



Timely



Topics



Special Supplement for Employees of The Hamilton Watch Co., Lancaster, Pa., Now in the Armed Services

HONORING YOU AND ALL OTHER FORMER HAMILTONIANS NOW IN UNIFORM



This beautiful and unusual new Honor Roll, designed and built by your former associates in production at Hamilton, stands on the lawn in front of the Main Office Building, facing Columbia Avenue. The background is bright blue, the scroll letters white and dark blue, and the stars white and gold. It is topped off with a golden eagle and flanked by red, white and blue "columns."

Shown in the picture above are two former Hamilton employees, and three representatives of the U. S. Navy who were here for the dedication ceremony on July 25. The soldier on the left is Pvt. Harry Afflebach, formerly of the Production Control Department, who just completed his basic training; and the marine on the right is Cpl.

Charles Fisher, formerly of the Automatic Department, who was home on furlough after 25 months in the South Pacific. Charlie was in the campaigns of Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester and received the Purple Heart after being wounded during the latter campaign. He unveiled and accepted the Honor Roll on your behalf at the dedication ceremony. The Naval officer (far right) is Lt. Harold D. Cohen, USNR, of the Naval Materials Office, Philadelphia, Penna. The two sailors who accompanied Lt. Cohen are (left to right) Seaman 2/c James Reichner, also a South Pacific veteran who was wounded at Bougainville, and Shipfitter 2/c Charles Dougherty, who saw plenty of action in the Mediterranean Area.

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Note: The July edition of Timely Topics was practically on the press the day the Honor Roll and Second "E" Star Award Ceremonies took place (July 25) and so a really comprehensive account could not be included in it. Knowing that these ceremonies would be of special interest to all Hamilton people in the service, we collected many pictures to make up this special supplement so that you will have a complete and pictorial account of all that happened.

PRESIDENT KENDIG GAVE KEYNOTE SPEECH



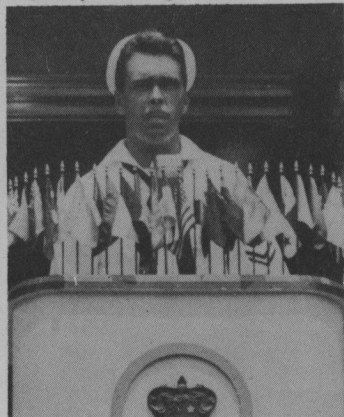
Crowds listened attentively when President Calvin M. Kendig paid tribute to the 519 Hamilton men and women in the armed services. Behind him in the doorway is Dr. H. M. J. Klein of Franklin and Marshall College who later offered a prayer for the safety and success of our boys "fighting the good fight."

MR. KENDIG'S ADDRESS

"This occasion is a significant prelude to the official presentation of our two-Star 'E' Award later this afternoon when our newer employees will receive their 'E' pins.

"We are gathered here to witness the unveiling of our new outdoor Honor Roll, listing the Hamilton men and women serving and who have served in our country's armed forces.

"This is significant because much of the tremendous effort we all have put into the war job assigned us has been stimulated by the tug at our heartstrings by this Honor Roll list. For these 519 magnificent boys and girls—our former fellow workers—are scattered over



seven seas, on every front. They endure hardships and suffering stoically, they battle—yes, they die—that right shall be victorious in this war, that we may all live safely.

"And these warriors are our former fellow workers, our sons, our daughters, our husbands, our brothers, our sweethearts. What effort of ours can be too great to return them to the vacant chairs in our homes—the vacant stools at our benches?

"Even before the Selective Service Act was passed, the vanguard of these Hamilton men and women started enlisting. By July, 1942, when the first sizable quotas were called, Hamilton's Honor Roll contained 120 names. This Roll was printed and posted on bulletin boards throughout the factory.

"Since then the Roll has been revised each month. By January, 1943, it contained 250 names—one year later it had grown to 446, and today the impressive total is 519. It has taken a lot of doing, as you all know, to meet ever expanding

production schedules as our manpower was diminished by these calls to our country's service.

"When World War I ended, Hamilton's Honor Roll included 61 names. This best illustrates how, thanks to the skills and services of these earlier employees, our company has grown in size and

importance in the past twenty-five years.

"But one day—soon, we hope—these boys and girls of ours in this war will be coming home. Then it will be up to us to help them readjust themselves to civilian pursuits—to compensate them as best we can for being our envoys

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Honoring You and All Other Former Hamiltonians Now In Uniform

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In addition to this new outside Honor Roll there are twelve smaller ones strategically located throughout the factory, all of which are revised and brought up to date monthly.

