VOLUME XXVI

SEPTEMBER, 1957

NUMBER 11

# NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1957

Reveals Enduring Comradeships

Lively Program

Highlighted by Attendance
Of Major-General Parker

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GAGNE DIRECTS FINE POST CO-OPERATION

Typing out the account of the Association's 1957 National Convention at Fort Dix — sitting alone with just a persistency of memories and a sheetful of hieroglyphics (called notes) — this reporter is bogged down by a single vocable, "aftermath" or "end result" or even, if you want to be technically imaginative, post-reunion shock!

From the beginning to the end, from the moment of greeting between the advance party and the early bird reunioners, through the moments of fulfillment when the assemblage was complete, - rollicking, reminiscing, relaxing, celebrating right up to the final clearance when departure fastened its sad lesson upon the senses and, caught in that last eyescope, we saw the locked and empty barracks, the little vagrant eddies of reunion debris, the forgotten Lightning Insignia at the area entrance, this weekend of September 6th to 8th must ever be recalled, from an enjoyment standpoint, by participants as one of the most successful in association history.

The area was clearly the most convenient, advantageous, and best policed section of the post we have been privileged to occupy. The six meals served by post personnel in conjunction with the Officers' Open Mess were simply wonderful. The recreation building, manned for snack and beverage service by post personnel, proved to be a meeting and cavorting spot enjoyed by all. In short we were well housed, well fed, and well directed by our Army friends who gave up so much of their time and talents so that we might bring our past into the reflection of reliving by the touch of old training environments.

(Continued on page 4)

## Rochester Calling

YOU — all of you — have an invitation to attend the 309th F.A. (Heavies) 23rd Annual Reunion and Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 9th in the William W. Doud Post Memorial Home, Rochester, N. Y. at 6:30 P.M.

DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS \$3.50 78th Division Rendezvous and Billeting at the POWERS HOTEL.

Contact L. Schmitt, 98 Locust St., Rochester, N. Y.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
George Fagan - Past President 78th Div.
Veterans' Association.

YOU—ALL OF YOU—ARE INVITED Louis F. Schmitt, Chairman

Patrick H. Ryan, Vice Chairman Editors Note: — As has been the custom for man yyears, a Metropolitan Delegation will be formed to go en masse to Rochester to attend this traditional gathering.

Contact Mayor Harry Thourot, Union City, N. J. or George Fagan, New York City. For complete information and directions.

LET'S GIVE ROCHESTER THE BIG PLAY THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE

#### Rhode Island Reunion

The Annual Reunion of the Rhode Island 78th Division Association will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, in Providence, R.I. The affair will feature dinner and a Memorial ceremony. The ladies are invited to attend this tradtional gathering.

Further information and reservations may be obtained by contacting Chairman John Riley, 107 Alger Avenue, 7, Providence, Rhode Island.

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#### More About The Convention

That wonderful array of Nutleyites hove into camp thirty strong with a number of new and younger faces. Participated in everything. Ate well, drank well, and played well. One of these days we're going to have that drink with them. Jerry Hackett should be proud of them.

(Continued on page 5)

### World War One Veteran Elected President at Fort Dix

Comrade Ftank J. Steudle, 17 Garden Drive, Roselle, N. J., a veteran of Company I, 312th Infancry Regiment was elected and installed as President of the 78th Division Veterans' Association, Inc., during the Annual Meeting at Theatre No. 5, Fort Dix, N. J. on Saturday evening September 7th, 1957.

President Steudle is 64 years of age, married, and is employed by the Monroe Calculating Company in a position he has held for many years. He entered service April 1st, 1918 and was sent overseas on May 1st, 1918, serving through the entire 312th Infantry campaigns without injury. He held the rank of corporal.

President Steudle is well qualified to administer the affairs of the association, having been active in veterans and fraternal affairs for many years in various official capacities.

He has been a President of the 312th Infantry Regiment Veterans' Association, a Vice-President of the 78th Division Veterans' Association and a Chairman of the Publication Committee. He has the support of all unit reperesentatives on the Convention scene and was the unanimous choice of the nominating committee.

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That man Jerry Kamen did a masterful job of recognitions from the rostrum, saving his one big crowning identification for his own troupe, the 303rd Engineers. Great timing and Jerry went off in a tumult of boos, having won his point.

