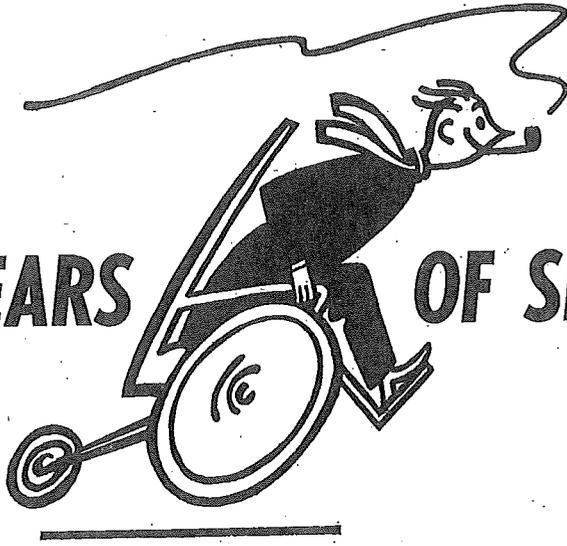


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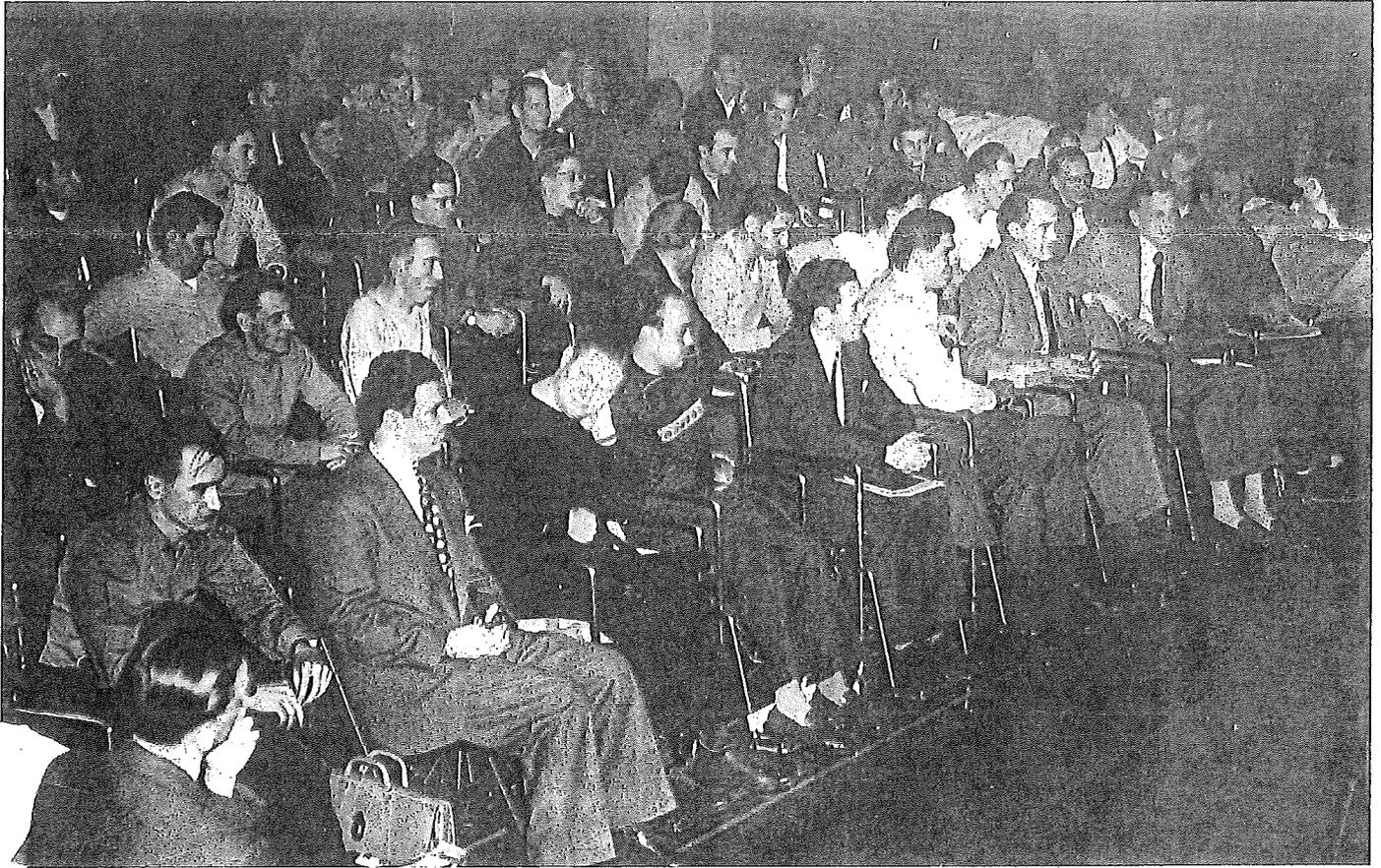
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

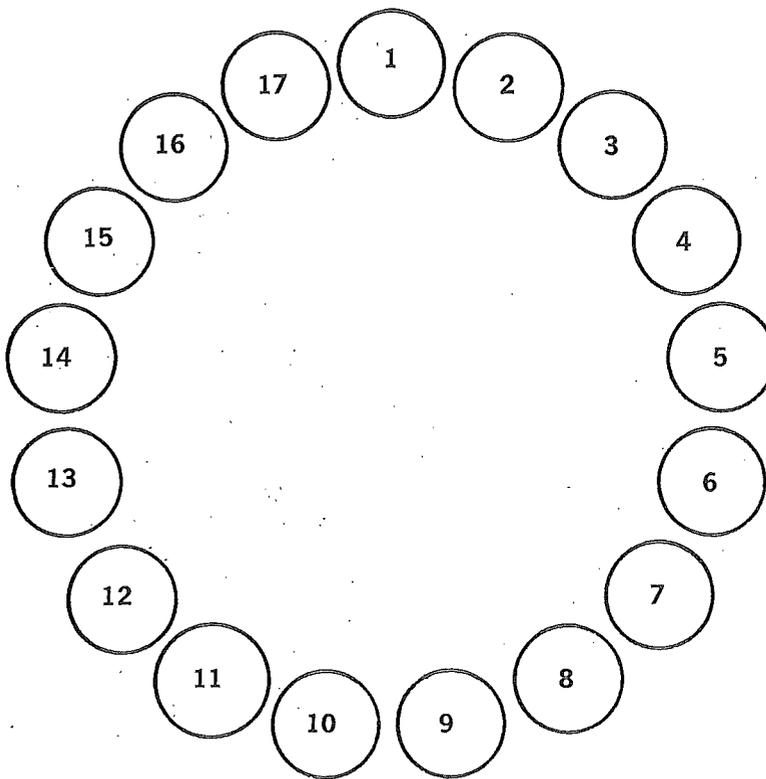


1946 - PARAPLEGIA NEWS - 1971





Formative meeting of PVA at Hines VA Hospital in February 1947. Only persons recognizable to author are (L to R, Front Row) Alex Mihalchyk, Robert Moss, Harold Peterson, and Joseph Gillette.



PVA PRESIDENTS ON COVER

1. Gilford Moss (Vaughan) Elected National Chairman at formative meeting in Chicago, February, 1947, elected president at first PVA Convention in September 1947.
2. Robert Moss (Eastern PVA) became president upon resignation of Gilford Moss in May, 1948, to accept position of NPF Executive Secretary.
3. Bernard Shufelt (Virginia) — 1948-49
4. Patterson Grissom (California) — 1950
5. Stanley Reese (Vaughan) — 1951
6. William Green (New England) — 1952-53
7. Robert Frost (Eastern PVA) — 1954-55
8. Raymond Conley (New England) — 1956-57
9. Harry A. Schweikert, Jr. (Eastern PVA) — 1958
10. Dwight Guilfoil (Vaughan) — 1959
11. Robert Classon (Eastern PVA) — 1960-61
12. John Farkas (Tri-State) — 1962-63
13. Harold Stone (New England) became president in April 1964 upon suspension of John Farkas from office.
14. Harold W. Wagner (Georgia-Carolina) — 1964-65
15. Leslie P. Burghoff (New England) — 1966-67
16. Wayne L. Capson (California) — 1968-69
17. Carlos Rodriguez (Eastern PVA) — 1970

The Paralyzed Veterans of America 25 Years Later

by Harry A. Schweikert, Jr.

