was taken to the So. Chicago Community Hospital, New Year's Day, for a check-up.



Mrs. John Orton and daughter Mary Ann.

SVITHIOD LIFE extends congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Esping who celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on December 14. Relatives and friends surprised them at home on December 15 and as an aftermath this fine couple spent the evening at the club on the 16th to climax a rather hectic and exciting weekend.

* * *

On Sunday, December 16, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Gwynn had as their guest Bill's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Dibos, also Major James P. Holmes of Milwaukee, a Wisconsin Labor Conciliator. Bill is with Station WCFL and Clara, his wife, is a very active little lady in the Ladies' Auxiliary.

* * *

Sunday, December 16, was notable for another reason. While Mr. and Mrs. Art Lange and daughter were about to sit down for dinner in the Marine dining room a telephone call announced the unexpected arrival in Chicago on furlough of Harry, their son, who with his wife and Junior had motored up from Texas via St. Louis to be with the folks over the holidays. The Club was the scene of a warm reunion when the young folks showed up for a belated dinner.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 8—Members' Stag, 6:30 p. m.

Sunday, January 20—Singers' Sillfrukost (Stag), 11:00 a. m.

Saturday, January 26—Dinner Dance, 7:00 p. m.

Special attention is called to the Singers' Sillfrukost on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 11:00 a. m.. This is one affair you will not want to miss. A big smörgåsbord with plenty of herring, and the entire Chorus, with soloists, will give you your fill of glorious song. Special guest stars and an elaborate program of entertainment is also being planned. Tickets may be obtained from the singers.

"Shooting" Sammy Swenson says, "I may be a little shaver, but I'm still a chip off the old block."

* * *

The Special Agents had their annual dinner meeting December 15, and a large crowd attended. Comdr. L. C. M. Johnson, a member of Svithiod, was elected President for the year 1946, succeeding John R. Harmon, who so successfully headed this fine organization the past year.

* * *

Capt. and Mary Sullivan have installed their Christmas setting, including Duffy's Tavern, again this year. Every year John says this is the last year, but, come the Yule time, he forgets all the work and remembers only the fun he and Mary have had with this unique display.

* * *

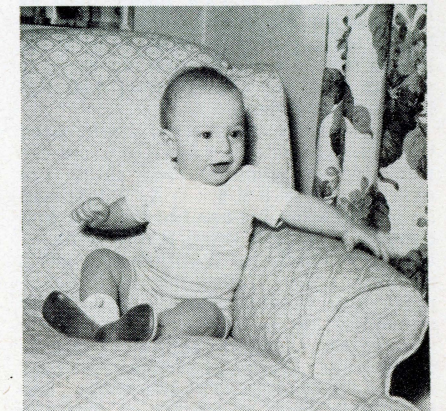
Wise is he who knows himself
And has the strength of will
Not to have another drink
When he has had his fill.

* * *

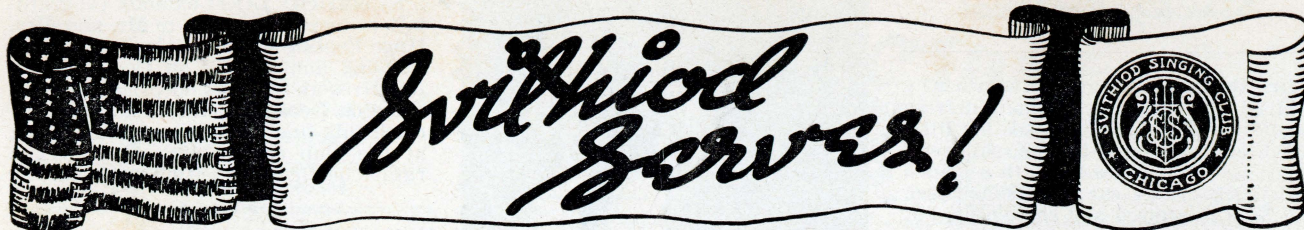
Capt. Dick Gill who has been laid up for the past two months with a severely fractured left arm is mending rapidly and will be back with us after January 1st.

* * *

Extra! "Rags" arrived home Dec. 28th.



John "Svithiod" Spiczak, five months old son of John and Doris Spiczak.



Col. John I. Howe.