The new Honor Roll was dedicated in a short but very colorful and significant ceremony. Despite the fact that the thermometer registered 94° in the shade, over 2000 of your friends, relatives and former fellow workers—by far the largest crowd ever to voluntarily turn out for a Hamilton function—attended to pay homage to you 519 men and women in the Armed Services.

Calvin M. Kendig, Hamilton's president, conducted the program and gave the keynote address. Lt. Cohen spoke briefly and Shipfitter 2/c Dougherty gave a vivid description of the war as he saw it in the Mediterranean theater. Dr. H. M. J. Klein, noted historian of Franklin and Marshall College, closed the ceremony with a fervent prayer for continued effort both on the war and production fronts and an early Allied victory over the Axis Powers.

At the Navy's request the ceremony was kept brief so that a minimum of production time was lost. The ceremony started at 12:55 p. m. and ended at 1:15 p. m.

Both city police and state troopers were on hand to handle the traffic and the crowd which jammed Columbia Avenue from sidewalk to sidewalk for more than a half block on each side of the entrance to the Main Office Building.

Ted Schmidt, Train, and Bob Preston, Personnel Supervisor, were busy taking movies (in color) of the ceremony and the crowd. These films will be made into one complete record of both ceremonies and shown to all employees in our new Little Theater on the 4th floor of the Main Office Building, and to you when you return once more to Hamilton.

LIEUTENANT COHEN WARMING UP



Lt. Harold Cohen, in Lancaster to represent the Navy at Hamilton's "E" star presentation, spoke briefly on a subject of honor rolls and mentioned the other kind of an honor roll which existed in the minds of the men on the fighting fronts. "On it," Lt. Cohen explained, "are the names of the folks back home who were doing a heroic job in providing the necessary tools and equipment."

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HIGHLIGHTS & SIDELIGHTS ON THE PROGRAM

No one can say that Hamilton employees and their friends have forgotten their boys in the service. For despite the high temperatures and humidity which drove some to seek the shelter of the trees, more than 2000 attended and stood patiently during the 20-minute Honor Roll dedication program. Comments heard afterward indicated that this was one of the most impressive ceremonies of its kind ever held—certainly the most successful since the first Army-Navy “E” award was made a year ago.



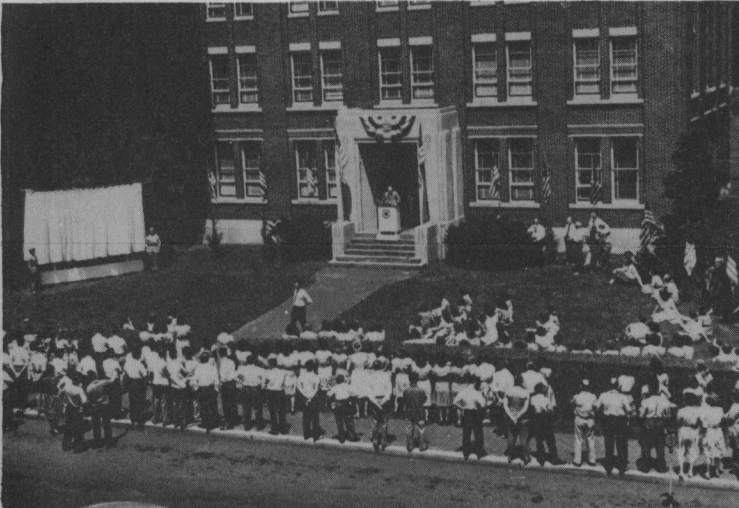
At that moment the crowd held its breath as the unveiling rope hit an unexpected snag and the curtain wouldn't budge. However, Cpl. Fisher stuck to his job and finally completed the unveiling. Walt Breen, Maintenance Engineer, was hurrying to the rescue when the picture was snapped.



