



Motor Pool Messenger

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER INC.

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTOR'S CLUB

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Editors : Harry & Marilyn Rimmer

FROM THE DRIVERS SEAT : "We danced, danced, and danced some more" commented one of our WACs. "We could have danced all night" said another at the end of our USO party. As it appears, the party was a tremendous success. Why? What did we do differently from Christmas parties past?

I think the seed of success was planted when we recognized that this Christmas party should be oriented not to us but to our wives. They, as we all know too well, do not necessarily share our boundless enthusiasm for quizzes, movies, and "that military stuff," running for hours. Perhaps the time has come to have a festive dinner party and to limit our traditional games to the minimum. This recognized, we agreed that we would select a good restaurant with quality food and atmosphere. Ted Bromage suggested of hiring of strolling musicians to put us "in the mood." This phrase might have queued Doug Stouber because he, in his quiet manner, suggested a better alternative. He said he might be able to bring his 18-piece orchestra which was specializing for the Big Band era music with singers impersonating the Andrews sisters. Would we be interested? Well, this announcement electrified everybody. No need to mention that we had the date with Llewellyn restaurant set which, of course, was no good for the band. Mutually satisfactory dates would have put us either too close or too far from Christmas. A decision had to be made. The Executive Board said "we will not give up the band" and voted to reschedule for a January "holiday party." From this point on events picked up speed. By the time it came to announce it in the Newsletter our Editor-in-Chief, Harry Rimmer and his CO, Marilyn, called it NJC Night at the USO. The rest is history. Those of you who couldn't make it missed a wonderful party. You missed NJC at the USO.

We can draw other conclusions. A mid-January date seemed to be more convenient for everybody than December which is heavy with parties, shopping, and the inevitable holiday rush. Of course to build on the USO theme was also a natural as it expressed the club's devotion to traditions military. Our "veterans" who came in uniforms and period dresses were the highlights of the evening and we have pictures to prove that. Two newspapers covered the party but the best ones were still taken by John Marko. It was a good show, indeed.

Show of a different nature is our parade activities. We still have freezing cold but soon our parade convoys will be called upon to roll. Why? What do parades mean to us? Well, just as parades

Cont'd, last page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat. - Sun.	Feb. 13-14	Antique Car Flea Market	Atlantic City, N.J.
Sun.	Mar. 14	Auto Part Flea Market (Russ Fisher's)	Fairfield, N.J.
Sat. - Sun.	Apr. 17-18	Spring Flea Market	Carlisle, Pa.
Sun.	May 2	Antique Car Show	Florham Park, N.J.
Fri. - Sun.	July 23-25	MVCC International Rally	Kansas City, Mo.

No other East Coast MVCC Event dates available at this printing.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Membership Committee - Dennis Spence and Lou Sliazis will be collecting dues at the Feb. 8 Chapter meeting. Lou advises to be ready to pay up or risk finding 4 flat tires on your car when you leave the meeting! Knowing Lou, if you don't come to the meeting he will probably come to your home and flatten them if you don't mail them in.

Parade Committee - We have presently five requests for our Parade Group on Memorial Day Weekend! This is a chance for our Club to raise in excess of \$1000 in one weekend. We will need all the vehicles and drivers that we can get to be able to take advantage of these offers. Please let Parade Chairman Harold Ratzburg know as soon as possible if you can participate in these parades. Support Your Chapter!

Quartermaster - All colors and types of NJC paint are now in stock. Order the paint you will need for this spring's restoration now, so we can run out of stock again! A phone call or a post card will inform John Marko, Washington Corner Road, Bernardsville, N.J. (201) 766-3784, to bring or send your paint to the next MVCC or NJC event. The remainder of the Club's inventoried assets are under a foot of snow.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FLASH !! - As a special bonus to MVCC members, Portayal Press is extending until March 31, 1982, its special sale price of \$17.95 for the new book "THE JEEP" by Jeudy. Reveiwed in the January 1982 SUPPLY LINE. English language text. Publishers price now \$21.95. Please include \$2.00 for postage & packing. Or save the postage/packing cost by ordering ahead for pickup at an NJC Chapter Meeting. Contact Portrayal Press, P.O. Box 1913, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003.