Pearl Harbor was still smoking when a new breed of disabled veterans started collecting on the East and West coasts. They were to be known as paraplegics a word that was unknown at that time. But that word was to become well known, and cover quadriplegia and the non-traumatic disabilities as a general category.

Paraplegics weren't exactly a breed during those war years. A program of care wasn't even thought about. Mortality estimates were in themselves morbid, ranging from one to five years. So these alleged basket cases consigned to an early grave were collected in depots.

In the East it was a string of hotels on the boardwalk at Atlantic City, commandeered by the military and called England General Hospital. From there it was to Cushing in Boston, and Halloran, Bronx, and St. Alban's in New York City.

Large collections also started at the Vaughan Hospital near Chicago, McGuire in Richmond, and Kennedy in Memphis. England General was phased out in March 1946.

On the West coast, there was to be the only paraplegic centers west of the Mississippi for many years. Here the collections ended at Birmingham and Corona, coming from McCaw Army Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash.; from DeWitt Army Hospital in Northern California; from Hammond Army Hospital in Modesto; and finally from Bushnell Army Hospital in Brigham City, Utah. Corona Naval Hospital was the last of the hospitals treating paraplegics to be phased

out of the military — and the first to be phased out of existence.

The question: how?

In those early post-war days, paraplegic veterans were like lizards on a dissecting table, representing new experiments and challenges to the medical profession. The problem: keep them alive. The question: how?

With critical pressure sores and urinary conditions, the condition of most such patients was disastrous. From the 7,000 spinal cord injured, it has been estimated that some 2,500 were salvaged from World War II. Hospitalization averaged from two and one-half years to five years. In the 1950's hospital time was reduced to less than one year. Today the newly paralyzed eager beaver often can leave the hospital in three months, without serious medical complication, and minus rehabilitation training.

Records indicate that paraplegic veterans first organized at Birmingham hospital in California in 1945, and were chartered by the State of California on March 7, 1946. Today Bob Moss of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association credits the California group with the idea that led him to form the Halloran hospital group in New York — and the Halloran group then helped start the Bronx and St. Albans chapters. Meanwhile, similar associations had formed at the Vaughan, Cushing, McGuire, and Kennedy VA Hospitals; until there were nine such associations in the United States.

Although it would be impossible to pinpoint an exact date for the birth of

the Paralyzed Veterans of America as an organization, the early paraplegic veterans knew they were a different breed. Whether it was the injury, the wheelchair, or the attitudes of the "outer" world, paralyzed veterans were pioneering a new trend.

In those days, the hospitals were still part of the military preserve, and to get things done required a lot of forceful, resourceful, unmilitary strategy on the part of the veterans themselves. When the military was removed, the going became easier, although not all difficulties were external. The one problem was lack of enthusiasm and interest by fellow SCI (spinal cord injured).

Veterans at Birmingham and John Price of the *Paraplegia News* gave special impetus to the proposition of a strong national organization. Perhaps the final force of the creation of a single national organization came from Gil Moss and the Vaughan chapter in Illinois, which called all existing groups together in 1946.

Hines meeting:

On Feb. 7, 1947, delegates from seven groups met at the Hines VA Hospital to form a national organization. Attending this initial meeting were Fred Smead, Joseph Gusmeroli, Donald Coleman, and George Hohmann of Birmingham (California); Robert Moss and Harold Peterson from Halloran (New York); Gilford Moss, (no relation to Robert), Alfred Gore, and Harold Scharper from Vaughan (Hines); William Day, Marcus Orr, and Kenneth Seaquist from Kenne-

dy (Memphis); Walter Suchanoff and Alex Mihalchuk from Bronx (New York); Joseph Gillette from St. Alban's (New York); and Eldred Beebe from McGuire (Virginia). Corona of California was probably represented by the four delegates from Birmingham. And before the end of the convention, a letter was received from the Cushing group stating that it had slightly over 100 members, but could not physically or financially attend the meeting.

Before this gets further confusing, we should note the interchange of hospital and chapter names. Birmingham and Corona are the names of hospitals which led to the creation of the *California Chapter*. Hines is the hospital at which the *Vaughan Chapter* was formed. Halloran, Bronx and St. Alban's are hospitals in New York City, and the chapters used those names until they joined to form the *Eastern PVA*. Cushing is the hospital in Boston at which the *New England Chapter* was formed. Kennedy is the hospital in Memphis from which the chapter took its name until it later reorganized under the name of *Mid-South PVA*. McGuire is the name of the hospital in Richmond from which our *Virginia Chapter* originates.

Guidelines

There is no doubt that the 16 delegates who attended the formative meeting must have felt overwhelmed by the number of problems which they were to face. If any were not, almost 16 hours of deliberation were to convince them. Procedural guidelines and rules of order were a dominant theme. An enormous amount of time was saved by the foresight of Fred Smead, who arrived with a full draft of articles of incorporation and by-laws. As first president of PVA's earliest chapter, Fred had already experienced the blood and sweat that accom-

The Author

Harry A. Schweikert, Jr., who compiled this history of PVA, received his paralyzing injury on July 18, 1946 — the same month the first issue of the Paraplegia News was published. He was hospitalized at the Bronx VA Hospital and shared in PN's growth and development. He was the Bronx chapter's second secretary, and went on to hold almost every chapter and national office there was to hold, including presidency of the national organization. Harry Schweikert's countenance headed 52 of the many articles he published on sports from 1947 through 1956. He attended twenty out of twenty-five National Conventions, and has been — and still is — intimately involved in the fabric of PVA's growth and development.

panies the development of by-laws and articles of incorporation of embryo organizations. These were put into legal form by the noted attorney, Jerry Geisler, and used as a guide for the delegates. After the formative meeting, Gil Moss whipped them into final shape consistent with the requirements for incorporation.

The first convention was to become a sounding board for divergent views and a proving ground for strongly willed individuals. And it was this meeting which started an ever-increasing rift between the East and the West. Fred Smead recalls, "We expected divergent views, but I — and I believe the other California delegates — came away with the feeling of a damn tough job well done. In fairness, I feel the rift came much later."

Ultimate direction

California spearheaded the theme that nonveterans should be included, and that the major effort of the organization should be toward research. The Eastern group felt that the major thrust should be veteran oriented, focusing on the basic immediate needs. Interest in research toward a "cure" was unanimous.

The prevailing belief was that *veterans* had the strongest voice and could promote legislation for all similarly disabled much more effectively. This was the direction ultimately taken. The organization initially called itself the Paralyzed Veterans Association of America (PVAA). Its by-laws were altered to conform to these interests, and the *Paraplegia News* was adopted as the official organ of the fledgling organization.

The status of medical care in VA hospitals was also a topic of concern. It prompted Gil Moss to state: "We are strongly opposed to the tendency of cutting appropriations to the Veterans Administration as an economy move of government." (Shades of the sixties!!) In addition to medical care and research, the delegates passed resolutions calling for the extension of the auto grant to quads, federal housing for the disabled, and the creation of an aid and attendance allowance for quadriplegics.

There are two footnotes to this first meeting which must be made a part of this history. They come from the leading proponents who argued on the direction the organization should take, and were made in response to a first draft of the history.

Whole thing fantastic

Bob Moss: "Something is missing. A few young men, sent as representatives, traveled from opposite ends of the country to meet in mid-country. Average age in low 20's — not loaded with formal education — with absolutely no organizational background, and they put this

Awaken Gentlemen! LEST WE DECAY



ORGANIZE PARAPLEGIAS JOIN THE PVA!

From the October 1946 PN.

thing together. Publicize an unheard of physical condition affecting very few people; organize locally in hospital wards; get legislation introduced, passed, etc.

"The whole thing was fantastic, and maybe that was one of our problems. We had a right to all we got — some of us didn't believe it, and some of us wanted to keep pushing while we had our chance.

"When I think that most of the defects we suffered were our own doing, I could cry — and have. We were beautiful and didn't know it. If only those who were strong enough could have recognized and accepted the weaknesses of others, and those who were weak could have recognized and accepted the strength. We survived, but what a waste of years!"

