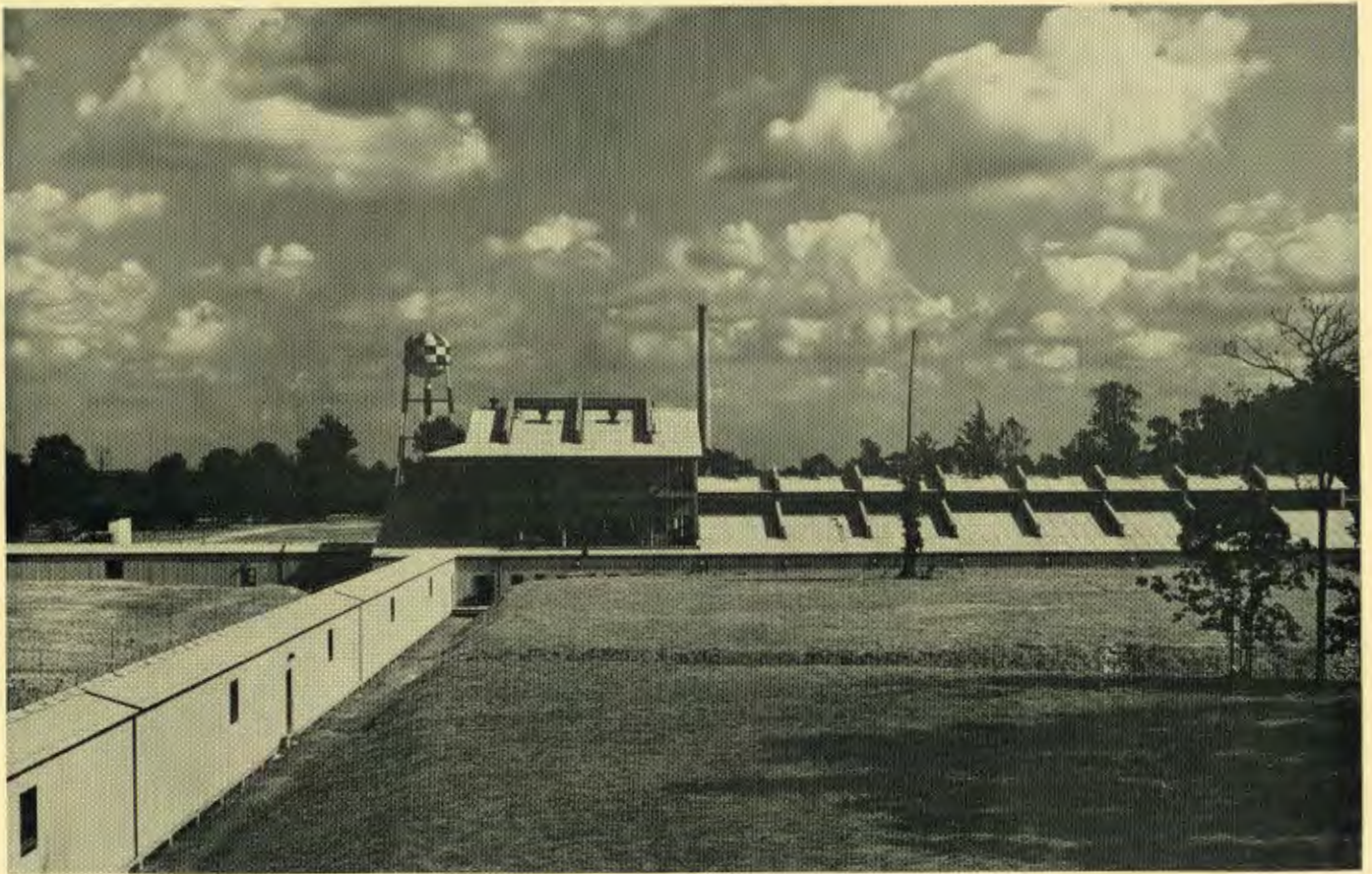


# ROP

RAVENNA ORDNANCE PLANT

Volume I ————— SEPTEMBER, 1941 ————— Number 3

## *Ready for Action!*



Shortly after the "go ahead" signal was given from Washington, Atlas Powder Company Officials at the Ravenna Ordnance Plant rolled up their sleeves, gave their belts an extra hitch and signalled back "We Are Ready For Action."

