

NESSCO THINKER



DECEMBER 1918

KILLED IN BATTLE

Nesco Employees—Attention—a moment of
silent tribute to Sgt. McGrath.

SGT. FRANK McGRATH. Killed in Action
Sept. 27, 1918.

Frank used to be in the Cost Dept. of the New
York Branch. His father D. J. McGrath is in the
Shipping Office. His brother Raymond is in the
Cost Dept. now.

Frank enlisted in the 14th Natl. Guard Regt.
of Brooklyn, and was transferred to Co. G, 106
Infantry.

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Nesco Thinker

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

Chas. Meyer, New York
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W. B. Saegesser, Granite City Factory

Frank Otto, St. Louis Mill
Miss Virginia Stinchecum, Baltimore, K & H.
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J. Paul Haller, New Orleans
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Volume I

DECEMBER, 1918

Number 4

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

To Every Nesco Employee, the
Editors, Representatives and the
Company send wishes for a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We hope that all will enjoy health,
happiness, both in every day work
at the factories and at your own
homes.

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

While assisting employes of the Milwaukee Branch in making out their questionnaires, our attention was drawn to the large number of men who had left school after reaching the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

It is unfortunate that these men were unable to at least finish their grammar school courses, but it is never too late to obtain an education. Men and women, girls and boys, all should be ambitious to improve their education, and for that purpose Milwaukee holds out to them the opportunity of attending the Continuation Schools and the Evening Schools conducted by the City. Every one should take advantage of this, no matter what his or her station in life, for the courses are many and varied, and it should not be difficult to find a course suited to your purposes. Why not enroll at one of the schools with the beginning of next term?

No doubt the cities at which the other branches of NESCO are located also conduct various educational activities, and it is up to our employes in those cities to also avail themselves of their opportunities.

—FRED H. MEYER.

HELPING UNCLE SAM

Announcement has been made that Thrift and War Savings Stamps will be on sale in 1919. The new issue of the Thrift Stamps will not differ from the 1918 issue, but the new War Savings Stamps will be blue in color, and will be engraved with the likeness of Benjamin Franklin. You must keep this year green stamps in one folder. There will be a new folder for the blue stamp of next year. You cannot put the blue stamps in the folder with the green stamps.

Fellow-employes, it is up to us to continue to buy stamps. Can any of you suggest a better way of putting aside your small savings? And you have all discovered during this last year how easily and quickly you can fill your stamp folders. Let's all buy our limit of the 1919 series.

SAFETY FIRST

Be careful—report all defective machines or improper guards.

It's easier to **keep** well than to get well.

A machine cannot think; you can. Use your brain or you will become a machine.

One think **BEFORE** an accident is worth million thinks afterward.

A BALTIMORE NESCO MAN SETS A RECORD

Last summer one of the men at the K. & H. Plant in Baltimore more than once turned out 7 gross of water pails, less ears, black, in 9 hours.

This meant edging 2 blanks at one time, both edges equal to two operations to each pail; rolling, one operation; grooving, two operations; burring and wiring, one operation; spinning, one operation. This made 7,056 operations altogether or 13 1-15 operations per minute.

Now this same man has broken his own record. In 9 1-2 hours he turned out 10 gross of buckets. A total of 10,030 operations gives an average of 17 3-4 operations a minute.

This man knows how to do his work to best advantage. He systematizes, and plans, and makes every motion count.

He thinks.

Some of the boys at the Milwaukee Branch are getting up a Christmas Bowling Party. I understand it will be "some" contest. Fred Meyer has something up his sleeve—but August Leichtfuss says he's not afraid of any balls Fred will roll.

If you want we'll publish some of the scores (not my own, of course).

—EDITOR.

NEW UNIVERSAL MILL STARTS OFF SUCCESSFULLY

On November 2nd, 1918, the new Universal Mill, known as Mill No. 2, which has been under construction for several months, was put in successful operation. This Mill is practically a duplicate of Mill No. 1, and is so constructed that the product can be utilized for commercial plates, ranging from 5-16 of an inch to one inch in thickness, 10 to 36 inches in width, and any length desired, up to 50 feet. The Mill is also arranged to make sheet bars for the Sheet and Tin Mills, if desired.

The Management and Department Superintendents were present when the first ingot was rolled, and all were highly pleased with the performance of the Mill. When in full operation it will employ approximately one hundred men. With the crew of energetic young men operating this mill, and the success attained the first day it was put in operation, we predict splendid results and some fine records in the near future.