Brash enough to try

Fred Smead: "The (early) problem seemed to be more with involvement and some hesitancy in being critical of the military authority. None (of us) knew what to do, really, but some of us were hard-nosed enough to *think* we could do something and *brash* enough to try it. The lack of involvement had more to do with the lack of knowledge as to the how of overcoming our multitude of what seemed like insuperable problems.

"In retrospect, I'm inclined to agree with the veteran-orientation. Otherwise, we'd have lost much legislative impetus. However, I do think we missed the boat on research, and should have adamantly insisted upon Federal commitment to a program of research. We had the cause and the hour was right. We failed to strike when the need was in white heat."

First convention

The First Annual Convention of PVA was held in September of 1947 at the McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond, Va. Although only seven months had elapsed



Gilford Moss

since the formative meeting in February, a considerable amount of work had been done. The City of New York had created special parking privileges for disabled drivers. Its City Housing Authority had already started providing a number of wheelchair-accessible apartments in its housing program.

Gil Moss had cleaned up the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and PVA was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois on April 14, 1947, Gil Moss, Albert Arena, Bob Moss, Bernard Shufelt, Ed Kircher, Dave Reiniger and Bill Ellsworth, to mention a few, had spent a lot of time in Washington testifying on the auto and housing bills.

Although legislation and sports seem to have dominated the attention of the delegates, the omnipresent subjects of medical care and rehabilitation were discussed. The convention went on record urging the creation of domiciliary care for the NSC in the VA hospital system, liberalization of the auto grant to enable eligibility for quadriplegics, promotion of a Congressional Charter for PVA, the standardization of procedures for transporting the disabled aboard all national airlines, and the creation of special spinal cord research foundation.

Of 16 delegates who attended the first formative meeting, only five returned in September: Eldred Beebe, Gil Moss, Bob Moss, Harold Peterson, and Fred Smead. The nine newcomers joining them were Al Arena and Bob Sheppard of Kennedy; Stan Reese of Vaughan; Bob Pickerell and Harry Schweikert of Bronx; Pete Youakin and Charlie Brown of St. Alban's; Bernard Shufelt of Virginia; and Austin Kelly of New England. Bernard Martell and Harry Ward of the Canadian Paraplegic Association were also present.

Research program

In a report to the Board of Directors, dated July 5, 1947, PVA Chairman Gil Moss outlined steps he had taken toward the creation of a research program. The subsequent convention, however, went

on record as favoring a separate spinal cord research foundation. Accordingly, Gil Moss went to work developing that perspective and in April, 1948, distributed the first trust agreement creating the Paralyzed Veterans Research Foundation.

A meeting was held in May of that same year at Los Angeles including Gil Moss, Bob Moss, Fred Smead, and Alfred Gore of PVA, and Fred Levinthal, Jerry Geisler, R. W. McKee and Henry Slavik to discuss the creation of such a foundation. Out of this meeting the National Paraplegia Foundation was born. Gil Moss stepped down as PVA president to accept the job of NPF Executive Secretary, and Bob Moss assumed the presidency of PVA.

Second convention

The Second Annual Convention was held in September 1948 at the Kennedy VA Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. President Bob Moss reviewed the formation of NPF and reported that the first full year of controlled organization cost the PVA the sum total of \$2,910. (The figure has been entered for laughs. At the same convention, future PVA President Pat Grissom stated that he was "scared" at the suggestion that full-time operation of PVA might run to \$20,000 per year. PVA has not operated under five times that amount since 1965!)

Total membership at that time was 1213, with PVA suffering the loss of its first Chapter: the St. Alban's unit dissolved to merge with the Halloran Chapter.

No, no, no

President Moss reported that a letter from VA Administrator Carl Gray, dated February 10, 1948, had (1) rejected PVA's request for the creation of a Coordinator of Paraplegic Affairs in the Central Office; (2) refused to recognize PVA for the purpose of representing claims of members; (3) refused to support paraplegic housing; (4) denied that reduction of personnel on SCI wards was affecting quality of medical care; (5) refused to advise field offices on the type of prosthetic equipment which should be furnished to paraplegics, and (6) rejected the PVA proposal that SCI personnel be permitted to visit other SCI centers to broaden their knowledge.

(At that time the administration and the VA were under the strong influence of President Truman, a Democratic Congress, and, most of all, the three largest veteran organizations. These latter did not fully understand the special problems of paraplegia, and felt that attention to their particular needs would tend to discriminate against all other veterans.

The urgent need for funds to main-

tain a national program led to the adoption of a 10% assessment on chapter income, and the name was finally changed from Paralyzed Veterans Association of America (PVAA) to the shorter Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). There was strong sentiment for PVA control over NPF, and it was suggested that PVA/NPF conventions run conjunctively. The status, finances, and management of the *Paraplegia News* also occupied a large part of the delegates' attentions, and its importance was re-emphasized.

Sports and legislation

Again, sports and legislation received major attention. The delegates were concerned with the standardization of rules for wheelchair sports and also commercialism. The convention rejected a resolution calling for support of state annuities, but endorsed real estate tax exemption on specially adapted homes. It urged pension rates for the NSC equal to the rate received by peacetime SC veterans. Housing for the NSC was also urged, as were automobiles.

Seven chapters were represented at the 1948 convention. Earlier that year, the St. Alban's group had dissolved to merge with the Halloran Chapter, and the Halloran and Bronx groups had, in turn, merged as the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association. Word was also received by then PVA President Bob Moss from the Corona Chapter that it had voted to dissolve and join the Birmingham (California) PVA. That meant that, although there was no membership reduction overall, the PVA started the 1948/49 fiscal period with six voting chapters instead of the original nine.

In a hotly contested election, Bernard Shufelt won out over Bob Moss for the presidency by a vote of 5 to 4. The use of the New York Office of EPVA was accepted as national headquarters, and Bob Moss was appointed as PVA's first executive secretary.

Third convention

New York City was the site of the third convention and this autumn 1949 meeting was the first held outside a hospital environment. Its first official session met at the Hotel New Yorker, and all other business was conducted at 99 Park Avenue, address of PVA's national headquarters.

The increasing divergence of East and West groups peaked with the presentation of a resolution by the California chapter — within two hours after the convention convened — to abolish all offices and functions of PVA and turn them over to the National Paraplegia Foundation. (All, that is, except *Paraplegia News* and the veterans legislative program). The delegates soundly defeated this move.

Productive business transacted centered on a program of Speedy jewelry for members and honorary members was endorsed, and PVA's third annual award recognized efforts of Fred Levinthal. Among the items endorsed were increased benefits for the NSC paralyzed veteran and special increases for the spinal cord injured quad.

From the first bang of the gavel the 1950 convention was a battle scene. When the smoke cleared, though, Bernard Shufelt was re-elected president and the location of New York City as national headquarters was re-affirmed. Although Bob Moss had resigned as executive secretary at the start of the convention, he accepted re-appointment to the position by president Shufelt.

Fourth convention

If what went before was tough, the 1950 Convention decided that a recess from strife was necessary. It totally emasculated PVA and rendered it to the status of a paper organization. It was called in March — unusually early for a convention — because of the illness of Gil Moss and the need to appoint a person to succeed him as executive director of NPF. Holding its election first, NPF appointed Bernard Shufelt to succeed Gil Moss. PVA, holding its convention immediately following, elected Pat Grissom of California as its new president.

By the end of this convention, national headquarters in New York City and the position of executive secretary had been abolished. Operation of the *Paraplegia News* remained in New York. Apparently, everyone was so unhappy with the 1950 convention that no minutes were recorded — at least none can be found.

California withdraws

During the next year, 1951, the national PVA organization acted as little more than a clearing house for membership processing. By sacrificing all activities, with the exception of publishing of the *PN*, PVA was able to pay off a debt of \$2,038. Following the 1951 convention, at which a California resolution to abolish the national organization in favor of strong individual chapters was defeated 15-5, California members withdrew from the national PVA in December.

During the next two years, 1952-53, a strong legislative program was promoted by Dick Whalen and Ed Kircher. At the 1953 convention, incumbent Bill Green of Massachusetts noted that the Illinois charter of PVA was vacated by the Superior Court of Cook County in November. As of Dec. 18, 1953, the charter was re-recorded and O. C. (Terry)

Rose was appointed PVA's agent in residence.

