



Colonel William V. Owen (right), son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Vliet, 416 Brown, Birmingham, is congratulated by Major General F. S. Besson, Jr., U.S. Army chief of transportation after the latter had awarded him the oak leaf cluster to the Legion of Merit. Owen recently retired from the Army after 30 years of service.

## Army Colonel Retires After 30-Years' Duty

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Colonel William V. Owen, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Vliet of 416 Brown Street, Birmingham, has been decorated with the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit by Major General F. S. Besson, Jr., U. S. Army chief of transportation. Owen, chief of the office of planning and intelligence for the past two years, retired at the end of June with more than 30 years of service.

One of the transportation corps' top war planners, Owen has held a number of important positions in the chief's office in Washington. From 1949 to 1953 he served successively as chief of the operations plans branch and chief of the military planning and intelligence division. In early 1956, he was assistant chief of transportation for joint land traffic prior to assuming his present duties.

For the past several years, Owen has been particularly active in developing requirements for improved strategic mobility for Army forces including plans for utilization of rail-on-roll-off sea transportation and large water based aircraft capable of moving forces and supplies to distant areas where conventional landing fields are inadequate or unavailable.

HE HAS ALSO advocated more and improved Army aircraft for logistical support in combat areas. His efforts were invaluable in developing the enhanced mobility of Armed Forces in event of war and in the providing of similar support to combined and joint strategic planning," the citation states.

A combat veteran of World War II, Owen fought in nine major campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany in command of an anti-aircraft artillery battalion, truck battalion, and as a transportation officer.

He was beach-head transportation officer during the hard fought Anzio beachhead campaign in Italy where his superior performance of duty earned him his first Legion of Merit. He was also decorated for this action by both the British and Italian Governments.

FROM LATE 1944 to the war's end, he was deputy chief of transportation of the Seventh Army in Germany and earned the Bronze Star for his work during the advance through the Siegfried line.

A civil engineer and high school mathematics and science instructor in civilian life, he has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's in education from New York state teacher's college.

HE WAS also senior U.S. Army instructor from 1954 to 1956 of the NATO defense college in Paris, the highest international college which was opened by President Eisenhower in 1951 while he was in command of SHAPE, and attended by Army, Navy, Air Force and State department personnel from 14 member nations.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, Owen also received the department of the Army retirement certificate, the transportation corps certificate of achievement and a special letter of appreciation from an assistant director of the central intelligence agency.

Colonel and Mrs. Owen, the former Alice Vliet of Birmingham, have two children: William E. 24, who graduated this month from George Washington university in Washington, D.C., and Mary Alice, 20, who just completed her junior year at the same school. The Owen family presently resides at 3727 Van Ness street, N.W. in Washington.

### We Heard It Said By:

ROSS WAGNER, principal of Birmingham high school, on returning from an educational conference at University of Chicago: "It was interesting to note that statistics show that students coming from public schools usually have a more difficult time in college during the freshman year than graduates from private schools. But, after the freshman year, the public school graduates usually outstrip the private school graduates."

### C of C Presents Water Follies

Sam Snyder's Water Follies will be presented by the Pontiac area chamber of commerce tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday at Wisner Memorial stadium, Pontiac.

There will be four regular performances—Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 and 8:30 p.m. In addition, a special children's matinee will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday.

### Woman Comments On 'Nature Now'

To the Editor: I would like to express my appreciation in finding Mrs. Frober's column "Nature Now" back on the editorial page of the Eclectic.

Because it is unusually well written as well as interestingly

kind found in local newspapers), I refer to it often in the nature teaching I do with girl scout leaders of the Southern Oakland council. The location on the editorial page makes it easy to find when leaders are stimulated to study the column.

In fact, I find the entire editorial page very interesting and stimulating.

ALICE H. KELLEY  
Forest Hill Drive,  
Birmingham

necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

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## Medical Mirror

- Snakebite
- Tired Blood
- Spina Bifida

Q. If bitten by a snake, should a tourniquet be applied above or below the bite?  
A. Above the bite and just tight enough to prevent spread of the swelling but not so tight as to stop blood flow. Remove as much venom from the wound as possible by a combination of skin cuts and suction. Don't waste any time getting the bitten person to a doctor.

Q. My daughter has tired blood. Would Vitamin B-12 tonic help?  
A. If tired seems to be something wrong, consult a physician. Don't be surprised if the doctor disagrees with your diagnosis.

Q. "What causes spina bifida and hydrocephalus?"—E.H.  
A. In general, both conditions seem to be mistakes of nature. The tube-like spine is fashioned from one of three cell layers. Normally the tube closes, when it remains more or less open at one end the condition is called spina bifida. No one knows for sure why this happens. In hydrocephalus (water on the brain), there is increased collection of spinal fluid in the brain area. It may be due to a defect present at birth or may develop later as the result of certain diseases.

Letters will be answered in these columns anonymously. Direct your inquiries to J. Downey Ratston, M.D.

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