GOVERNMENT ORDERS IS GOVERNMENT ORDERS — All visitors to the Brown Street plant must sign four times to receive a visitor’s pass. They agree not to reveal anything that they have seen and to waive all claims for any injuries. It’s government orders and Earl Worthington, the gate- man, sees to it that regulations are meticulously observed.

IN THIS ISSUE
Lower Prices, Lower Profits, Increased Unit Sales, Government Contracts Mark 1940 . .Page 1
Sprague Gives Customers Constantly More for Their Money ............... Page 2
Two Biographical Sketches ................. Page 4
Notes From the LOG Book ........... Pages 4 and 8
Importance of Fluorescent Lighting .... Page 5
Editorial .................................. Page 8

PRACTICALLY ALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GROUP INSURANCE

The voluntary group insurance available to Sprague employees and affording protection in case of death is now carried by an overwhelming proportion of employees.

Following a brief campaign this December in which persons not insured were offered an opportunity to join the plan without a physical examination, there are now less than twenty individuals in the whole plant, including the office force, not carrying this valuable low-cost protection.

SPRAGUE TEAM TO PLAY IN DUSTY LEAGUE

A basketball team has recently been formed in the plant and is a member of the "Dusty League," which is made up of the industrial plants of the city.

REVIEWING 1940

A S IN many related industries, business at Sprague Specialties Company during 1940 was extremely active, but, due to readjustments and changes in types of products made, profits were less than the previous year despite maintenance of almost the same dollar volume of business.

A foundation was laid toward broadening the base of our activities through an extensive Engineering Program directed toward development of new types of condensers and discovery of new applications. These included condensers for fluorescent lighting, flash percussive welding, high voltage power factor correction, and hermetically sealed condensers for receivers, transmitters and other electrical apparatus used in Defense contracts. The year marked a milestone in our history with the opening of the Brown Street plant for production of gas masks as the result of Government contracts under the Defense Program.

The year was also marked by the practical discontinuance of standard trimmer items which involved no particular engineering advance by this company over models offered elsewhere. This lowered employment levels somewhat in the first part of the year.

New high records were made, however, in the production of dry electrolytic and paper tubular condensers. Somewhat greater stability of employment was obtained after the middle of the year, and we hope this will continue. Actually business held up better in the closing months of 1940 than ever before and this, of course, contributed toward a steadier employment.

The regular dividend payment of six per cent to our Preferred stockholders was made, and common stockholders received a modest return on their investments. In connection with our dividend payments this year, we think the following facts are interesting:

The total of dividends paid was only about one-third the amount which was added to our investment to provide for enlarged future operations and was only two and six-tenths per cent of the total amount invested in the business. It was also considerably less than half the total amount of taxes paid for the year, and three per cent of the total payroll for the same period.

Reviewing the radio industry which has such a direct bearing on our business, we cannot help but observe the accelerated trend in the last several years to increased

(Continued on page three)

"There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well-prepared to meet the enemy." — George Washington.
A study of our total sales and the trend of prices of our condensers reveals an amazing increase in values given by us to the manufacturing consumer and, through him, to the ultimate home radio user.

Actually this story is an epic of service to the public and one which probably could have happened only in the United States during the present era of tremendously rapid improvement in manufacturing and production technique. As has been the case with many other industries, our increased unit sales have been accompanied by very sharp reductions in prices, and due to the smaller profit margins that accompany lower prices, profits have not kept pace with increased volume.

Sales of Sprague Specialties Company in dollar value over the last six years have shown a net increase of about fifty per cent, while sales in number of units have more than tripled (see chart).

Prices of the average Sprague condenser have declined approximately sixty per cent in six years (see chart). This sharp drop in prices is therefore reflected in the failure of dollar sales to increase proportionately with increases in unit sales. What has caused this sharp drop in the prices of our products? There are several reasons. In many cases improved production technique, including the economies of mass production methods, has enabled us to produce condensers at surprising reductions in cost. Greater and greater technical advances in the design, construction and production of our condensers have made it possible for us to produce condensers of equal or improved quality and capacity that physically are a great deal smaller, thus requiring decreased amounts of raw material and production time.

Then there is the matter of competition, and this is extremely severe in the condenser industry. It has made it necessary to do all the things mentioned above to an even greater degree than would otherwise have been necessary, and to pare our profit margins to the closest possible limit.