Fresh personality

In 1953 a fresh and constructive personality, Robert Frost of Eastern PVA, assumed the PVA presidency. The first quadriplegic to head the national organization, Frost had served two years earlier as vice president and in 1949-50 as PVA treasurer.

In spite of strong support by Ted Anderson, California PVA members resisted rejoining the national alliance in 1954, but several new chapters were welcomed aboard. Although Mid-South PVA went into the doldrums, it was rejuvenated in 1957.

The year of 1955 will be remembered as the year of the infamous Hoover Commission Report. And, in 1956 and 1957, the constructive operation of PVA reached its epigee.

The year 1958 was saddened by the deaths of Ted Anderson and Bernard Shufelt, who passed away within a week of each other. Both had been exceptionally strong influences in the policies of PVA and its affiliate NPF.

In that same year, PVA president Ray Conley and past presidents Bob Frost and Bill Green, and president-to-be Harry Schweikert met in Boston to discuss a fundraising program. A program developed by Frost and practiced successfully by Eastern PVA was extended to the national organization and to this day has generously financed all of PVA's varied programs.

Period of progress

Since then, PVA has been able to expand its essential programs and shoulder more. It was able to create and found a National Service Program and to reopen a national office, this time in Washington, D.C., where it functions today. In 1959, Mid-South withdrew in order to lodge an objection to the existing PVA leadership, but rejoined in December 1961. California, a hold-out for 12 years, was wooed back into PVA in 1963 by the charm of its new chapter president, Allan Jarabin.

During his chapter's withdrawal from PVA, Dick Carlson of Mid-South completed a massive revision of the National By-Laws. In further efforts for PVA to obtain a National Charter, Harry Schweikert testified in 1960 before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary. The PVA became a member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped that same year.

Robert Classon of Eastern was elected national PVA president and proved to be

an innovative, albeit controversial leader. Bob was to advance many of PVA's most essential programs to their farthest point. And, under his leadership, various publications developed which are still in use today. During the same year, 1960, PVA membership was opened officially to peacetime veterans, although they have always been accepted for membership.

Emotional cataclysm

In retrospect, 1962 was the high point in backroom PVA politics. But the two years commencing that year brought PVA to an emotional cataclysm in 1964 which its directors had to oversee the first impeachment process.

PN editor Bob Webb summed it up nicely: "There was, it should be noted, considerable feeling that the impeachment proceedings were an academic exercise, since new officers were to be elected in a few days anyway. Those pressing the charges, however, insisted that to fail to condemn improper actions on the part of an officer was, in effect, an endorsement of them, and that the PVA should go on record with its official disapproval."

From that upheaval, Harold Wagner emerged the new president. And it was under his leadership that a permanent national office was to be finally established in Washington, D.C. Since that time in 1964, PVA has been able, finally, to conduct a truly national and cohesive program for all chapters and for all members.

It was said, on the occasion of PVA's 20th Anniversary, that no individual can be credited with completely original thoughts today, although he may apply new personality, a more sophisticated approach, or a more forceful effort based on greater experience and a changed society and membership (not to mention an extremely generous budget). The problems of paraplegia were all voiced and well outlined within the first years of PVA's life by those early visionaries, many of whom are still among us.

At this convention — the Silver Anniversary of PVA — one may see those generations of veterans cooperating in the development of the future of their own national organization. Those of World War II were nudged by the veterans of Korea, and now the Korean veterans are being nudged by the youthful, energetic and seriously concerned veterans from the battlefields of Vietnam . . .

"To you from failing hands we throw . . ."

THE PARAPLEGIA NEWS - STORY OF A TOUGH CHILDHOOD

The first issue of the *Paraplegia News* came off a press in the Occupational Therapy Department of the Bronx (N.Y.) VA Hospital on July 27, 1946. In their formative meeting during February 1947, delegates of today's Paralyzed Veterans of America organization unanimously adopted the publication as their official organ.

By the time of the organization incorporation in April 1947, eight issues had been received by PVA members. And with this July 1971 Anniversary Edition, 274 issues of the *Paraplegia News* have been published, with 4,026 pages crammed with information "in the interest and for the benefit of paraplegics, civilian and veteran, all over the world."

Origin traced

The late John Michael Price is generally credited with the creation of the publication, and he should also be credited for his herculean efforts to keep it alive and going without regard for his own personal interests and health. But John was the first to state that the *idea* for the *PN* came from the late Bob Bather, who produced a shortlived four-page paper entitled *The Milestone*, which gave John Price the idea for today's *Paraplegia News*.

No infant ever had a tougher childhood. During the early years, John, a quadriplegic, prepared all copy himself with the help of volunteer secretaries. Byron Deysher was co-editor for the first two editions, but then he transferred to the Birmingham VA Hospital in California in September 1946.

Carmen "Big John" Fanelli did the printing bit with a hand-crank job, donated by the Swedish unit of the New York American Red Cross. Coordinating copy, printing and mailing deadlines were many tempers thin, and wildcat strikes occurred often. Even the printing press seemed to throw tantrums. All this was complicated by the fact that the paraplegic and quadriplegic veteran patients insisted on doing the work themselves.

50 odd

After John Price prepared the copy and Big John finished the printing, the rest of the slave work was done by as many of the 50 odd paras and quads as could be mustered by the mad Russian production manager, Walter Suchanoff, who was in charge of stamp licking and mailing operations. Credit these troops with eight consecutive issues be-

fore a single miss.

From its inception right through the year 1953, the life and times of the *Paraplegia News* was as turbulent, controversial, and precarious as its parent, the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Finances always cast a malignant shadow, with the result that the *PN* failed to show for eight consecutive issues.

In 1948 John Price left the hospital and moved to downtown New York City. *PN* offices were moved to National Headquarters at 99 Park Avenue, where Bob Moss began as associate editor. In 1949 Price resigned as editor, to be succeeded by Moss, whose wife, Lucille, served as associate editor.

During these difficult years, support of the chapters was the main thing that kept the *Paraplegia News* going . . . and an unshakeable belief in the essential needs the publication was filling.

Off-shoot

After the 1950 joint PVA/NPF convention, NPF executive director Bernard Shufelt, feeling that the *PN* did not present sufficient coverage of his organization, developed an off-shoot publication called *The Journal of Paraplegia*. Beginning in November 1950, the *Journal* was published until 1954, when the NPF chose to designate the *Paraplegia News* as its official publication.

In October 1952, editor Bob Moss resigned and PVA president Bill Green appointed idea-originator Bob Bather as *PN* editor. In Nutley, N.J., Bob Bather completed 26 months, missing only two issues, when he resigned due to poor health and was succeeded by John Price, who resumed editorship in January 1955 in Stroudsburg, Pa. Since October 1953, the *PN* has not missed a single issue.

Originally it was hoped that advertising revenue would be sufficient to support the *PN*. But this did and has not proved possible to date. Subscriptions were charged to non-disabled readers at \$1 per year beginning in June 1947, and all non-PVA members in October 1948. In November 1949, rates were raised to \$2, later to \$2.50, and finally, in 1966, to the current rate of \$3 per year.

Although advertising and subscription revenues are substantial, half of the publication's costs are borne by the parent organization, which, in turn, provides subscriptions to its members as a part of their benefits.

Size increase

As revenue and printing and publish-



John Michael Price with his friend Jinx Falkenburg. From January 1947 *PN*.

ing costs have grown, so has the size of the magazine. The early issues contained four to six pages. Under Bob Moss and Bob Bather, the *PN* advanced to eight pages. John Price began his second editorship in 1955 with 12 pages, and within a year had raised it to 16, varying occasionally from 12 to 20 pages.

The year 1961 was a black one for the PVA and the *PN*. Editor John Price died on July 31, 1961, just weeks after his predecessor Bob Bather's death in April. John Price was followed into office, on the eve of the 157th issue by another quadriplegic veteran, Frank MacAloon, who moved the *PN* to its fifth home in Fairview, N.J. There for two years, and later from Northvale, N.J., Frank and his wife published the *PN*, by working nights and weekends (after Frank's full-time job and family responsibilities) until completing the July 1963 issue.