Signalmen had two fellows who had not reunioned with them in 38 years. Ex Corporal Leas from Kansas City, Mo., and Sgt. Scribner from New York State. Where was Taylor? Tommy Russell came in late. Never even saw him. Rasmussen, Kennedy, McKeever, Tokash, etc., on the scene but several expected pals absent.

#### Also Elected at Dix

Other executives elected were:

Secretary, John Ghegan, 697 President St., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Membership-Secretary, John Fuchs, 762 Williams Place, Cliffside Park, N. J.; Treasurer, Gerald R. Hackett, 100 Rhoda Avenue, Nutley, N. J.; Judge Advocate, Jack J. Singer, 591 Summit Ave., Jersey City, N. J.; Chaplains, Rev. J. Harold Thomson, 562 Gansevoort Street, Little Falls, N. Y. and Rev. John L. Cunningham, 731 Morris Pk. Ave., Bronx, N. Y.; Twelve Vice Presidents: Larry M. Baker, Box 161 Cabin Creek, West Virginia, WW2; Monroe Blumenstiel, 66 Mayflower Drive, Rochester 18, N. Y., WW1; Anthony Buonomo, 922 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., WW1; Charles W. Crysler, Marcellus, N.Y., WW2; Albert DeTitta, 218 North Vivyen Street, Bergenfield, N. J., WW1; Robert J. Drummond, Livingston, N. J., WW2; Benjamin Grossman, 1110 College Avenue, Bronx 56, N. Y., WW1; John J. Kerrigan, 86 Greene Street, Slatersville, R. I., WW1; Raymond G. Price, 2734 Hayes Avenue, Camden, N. J., WW1; Joseph J. Silas, 9 Moore Avenue, Woodbridge, N. J., WW1; Michael J. Ushan, 27 Corbin Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., WW1; Alfred L. Wolf, Brookdals Road, Seymour, Connecticut, WW2.



# Sparky Says — "Of The Reunion And Such"

Did you know that the veterans of AT Co., 309th Infantry, World War Two, have the largest membership group in the association, even topping the World War One group, Co. B., 310th Infantry. We need key men in every company to get the ball rolling. There must be more John Ghegans amongst the World War Two fellows. Or does Ghegan only come "one in a generation". However, our membership chairman revealed that every month sees a mounting interest by World War Two men and that breach is gradually closing. Moving up slowly towards an even division, says he. And, to make it more gratifying, our membership is now at its highest level in a number of years. Keep it moving up, you solicitors.

Phil Di Pace announced another addition to the family. The 303rd Engineer was passing out cigars to all who got him down and bent his arm.

That round table Saturday night World War two gang certainly had the reunion by the tail. Nobody was safe. They just bided their time until the old timers were sung out, were out, and drowned out. Then they took hold of the mike, the accordionist and at four in the morning, the sounds were still pouring out of the recreation hut. Our sleepy eyed observer tried to outstay them but gave up to superior vitimans. He reports Cohan, Castanza, O'Malley,

Outly, Hoffman, Ghegan, DiPace, Drummond, Wolf, Lockwood, DiMaggio, and there his report runs into a blur or spilled beer blots. He states, however, that there must have been at least twenty more World War Two delegates to devestation in the array but we'll have to wait for the secretary to enumerate them. A good time was had by all. (You should have seen them at breakfast call. They were more beat than at Kesternich, Schmidt, Remagen and the rest all rolled into one).

Just learned that Captain Leslie W. Matis has moved from the Air Base at Mariauna, Florida and is now located at 241 Olive Street, Denver 20, Colorado.

Al James, 309th Inf., pursuing his legal career in Jersey City, N. J., looked mighty fit when seen on the reunion premises.

From one World War Two vet (name withheld on advice of counsel) to P ogram Director, "Man, I survived 'em all, right up to and across the Rhine. Wounds I got were simply inconsequential. But, this reunion! WOW! I just don't see how anybody can survive". (Editors note: Old timers reports shows that at least a thousand fellows have survived twenty or more of these annual hazards down through the years.)

Larry Baker, die harde vet from Cabin Creek, West Virginia, took time out from his teaching stint to get to the reunion.