Another thing to remember is the extremely rapid advance of the radio industry itself. Prices of radio sets have changed — largely downward — with extreme rapidity over the past few years. At the same time the appearance and construction of the sets have changed rapidly, requiring different types and technically more advanced condensers all the time. Thus, a Sprague condenser of 1934 of high quality and eminently satisfactory at that time might, even though still operating satisfactorily for its original specifications, be quite outdated and obsolete for use in modern sets. Had we continued to manufacture the same relatively high cost condensers of six or eight years ago, the market for them would have dropped off almost to the vanishing point and this obviously would have brought almost complete close-down of operations here and an equal drop in working force. In other words, the greatly lowered prices and the fast shrinking physical size of popular radio sets have created a situation that naturally called for smaller, better quality, and less expensive condenser units. Producing better and less expensive models was, therefore, one of our chief means of keeping in step with progress and staying in business.

Due to engineering advances and the growth in the radio industry as a whole and due also to our ability to sell large quantities of our products in a highly competitive

(Continued on page three)
MARY MATHEWS

When our Brown Street Division was ready for occupancy someone was needed who was competent to handle several types of work — including clerical, telephone switchboard, and first-aid. After examining the qualifications of all the applicants, Mary Mathews was given the position.

Mrs. Mathews is one of the "Old Guard" of Spragues, having worked here when the Company first came to North Adams nearly eleven years ago. She is a graduate of Drury High School and of Bliss Business College, and before joining the Sprague Family operated the switchboard at the Richmond Hotel. Added to these qualifications, the training she has had in first-aid made Mary the logical choice to help William Brundige, our superintendent of production at Brown Street.

Mary is married and is the mother of two lovely daughters, Veronica, 19 and Gwendolyn, 13. She is a member of the Emblem Club (Ladies' Auxiliary of the Elks), likes bridge, football games, and the movies.

GREATER SERVICE
(Continued from page two)

market, the actual number of Sprague condensers sold (unit sales) has enjoyed an almost uninterrupted increase since 1934 and is now more than triple the 1934 figure. There are some indications that the downward trend in prices for radio sets may not continue and that better quality condensers and even condensers for new uses may reverse somewhat this startling decline in average prices. This may or may not be accompanied by a rise in dollar sales.

The history of many products (automobiles, electrical home equipment, etc.) has been high unit price at the beginning with low sales, followed gradually by greater and greater numbers sold and lower and lower prices until the product has been purchased by almost all possible consumers.

Purposes of Engineering Staff

Management, therefore, is constantly trying to develop new products which, at least for a time, can be sold for higher prices to the customer and on which a reasonable margin of profit can be anticipated. At Sprague Specialties this is one of the many jobs of our expert Engineering Staff.

We believe that a profitable company is the best company, not alone from the narrow standpoint of the stockholder or owner, but from the standpoint of the whole community, workers particularly. For as common experience shows with very few exceptions, it is the company which is making profits that can and does pay the best standard wages, provides the best working conditions, and the most desirable provisions for insurance, vacations, etc. Only a profitable company can offer real job security. A company which is not a regular money maker is always a potential liability to the community where it exists, as it may at any time be forced to permanently discharge a large part of its working force with consequent damage to the economic life of the whole community.

The year ahead should be one of improved business activity. Whether it will be a particularly profitable year and whether the price situation that we have described will undergo any further important changes cannot accurately be predicted at this time.

Glenn says:

If each one of us feels that he will do the best work in the world in his line, then all together we can feel that we can make the best product of its kind in the world.

REVIEWING 1940
(Continued from page one)

sales of large radio-phonograph combinations. Naturally these large sets use a considerably greater number of condensers, both in order to maintain better quality and to get better performance. Foreign wave bands are becoming more popular and this also means more condensers, as every circuit added to the set increases the number of condensers. We also note with interest the recent development of "personal" radios and "camera size" portables.

Commercialization of television and frequency modulation have been held up by the Federal Communications Commission pending its decision on the wave lengths to be assigned. These fields should later prove important ones for us.

