

Travel Time May Make Difference in Veteran's Pensions, Says Webster

Some veterans, and widows of some deceased veterans, who have not been eligible for Federal benefits because of insufficient active military service, may now

become eligible by adding to the veteran's active duty period the certified time it took to proceed directly home after separation from service, Mort Webster, man-

ager of VA's Southern California Regional Office, announced recently.

Webster explained that all veterans discharged or released after Dec. 31, 1956, have already been credited with this travel time. A law passed last summer extended this provision to all other veterans.

The pension claims of some 2,500 veterans and a number of widows have been disallowed by the VA because the veterans had less than 90 days of service. By adding the travel time as certified by the veteran's

service department, some of these veterans will now have the 90 days of service needed to qualify.

NEW LAW

The new law is particularly important to Spanish-American War veterans, who qualify for a special lower-rate pension if they have at least 70 days of active service. The homeward travel time of those who were previously ineligible may give them the necessary 70 days to meet the service requirement. Others who are receiving the lower-rate pension, may have their

service period increased to 90 days and qualify for the regular service pension at the higher rate.

The VA can identify and is reviewing all 70-day cases which may become eligible for the regular service pension.

Spanish-American War veterans who had less than 70 days of service are not known to the VA. Neither are the widows of Spanish-American War veterans who previously had less than 90 days of service. Any of these who think that the addition of the travel time from the

place of discharge to the veteran's home would make them eligible for a pension, should contact the nearest VA regional office.

FAST MAIL

A new conveyor belt system now serving the Southern Pacific mail handling facility at Oakland, California moves mail there 60 percent faster than ever before. 2,600 feet of rubber belting travels at speeds up to 300 feet per minute. Three million pounds of U.S. mail go in and out every 24 hours.

Preservation of Historical Gold Rush Items Undertaken by State

The State Division of Beaches and Parks will coordinate the saving of remnants of California Gold Rush days in the tiny foothill town of Comanche. The town will be under 100 feet of water by 1965 when the East Bay Municipal Utility District (Oakland) project is completed. Comanche is in Calaveras County.

The few buildings of Gold Rush vintage which remain offer items which cause historians to rub their hands in glee: fine stonemasonry, old bells, picket fences, wrought-iron and hand hewn wooden doors, hitching post, wagon wheels.

Jack Dyson of the Interpretive Section has been assigned to coordinate the salvage operations. Historians and historical societies with an interest in Comanche should contact Jack Dyson, Historian, Interpretive Services Section, Division of Beaches and Parks, 1125 Tenth Street, Sacramento, California, Hickory 5-4711, Extension 5488.

"The fact that publicizing salvage plans is, in a sense, an invitation to vandalism, has made us reluctant to make any announcement of plans earlier. The historical items must be preserved at

Land Parcel Purchase Announced

Supervisor Burton W. Chace recently announced the purchase of a parcel, 2,344 square feet, needed for the widening and improving of Aviation Boulevard between Gould Lane and Manhattan Beach Boulevard in the City of Manhattan Beach.

The property, owned by James R. Wolff and Julieta Wolff, will cost \$2,643. It is 50 feet long by 44 feet wide and includes a corner cutoff.

Apportionment of Taxes Announced By Cranston

State Controller, Alan Cranston recently stated the December apportionment of highway users taxes amounted to \$30,587,932.

Los Angeles County's share was \$2,322,139.83.

Cranston said the total apportionment is .4 per cent less than the distribution for the same month last year.

The apportionment was divided as follows:

\$20,362,995 to the State Highway Fund for expenditure on highways.

\$7,374,645 to the counties.

\$2,850,292 to the State Highway Fund for cities.

Of the amount distributed, \$27,295,606 was derived from the gasoline tax, \$2,253,393 from the diesel fuel tax, \$1,037,547 by transfer from the Motor Vehicle Transportation Tax Fund and the balance from miscellaneous sources.

Restrict Surfing

Surfboarding will be on a restricted basis next summer at Bolsa Chica and Huntington Beach State Parks, both in Orange County.

At Bolsa Chica State Park, the sport will be confined to the southerly quarter-mile of the beach. This will be in effect from June 1 to Oct. 1.

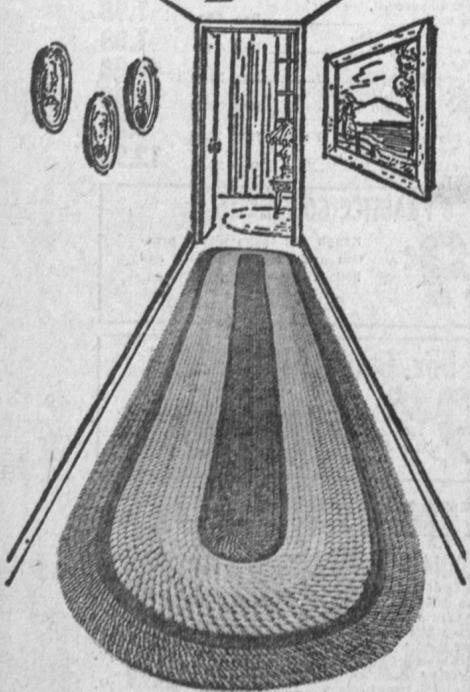
At Huntington Beach State Park, surfboarding will be prohibited or restricted to certain areas depending upon how large a crowd is using the park.

The restriction is being imposed to protect non-surfboard visitors who far outnumber the surfboarders. This restriction will apply during the full year at this heavily used park.

SPECIAL SALE! 12-FOOT HALL RUNNER

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HELPING HANDS... needed and appreciated

This is a volunteer hospital worker.

She brings to the sick the warmth and friendliness so important to their recovery and rehabilitation. She supplements the regular hospital staff, freeing them for essential services that only they can give.

A volunteer's duties are many and varied. She provides extra hands for non-professional services in nearly every department of the hospital. Dependent on her talents and preference, she may entertain patients, wheel and groom them—bring the outside world to shut-ins. With the children, her efforts may include parties and special treats, like a surprise for a lost tooth. Volunteers work in admitting, research and nursing offices; help in physical and occupational therapy.

The volunteer program is a vital part of the hospital. Without it, many valuable services could not be carried out. It provides an opportunity for members of the community to contribute in time and service as well as through financial donations. Individuals interested in participating in the well-planned and worthwhile volunteer activities at Torrance hospitals

should contact: Harbor General Hospital, Mrs. Marguerite Broen McAllister, FAirfax 8-2380; Little Company of Mary, Mrs. Margaret Bailey, FRontier 2-7505; Riviera Community Hospital, Mrs. David Dickey, FRontier 7-1146; Torrance Memorial, Mrs. Lucille Butt, FAirfax 8-1181.

The volunteer programs in Torrance hospitals are another reason why we of Mobil are glad to be a part of this community.

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