Our deep regret that our Chaplain from World War Two could not be present. Letter of regret from Rev. John J. Cunningham was read by Rev. J. Harold Thomson during the Memorial Service.

## - $\Diamond$ -

## Remembering Out Loud

The 303rd Engineers piano playing representative, Joe Richie, was present after a thirty-eight year absence. Great reunion between Jerry Kamen, Harry Thourot, etc., with Richie. Gave us some fine music with a fine duet specialty with our roving accordionist.

No question about it Tommy Collins stole the show with a number that brought our World War Two Joes into the picture as a background chorus. The Hoboken Trio had the boys going also.

Bill Farley came up with a professional show that was as polished and enjoyable a deal we have seen in many a year. Just proves you don't have to have smut to satisfy reunioning vets, even if they are out "on the camp". Good show, Bill.

Harry Thourot's Last Man's Club and Dog House Gang groups were late but lively as ever. All they needed was music and then the roof blew off in their quarters. Moved over to the recreation hut for more high jinks. McKeever, Standen, Molteni, etc., were in fine fettle and Jerry Kamen kept the quartets going 'til the throats gave up.

309th Infantrymen came up with a good representation. Har y Delaney, Fitzgerald, Stulb and so many others we recognized but cannot possibly name make this outfit one of the most important contingents in the association makeup.

The 312th card players were out in force. Nick Garafola was a little under the weather but held out. Chick Duerr held court for a while but the mattresses and torpedos gave out. Rees says he froze on Thursday night but what about Friday night?

The 311th Doughs kept their reminisences going. Eberlin, Fish, Wean, etc., were actively in the reunion picture and, in uniform again, was Sgt. Mullan, ex-officer of the 311th. Missed a few familiar faces from this fine organization but duties simply denied planned visits. So, apologies.

Ferguson and Cox, early workers in the organization after World War One, were welcome visitors and made our Saturday afternoon party a little more pleasurable. Doc Coleman came through as usual with technique in the sound department. Terrific helper and much appreciated.

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## 310th Infantry, WWI Holds Reunion

The first reunion of the 310th Infantry Veterans Association since reorganization in 1941 was held in the Henry Hudson Hotel, New York City, Saturday, July 27th. The advance detail of Riley, Meegan, Eaton and Coakley made ready for the 'jump off' Saturday, July 27th. There was much hustling and bustling from the PC at outpost 401 until the attack was made on "Chow Hill" at 18 one half hours on the 27th. President Wheeler opened the attack with a few well aimed words and Vice President as acting Chaplain offered grace before meals. With Chow Hill completely demolished the mopping up took place and Secretary Riley was in charge of this detail. Every participant in this heroic struggle emphasized how proud he was to have participated in this attack. The following also participated in the attack: Hammond (A), McGonnell, Griffell (B), President Wheeler, Captain Ed Leary (C), Meegan (E), Vice President Smingler, Secretary Riley, Exner, Mulrane, Thurlow (F), President Wheeler, Horrocks, Byars, Vice President Whaley, DeTitta, Walshek (K) Eaton, Coakley, DiNúcci (HDQ) Singer (MG) Reilley, Anti-Tank

A solemn note was struck when Secretary Riley read the Roll Call of Departed members of the Association since reorganization in 1941.

Walshek for coming the greatest distance was awarded four souvenir postal cards of the hotel and Thurlow from Baltimore awarded complimentary stationery from the hotel.



MAJ. GON. PARKER ADDRESSUS GROUP.



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Singer Administers Oath of Office





BALL PRACTICE- No game IN sight.



GUARD OF HONOR





#### We Thank You

The Post co-operation was of the highest order and Program Director Harpell has this report to offer:

"There have been times when such excellent co-operation was forthcoming from Post authorities that we could do nothing but express our appreciation in a generality, without singling out any one individual. Your Program Director feels that this time a personal acknowledgement of services should be openly stated so that all who enjoyed the reunion may be aware of the scope of an operation of this size and the supervisory staff required, not to mention the task force under their commands.

We especially wish to thank the Post Commander, Major-General Earl Berquist for granting us the privilege of reunion on Post grounds.