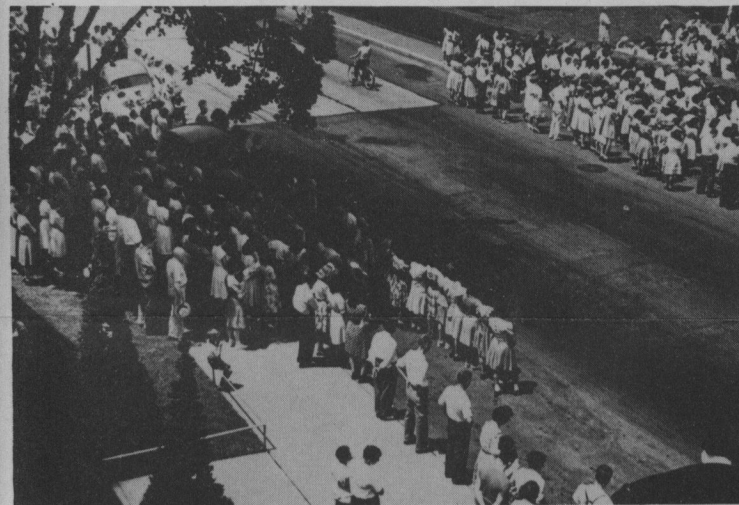
Looking down. Some of the best photographs of the ceremony were taken from the third floor balcony of Mrs. M. L. Nissly's home, directly across the street from the office building. There Bob Fickes, Timing and Casing, operated a still camera and Ted Schmidt a movie camera (in color). In this picture they were “looking down” on a small portion of the crowd immediately in front of the house.



It's all over! The crowd scatters as the program ends—some hurrying back to their work and others gather for a closer look at the new honor roll. Both groups, however, inspired by the ceremony, resolved to continue backing up the boys over there with the finest kind of fine timepieces in greater quantities than ever before.



Overall picture showing the location of the honor roll (before unveiling) and the speakers' rostrum on the steps of the new office building entrance. Colorful bunting decorated the building and a double row of large American flags completed the patriotic background.



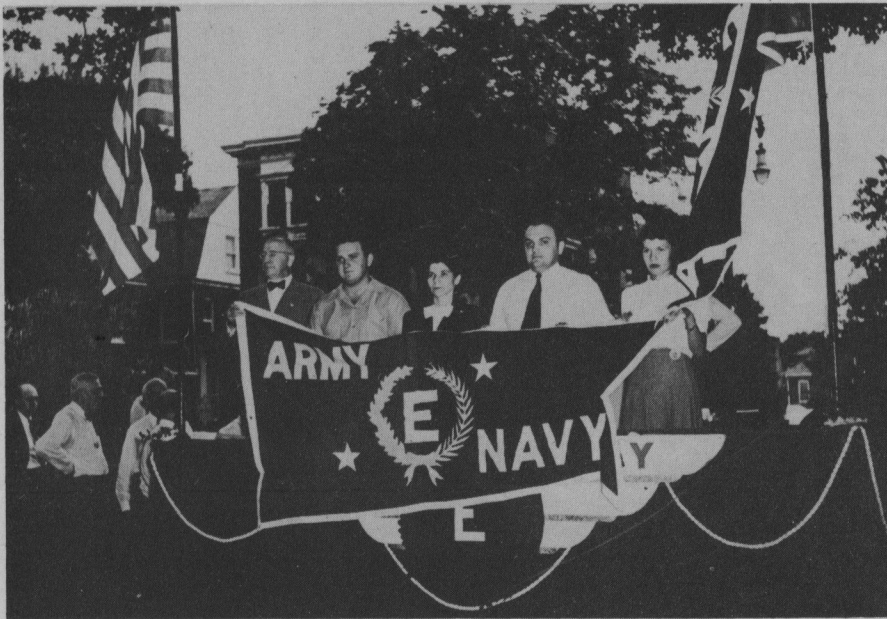
Shade was at a premium and the crowd made good use of all they could find as the thermometer stood at a sultry 94°

After the ceremony the crowds rushed to get a closer look at the plaque itself and many complimentary remarks were heard. Chiefly, they seemed to like its “different” approach and its prominent location in front of the office building where all visitors must pass it and where it can also be seen by west-bound traffic on the Lincoln Highway.

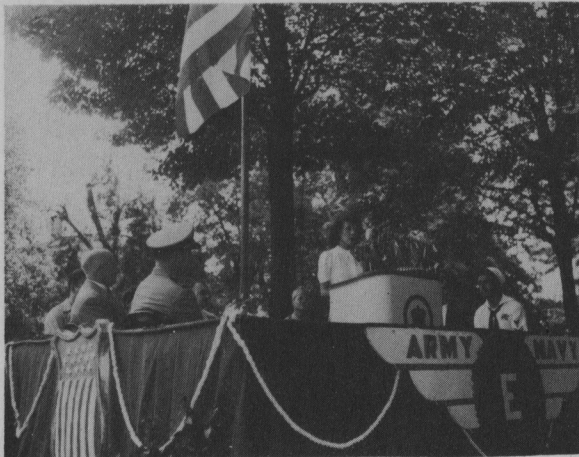
There was a moment of breath-holding when Cpl. Charlie Fisher tugged at the rope which was to pull back the curtain and reveal the honor roll in its full glory. For—and it never fails to happen—the rope stuck at the critical moment and it took several severe tugs before the knot let go and the curtain slid proudly away.

