

# SOLDIERS HOME, CALIF.

J. J. Fitzgerald writes for the  
The Tribune the following information  
about the Pacific Branch National  
Soldiers Home:

Admission to the Soldiers Home is simple. Any honorably discharged soldier or sailor of the army or navy of the United States may gain admission by laying on the adjutant's desk his certificate of honorable discharge and pension certificate, if a pensioner. He then signs an application for admission, upon which the Chief Surgeon of the hospital enters the results of a medical examination of the present physical condition of the applicant. The applicant then receives an order to report to the commander of Barracks No. 9, a receiving barracks, is assigned a bed in one of the six wards and given an admission ticket to the main dining hall for the second table of each meal. Three meals are served—at 7:00 and 11:45 A. M., and 4:45 P. M. The seconds at 8:00 A. M., 1:00 and 5:45 P. M. The new arrivals enter at the south door, displaying their tickets. All members in uniform are admitted without formality or restrictions. The three doors of admission—south, east and west—are opened on the moment. Each member is entitled to the seat he occupies at the breakfast meal, as long as he occupies it at the time the bell rings. When all are seated, a bell rings and the meal is eaten in a mild, orderly manner. Twenty members are seated at each table, with polite waitresses serving two tables, and 760 members can be seated at one time. Tea and coffee are served in large pitchers sitting on the table. No restrictions are made against taking to table any fruits, vegetables or milk members desire.

There is a lieutenant and one head waitress in charge of the main dining hall, under the direction of Captain John Miller, Commissary of Subsistence, who controls and directs the dining halls. All dining halls follow the regular hours and conditions in force at the main dining hall in which about 50 first class cooks and assistants are employed who prepare the bill of fare accompanying this article for each meal in a toothsome and well cooked manner. This bill of fare is prepared by a graduate dietician with the end in view of obtaining the greatest food value possible and is printed weekly in The Tribune.

The hospital of the Home serves special foods prescribed by the attending physicians.

After temporary admission the member is regularly admitted and generally if he desires assignment to any particular barracks he is so assigned. He then receives his uniform clothing, with underclothing complete. His baggage is cared for in the baggage room, he is assigned to a bed with all the bedding wanted for his comfort, with a locker for his private papers, etc. Each ward is provided with a wash room, toilet and bath room and is cared for by a room orderly. All clothing and bedding is collected once a week, sent to the laundry and returned in good condition. Every physical want is supplied.

Should the member feel unwell, he may attend the daily sick call at the hospital at 8:00 A. M. If he should be stricken with disease, the surgeon with an ambulance carries him to the hospital where every care and attention is given him by a corps of surgeons under the direction of Major Vernon Roberts and a large corps of efficient nurses. At this writing there are about 600 under hospital care, of a total of about 4000 members present and absent. About 1000 members are absent with leave, many of them coming and going on a 10 days leave of absence or a 90 days furlough at will. Many of them remain at their homes outside the Soldiers Home for years, reporting to the Home every 90 days.

Members are carried on the pay roll in three classes—A, B and C. Classes A and B are detailed by company commanders to do light or heavy duty respectively, such as cleaning rubbish

or factoring, as pollsters, while the members in Class C are exempt from all duty details. Usually there is one detail in about two weeks' time.

In case of death of a member he is given a military funeral. Service is by the Home Chaplain, Protestant or Catholic, as the case may be, members of the Home as pall bearers, escorted by Home military band, followed by the firing squad. When the remains are deposited in the grave three volleys are fired over the grave and "Taps" is sounded by the bugler. There are now over 6000 comrades buried in the national cemetery at Soldiers Home, California. Many who have died in the hospital are buried in private cemeteries. The Home cemetery is one of the beauty spots of Southern California. The age of the members of the Home range from 20 years to 98 years. Many veterans from the World War are now in this Home.

The daily life in the Home is one of peace, quiet and contentment. The bugle sounds Reveille at 6:00 A. M., Sick Call at 8:00 A. M., Retreat (lower the flag) at 4:40 P. M., Tattoo at 8:00 P. M., and Taps at 9:00 P. M., with dining or mess calls five minutes before each meal hour.

The members go and come when they please, to the beaches or to the city of Los Angeles. Upon receiving a furlough to visit home or friends on application, a request for half fare railroad ticket is given, to and from points of travel.

All members of the Soldiers Home who are pensioners are mustered for pay on the 4th of the month, in the quarter pensions are due, by the Home treasurer. Checks for pension payments are paid by the treasurer about the 23rd of the pension month.

When members of the Home desire to live with their families in cottages outside the Home grounds, upon application they are permitted to do so, coming to the dining halls for meals.

The theatre seats about one thousand and there are regular picture shows Monday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 o'clock. Besides the picture shows there are usually one or two vaudeville performances weekly by outside companies from the beaches or Los Angeles. Admission to members and employees of the Home

Music is furnished by the Home band and orchestra of about twenty musicians. The band plays concerts in the park and for the hospital patients, for lowering of the flag and for burials.