LT. COL. ALBERT GAGNE: - From the first interchange of correspondence, through the advance planning discussions and in every phase of the reunion operation, Lt. Col. Gagne was the ruling factor in Post co-ordination. His efficient and effective tie-in of services and his interpretation of our needs created an atmosphere of cordial relationships and respect for the Army know-how. It might bear mention that Lt. Col. Gagne did not leave this operation to the realm of mere command but personnally supervised or checked the major portion of details. His almost constant presence in the area made a fine impression on the reunioners.

CAPTAIN TAMRAZ: — Assisting Lt. Col. Gagne in both the plan and operation. A fine job, well done.

MAJOR SHERMAN: — The credit for the fine condition of the area and the physical requirements to prepare and house an organization such as ours goes to this fine officer. Our many thanks.

MAJOR WILLIAM CLARK: — Secretary-Treasurer of the Officers' Open Mess; the food and drink facilities, the setting up of the recreation hut, the selection of mess crew and service crew, the menu, — all these under the supervision of Major Clark. We are deeply indebted to him.

LIEUTENANT WEINER: — In the front lines of the operation. Always in the area, detailing the work of the recreation services and helping out whenever a problem had to be resolved.

SERGEANT CLANTIN COX: — From the Post Signal Company, a repeat performance by Sgt. Cox. The matter of electronics — loud speaker and mikes, to us — a most important and necessary part of program facilities were handled by Sgt. Cox most efficiently.

SERGEANT JONES: — Our Chef extraordinary. We wont say anything further about this fine cook. If you were there, you know. We never had it so good.

We'll just stop at this point with a quick word of appreciation to the color guard who appeared so briefly and so tellingly at our annual meeting. The firing squad and bugler assisting us at our Memorial Service, the crew at the indoor firing range, that wonderful young accordionist who entertained us in the area on Friday and Saturday nights, the boys from the Special Services who operated the movies on Friday night and all others from the Post who we may have failed to mention."

For our own group, the writer has nothing but the highest praise for a committee who he considers to be the hardest working, most reliable in his experience. Starting with Barnard Eberlin who started the official ball rolling and arranged our bond we'll take the next phase to Jack Singer who handled the publicity and, in addition, arranged movies by Budweiser and Schaefer, with beer contribution by Schaefer. Then a most important worker in the person of Jerry Hackett who journeyed to Dix with the writer for conferences with Post Officials, headed the Advance Committee and acted as liason in the food department. Just enumerating a few of our important cogs in a work machine which really operated this time. Marty Stuart and Bill Pratt handling the blanket detail, Joe Silas, John Fuchs and John Ghegan on the reception desks, Al De Titta and Tony Buonomo on the checking and clearance details, Rees and Cohan on the Directional Signs, Joe Stulb with his camera. All so much appreciated. We know we've missed a few names particularly of those who helped out in emergency details but we'll have to charge it up to faulty memory.

## Memorial Service

Words are futile things and seem to lose descriptive power entirely when used in accounts of spiritual ceremonies. It is a matter of feeling, of emotions, of faith. We are woefully inadequate to do justice to the service so beautifully presented, so remarkably well attended. We will not attempt to do so.

We will just say that our own Rev. J. Harold Thomson (Tommy) brought a most thoughtful and, in some ways, retrospective message to a congregation of men whose memories seemed to transcend the present, whose minds conformed to the edict of the windows — their own stained glass Memorial Windows. There was the psalm, the hymn, the anthem, the prayer. A crisp command, the volleys crashing skyward, the bugle notes and through its familiar strain, the voice, weaving precious names — oh, so many, — so heartrending —.

#### Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

Approximately two hundred and fifty men slept over and about an equal number joined with us at various intervals. Many were from nearby towns and some stayed with their families in adjacent motels, hotels, etc.

Whatever disparity in numbers was apparent between the world war one and world war two attendees, the vigor and boisterousness of youth just had to be served and, with notable exceptions by a number of our never-fading old soldats who will, no doubt, die with their boots on, the world war two eager beavers kept the ball rolling from dawn to dawn (dusk was forgotten) with nary a falter, although it may be divulged, with many a cold shower and wake-up tablet to prod them on to breakfast.

