Right Guide

This column is designated to give official VA answers to veterans' readjustment problems. Send questions to RIGHT GUIDE, 1380 Sepulveda blvd., Los Angeles 25, California.

VETERANS' LETTERS

Mrs. F.M.G. writes: "We have three questions we would like to ask. My husband and I are both veterans of World War I and are both in receipt of pensions. We would like to know about survivors' benefits — if any: (1) In the event of my death and his survival, could he draw any of my pension? (2) Or, if I survive him, would I be eligible for a widow's pension in addition to the one I am drawing for my own disability? (3) Does a veteran's financial status have anything to do with survivor's benefits?

"We would be glad to have you answer these questions in your Right Guide column."

In answer to question No. 1. If both man and wife are veterans and both in receipt of pensions or compensation and she should die he would be entitled only to accrued back payments due her at the time of her death.

Question No. 2. The fact that a widow of a veteran draws a pension as a result of her husband's war services does not prohibit her as a veteran from drawing pension or compensation for her own service.

Question No. 3. In order to answer correctly question No. 3, it is necessary to define the difference between pension and compensation. Compensation is the term applied to payments made by the government to veterans or their survivors for disabilities or deaths which are service connected. Pensions are disability and survivor payments not service connected. Incomes have no bearing on compensation but do have on pensions.

A Marine sergeant stationed at El Toro wants to know how to get an application for Veterans Benefit Bonus paid by the state of New Hampshire.

Answer: New Hampshire, Illinois, Alaska, Vermont, Michigan, Rhode Island and Massachusetts have passed bonus laws. In each of these states bona fide residence before the war is required.

The VA is in no way connected with the payment of these bonuses and does not have application blanks. However, applications may be secured from the attorney generals of the states or by writing to county clerks. Accredited veterans' organizations in the "bonus" states have application blanks and will send you one if you write them. All application blanks have instructions and qualifications printed on them.

An amputee World War II veteran in Los Angeles wants to know if he can use the $1,600 authorized by the government for the purchase of a new car for a truck.

Answer: Yes, he may purchase a truck, a tractor, riding plow or farm machinery, provided the cost does not exceed $1,600.

Multi-Million Dollar Orange Show March 13

The 32nd National Orange Show, San Bernardino's annual showcase for the multi-million dollar Southern California citrus industry, will be held March 13 to 23, according to 1947 show president, Fred D. Mack. This marks a resumption of the event after an absence of five years during the war.

The mammoth orange show Exposition hall, stadium and grounds were converted into headquarters for the Army and only recently were released to the orange show committee.

A program of face-lifting and construction was launched immediately to restore the facilities for exposition purposes and a relocated stage.

Plans for the spectacle are rapidly taking form. A preliminary review promises a larger, more beautiful and more interesting show, augmented with Hollywood screen and radio personalities.

The decorative theme is "Melody On Parade," which offers wide latitude of design for the decoration of the auditorium.

The more attractive prize awards for growers and packers of citrus fruit should provide the incentive for higher quality, Mack said.

Jury Convicts Mrs. Ramsey Of Illegal Operation

A Long Beach Superior Court jury last Friday found Mrs. May (Ma) Ramsey guilty of performing illegal operations several months ago in her home near Torrance.

The jury was unable to decide the guilt of Mrs. Winifred Howard, arrested with Mrs. Ramsey and charged jointly as co-defendant.

Police raided the establishment near here following a similar raid in Long Beach where other suspects were taken into custody.

Isen Endorses Bond Issue For Fire Department

Albert Isen, attorney at law and chairman of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to work for the passage of the City Charter at the last election, has endorsed the two bond issues now appearing on the March 18 ballot.

Isen stated that in his opinion the new construction of buildings for the Fire department and an enlarged police station and municipal court building are public necessities and would be beneficial to the entire community.

Protect Your Local Interests, Asks Thomas In Talk To Torrance Rotary

Vincent Thomas, assemblyman who represents Torrance and the Harbor district in the California Legislature, told the Torrance Rotary club at its regular meeting last Thursday night in the Woman's clubhouse that he had been informed by the attorney general's office that the law on ownership of property in one school district withdrawing from another is clearly in favor of the withdrawing district.

Speaking as a guest of City Judge John Shidler, Assemblyman Thomas told the group that he had requested an opinion from the attorney general as to paragraph 18742 of the Education Code and that he had been informed that "the law seems to be clear that the new school district is entitled to the property and fixtures existing within the boundaries of the new district," at the time of withdrawal.

Thomas, who secured the ratification of the Torrance City Charter as one of the first orders of business at the present session of the Legislature, said that Torrance taxpayers should take every precaution to protect their interests in the transition period between the adoption of the City Charter and the election of the Board of Education, since there is no official body to act in the taxpayers' behalf during this period.

It was indicated that since Torrance taxpayers have for years have been paying taxes to Los Angeles to maintain the schools of this community, the investment of the taxpayers should be protected by keeping in Torrance the property acquired during the years under Los Angeles control.

Thomas took as his topic the problems facing the legislature but declared that he had won the support of legislators from 16 counties on his bill which would make it possible for a section of a metropolitan city such as Los Angeles to withdraw on its own vote without asking the favorable action of the whole of such a metropolitan area.

The Thomas bill would provide the legal machinery for San Pedro and Wilmington to withdraw from the City of Los Angeles on the vote of the people of San Pedro and Wilmington area. His bill has won the endorsement of the San Pedro Democratic club, among other groups.

He asked for suggestions of residents of his district as to the various bills before the legislature and said that this session is destined to last longer than any other due to the thousands of measures which have been submitted.

Thomas declared that it is evident that the people have lost confidence in themselves, in asking for so much state and federal aid for local projects, and urged that they knuckle down and put their feet on the ground and face the conditions ahead.

"You can't expect the type of decentralized government upon which our nation was founded if you do not come down to earth and take care of your own business," he declared in pointing out that requests for state and federal aid for local projects are reaching a point where they amount to encroachment upon local government's rights.

DR. MILLER RETIRES

Dr. Earl J. Miller, of the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, has retired after serving 23 years as dean of undergraduates.

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