The Home library is a large two-story building, with about 10,000 volumes and the leading newspapers and periodicals, and is an attractive place for those of literary tastes. There is also a two-story billiard hall, furnished with billiard and pool tables and checker boards for players, open at all hours.

Throughout the beautiful grounds are to be found rests seats, with squirrels, birds and quail abounding everywhere, and many come to the hands of the veterans to eat food offered.

The Soldiers Home postoffice contains about 600 private letter boxes, not enough to fill the wants of the members of the Home. Opposite the postoffice is the Home store where lunches are served and cigars, fruits, candy and other articles are on sale. All mail for the Home should be addressed Soldiers Home, California.

There are three entrances to the Soldiers Home grounds. The south gate is three short blocks from the Pacific Electric car line, Sawtelle. The Governor's Gate, to the west, passes through the grounds to the east gate and is a part of the famous Wilshire boulevard. These gates are never closed. The south gate is closed at 7:00 P. M. A high iron fence surrounds the Home. The Home postoffice is one mile from the Sawtelle postoffice.

There are 722 acres of ground in the Home reservation. About 150 acres



is under cultivation, under the direction of Capt. M. S. Murray, Quartermaster, using paid labor and producing vegetables, fruits and general crops for the Home tables and for the feed used in the Home stables. All labor is paid monthly by George T. Baggott, Treasurer of the Home.

The Quartermaster's department is under the control and direction of Capt. M. S. Murray, a retired regular army officer, ably assisted by Engineer John A. Dobbings and P. C. Mulqueeney, chief clerk.

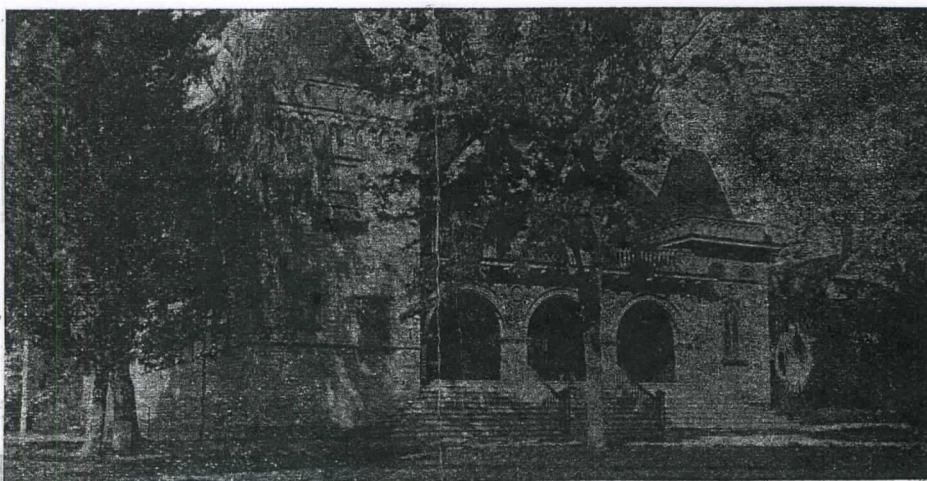
The Soldiers Home grounds are at all times beautiful, both in summer and winter. Flowers are always in bloom, with grasses, evergreen shrubs and trees, and an untold variety of rare plants, shrubs and flowers from all parts of the world—a wonderful collection. The buildings and grounds are always in perfect order.

The hospital annex, recently finished, and consisting of two concrete buildings two stories high, with basement, are each 365 feet long with one-story dining hall and kitchen that joins the two buildings. The many rooms are divided into many sizes to accommodate single or several patients, with screened porches suitable for rest or for sleeping porches. All are beautifully finished, solid and substantial. This is used as a tubercular hospital, accommodating veterans of all wars. They are receiving every care and attention.

There is a complete telephone system in the Home connecting the several departments and the Home with the outside world.

Captain John Miller, Commissary of Subsistence, a retired army officer, controls and directs the dining halls and has a corps of over one hundred chefs, cooks, waitress and waitresses forming an efficient working department.

The hospital is under the direction of Major Vernon Roberts, with a fine



CHAPEL AT SOLDIERS HOME, CALIFORNIA



MAIN DINING HALL AT SOLDIERS HOME, CALIFORNIA





corps of all surgeons, doctors, nurses and assistants. These with the clerks, baggagemen and laborers give the patients all possible care and attention.

The paymaster's department is under the direction of Treasurer George T. Baggott, who pays out quarterly over one-half million dollars to members of the Home in pensions and salaries. The Home pay roll is paid monthly. Ronald M. Moore is Pension Clerk in the Treasurer's department.

Charles F. Fiege, Adjutant, is a veteran of the war with Spain, and has a corps of efficient clerks.

Col. O. K. Marshall is the Governor of the Home and his first thought is for the care and comfort of the members under his jurisdiction. Col. Marshall is doing much to make the Pacific Branch the best of all the national Homes. In his daily work he administers the affairs of the Home with impartial justice and is loved by the veterans of all wars.