Not surprising in the light of world conditions is the fact that the biggest increase in the sale of regular condensers is in connection with Government contracts for all sorts of preparedness purposes, airplanes, ships, tanks, motorcycles, and portable sets for the individual use of infantry men. Our unfilled orders at the end of the year were considerably larger than usual, chiefly as a result of our Government contracts.
NEAL W. WELCH

Declaring sleep is a waste of time, Neal W. Welch, athletic and forceful member of our Inside Sales Staff, has a vigorous love of life, for his job, and for strenuous physical exercise. His athletic activities include golf, swimming, skating, and softball at the North Adams Country Club. Back in school days, he played football and basketball, and was on the Y. M. C. A. basketball team. Neal has been with the company for eight years come last October. Sprague Specialties, says he, is a growing company and will keep on growing. Can’t think of anything else he would rather do.

Besides attending North Adams schools, Neal studied at the Bentley School of Accounting and Finance. He has grown up in North Adams, and it is a rare member of the plant who is a complete stranger to him.

He is married to the former Miss Harriet Flood of North Adams, and they have two children, Marian three years and four months, and Mary, one year and ten months.

It will be a surprise to Neal if any employee has read this far. He has an idea, which the editor frankly thinks ignores human nature, that employees are not interested in biographies of persons in the office.

LARS N. ANDERSEN

Red hair and a hearty smile are the trademarks of Lars Andersen of our inside sales staff, a familiar face at Sprague’s since the days when our plant was located in Quincy.

Andy first came to the company to do part-time auditing when he was a student at Northeastern University in Boston. His instructor was the late George Clarkson, auditor for a little electrical company called Sprague Specialties. Clarkson arranged an interview for Andy with Mr. Sprague which later resulted in a job with the Sales Department. When the company moved to North Adams, Andersen moved with it and has been in North Adams for the past ten years.

Before coming with the company, Andy was, for seven years, with the Dickerman Box Company, manufacturing candy boxes, in Cambridge. There he was in the Purchasing Department.

Andy is a native of Boston where he was born some thirty-four years ago. He is single, although it is generally known that he is now engaged to a girl in Boston. He is a director of the Sprague Credit Union and a director and member of the House Committee of the North Adams Country Club.

NOTES FROM THE LOG BOOK

Nearly thirty million American homes have radios. Massachusetts ranks sixth of the states with 1,140,000 radio homes. The five sister states ranking ahead of the Bay State are New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, and Michigan.

More and more homes are being sold with electrical appliances already installed — which means a steadier market for condensers and increased interest by Sprague Specialties in our housing programs.

Taxes in the United States took 22.4 per cent of our national income in 1938 (last year for which complete figures are available), the highest percentage on record. Nearly two-thirds were state and local taxes.

Your chance of getting a cold will be considerably lessened if you get more sunshine, either over the week-end or in the form of cod-liver oil or other “sunshine” vitamin.

Shipbuilders and airplane manufacturers are potential markets for large Sprague condensers used in the process of flash percussive welding.

An authority on the subject says that at least 20 per cent of all proposals of marriage are made by women — leap year or no leap year.

Washington was famed for his modesty, but never for over-optimism. During the Revolution he is quoted thus: "No man, I believe, ever had a greater course of difficulties and less means of extricating himself from them." A little later he pointed out, "The army, as usual, is without pay and a great part of the soldiery without shirts.” He was also a realist. "Perfection," he said, "falls not to the share of mortals." Any plant with a number of induction motors with poor power factor stands to save money by installation of Sprague capacitors for power factor correction. Cost of installation will usually be defrayed by savings in two or perhaps three years.

Why not have a ski team at Sprague Specialties? Probably very few companies can boast such a large proportion of management and employees able to give such a good account of themselves on the wooden runners.

The magazine Radio Today says that records were broken in the sales of every type of radio except consoles during 1940. Over five million table models were sold and 900,000 combinations found buyers.

The refrigerator industry is using billboard advertising to show how prices have been reduced since 1939. But the price of the Sprague condensers used in many refrigerator motors has declined proportionately even more. Refrigerators are a good source of business for our Company and we are proud of the way Sprague "ice-box" models stand the test.

(Continued on page eight)
FLUORESCENT LIGHTING
MAY BE ELECTRICAL LANDMARK

Fluorescent lighting promises to be one of the most important electrical developments of recent years from the standpoint both of the consumer and of the industry and its related suppliers.

Already great strides have been made with the introduction of fluorescent lighting for industrial and commercial uses. Its beautiful colors make it in many ways a competitor of Neon for decorative purposes. It has an extremely low power consumption and low heat production as compared with incandescent lamps. For these reasons it is particularly desirable in installations where light is required constantly, such as soda fountains, mirrors, auditoriums, lobbies, built-in architectural lighting, etc.