Of course, the high-light of the attenda ance was the presence of Major-General Edwin P. (Sparky) Parker. We can not fail to be both amazed and impressed by this tremendous personality, whose every visit unfolds to us another admirable side of character and a congeniality attuned to all levels. If the General had endeared himself to both world war one men and to his own world war two reunioners on previous occasions, the magnificant, down to earth, straightfo:ward address he made at the annual meeting was certainly the clincher. Many a man who remembers the times when his nose was plugged into vibrating earth when it seemed all the 88's and mortars on the front had little HIM for the target found the why and wherefore of the spoken word from their commander reaching a new high in understanding. In a parallel sense, world war one veterans were carried back to those hide-and-wait days along the St. Mihiel plateau and the later spring out of the holes and ditches of the Argonne towards final aggressive action.

The reunion program is always greatly enriched by "Sparky's" presence, and the men have so expressed themselves by acclaim and respect.

Elsewhere we will touch upon some of the remembered incidents and personalities connected with this annual bivouac at Fort Dix, including some of the new faces recognized.

Unfortunately we can not mention all who were on the scene as we have neither complete information nor the space in this issue to do so. We'll let Past President Joe Stulb's pictorial section fill in some of the gaps.

Once again, however, the association has proved that the spirit of the Lightning endures and that the pride in its accomplishments will never fade.

# The Flash

#### SEPTEMBER, 1957

# Dedicated to LIGHTNING DIVISION CONTACTS

Founded in France in 1919 as the newspaper of the 78th Army Division. A.E.F. Revived June 16, 1932 as the official publication of the 78th Division Veterans' Association. Published in six issues each year — January, March, May, July, September, November — by the publication office of the 78th Division Veterans' Association, Inc., Cliffside Park, N. J. Subscription price \$2.00 per year, included in yearly membership dues of \$3.00. Entered at Cliffside Park, N. J., Post Office as Second Class Matter under Act of March 3rd, 1879.

# Publication Address 762 Williams Place, Cliffside Park, N. J.

Dues of \$3.00 for Association membership which includes the \$2.00 subscription to the Flash for one year should be sent to John M. Fuchs, Membership Secretary, Box No. 56, Cliffside Park, N. J. General correspondence material for the Flash should be mailed to the Association Secretary, John Ghegan, 697 President St., Brooklyn, New York.

National Headquarters
78th Infantry Division Veterans, Association, Inc.,
522 - 38th Street, Union City, N. J.

Rochester sent several group representations to the convention. Well received and true friends to all of us. Chatted with Ryan, Schmitt, Thygesen and several others whose names escape us at this writing. Boys down here are beginning to talk up the November affair and hope we can reciprocate with a good delegation from the Metropolitan area, George Fagan was on the 309th Welcoming Committee in New York.

310th Infantrymen all over the place, many helping out. Nice to see Tommy Mulrane with us. Jack Singer, Walt Duyzinski, Roy Hammond, Tommy Thomson, etc., withing talking range from time to time. Tommy certainly prized that Chapel sketch made by Roy Hammond. Walshek stole the photographic prize with that uniform deal. Did we really look like that? Many of us would like to be able to squeeze into the old uniform today.

As usual Barnard Eberlin's introductions were superbly delivered but both distinguished speakers more than justified his meaty prologues. Lt. Col. Gagne proved to be a witty, sparkling speaker and a master of leading up to a point. We've spoken of Major General Praker's address before but, we just have to repeat, his audience was spellbound and the ovation as sincere and spontaneous as the General's speech.

Jim McGonnell still keeping his wonderful Co. B group together despite inroads of time and infirmities. Jim made presentations thing of excitement with dramatic flourish. Joe Castanza says his golf bag is just too good for a duffer like him to which we retort, "How about those trophies you've been winning?"

#### Close Ranks

Comrade Walter J. Kennedy, Hq. Co., 311 Infantry, WWI, a former member of the Regimental Band, left our ranks in Free-hold, N. J. on December 20, 1956.

Comrade Graeme McKeon, a member of the 312th Infantry in World War One, and a resident of William Street, East Orange, N. J. left our ranks on August 15th, 1957.