There is a regular bus system connecting the Home with Sawtelle, Santa Monica, Ocean Park and Venice, cars running every five minutes. The rate to the beach is 10 cents with a 5 cent fare to Sawtelle. Also there are several private bus lines operating between the Home and Sawtelle.

The Pacific Electric railway sells to veterans a 10 trip book to the city of Los Angeles for \$1.50 per book, good from Westgate or Sawtelle.

From the point of view that every physical want of veterans is supplied, with amusement features of the best, why should not life at Soldiers Home, California, be one round of pleasure as a reward for faithful and honorable service in defense of our flag and country, on our own soil, on the high seas and in foreign lands?

The Soldiers Home medical staff consists of thirteen graduate physicians and surgeons and one dentist, with eye, ear, nose and throat, X-Ray genito urinary and tuberculosis departments. This staff is served by one of the best equipped laboratories with latest improved surgical instruments and equipment. Forty-two trained nurses are employed, living in the nurses dormitory, under the supervision of Miss Carolina Freeman. There are 742 hospital beds, with John Higbee and an efficient corps of assistants carrying forward the care of the hospital under the direction of Major Vernon Roberts, chief surgeon.

Rev. M. S. Kaulman, Protestant chaplain, conducts four chapel meetings each week and preaches at Sunday services at 10:00 A. M. Splendid music and singing make these services very attractive to the Home members. The chaplain spends much of his time visiting the eighteen hospital wards cheering the sick and afflicted, sometimes holding as many as nine military services in a week.

The Catholic chapel is served by Rev. Father Cornelius Paul Hurley who visits the wards daily, except Sundays and holidays, and takes charge of all church and burial services for Catholic members.

The quartermaster's department, under the direction of Captain Michael Murray, with an efficient corps of engineers, carpenters, laundry men, farmers, stable men and clerks. Hot and cold water, with steam heat for the barracks is looked after by this department. Also the erection and care of over 100 buildings on the grounds, care of clothing, keeping clothing and bedding well laundered and in perfect order, producing on the 450 acres of farm lands all kinds of farm products, garden vegetables, oranges, lemons, grape fruit and melons. This with the Home economy takes care of

the supplying of the dining tables, at low cost. The Home animals are well cared for. The corps of clerks handles the great supply of clothing and material without friction.

The commissary department is handled by Capt. John Miller and a corps of efficient clerks, cooks, waiters and waitresses and policemen in the six dining halls. Three times each day 4000 members of the Home are fed, without any limitation as to amount eaten.

The Soldiers Home postoffice is a separate office served from Sawtelle. Because of the increased membership of the World War veterans an extra clerk is needed, also a free delivery service. The Postal Savings Bank has over \$30,000 on deposit. All letters should be addressed to "Soldiers Home, California," and not to Sawtelle.

#### BILL OF FARE FOR THE WEEK MARCH 11, 1922

Sugar, Syrup, Bread, Butterine, Seasoning Sauces and Coffee or Tea on Tables.  
Tuesdays and Fridays, Milk.

##### SUNDAY

BREAKFAST—Fried bacon, boiled eggs, curry and rice, gravy, Home preserved peaches.

DINNER—Mutton fricassee, gravy, mashed potatoes, stewed onions, cornstarch pudding.

SUPPER—Creamed wheat, stewed peaches, sliced cheese.

##### MONDAY

BREAKFAST—Fried side pork, gravy, steamed potatoes, stewed peaches.

DINNER—Vermicelli soup, crackers, boiled corned beef, lima beans, boiled potatoes, cucumber pickles, bread pudding.

SUPPER—Creamed hominy, stewed apples, cold sliced meat.

##### TUESDAY

BREAKFAST—Fried Frankfurter sausage, gravy, boiled potatoes, stewed apples.

DINNER—Boiled Navy beans with pork, gravy, potato salad, cucumber pickles, cornstarch pudding.

SUPPER—Oatmeal mush, sliced cheese, stewed peaches, corn bread.

##### WEDNESDAY

BREAKFAST—Irish beef stew, stewed peaches.

DINNER—Barley soup, crackers, baked shoulder of pork, lima beans, boiled potatoes, indian pudding.

SUPPER—Creamed cornmeal, stewed apples, fricaseed beef.

##### THURSDAY

BREAKFAST—Codfish with creamed potatoes, apple sauce.

DINNER—Pot roast beef, sage dressing, brown gravy, stewed tomatoes, hominy pudding.

SUPPER—Creamed wheat, cold sliced meats, stewed prunes.

##### FRIDAY

BREAKFAST—Corned beef hash, gravy, stewed prunes.

DINNER—Bean soup, crackers, fried fresh fish, lemons, boiled potatoes, boiled rice, chow chow.

SUPPER—Oatmeal mush, sliced bologna sausage, stewed peaches, corn bread.

##### SATURDAY

BREAKFAST—Braised beef, gravy, boiled potatoes, stewed peaches.

DINNER—Boston baked pork and beans, gravy, baked potatoes, rice pudding, cucumber pickles.

SUPPER—Creamed farina, stewed apples, sliced headcheese.

Fresh vegetables and fruit are furnished from the Home garden.