For home use, fluorescent lighting may be built into a new home, but it is still somewhat in a developmental stage as far as movable fixtures are concerned. Fluorescent fixtures cannot be purchased at around 86 up, and the fluorescent lamps themselves cost 95 cents up. Standard units are in daylight or white. Blue, green, pink, gold and red cost a few cents more.

In a number of characteristics, fluorescent lights are quite different from the familiar incandescent bulbs. The light produced varies very rapidly with slight changes in voltage and also with changes in temperature. They also require auxiliary ballast and power factor correction. They also tend in some cases to set up radio interference.

Special advantages of fluorescent lighting are that it radiates about one-quarter as much heat as an incandescent lamp of equal illumination.

The principle of the fluorescent lamp can be explained in relatively simple terms. It is a mercury vapor tube, coated on the inside with fluorescent powders which, when stimulated by the radiation of the mercury vapor arc, give off light. One of the big problems was finding a means of coating these powders on the inside of the tube so that the light would go through them and not be stopped by them. Rated life of a fluorescent tube may be anywhere from two thousand to three thousand hours.

Fluorescent lights also give off a stroboscopic effect due to the fact that they actually go on and off sixty times a second corresponding with the cycles in electric current. In industrial work where this would be bothersome, the difficulty is readily overcome by the use of two different light sources tuned to synchronize and give a steady flow of light. Naturally this rapid pulsation is invisible to the human eye.

Fluorescent lights also have the advantage of less glare, the light being spread evenly over the entire tube. Already fluorescent lights have been used in connection with theatres, hotels, cocktail lounges, night clubs, restaurants, dance halls, rest rooms, auditoriums, lobbies, beauty shops, barber shops, built-in architectural lighting, soda fountains, windows, showcases, mirrors, luminous signs, wall cases, displays, art galleries, expositions, music cabinets, banks, stage lighting, apparel shops, textile plants, printing plants, engraving plants, lithograph plants, furniture stores, fur salons, florist shops, specialty shops, bowling alleys, and manufacturing plants.
SPRAGUE MEN RECEIVE TROPHIES FOR OUTSTANDING MARKSMANSHIP. A farewell dance for members of Company K who left for a year of training January 16. First Sergeant Lawrence Laliberte (second from left) was awarded the Stiles Post, American Legion, cup for having the highest score in the battalion rifle matches. Both men are check inspectors at Sprague. Proud of you, boys. Making the awards are Lieutenant Archie Moore, far left, and Harold Donovan, second from right.

NOT TO BE SURPASSED FOR SHEER FUN, WAS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY OF THE CHEMICAL AND ELECTRICAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT. Among the smiling faces you will recognize: John Peters, Armond Chouinard, Julius Letege, John Ariazi, William Kent, Theresa Boucha, Doris DaSacco, Hank Gamari, Mabel Kellar, John Puppolo, Rita Cooper, Wilfred Champagne, Lou Siciliano, Jack Shields, Francis Mannus, “Zig” Nazzacelli, Harold Ronan, Irene Roberts, Jack Faustini.

VACATIONS

Frances Ditursi spent a week in New York City during the month of December. Also going to New York were Sam Troia and his wife, Mary. They went the week of January 6 and while there attended the Opera.

John Peters and Joseph Messina of the Ovens Department took their vacations the week of January 13. Others enjoying recent vacations are Raymond Auge, Josephine Vetro, Alfred Bergeron, Joseph Dunaj, Philomena Nimmons, Besste Turgeon, and Wanda Dubis.

SPRAGUE LOG

February, 1941

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE

Olive Blair
Dot’s Bliss
Walt Carpenter
"Tony" Januska
Frances Ditursi
Alec Durant
Rachael Godbaut
Ida Lovett

SPRAGUE MEN RECEIVE TROPHIES FOR OUTSTANDING MARKSMANSHIP. At a farewell dance for members of Company K who left for a year of training January 16, First Sergeant Lawrence Laliberte (second from left) was awarded the Stiles Post, American Legion, cup for having the highest score in the battalion rifle matches. Both men are check inspectors at Sprague. Proud of you, boys. Making the awards are Lieutenant Archie Moore, far left, and Harold Donovan, second from right.

BLESSED EVENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Smith are the parents of a daughter, born December 30.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Stasiak on January 10. Mother is Adele of the Boxing Department.