The achievement of setting into operation a major section of the Plant, just 11 months after ground was broken, will go down in history as parallel to the greatest architectural and engineering feat of all time. Above is pictured a section of the Load Line.



Official publication of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant, Ravenna, Ohio

J. C. Donnal... Director of Industrial Relations

Paul A. Ryan... Editor

Division Editors

- Miss Evelyn Horne... Atlas
- John Bjorkman... Sports
- Miss Randa Tozer and Al Six... War Dept.
- Fred Kellogg... Commissary
- L. R. Brice... Features
- Mrs. Betty Rowley... Special Asst.



### Are You A Good Driver?

With eight months of 1941 already passed, 42 persons have lost their lives on Portage County's highways.

This figure is expected to dwarf the 1940 total of 29 when the year is completed since 14 of last year's fatalities occurred during the last four months.

A checkup of the files of Corp. John Gorham, of the Kent sub-station of the State Highway Patrol, reveals that more than 500 of the year's 1,100 arrests have listed R.O.P. workers as the offenders. There were 973 arrests during 1940.

Accidents to date number 495, just 20 more than were investigated last year.

The records of Sheriff Robert Fitzgerald tell the same story as do State Patrol figures. A new deputy has been added to the Sheriff's force and new patrolmen added at Kent.

Corporal Gorham said that routes 5 and 18 are the worst. Route 5, east of Ravenna, became so bad last winter that it was necessary to have two patrolmen, one from Kent and another from Warren, patrol the roads from 6:00 until 8:00 A.M. and from 4:30 until 6:30 P.M., in an attempt to reduce the number of accidents and to be close at hand to direct traffic when accidents did occur.

An increase in fatalities, in arrests, and in accidents, should be expected with the influx of thousands of persons, however, it is far simpler to take the time to drive carefully and "get there".

# THE POCKETBOOK of KNOWLEDGE By TOPPS

**40,000 RIVETS ARE USED IN A MODERN FIGHTER PLANE ; 500,000 IN A BOMBER ; AND ABOUT 3 MILLION IN THE LATEST "SUPER-BOMBERS"**

**SPICES**  
WERE SO IMPORTANT IN ANCIENT ROME THAT A LAW WAS PASSED EXEMPTING FROM MILITARY SERVICE EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH "THE SPICE INDUSTRY"

**IN 1937 THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY COULD GENERATE 37,000,000 KILOWATTS CAPACITY --- THIS YEAR, TO MEET DEFENSE NEEDS, IT WILL REACH 45,000,000 KILOWATTS**

**MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY U.S. INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FOR FOOTBALL UNIFORMS ARE NOW BEING ADAPTED FOR THE USE OF PARACHUTE TROOPS**

**PURPLE**  
BECAME THE SYMBOL OF ROYALTY AND WEALTH BECAUSE OF THE HIGH PRICE OF PURPLE DYE IN OLDEN TIMES (A POUND OF WOOL DYED PURPLE COST AS MUCH AS \$175 !)

Safety authorities have set up the following rules as essential to safe driving:

1. Use your rear-view mirror. Never slow down or make turns without signalling clearly.
2. When passing, don't cut back into line until you can see in your mirror the left headlight of the car you are passing.
3. Know when NOT to use your brakes. Understand that if a tire blows out, the car can be controlled—UNLESS the brakes are applied; that usually you can pull out of a skid, by turning the front wheels in the direction of the skids—UNLESS you apply the brakes.
4. Keep in line except when passing.

## Fire Prevention Week...

"Fire defense for national defense" is the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week, to be observed throughout the country October 5-11.

In many places, observance of the occasion will penetrate more deeply than at the Ravenna Ordnance Plant, where, to quote Fire Chief Fred Kelley, "every week is Fire Prevention Week."

Constant checking of fire extinguishers, hydrants, and water storage facilities, and the elimination of fire hazards of all types, is daily routine, Chief Kelley explained.

The line is actually about a foot farther to the right of your left wheels than most drivers realize.

## Atlas Powder

The **Laughlins** and **Alsentzers** renewed friendships in Wilmington over the holiday, and the **Brewsters** traveled to Jersey. We're in favor of more holidays and more friendships to be renewed — it's so much fun.

\* \* \*

Any one wishing lessons in aesthetic dancing — see **Jack Farrell**.

\* \* \*

The Army's new representative in the Atlas building is **Lieut. C. W. Gruber** who is occupying **Capt. E. H. Haine's** office.