At the 17th National PVA Convention, newly elected PVA president John Farkas appointed quadriplegic Bob Webb of California as *PN's* fifth editor. Bob immediately impressed his own unique personality on the *PN* by revamping its format and adding a second color. Use of the second color was continued until a few years ago when economy returned the publication to use of one color only. At that time, the cover format was again redesigned to make the one color more attractive and effective.

Under Bob Webb, the *PN* has grown from 16 to 20 pages and recently to 24, varying occasionally from 20 to 28 pages. I am sure the quality and content of the current *PN* speaks more eloquently on Bob's behalf than anything which might be said here.

Born in 1946 with four pages and a circulation of 2,000, the *Paraplegia News* is now a 24-page paper reaching for 28, with a worldwide circulation of more than 12,000.

The National Service Program

The major reason for the creation of PVA was to seek answers to the special problems of the spinal cord injured. While paraplegia was known before, it was not until World War II that there was hope for continuing life for a paraplegic. To live, however, the paraplegic needed a program of continuing medical care, and pecuniary benefits consistent to and necessary for essential living conditions.

Such a total program was not possible in our early years because of our inexperience and organizational poverty. But over the years we not only developed the necessary expertise, but also concrete evidence that our special type of program was vital to the needs of our members and their dependents and survivors.

At the 1959 Convention, then President Harry Schweikert introduced such a program. Because of the high price tag (\$14,000) it was initially rejected. The convention did allocate \$5,000 to initiate a program, but there is no evidence that any of it was spent. At the following convention, the program was again endorsed, and a budget of \$12,000 was established for its promotion.

The National Adjudication Office was established, and Patrick Marron was appointed to head it. Upon his re-election to the presidency in 1961, Robert Clason appointed Harry Schweikert to succeed Pat Marron. For personal reasons, however, Schweikert resigned from the post a month later. William Green was then appointed National Service Director, and has continued in that role to the present.

In eleven full years of operation, PVA has spent some \$200,000 in direct service to its members and/or their dependents and survivors, under its National Service Program. There is no way to determine how much benefit — physical, mental, emotional, or financial — may have accrued to these beneficiaries during this time. It is enough that the benefit has been proffered. What's more, the National Service Program reflects only a portion of the services extended to veterans and their dependents. For the individual chapters supplement the national program with their own time and money.

HOUSING ADVERTISEMENT
April 1947 PARAPLEGIA NEWS
Apartments for rent. For paraplegia veterans only. Specially adapted temporary quarters. Rentals as low as \$33.50 for a four-room apartment. Write to New York City Housing Authority.

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS-THEN AND NOW

There were a lot of young guys who returned from the Second World War pretty well paralyzed and confined to wheelchairs for the rest of their lives. They were in the same age bracket, had the same problems and frustrations, and the same unbridled and unchanneled energy. It had to find an outlet somewhere. And where better than in the red-blooded province of sports?

It started with such sedentary sports as ping-pong, catch, and pool; then from bowling, swimming, and volleyball to the more energetic waterpolo, softball, touch-football, and basketball. From there it broadened into today's popular and widely publicized field events such as archery, javelin, discus, shot-put, weight-lifting, speed races and slalom.

Birth

While the California PVA has been popularly credited with the birth of wheelchair basketball, the New England chapter provides documentary evidence antedating California's claim to fame. However, both will agree that wheelchair sports started in earnest in 1946, and it started in Veterans Administration Hospitals.

Before long, the wheelchair sports movement rolled across the nation and crossed international borders to Canada, England, and many other countries. Today, through many regional meets and through organized national and international sporting events, hundreds of thousands of severely disabled individuals compete proudly and fiercely in wheelchair sports.

The California PVA had a wheelchair basketball team in 1946 that was limited to playing intersquad games and against able-bodied teams in wheelchairs. The first competitive wheelchair game on record was held in February 1947 between Birmingham VAH team and the Rolling Devils from Corona Naval Hospital.

Wheelchair basketball was given an immense boost when the BVAH team was sponsored by the *Los Angeles Examiner* and began an annual nationwide tour in 1948 to play against wheelchair teams from other VA Hospitals.

Other Sports

In 1947, wheelchair softball was developed into a finished sport and played competitively between the Whiz Kids of Halloran and the Bronx Rollers. Touch Football — joy of wheelchair manufacturers — was started. And so was volleyball.

A year earlier, a pilots club was started first in California, and then in Florida, where the pilots of World War

II could again take to wing. According to our records, archery was started that same year at the Cushing (New England) VAH, and water-polo was started in California.

Bowling competition had begun at several VA hospitals in 1946, but it wasn't until 1947 that a national telegraphic meet was set up, at PVA's urging, under the sponsorship of the Victory Bowling Legion. The first game was conducted from the White House with President Truman casting the first ball. The telegraphic meets are still held.

Some Opposition

The wild and enthusiastic spread of wheelchair sports from that time can be well documented. What we don't find in print is the antagonism and objection of many in the medical community who thought that the wheelchair bound should remain moribund like the dying patients they were thought to be. Wheelchair sports owes a debt of thanks to the progressive doctors who saw the healthy countenance of competitive sports, and who promote them as part of an integral therapeutic program.

Without a doubt significant credit must go to wheelchair sports for the favorable publicity it created. It was this program, more than any other single endeavor, that proved once and for all to the world that severe disability was not a total handicap. And it was wheelchair sports which more than anything else fomented great public and professional interest in the multi-faceted problems of the spinal cord injured.



PVA Trademark and Emblem

"Speedy," as the Little-Man-in-the-Wheelchair is known, was endorsed as the national trademark of the Paralyzed Veterans of America by delegates at the 1958 national convention. It was registered with the U.S. Patent Office one year later.

PVA AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Through the years some have questioned: "What has PVA done for me (lately)?"

The fact is that the Paralyzed Veterans of America has swung a lot of weight and influence in its pursuit of better life for its members and for those who suffer similar disabilities but who choose not to belong or are ineligible for PVA membership. A case in point is PVA's record in the national legislative process. This record indicates that PVA has done remarkably well for the veteran with spinal cord injury and/or disease in the area of housing, auto grants, medical care, and compensation, as well as increased benefits for nonservice-connected paraplegic veterans.

Wheelchair housing

Even the idea of special housing for wheelchair bound persons did not exist before World War II. It was an idea conceived by members of the Halloran hospital PVA group in 1946. Implementation of their planning began soon thereafter with work led by Robert Moss and Harold Peterson. In October 1946 housing proponents contacted the American Institute of Architects and a special committee comprised of architects and paralyzed veterans met several times a week.

By the middle of December, the committee had completed blueprints for a four-room house consisting of bathroom, bedroom, workroom, and an ideal garage. From three scale models came an improved full-scale model home built on the Halloran hospital grounds. (The original blueprints on wheelchair housing are still being used to guide paraplegics in housing design.)

Metropolitan New York City newspapers gave considerable publicity coverage to this housing concept, and soon the city itself began to include special wheelchair apartments in its housing for paraplegic residents.

Next, bills were introduced in Congress that provided for special adapted housing for paraplegics. At the same time, Virginia PVA chapter leaders were generating a similar housing interest in the city of Richmond.

Against housing

You may not believe it now, but in the beginning the consensus of PVA members was *against* federal housing! A motion introduced by PVA leader Peterson at a February 1947 meeting, calling for support of such housing, was defeated.

But public pressure soon took the matter out of PVA hands, and in the early

months of 1947, a multitude of bills was introduced in both Houses of Congress reflecting the various opinions and beliefs of PVA factions, Congressmen, and the Administration itself.

Senator Joseph McCarthy might well be credited with first calling Congressional attention to the matter of special housing for disabled veterans. His office contacted Bob Moss early in 1947, indicating an interest in introducing such legislation.

In June of that year, PVA members and their wives — including Mr. and Mrs. Bob Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shufelt, Ed Kircher, and Bill Ellsworth, testified on the Senate bills. While they were still in Washington, Edith Nourse Rogers, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, called a special meeting of her Committee so that PVA testimony could be heard.

The large veterans organizations opposed the entire concept, as did the powerful Senator Robert Taft, who felt it would "open the door to other disabled." He preferred increased compensation to meet such special needs. General Omar Bradley, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, opposed total financial support.