A LETTER FROM COL. JOHN I. HOWE

Dear Old Al:

When the history of this war's pages are turned I'm going down in it as having contributed the least towards its successful culmination. Will you give my regards to all my pals there. Have been to Le Havre, Paris and am now in Frankfurt waiting to go to Berlin where I will be stationed in the Public Safety Division until February 1st at which time I will be started home. I hope to be home by March 1st. Will you tell Joel and Ernie that I said a little prayer for their boys under the Arche de Triomphe on Armistice Day at the tomb of the unknown soldier. If I get any chance at all I'm going to get some information for Joel at Gey, Germany. This city is 67% destroyed so people are quite depressed and the only ones that smile are the children. We have been eating well and are stationed in an abandoned private home. We don't get the long table here and I won't complain about not getting the best of bonded on my return. It's as difficult to get bonded liquor here as it is to get Ed Rentz to buy for the house back there!!! Whenever I get lost in town I have figured out an easy way to find my way back—I just follow the PRO signs.

I'm writing on a trick confiscated German typewriter. I have to avoid the following or someone may think I'm angry: é = + ö ü § : Ö Å. I just had an officer stick his head in my door and announce he had some Rhine wine. I think I'll hustle up this note and get a snifter. I got a kick out of a newspaper note in Stars and Stripes. They announce that because of a plea on the part of the Commandant the GI's sent home four times as much as they earned in October. On the same page is a little item to the effect that the military have brought so many watches into Berlin the price has **dropped** to

\$200! The Yellow Kid would be a four star general here!!!

Kindest regards to all at the Club.

Eli the Shadow.

* * *

Ed. Note: Since the above was written John has been assigned to the Berlin District. New address—let's all drop him a line: Lt. Col. John I. Howe, Hdqs. 1st A. A. B. Div., Berlin District, G-5, Public Safety Division, A.P.O. No. 755, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

ARTHUR D. SWANSON WINS MEDAL

A recent story in the Tribune told how Joe E. Brown, instead of being toastmaster turned out to be the guest of honor. The same thing happened to our fellow member, Art Swanson.

Art was invited to be the toastmaster at a farewell party given for Capt. R. R. Higgason of the Signal Corps, at which some 20 guests were invited. After a few remarks were made relative to Capt. Higgason's leaving, Col. Stanford, Signal Officer for the Sixth Service Command, asked Art to stand and read him the following citation:

"By direction of 'a' president, under the provisions of the Act of 'some darn Congress,' approved at 'some undetermined date in the past,' the Distinguished, Very Questionable, Unserviceable Medal is awarded to Mr. 12-AAA Swanson, for conspicuous gallantry, exceptional meritorious conduct, distinguished behavior, skillful supervision, extraordinary heroism in the face of murderous Army opposition and outstanding achievement beyond the normal call of duty (especially at Camp Ellis).

"Mr. Swanson, acting in the capacity of a 'chief pain in the side' of the Signal Office, Sixth Service Command, as well as IBT liaison representative with the U. S. Army Signal Corps, has on numerous occasions acted as the spearhead in leading the men of that Company against heavily fortified positions in the Civic Opera Building, exposing himself to deadly hostile remarks, insults, slander and accurately fired paper clips.

"Mr. Swanson's accomplishments are even more outstanding when one considers the terrific mental and physical strain under which he has been placed due to the present regime of the Democratic Party. That alone reflects his exceptional power of concentration to duty.

"It is deemed fitting to cite some of Mr. Swanson's accomplishments during his tour of duty in the National Emergency. Entire credit is due this distin-



Art. D. Swanson.

guished gentleman for having overcome all Army opposition in such a manner as to make possible the elimination of all Telephone Work Orders calling for relocation or alteration of the telephones installed in the Civic Opera Building.

"Also Mr. Swanson is to be commended for his unyielding determination, unselfish devotion to duty in effecting the present ideal situation which is most evident between the I. B. T. Co. and the U. S. Army personnel, and especially the Signal Corps representative at Camp Ellis. Due to his effective persuasive ability in every instance, Mr. Swanson has been able to secure perfect coordination, mutual understanding and ideal working agreements at that Army installation.

Mr. Swanson's successful fulfillment of his numerous assigned missions in our National Emergency is due to his extraordinary courage, skill, determination and constant devotion to the present Administration.

"His deeds reflect the greatest credit on the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, and Mr. Swanson's efforts were directly instrumental in bringing about the successful termination of World War II."

Then Col. Stanford, with the assistance of Lt. Col. Quay, presented Art with the "Distinguished, Very Questionable, Unserviceable Medal" as shown in the above picture. Other appropriate gifts were awarded Art, but it is best that you ask him about them.

Possession of points is our interest of today, but possession of bonds will be our interest of tomorrow. Buy Victory Bonds.

* * *

Many people are like combs—always getting in your hair.