\* \* \*

**Herb Anderson** is back in our midst after a trip to Picatinny Arsenal. He also spent some time in Tamaqua at the "Cap" works of the Reynolds plant.

\* \* \*

Also, this column wants to welcome the group of Tamaqua girls who have arrived here to work for **Mr. Williston**.

\* \* \*

Why does **Ed Luerich** visit Lakeside Hospital so often? He looks healthy to us.

\* \* \*

Any one wishing statistics on the housing situation in this part of the country, should see **Dr. Seligman**. His list of vacancies is kept active from minute to minute.

\* \* \*

**Vic Collings** is awaiting eagerly the next Retail Merchants dinner, and promises, provided he's invited to sit at the speakers' table, that he will not fall asleep.

\* \* \*

Item for **Robt. Mumm**: Don't run guards into ditches, because, after all they represent the strong arm of the law around these parts.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to **C. H. Williston** on acquiring two new daughters-in-law. The marriage of **Lieut. Edward Williston** to **Miss Janet Davies**, both of Tamaqua, which took place last March, has just been announced. **Lieut. Robert L. Williston** and **Miss Margaret Southam** were married August 7 in Tamaqua.

## Personality Projectiles... War Department



**G. W. Conelly**

Lieut. of Plant Protection Department . . . always an Ohioan . . . Served 26 years in Ohio National Guard, retiring with a Lieutenant Colonel's rank . . . Inspected plant protection organizations in 400 industrial plants and was mediator in more than 200 strikes during military career . . . Married and has 16-year old daughter.



**M. L. Kafer** recently received his Captaincy in the U. S. Army. He has had 32 years Army experience.

**Capt. Kafer**, who has been serving as Warrant Officer in the Property Department, has not been assigned to duty in his new capacity.

\* \* \*

The Office of Ordnance Inspection under the guidance of **Capt. E. H. Haine** has been moved to Load Line One. The office force includes **Capt. Haine**, **Miss Mary De Simio**, **E. C. Hammersmith** and 55 associate inspectors.

\* \* \*

Returning recently from a fishing trip to Perry Point, Canada, were **Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barholt**. Helen is our telephone operator and Mr. Barholt is a member of the Fire Department. Both gave the usual story after a trip of this kind, "the biggest one got away."

\* \* \*

Recent marriage was that of **Loren Utter** of the Property Office to **Miss Marie Smith** of the Personnel Department.

\* \* \*

**Tony Paluch** is recovering in an Akron hospital from a recent appendectomy.

\* \* \*

**Lieut. W. H. Kuhn**, **E. C. Hammersmith**, **Sam Ehrenberg**, and **Lieut. R. R. Laurell** have returned from an inspection trip of Savanna Ordnance Depot. **Capt. Robert Lockridge** and **Maj. Andrew L. Fabens** left for Savanna on September 2.

\* \* \*

Anyone wishing to take driving lessons can get an entirely new slant on how to take curves from **Sid Boxer**.

\* \* \*

**Roland L. Churchill**, Assistant Field Auditor, shot a 36 at Meadowview Golf Course the other day and is now ready to take on all comers.

## Commissary

**Raymond Drag**, night manager of Commissary Unit I, and **Miss Genevieve Agnes Sarna** were married September 6 at St. Mary's Church, Painesville.

\* \* \*

**Bud Huber** and **Art Carney** have moved their office across the street from the Commissary. This change effected a short time ago, has given the accounting department additional space.

\* \* \*

**Fred Newcomb**, formerly storeroom clerk, has been promoted to Unit Supervisor.

\* \* \*

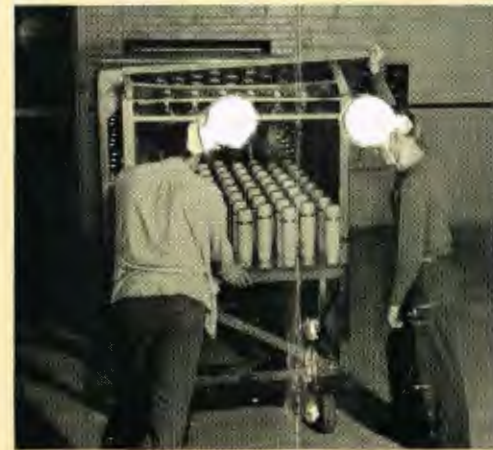
**Bud Filsinger** joined the Commissary Staff last week in the capacity of kitchen steward.