Rough going

Senator McCarthy's bill, S. 1293, had rough going and even PVA was split between total subsidization (East) and no subsidization (West). An amended, S. 1293, spelling out compromises, was passed by the Senate. An identical bill, H.R. 4244, introduced by Congressman Vail of Illinois, was then approved by the House. This became the well-known Public Law 702 when signed by President Harry S. Truman on June 19, 1948. It had been changed very little until the enactment of Public Law 91-22, which increased the maximum grant from \$10,000 to \$12,500.

Strong PVA testimony, a widely publicized "march" on Grand Central Station in New York City by members of Eastern PVA, and tremendous support from major sports and entertainment personalities and radio and news media did the trick. (During one CBS broadcast president Bob Moss coined the phrase "A paraplegic is an individual.")

All this — and the barrage of letters to Congressmen from PVA members and friends — plus the support of Chairman Mrs. Rodgers, influenced passage of H.R. 4244.

Loan law

Another law, Public Law 91-506, au-

thorizing direct VA home loans to veterans eligible for the special housing grant, to finance the rest of their mortgage. The provisions of this bill were sponsored by PVA in 1961 and promoted through each Congress until its enactment in 1970. Previously, there was great difficulty obtaining mortgages from other sources. It is expected that this year another law will be enacted which will provide mortgage protection insurance on these specially adapted homes — another benefit which could not be procured from commercial outlet and in too many cases left the widow or other survivors in deep debt upon the veteran's death.

The increase in the maximum amount allowable under the grant; the direct loans from VA to finance the mortgage, and the mortgage protection life insurance were all gained through the primary interest and effort of PVA alone. There is no doubt that PVA's activities, especially those of Bob Classon, with officials of the Federal Housing Authority during 1960 and 1961 contributed greatly to the subsequent enactment of laws granting funds for the construction of special housing for the disabled, and low rent supplements.

Auto grant

According to PVA leader Bill Green, the original auto grant bill introduced by Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts was drafted by PVA'er Norman Sellner while still a patient at England General Hospital in Atlantic City. Upon its passage, however, the individual chapters of what became the Paralyzed Veterans of America became deeply involved. By including the necessity of a driver's license, the original law excluded quadriplegics from eligibility.

After the housing bill was enacted, PVA leaders devoted more time and effort on behalf of the auto bill and other PVA legislative goals. In spite of this, old "Give-'em-hell" Harry vetoed the auto bill after it was passed by Congress.

And in 1951, President Truman again vetoed the bill. But in momentous action, Congress overrode his veto and enacted the legislation into law. This opened the way for quadriplegics and blind veterans to obtain automobile grant assistance.

With the exception of minor amendments extending the benefits to veterans of subsequent wars and liberalizing a little, there was no change as far as PVA members were concerned.

Fought restriction

A bill introduced into the 90th Con-

gress would in effect have limited eligibility for veterans suffering disability after Jan. 31, 1955 to disabilities suffered "in line of duty, as a direct result of the performance of military duty." PVA leaders went before the 91st Congress again testifying against the restriction and asking an increase in the basic grant. On a related bill PVA pursued a goal it had sought for 15 years — to have hand controls considered prosthetic appliances. The 91st Congress enacted a law which granted an increase in the grant from \$1600 to \$2800 and it provided that any necessary adaptive equipment over and above the cost of the vehicle be furnished. Further, it directed the VA to be responsible for the repair and replacement of this adaptive equipment as it must for all prosthetic equipment.

This latter provision was extended to all veterans who had ever received the auto grant and still operate the original or any subsequent hand-controlled vehicle. Although we still have not succeeded in removing this arbitrary restriction, it is still a determined goal of PVA that we do so.

Nonservice connected

As an organization, PVA has never lost sight of the greater needs of those who suffered their afflictions after their honorable discharge from military service. However, it has been difficult, because almost all veterans bills are introduced in the House. And every veteran's bill must be approved by a committee whose powerful chairman is less than sympathetic, I believe, to the needs of the nonservice-connected veteran.

Financial. While money is not a basic essential to life, enough of it can certainly provide those basic essentials. As early as 1947, PVA was promoting an increase in the basic rate of pension to at least equal that of the service-connected peacetime rate. At the same time it was urging increased financial assistance for the quadriplegic.

PVA has continually promoted increases in the maximum income allowable, and promoted the exclusion of Social Security disability benefits from computation of annual income. In 1965, PVA supported a sliding scale of pension benefits for the NSC, hoping thereby to gain more income for those who needed it most. In 1966, it even created a special rate to be called the "Paraplegic Rehabilitation Allowance" which was to consist of \$100 per month over and above all other income.

PVA may not have been as successful as it would like or thought equitable, but it has done remarkably well in presenting its case for the NSC Spinal Cord Injured. Let's see how.

In 1946, the pension rate was \$60 per month. Today a single paraplegic with no dependents receives \$231 per month, excluding all other income. In 1946, there was no rate for dependents. Today, a paraplegic with dependents can receive over \$5200 per year, including all other income.

The first major change in the pension rate came in 1951 when a new bill (H.R. 3193) had the audacity to create a special rate for aid and attendance (A & A). With A & A, the bill doubled the previous rate of \$60 per month. The bill passed both Houses of Congress but was vetoed by President Truman. So Congress took it back and passed it over the veto.

In 1960 (four years after PVA recommended it) a sliding scale of pension benefits was created. The new law (P.L. 86-211) also established a separate rate of \$100 for aid and attendance. It left the old pension law alone for those who chose to remain under it. Since that time there have only been cost-of-living increases. However, for the past two years, PVA has been endeavoring to create a special pension plan for the spinal cord injured and other veterans with afflictions of equally serious nature.

Medical. The true basic essential to life is the medical and/or domiciliary care required by all of us. Those who have been with us for all 25 years, know how often VA care of the nonservice connected veteran has been questioned — and threatened. It has been the strong and united front of PVA which has fought not only for such care, but for *increasingly better* programs of medical care and rehabilitation.

At its very first meeting in 1947, PVA called for the establishment of a domiciliary care program within the VA system for the NSC. Two years later, it was promoting outpatient care and the issue of medical supplies on the same basis as received by the service-connected. The concept of total medical care also was actively and consistently promoted and supported.

In 1959, the law creating a new pension program authorized the issue of invalid lifts to persons suffering the loss or loss of use of three limbs, and drugs and medicines to veterans in receipt of aid and attendance. In 1960, pre-hospital and post-hospital care was authorized.

In 1967, not only was nursing home care authorized, but so was the issue of therapeutic and rehabilitation devices. And just last year, legislation authorized complete and continuous outpatient care for those veterans in receipt of aid and attendance.

Medical care

An intense, continuous, and bitter fight

has been conducted by PVA and all its chapters to better conditions facing the SCI in VA hospitals. And, with the exception of perhaps two hospitals which had dedicated chiefs of service, the quality of medical care for paraplegics did, in fact, deteriorate to a shameful degree.

In the mid-forties, there was good rapport between SCI patients and the medical profession treating them. Even though the mortality prognostication was from 2 to 10 years, depending on who made it, paraplegics were a new science. The doctors were interested in keeping them living for another tomorrow, and today things seem to be looking up.

Throughout these years, PVA recommended certain programs which it knew to be essential to the lives of the spinal cord injured — physically, mentally and emotionally. As early as 1946 and 1947, we recognized the ultimate need of domiciliary and nursing home care. It took VA 17 years to initiate that project.

In 1946, Bob Moss, who could see a little farther than most people, called for the creation of a Coordinator of Paraplegic Affairs. The 1947 National Convention supported it fully. But it wasn't until a special committee appointed by President Truman to investigate the VA medical care system recommended it that it was finally established in 1951.

PVA at that time also succeeded in getting the use of the prosthetic card, previously for amputee use only, to the spinal cord injured. Starting in 1954, PVA promoted the separation of the Spinal Cord Injury Service into a separate VA department. It was only in 1970 that this was finally done.

Against the structure

Our attacks against the Veterans Administration have been against a bureaucratic structure. Unfortunately, many dedicated doctors, nurses, and aides took these attacks as a personal affront. Yet, what we were trying to do was improve their lot as much as we were trying to improve programs of care for ourselves. Our attack was against the highest Administrative level which didn't have the guts to stand up for what was right. Our attacks were against a Congress which made no honest appraisal of the situation.