Also, on January 10 a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Doran. Mother is Laura of Paper Assembly.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wakely on January 21. Mother is Beatrice of Paper Assembly.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John O’Connell. Dad works in the Boxing Department.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Honore Courtemanche on February 3. Mother is Beatrice of Paper Assembly.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Buletti. Mother is Bruna of the Boxing Department.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jobin on February 9.

Note: If you have a new arrival(s) in your family, the LOG is very interested in this news. Please let a reporter know, and provide a few facts, such as how much the baby weighs and the color of its hair.

ORCHIDS AND DIAMONDS

The engagement of Ida Carson, not employed here, and Walter Westcott of the Boxing Department has been announced. An April wedding is planned.

Jeanette Vallieres of Paper Rolling and Clifford Roy of the Boxing Department have announced their engagement. They plan to be married in May.

The engagement of Marjorie Baron, not employed here, to Paul Fern of the Material Control has been announced. Plans are being made for a February 22 wedding.

Beatrice Lepera, not employed here, and Frank Faustine of the Paper Assembly have announced their engagement and plan to be married April 19.

The engagement of Mary Cerminara of Paper Rolling and Arthur Libardi, not employed here, has been announced. They are planning an April 19 wedding at St. Anthony’s Church.

WEDDING BELLS

January 4, 1941 was the wedding day of Ruth O’Neil of the Paper Assembly and Tutilo Tomatti of Gales Shoe Company. They were married at St. Francis Church.

Recently announced was the wedding of Josephine Smolisky and Leward Gelineau which took place at Pownal, Vermont on September 6, 1940. Josephine works in the Paper Assembly Department and Mr. Gelineau is employed by the Berkshire-New York Overnight Express Company of Great Barrington.

On January 14, Lloyd King and Eleanor Bechard were married in the Notre Dame Church in Adams. Lloyd works in the D. C. Rolling Department. Mrs. King did not work here.

Edna Reardon of the Paper Assembly and Earl Williams who is not employed here were married on February 15 at St. Francis Church.

HERE AND THERE

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Riddell spent the Christmas holidays in Bennington, Vermont.

Also motoring to Bennington were Mr. and Mrs. Charles McNulty who spent Christmas there.

Thomas Guilino of the Paper Assembly Department was presented with a pen and pencil set recently, when he left for military training, by his co-workers.

Visitors at the plant during the holiday season included James Martin of California and Louis Gazzania of Illinois. Both are former workers here.

Many farewell parties were held for the boys of the National Guard who left for a year’s training on January 16. John Shields was given a military set by his co-workers; radios were given to Ralph Woodside, James McMahon, and Joseph “Doc” Poissant.
SPRAGUE BOWLING LEAGUE

By Walt Carpenter

The standing of the league for the half shows a close finish between the first seven teams.

The Machine Shop still has the high team single string score of 582 pins as well as the high team triple string of 1,644.

Rudy Drobiak of the aforesaid club has the high single string of 162 and also the high three string of 377. (Keep it up Rudy — you are doing great.)

The All-Stars, who won the first half, did not start off as hot as some of the other teams but were there when the chips were down.

The second half has started and will be contested as closely as the first, due to some of the teams building up by securing some new players.

The second half will be minus one team, leaving eleven teams in the league.

The other featured scores of the first half, both team and individual, are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Individual Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Roy of the All-Stars</td>
<td>348 High triple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Roy of the All-Stars</td>
<td>143 Single string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Benoît of the K.V.A.</td>
<td>348 High triple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Scarbo of Can Shop</td>
<td>348 High triple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Sweeney of Can Shop</td>
<td>348 High triple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Shop single string</td>
<td>577</td>
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BOWLING LEAGUE

Standing of the Teams at the End of the First Half

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teams</th>
<th>Won</th>
<th>Lost</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All-Stars</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>.758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine Shop</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>.722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>.697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can Shop</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. V. A.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>.636</td>
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<td>.606</td>
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<td>Riveters</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>.212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Hams</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>.121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL RIFLE CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN EVERY MATCH

By Alec Durant

Now that the Christmas season is over considerable interest is being shown in the Rifle Club. At the last meeting four new members, all of whom show promise of being very good shots, joined.