W. W. HANLON, Gen. Supt.

The employees of the Steel Works Branch deeply sympathize with Mr. Fred Jerden, who is the head clerk of our Cost Department, over the sudden and unexpected death of his wife, who died on Sunday, November 10th, leaving him with five motherless children, the youngest being three days old at the time of her death. In token of our heartfelt sympathy a beautiful floral design was given by those associated with him. Mr. Jerden has our deepest regrets in this, his hour of bereavement.

What have you done to study the lessons in English, or to keep others to study them? Really these are important. You Nesco men and Nesco women who can read and write should and can really help those who work in your department and are not so fortunate. Will you help them?

At different times when I have been in the different factories I have noticed many who can't even sign their own name. Now my fellow-employees we can help those people. You, who are very close to them in every-day work, why don't you talk to them and show them that they can. Show your own pride that you can read and write and stir them to want to do so too. Then help them. Tell them about schools. Show them our English Lessons page and explain it.

Foremen—you can do good work along this line too. Let's all work.—Editor.

WHERE WILL YOU BE AT 65?

Do you know that out of 100 men who are healthy at 25—

36 will be dead at 65.

1 " " rich at 65.

5 " " wealthy at 65.

5 " " sporting themselves by work at 65.

54 " " dependent upon friends, relatives or charity at 65.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO KEEP OUT OF THE 54 CLASS?

—Slattery Hallis.



Frank Walter left the Milwaukee Branch for army service. He was stationed at Camp Sherman, Ohio.



L. W. Powell of Granite City Steel Works, in Oversea cap and uniform. 139 Machine Gun Battery, Co. B.



This photo was sent to Mr. Stremmel at the Steel Works. A group in France. Two Steel Works boys in the group.



L. C. Warager whose letter was printed last month. Looks like washday for Len over in France.



John Bungert of New York Branch was at Camp Framingham, Mass., when this photo was taken. Read his letter on page 15



Erhardt Waterstreet also of Milwaukee factory, now at State University of Iowa, Co. A, Training Detachment Iowa City, Ia.



Chas. Stathas of Milwaukee Branch, now in France, Co. A. 4th Infantry. He has been twice wounded



George Ellison from Milwaukee factory—in France. Co. K., 331st Infantry, A. P. O. 762

“How long has that clerk worked for you?” asked the caller.
“About four hours,” replied the boss.
“I thought he had been here longer than that,” persisted the caller.

“He has. He has been here for four months.”

Mrs. Murphy—“The war’ll last but two months, I’m thinking.”

Mrs. McGinness—“An’ fur why?”

Mrs. Murphy—“My son Danny’s enlisted—an’, believe me, he never held a steady job more’n two months in his whole life.”

“I never heard of but one perfect boy,” said Johnny, pensively.

“And who was that?” asked mamma.

“Papa—when he was little,” was the answer. Papa kept on reading his paper and said nothing.

NEW EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT AT STEEL WORKS

On August 1st the Steel Works Branch at Granite City installed a new department, an Employment Department, under the supervision of Mr. F. E. Camp, who has been in the Time Keeping Department for the past thirteen years prior to his employment at the Steel Works.

The department exercises the usual functions of an employment service, including general supervision of selecting and classifying employees, looking after inter-department transfers, keeping data relative to the employment and service record of all employees, etc.

The department enjoys the hearty co-operation of all of the department heads and foremen and is meeting with marked success, notwithstanding the shortage in the supply of men, both skilled and unskilled.

We expect to be able to furnish some interesting data from this Employment Department at some future time.

"Up at Kaiser's restaurant the other day, while disclaiming all tendencies to pro-Germanism, I ordered Frankfurters and sauerkraut, and the dusky damsel who presides at the feed counter bawled out to the kitchen,—
"Unchain two, let 'em ride on a load o' hay."

Wonder if that is the call at any of the Nesco Restaurants. Hope not, for we would rather eat than be eaten.—Ed.

A man at Granite City, not an employee, handed to a Nesco man the lines printed below. He didn't get the prize, but makes some good suggestions as to the purpose of Nesco Thinker:

PUT ON YOUR GAS MASK.

I received today a pithy sheet,
Sociable and full of meat;

It's a good thing to have at this Steel Works joint
It can talk to the boys and talk to the point.

It will carry to the Hunks and Yanks and Irish and Jews
And all who are employed here, industrial news.

And when we are inclined to get "up in the air"
It will remind us of the sacrifice of the boys "over there".

It will encourage each and all
To speed up production, to "hit up the ball".