And our attacks were against the White House and its Bureau of the Budget (now OBM), which blocked many improvements that were legislated by Congress. We salute those who have dedicated themselves to the health and welfare of the spinal cord injured. And we humbly apologize for any seeming affront made against them.

In the medical care field, it has been

PVA — and only PVA — which has championed the cause of the spinal cord injured so diligently and for so long. It has been only within the past three years that some notable improvements have been initiated at the higher levels of Administration.

One included the creation of Post-Graduate courses to train interested physicians in the care of the Spinal Cord Injured. The fifth such course met in May, 1971. In 1968, the Chief Medical Director appointed a Board of National Consultants to the SCIS, composed of eminent Chiefs of Service and other physicians with intimate knowledge of the care needed by the Spinal Cord Injured. In 1970, the Chief Medical Director appointed an Ad Hoc Committee, composed mainly of members of the PVA, but also including representatives from other veterans organizations, to advise him on matters pertaining to the SCIS.

More services

The original 6 SCI services were increased to 10 by the end of 1970. During 1971, 4 new sections have been promised, and in 1972, another 4 or 5 will open. This will double the number of operating beds available for SCI — with no thanks, it might be added, to Vietnam, which has added more than 2,000 SCI to the VA rolls.

This year a new, innovative approach to total care was started at Long Beach. This was a course covering the psychosocial environment of the SCI patient and will be applied to him in a total care follow-up program. It will affect all the SCI, whether service-connected or nonservice-connected.

It was Congressional attention, primarily, responsible for the change. And it has been new leadership in the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery. And surely, if the positive direction continues, even PVA — the most persistent of taskmakers — will be happy.

Compensation

Compensation for service-connected disability has its beginning deep in American history. It has had its ups and downs in the American Congress, but for the most part it has been a revered institution which few legislators would dare to challenge. And overall, Congress has been good to the most seriously disabled.

In 1945, the SC paraplegic was receiving \$300 per month, but in April 1946, Congress passed Public Law 144, which reduced this amount to \$20 per month for hospitalized veterans without dependents. The only documented evidence of strong resistance from an individual from PVA Chapters was in the California PVA. There the newly organ-



A typical group of PVA members and officers who have just testified before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs in March 1965. From left to right are Leonard Kennedy and Howard Bennett, Virginia; Lou Logan, Capital Area; Dixon Christian, Virginia; Boyer Purnell, Capital Area; Harry Schweiker; Russell Sherwood, Capital Area; and William Green, National Service Director.

ized group, under first President Fred Smead, formulated their opposition. It enlisted the formidable aid of the Los Angeles *Examiner* and the entire national chain of Hearst newspapers. On May 16, 1946, the *Examiner* sent Fred Smead to Washington, D.C. to testify against the law before the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The law to change this was Public Law 662, enacted Sept. 1, 1946, which not only rescinded the hospital restriction but also included a 20% increase to \$360 per month.

About every other year compensation for the service-connected was increased generously over and above any cost of living index. Today the basic compensation rate is more than 100% what it was back in 1946. Aid and Attendance has also more than doubled since it was first enacted in 1958.

PVA's role

What part did PVA play in all this? One hell of a lot since Fred Smead's appearance before HVAC in 1946. We mentioned what Dick Whalen and Ed Kircher did on the NSC pension bills. Between 1947 and 1950 Dave Reiniger and Bernard Shufelt were in Washington so much they were required to register as lobbyists and file returns! (Their returns ran over and above that sum which PVA allocated to their use, and what the Virginia Chapter couldn't contribute, they laid out of their own pockets. The sum, in comparison to other major veterans organizations, gave the Clerk of the Congress one great big laugh!)

Of course, the Eastern PVA, the next closest chapter to Washington, also conducted frequent shuttle-runs to the Capital. And all chapters carried on with letter-writing campaigns. In addition, we would be remiss if we did not remark on the special contribution of Ted Anderson in the field of legislation.

Almost single-handedly, Ted was responsible for the enactment of the new aid and attendance rating in 1958.

Such a special rating was first suggested by Bob Moss at the first meeting in February of 1947. It was picked up by the late Ted Anderson who induced his California Congressman to introduce it in 1955. After that, Ted pushed the bill forcefully, spending a great deal of time in Washington in direct conversations with Congressman Olin Teague, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

While it was enacted to aid the quadriplegic alone, the VA determined that it applied equally to all the spinal cord injured, so the paraplegic got it also. To show how one thing leads to another, this same principle was applied to the nonservice-connected when a new pension program, including an aid and attendance rating, was enacted in 1960.

Other areas

PVA and its members, both collectively and individually, have applied themselves diligently to other areas of need requiring action by Congress. This is particularly so on dependents and survivors benefits for both SC and NSC. The wartime/peacetime differential, first established by law in 1917, is an inequity the eradication of which PVA will continue to apply itself.

It is felt, further, that a totally new approach must be taken to alleviate the problems of our quadriplegic veterans to enable them to live comfortably in the community environment.

To anyone who has been there and knows, there is little doubt about the power and effect of the wheelchairbound themselves appearing before Congressional Committees. And there is little doubt about the power of a strong, central organization such as PVA.

RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION - TWO MAJOR AIMS

As an organization, the Paralyzed Veterans of America has always had two major endeavors — betterment of living for all the spinal cord injured and a future cure for those suffering an occurrence of such injury tomorrow.

Shortly after organization of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the group established the National Paraplegia Foundation (NPF) to carry out its goals of research. Basically, through the years, PVA and its individual chapters have contributed to the financing of the NPF for administrative purposes, because it was difficult to gain support for this from the public or philanthropies.

In past years, for example, PVA has contributed to such special purposes as (1) a two-year study on the rehabilitation needs of paraplegics, (2) development of a 64-page handbook on nursing care for paraplegics, and (3) a three-year grant for the support of an Executive Director with fundraising experience.

Worked closely

Working closely with the NPF, PVA has cooperated many times in the pres-

entation of testimony before Congressional Committees, the development of several publications, the distribution of literature, the search for newly injured paraplegics and quadriplegics, the publication of many relative articles, and the pursuit of many programs of interest.

Unilaterally, PVA has continued to promote programs of special interest in the fields of research and rehabilitation. In 1963, PVA had introduced in Congress a bill which would require the Veterans Administration to set aside \$100,000 per year, for six years, for spinal cord research. It failed in that Congress, but in spite of VA opposition, it did pass in the following Congress.

For many years, and in many ways, PVA has supported the creation of special spinal cord injury centers, whether under the Regional Medical Program, or federally funded under HEW or NIH. For several years, PVA conducted essay contests for students in medicine, nursing, and correctional therapy, with the hope of attracting some of these students into the field of paraplegic care. The same interest prompted PVA

to set up scholarships for graduate students in rehabilitation nursing.

World affiliation

In related fields of rehabilitation, PVA very early became an associate member of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, now known as Rehabilitation International. For many years PVA has also been associated with the World Veteran's Federation, whose main efforts are dedicated toward peace and rehabilitation throughout the world.

PVA has participated in several international congresses of the former organization, and General Assemblies of the Veteran's Federation, in such countries as Austria, England, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Over the years, PVA and its chapters have contributed approximately \$250,000 to special research projects. Yet we pledge our interest and our finances will continue to support, to the best of our ability, any and all programs which promise increasingly better living conditions for those who must live with a spinal cord disability today — and a cure for those who may suffer it tomorrow.

PVA AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It might seem to many that persons so catastrophically afflicted must concern themselves almost entirely with their own self care. Further, that an organization such as PVA, composed of such severely disabled veterans, would prove to be a self-interest organization. Yet neither case has been nor could be true.

The very magnitude of spinal cord injury presents a galaxy of problems far beyond the means of the individual or the group. Consequently, in applying itself to the problems of better health and better living conditions for its membership, the successes of PVA must therefore reflect their benefits upon all individuals similarly afflicted.

There are many fields in which PVA has effectively invested and campaigned. We have mentioned the community involvements of its individual chapters with orphaned and disabled children, and their association with other disabled groups in the community. There is also much individual concern.