The two Hamilton boys who accepted the plaque on behalf of their comrades in uniform, Charlie Fisher and Harry Affebach, stood stiffly at attention throughout the entire ceremony and thereby won additional plaudits of the crowd.

SECOND "E" STAR AWARD CEREMONY



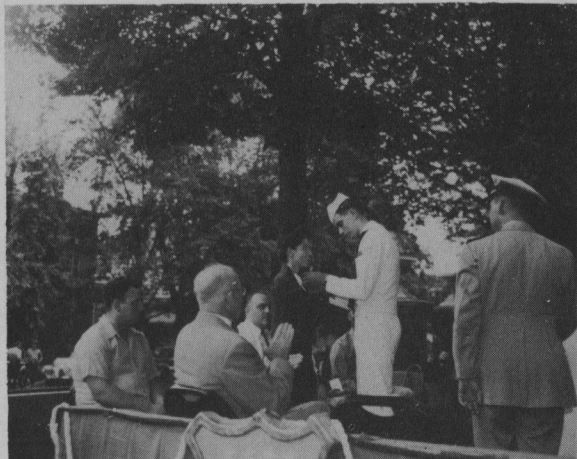
President Kendig and four new employees proudly display the new "E" flag. Reading from left to right: Mr. Kendig; Elvin Andrews, Production Clerical; Mrs. Myrtle I. Herr, Fuze Manufacturing; Charles Mummert, Timing and Casing; and Gladys M. Eshleman, Escape.



Gladys Eshleman formally accepts the "E" pins for the 525 new employees, as Sailor Dougherty watches — ah — approvingly.



Bill Schaeffer (Guard Captain) proudly runs it up amid much applause as Mr. Kendig looks on.



Mrs. Myrtle I. Herr, Fuze Manufacturing, receives her "E" pin from Seaman Reichner. She has a husband and two brothers in the Service and is doing her bit for Victory at Hamilton.

525 NEW EMPLOYEES CITED FOR OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION

You are familiar with the Army-Navy "E" production award which was given to Hamilton on June 16, 1943. On November 14, 1943, this award was renewed and we added a white star to our flag. On July 10, last, we were notified that the award had been extended a second time. Accordingly, on July 25, shortly after the Honor Roll dedication, Lt. Harold Cohen, representing the U. S. Navy, officially presented our new two-star "E" flag in a brief ceremony on the lawn between the main office building and the west tower walk.

Mr. Kendig accepted the flag for Hamilton—still the only watch company to receive the Army-Navy "E" for production of fine war timepieces exclusively. 525 new employees who have joined our organization during the six months just passed were awarded "E" pins. Four of their number; Elvin Andrews, Prod. Clerical; Mrs. Myrtle Herr, Fuze Mfg.; Charles Mummert, Timing & Casing; and Gladys Eshleman, Escape, received token "E" pins on their behalf. Miss Eshleman gave the acceptance speech for the group.

This is the Army-Navy Production Board's way of showing tangibly that we here on the production front have continued to deliver those urgently needed Hamilton war timepieces and precision instruments (on schedule and in quantity) despite the loss of such a large percentage of you technically-trained men and women; and you may be sure that we are determined to keep on delivering the goods to you people on the fighting fronts until the last gun has been fired!

Mr. Kendig's Address

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for the unparalleled courage and aggressiveness that makes these citizen soldiers of ours the finest in the world.

"There is nothing adequate we can say about our heroic dead. The nine listed on our Honor Roll are part of a mighty American tradition—the willingness to die that American freedom may continue to live. These revered dead of ours have passed along a torch to all of us. Let us not clutch it lightly lest they not rest in peace.

"And now let us unveil this Hamilton Honor Roll and dedicate it to the everlasting memory of the part Hamilton employees are playing in World War II—may it be a constant inspiration to us here in our factory war jobs to keep adding stars to our 'E' pennant until final Victory."



You won't recognize many of these people for most of them have joined Hamilton in the last six months. They're mostly the new employees who received "E" pins for the first time. (P. S.: The rest of us were hard at work inside the plant.)