THE BEST BARGAIN AROUND - Advertise in your Chapter's Newsletter! Its FREE! Just send your ad to the Editors of MPM c/o Harry Rimmer, 120 Summers Avenue, Piscataway, N.J. 08854. All ads from Chapter members will be printed free of charge. Non-member ads will be published free on a space available basis. So write out that ad for that piece of junk, ah, collectable, today! Ads will also be accepted at any NJC Chapter Meeting.

Military collectors relive '40s



Mr. and Mrs. George Filchak of New Milford dance during the event



Former President Harry Rimmer and his wife Marilyn of Piscataway hold a sighting instrument used during World War II

By **DORINE F. GILMAN**

A USO party the way it likely would have been staged in 1943 filled the Llewellyn Farms in Morris Plains with nostalgia for some 103 guests.

"This has to be the best party we have ever had," insisted Ted Bromage, publicity director and past president of the sponsoring North Jersey Chapter Military Vehicles Collectors Club.

Three female members of the 18-piece Silver Starlights Amateur Band, which played the music of the '40s, helped recall the popular era of the Andrew Sisters singing trio.

"Last week, I took my 1950s Coast Guard uniform from the attic—and it fit," declared Bromage. "So I thought it would be perfect for this party tonight. My neighbor, Peter Shaw, still had his Navy dress blues bellbottom uniform—and my wife, Joan, is wearing it.

"This club started in 1976, after a similar club in California years ago. We bring together the antique cars, old uniforms and gun collectors.

"We probably have the most sophisticated computerized club, with an international membership that lists the types of vehicles owned by the 3,600 members down to their bicycles.

"Our club puts together a flyer on military vehicles for sale. The flyer is available by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to me, Ted Bromage, Box 246, Florham Park, N.J., 07932. I will be happy to forward this and membership information to anyone who writes.

"Today, these old vehicles are much appreciated. We have two quarterly magazines, Army Motors and Supply Line, and a monthly called Motor Pool Messenger, which are included in the national membership dues of \$15," said Bromage.

Jules Feledy of Morristown is president of the club.

The jitterbug of the '40s is not exactly the dance of their era but young couples Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Janquitto of Island Heights and Mr. and Mrs. George Filchak of New Milford handled it well.

"It's really fun to see them do it," said Bromage, "considering they are in their 20s."

Lou and Mary Sliazis of Elizabeth were dressed in authentic Army uniforms. Lou is in the Army reserves.



Richard Ivory, treasurer, and his wife Helen of Union arrive at the dance

THE N.J.C.
IN THE NEWS.

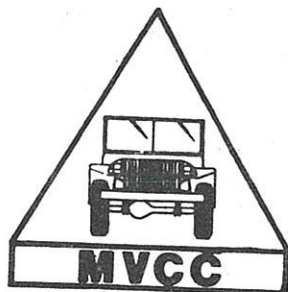
From the drivers seat, cont'd.

mean different things to different people the reasons for participation are different to. The common denominator undoubtedly is to show off our military vehicles that we have restored. Also, to have a good time with friends while entertaining others who think highly enough of us to request our participation in their celebrations. They even pay us as an expression of their gratitude.

We as a club have many expenses and the money earned on these parades pay for the big items, such as the Newsletter, movies, and now the USO party. Traditionally to appear in parades became the responsibility of a "voluntary" few. However, as the club became known, requests for parade participation in our area increased. Last year we reached the limit that the club can handle. Yet the calendar for this year looks even heavier. We have drivers, we all know that. What we need are more vehicles. Those "almost" finished ones that never, never want to roll out of one's restoration shop. Please participate to make this club fun for all. Call Harold and let him know that he can count on you. Right now setting up his '82 Parade Calendar is No. 1 priority.

Besides Harold every committee chairmen have priorities. They will present them to you for your approval. They all, I am sure, will ask for help, advice, new ideas. The way I see it from the drivers seat is "one for all, all for one." - Jules Feledey

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First Class