Comrade Bert W. Stiles, 28 Denman Pl., Elizabeth, N. J., a member of Co. B., 311th Infantry in World War One, passed away on August 22nd after a brief illness. Comrade Stiles had been business manager of the Mary Duke Biddle interests, New York, having been employed by the same establishment for forty-five years.

Comrade Paul W. Emanuel of Easton, Pennsylvania, a First Lieutenant of the 311th Infantry in World War One, left our ranks on August 4th, 1957. (Flash reporter: Barnard Eberlin).

Comrade Arthur Bosse, Co. B., 310th Infantry, World War One, passed away at some undisclosed date in the fall of 1956. (Flash reporter: Max Coakley).

Comrade Judson Barrett, 67, 88 Kensington Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., an ambulance driver with the 78th Divison Medics in World War One, passed away in Fitkin Memorial Hospital, Neptune, N. J. on August 2, after a brief illness. He had operated a men's clothing store in Jersey City for many years. (Flash reporter: James McGonnell).

Comrade Morris Gilbert, 65, 654 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., a World War One veteran of Co. K, 310th Infantry, left our ranks on July 19th, 1957 at St. Francis Hospital from the effects of a heart ailment. Comrade Gilbert had been wounded in action with the 310th Infantry at the Bois de Loges on November 1st, 1918. (Flash reporter: James McGonnell).

Comrade Thomas B. F. Smith, Carbondale, Ill., age 78, an officer in the 78th Division in World War One, passed away in Carbondale on August 8th, 1957. Comrade Smith, who had been awarded the French War Cross and the American Military Medal, continued in reserve until late 1920's when he was discharged with the rank of Colonel. He was the first commander of the Carbondale American Legion Post. (Flash reporter: Edwin H. Smith)

Comrade Rev. Father John F. Walsh, former Chaplain of the 78th Division in World War One, passed away in his sleep September 3, 1956. Comrade Walsh had been Pastor of the Holy Angels Parish in Trenton. He also served at Princeton, High Bridge and Far Hills, the last parish, the site of his passing. (Flash reporter: Frank Wean)

Comrade Dr. Charles A. Young, 67, of 1846 Greenwood Avenue, SW, Roanoke, Va., a prominent eye specialist and a medical officer with the 78th Division in World War One, left our ranks on July 25th after an illness of more than a year. Comrade Young also served as a Captain of the Navy Medical Corps in World War Two. (Flash reporter: Kenneth B. Alexander)

Comrade Harry M. Phelps, 166 Edwards Avenue, Trenton, N. J., age 65, a veteran of Co. H., 312th Infantry left our ranks on July 17th, 1957 at his home. Comrade Phelps, whose passing was the result of a heart attack, had been wounded at G and Pre in 1918 and was a member of the Purple Heart Association and the VFW, Morrisville, Pa. He was buried with full military honors. (Flash reporter: Edward W. Carson and John Riley)

Comrade James J. Wilkins, WWI, Co. I, 111th Infantry passed away on January 18, 1957 at Perth Amboy, N. J.

Comrade Elmer J. Larson, WWI, 311th Infantry, left our ranks at Riverside, N. J.

Comrade Joseph Jolicoeur, Rhode Island, WWI, veteran of F. Company, 310th Infantry, left our ranks on June 28th, 1957. He had been an invalid for many years. (Flash reporter: John Riley)

Comrade St. Pierre, WWI veteran of Co. I, 310th Infantry left our ranks on September 2nd at Central Fall, Rhode Island. (Flash reporter: John Riley)

The association regrets to report to its members that Thomas J. Fuchs, brother of our esteemed Membership-Secretary, died during the month of August. Our sympathies to John and family are repeated here.

Our members are equally sympathetic to William Wheeler and family in learning of the death of his sister.



# A Passing Thought

With the notice of the passing of Comrade Judson Barrett, comes a recollection by Jim McGonnell that Barrett's son, Arthur, had married the daughter of the first editor of the France edition of the FLASH, Maurice Cronin.



## Gift for Holoran

Comrade William Holoran, veteran of Co. B., 309th Machine Gun Battalion was presented with a farewell gift on August 31st, the occasion of his retirement from the Trenton Police Force, a position he has held for the past 36 years. Comrade Holoran resides at 734 Quinton Avenue, Trenton, N. J.