The club has an order for 12 qualification bassards. These are five inches in diameter of royal background with the words "SPRAGUE RIFLE CLUB — 1941" in gold. To qualify for one of these, a man must have a score of 85 or more in each of the following ratings:

Marksmanship which requires a man to shoot two targets, prone, with a minimum score of 95 on each and two targets, sitting, with a score of at least 90; Sharpshooting for which requirements are the same as marksmanship plus two additional targets, kneeling, with a minimum score of 85 each; Expert which includes the other two and in addition an "off hand" position in which, to qualify, the rifleman must shoot two targets with a minimum score of 80.

We are also considering a brassard for general use to be the same color as our qualification ones but to have the Sprague Flash (trademark) at the top and crossed rifles with the date in the center and the team name at the bottom.

Anyone working in either of the Sprague plants is eligible to join the club. Meetings are every Tuesday and Friday evenings at the Range Room.


THE CAN SHOP BOWLING TEAM — Left to right: Clinton Sweeney, Teddy Wilk, George Scarbo, Robert Button, Clarence Dean, Earl Scrabo.


PARTIES

Many parties were held by the different departments this year at Christmas time. The Paper Assembly held theirs at the Hub restaurant on December 23. Twenty-five were present.

The Ovens Department chose the Sportsman's Club for their party on December 21.

Florini’s was the scene of the party for the Paper Rolling Department held on December 19. Twenty-five were present.

The entire Boxing Department had a Christmas party at Burke's Inn in Adams.

Christmas parties were held by the Section Assembly, Wrapping and Boxing groups of the Boxing Department. They all took place in the Lunch Room.

Rita and Patricia Siciliano were hostesses at a party at their home on New Year's Eve.
EDITORIAL

Did you ever notice how people remember the pleasant things that happen and forget the disagreeable? It is a happy characteristic of human beings to be able to look back on the good old days, forgetting the tribulations and disappointments, and reminiscing only on the wonderful parties, the loyal friends, and the gay times which they remember as if they were yesterday. But in politics, it is different. The memorable things seem to be the scandals, the graft, the contracts given to somebody's brother-in-law, the job sales, the high tax rate, and all the many political sins that democracy seems heir to. Perhaps it is worthwhile to make a little effort to remember some of the good things that happen in political life.

A very cynical man once said that a great statesman is a man who performed a heroic act so long ago that his selfish reasons for doing so have long since been forgotten. The statement is false because it fails to take into account the unnumbered acts of political courage that had no selfish motive whatsoever and indeed, if viewed in the calculating light of politics, seemed practically suicidal.

There are many glorious military exploits, of course. Sergeant York of the World War who captured a German machine gun nest single-handed; Capt. Patrick Boyle, the almost legendary Revolutionary figure, who with one little sailing vessel did what all the submarines and airplanes of Adolf Hitler have been unable to do — blockaded England. So terrific was the toll that he took of English ships in the Irish Sea that the British Navy was withdrawn from the Channel and boats had to be convoyed back and forth between Ireland and England.

John C. Calhoun resigned the vice-presidency because he felt he could do a better job for his State as a Senator; George Washington, one of the richest men in America of his time, risked his entire fortune as well as his life for government principles, many of which would seem abstract and theoretical to our Senators and Congressmen today. Abraham Lincoln was another unselfish statesman. Lincoln’s was an unusual kind of unselfishness because he was willing to sacrifice pride and personal prestige if it helped accomplish his major purpose. Critics flayed Lincoln for being self-effacing and over-subservient to General McClellan in charge of the Union armies before Grant. Lincoln replied, “I’ll hold McClellan’s horse for him if he will only bring me victories.”

So in spite of political forgetfulness and the cynics, the fact remains that human beings fight not just for selfish causes but also for no other reason than their belief that something is “right.” Not so strangely, it is this very unselfishness that wins the respect of friends and foes alike.

NOTES FROM THE LOG BOOK

(Continued from page four)

Al Smith and George Washington have many things in common. Both are alumni of Harvard University. G. W. got his honorary L.L.D. there in 1776; A. E. S. received his around 1933. * * *

Our First President, whose birthday we celebrate this month, was a man with a wide range of talents. When only seventeen, he was made surveyor of the county where he lived and was soon making long tours inland to persuade and cajole the Indians not to join with the French to fight against the (then) English settlers. In 1787 he served as president of the secret Constitutional Convention which drew up the Constitution. Only three members of the Convention refused to sign. Two men from Washington’s state, Virginia, and Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts.

The country had no president or formal government for several years directly following the Revolution. Washington was first elected President in 1789 and served until 1799.