And there are fields of wider stripe in which PVA has invested its time, its money, and its expertise.

Publications

Perhaps the more effective of these have been PVA's publications. The *Paraplegia News*, for example, has been

printed by PVA since 1946. Although the National publication of a veteran's organization, it has focused its news content on matters of concern to all paraplegics and with the broad area of wheelchair living. This altruism has not come cheaply, costing PVA an average of \$15,000 yearly.

In previous years PVA has independently published or otherwise financed or assisted with the development of other publications of specific use to the paraplegic community. These have included nursing care and self-care, housing and employment, homemaking and recreation, and travel and sports, among others. Again, these require a specific deficit investment of PVA's resources. They are distributed without charge to many agencies and disabled individuals, and at below cost to others.

Barriers and travel

Since its very inception, PVA has been involved in the sweeping problems of architectural barriers facing the wheelchair bound individual. From the beginning, it was clear that the bus or subway couldn't be used. Rail travel was prohibited or extremely hazardous. Air travel required medical assistance. The automobile was too expensive for most, and so was the taxi.

Most housing was inaccessible and/or unusable. Thus was the rehabilitated individual so totally frustrated at the very beginning of his new life in the community.

The PVA has taken part in a wide campaign with an ultimate goal to correct these inadequacies. For these are more than barriers to physical pleasures. They are blocks to all the inherent rights of every citizen to housing, employment, education, recreation, and transportation.

An individual

In many instances, PVA pursues these goals unilaterally through responsible federal agencies and the Congress. It has also become an integral part of other official committees and groups, where collective force carries much further.

Many successes have been savored through the years, but there are still many formidable tasks ahead. PVA believes that the paraplegic, as an individual, can live normally as a person and a citizen in spite of his handicap. He has a multitude of problems to face. They arise every day. They are inevitable, but not insurmountable.

It is to the solution of everyone of these problems and more the Paralyzed Veterans of America is dedicated.

PVA RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED

Through the years many persons have played outstanding roles in the development and growth of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Several played such integral parts in our early history that they certainly merit mention at this Silver Jubilee time. They are listed here in accordance with their sequential contact with our organization. (We must leave it to the individual PVA chapters to recognize persons who have helped shape the history of their own chapters.)

O. C. "Terry" Rose was the strength of Gibraltar to the Vaughan chapter, and he carried his interest over to the national organization. For the years he lived in Chicago, he served as our PVA agent in residence. Henry G. Slavick was a millionaire friend of the guys at Vaughan and a close personal friend of Terry Rose. Henry Slavick served for many years as treasurer of the National Paraplegia Foundation, contributing generously to its research program.

Lloyd Pantages was — and still is — the stalwart of the California Paralyzed Veterans Association. It was he who interested Jerry Geisler, the noted Southern California trial lawyer, in the veterans organization. R. W. McKee was another friend of California. As president of Maywood-Bell Glass Corporation, he did considerable work in raising funds from industrial sources.

Detroit to Chicago

Mrs. Glen (Mildred) Anderson from Grosse Point, Mich., devoted much time to helping paraplegics at the Detroit VA Hospital (before there was a Vaughan chapter). When patients were moved to Hines VA Hospital, near Chicago, Mrs. Anderson still visited them there.

Another who assisted in development at chapter and national levels was Mrs. Nell O'Callaghan. The wife of a United Air Lines official, Mrs. O'Callaghan devoted many hours to paraplegics in northern Illinois. When the O'Callaghans moved to Denver, Nell promptly encouraged paraplegics there to begin our Mountain States chapter. She also served as president of the local NPF chapter, and worked with paraplegics at Fitzsimons Army Hospital.

Ann McElroy, a physical therapist from Chicago, had worked at England General in Atlantic City, N.J., and so knew the guys who spread throughout the East. After a stay at the Bronx VAH, she went to Vaughan, always promoting the theme of a national organization.

Eastern giant

Fred Levinthal was a giant in the East. A New York philanthropist, he insisted that the three PVA chapters there would best serve their purpose as one. So he raised the money to start the Eastern PVA and got them office space in a city building. The money he raised for EPVA helped the early days of PVA and NPF. It was through his efforts, also, that thousands of hospitalized servicemen were treated to original Broadway shows.

PVA has always maintained a program of awards by which it recognized the great contribution of certain individuals, and of firms and other organizations, to the field of the disabled generally, and to PVA and its members particularly. In the beginning, these awards were given spontaneously without regard to calendar or clock. Following are names of those individuals, firms, and/or organizations so honored. Unfortunately, in our early vest-pocket days, some things went unrecorded or the records were lost or misplaced. So if we have missed any names, we are most deeply apologetic.

First awards

The very first award of PVA went in 1947 to S. E. Skinner, vice-president and general manager of the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors, for providing specially equipped automobiles (the Valiant Car Program) to VA Hospitals to train paras and quads to drive. The second award in our history went to Arde Bulova in 1949. The award was given to Bulova, chairman of the board of Bulova School of Watchmaking, for providing paraplegic veterans with the opportunity to learn the watchmaking trade.

In 1954 PVA recognized New York philanthropist Fred Levinthal. A year later Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers received PVA's highest accolade. As chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Rogers was the predominant influence in the passage of the auto and housing bills, especially, and a fervent supporter of all disabled veterans legislation and a stalwart friend of PVA.

In 1960 a significant award went to United Air Lines for its very liberal policy in the transportation of the severely disabled aboard its airlines.

Speedy awards

In 1957, a permanent national plaque of bronze on walnut was designed and adopted. It was called the PVA "Speedy"

Award, after our little-man-in-the-wheelchair. Because of their outstanding contribution to the field of paraplegia, whether it was medical, administrative, social, athletic, or other area, the following persons have or will receive Speedy awards. (They were all chosen on a competitive basis, voted on by all chapters and officers.)

Ted Anderson (1968), C. A. L. Bassett, M.D. (1959), Howard L. Bennett (1969), Ernest Bors, M.D. (1964), Paul C. Bucy, M.D. (1969), Carl Bunts, M.D. (1967), Leslie P. Burghoff (1970), James B. Campbell, M.D. (1959), A. Estin Comarr, M.D. (1958), John J. Farkas (1963), Leslie W. Freeman, M.D. (1957), William P. Green (1962), President John F. Kennedy (1965), John Krenzel (1966), Judy Krenzel (1967).

Erich G. Krueger, M.D. (1971), Frank H. Krusen, M.D. (1970), Benjamin Lipton (1962), Frank G. McAloon (1964), Oliver Meadows (1969), M. C. Montgomery (1971), Gil Moss (1957), Robert Moss (1971); Donald Munro, (1966), Timothy J. Nugent (1965), Lloyd Pantages (1968), Edwin Patterson (1969), John M. Price (1958), Lois Rohrer (1967), O. C. "Terry" Rose (1960), Harry A. Schweikert, Jr. (1959), James Smittkamp (1967), Harold Stone (1965), Herbert S. Talbot, M.D. (1963), Julius Tannenbaum (1960), and the Hon. Olin E. Teague, M.C. (1960).

Certificates of appreciation

In addition to persons who made contributions at the national or worldwide level, others contributed their talents for the direct benefit of PVA and its individual programs, and/or to a particular segment of the disabled population. Such persons and organizations honored as recipients of PVA's certificates of appreciation include: Fred Christensen (1960), Mrs. Jean Christensen (1958), John Dodge Clark, Jr. (1958), Hugo Deffner (1957); The Doris Duke Foundation (1955), Richard T. Gilmartin (1958), Bob Herrera (1958), Dr. Ainsworth Isherwood (1961), Dr. Erich Krueger (1948), Benjamin Lipton (1957), Col. Michael Leo Looney (1955), Earl Manire (1966).

Dr. Emmanuele Mannarino (1968), Gerald Marks (1955), Edward Maxwell (1966), Ralph "Pop" Miller (1966), The Milwaukee Chapter NPF (1962), M. C. "Monty" Montgomery (1966), Harry A. Schweikert, Jr. (1966), The Sun Printing Company (1955), Homer "Bud" Thomas (1958), United Mine Workers (1956), The Vaughan Chapter, PVA (1962), and Harold Wagner (1966).