For this sheet they ask a name we should choose
That is easy we answer call it NESCO NEWS.

My comrades all say that by writing this poem
I am furnishing evidence that "there is nobody home".

It's not Longefellow's style of verse
Nor is it Walt Mason's; it's a mighty sight worse.

My excuse for writing this is tame very tame
But I was afraid they might get the wrong name.

Now if I should win the prize of five ducats of tin
Don't send me kale I might blow it for gin.

Just send the five spot to STREMMEL MY BOSS,
Instruct him to give it to LOCAL CHAPTER RED
CROSS.

Somewhere in France.

Dear Sir: Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and feeling fine. Have been over here little over three months and like this country fine, but give me the good old U. S. A. all the time.

It has been over seven months since we left on the train at Madison, Ill., for the army camp to do our little bit.

The rainy season has set in here and we always keep our raincoats handy.

France is certainly a wonderful country. There are many beautiful hills with old chateaus on them. I visited a castle which was over 900 years old. King Henry IV of Navarre lived there during his reign. Some of the walls are over six feet thick and there were many dungeons under ground. While going through these dungeons it brought many shivers as our guide told us many strange tales. It was a gruesome place and we were glad to get out in the fresh air.

Last Sunday I visited a town which was founded fifty years before Christ. All the houses are made of stone and have stood for centuries. France has many wonderful bridges and many ancient statues. It takes them many years to build a bridge but when completed, they look very pretty. Saw some statues which were erected in the year 1533.

Went through an old cathedral which was erected between the 10th and 14th century. It was a wonderful piece of work. The walls are all hand engraved and hand painted. There are many hand painted pictures on the walls which are worth thousands of dollars. A pipe organ takes up all one end of the building.

There was a tower near by which was over 250 feet high. It had a winding stair, and from the top we could see all over the town.

Visited another cathedral which had some mummies under it. We were told that they were over 400 years old and had been buried in lime and arsenic. It is all worth seeing, and I will never regret that I am in the army.

We are many miles from the front, but we are all doing our little bit and may be there ourselves any day.

A few days ago our work took us by an old castle and through a small French village. There was a river running near by and when the tide came in, it could be heard for

quite a distance off. It was a beautiful spot. The people all turned out to watch us work and marveled at our rapid progress. They believe in taking their time and doing everything just so.

Our meals are very good. For dinner yesterday we had mashed potatoes, beef, gravy, string beans, tomatoes and onions and rice pudding. Of course we always get bread and coffee, and they wonder why the soldiers get fat.

It is a very common sight to see a two wheeled cart coming down the road drawn by an ox or a donkey. There are a few automobiles but nearly all the French people ride bicycles. It rains for days at a time, but the roads are always good. There are many insects here owing to the scarcity of birds.

Hoping to hear from you, I remain

George Malottki,

Co. E. 32nd Engrs. American E. F.
A. P. O. 705, France.

Camp Framingham, Mass.

Division 4, Section 1.

Dear Charles: Received your welcome letter yesterday and was glad to hear once more of Nesco and my old friends. I find the pamphlet very interesting and take great pleasure in reading the where-abouts and happenings concerning the men of Nesco, whom I knew and are now in the service.

I suppose all the employees celebrated the signing of the armistice in a fitting manner. As I am stationed but a few miles from Boston, that was where I went yesterday to see a mammoth peace parade. It was most impressive and was witnessed by over a million and a half people. The crowd was so dense that one could hardly move anywhere in it.

I'm sending a picture of myself that was snapped a few days ago just before going out for a drill. We expect to leave here in a few days for a new receiving ship in Boston. After staying there a short time, we will probably be assigned to ship duty.

Will close with best regards to all at the plant.

Yours respectfully,

John Bungert.

SAFETY ALPHABET LESSONS

Our lessons in English for this month take the letters of the alphabet and use them to begin an important word. These words put together make very important rules for safety.

The lessons were composed by Mr. Chas. Kribs, Safety Inspector at the Steel Works at Granite City.

Study these carefully. They are a real help. Explain them and read them to the man or woman next to you.

Lesson No. 1. A—Always.
B—Be.
C—Careful.

Sentence—Always be careful.

Lesson No. 2. D—Don't.
E—Ever.
F—Forget.

Sentence—Don't ever forget.

Lesson No. 3. G—Good.
H—Habits.
I—Important.

Sentence—Good habits are important.

Lesson No. 4. J—Jokes.
K—Kill.
M—Men.

Sentence—Jokes kill men.