\* \* \*

**Earl Blakely** arrived last week to become assistant to **Bill Quinn**, Government Commissary Checker.

# How SHELLS ARE LOADED

In an effort to acquaint persons working at Plant with the steps in loading shell, R. O. P. is pleased to present pictorial representation of the steps taken in completing a round of ammunition.



The unpacked shells are pre-heated.



Threads are cleaned of all foreign matter.



By conveyor belt, shells are placed on automatic paint sprayer.



Inspected shell bodies, packed six to box.



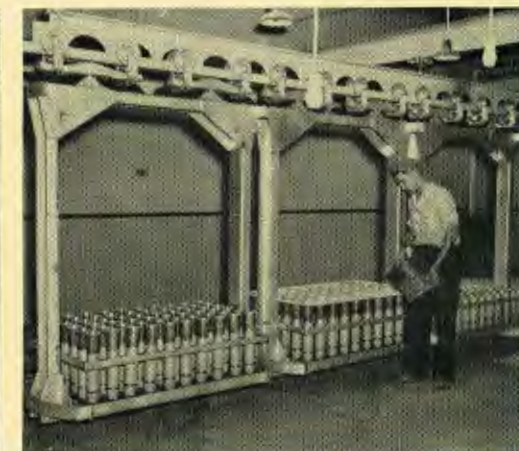
Shells are allowed to dry on mono-rail dollies.



A long trip through a ramp to the pouring boys.



One of the large units in which T. N. T. is melted.



Molten T. N. T. is poured from rubber buckets.



A booster cavity is drilled in hardened T. N. T.



After painting, shells are placed in trays.

By weight, a shell is zoned.



Following insertion of booster, it is spotted in place by a set screw.



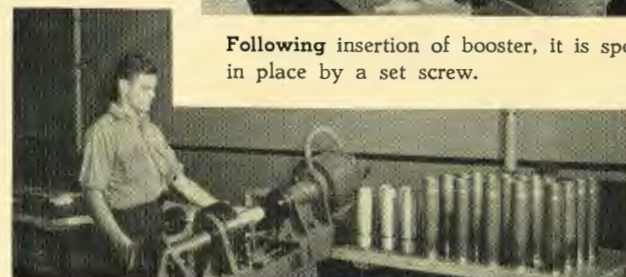
Primer is inserted.



Propelling charge is weighed.



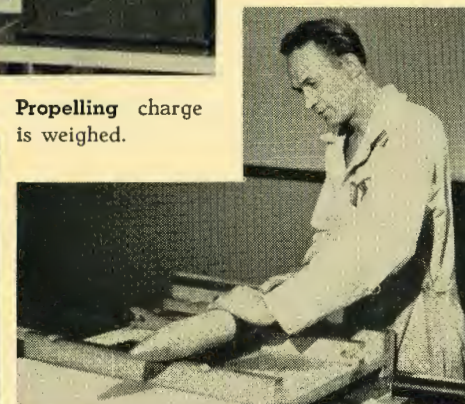
Powder is poured into cartridge case.



Shell and cartridge are crimped together.



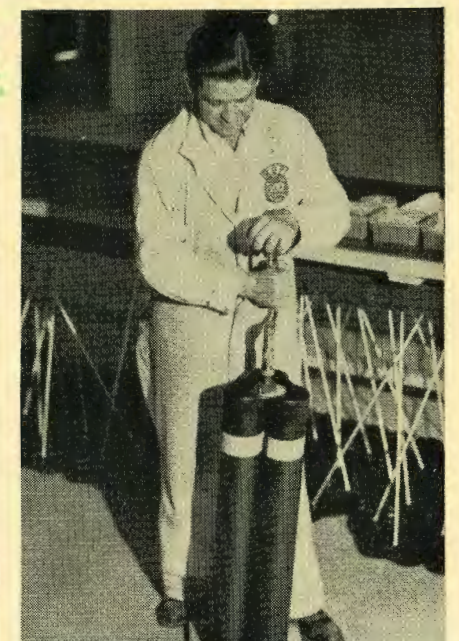
A fuze is attached and tensioned.



The complete round is stenciled.



Rounds are packed in fiber containers.



Shells are stored and shipped in bundles of three.

*Career of*  
**Major General Charles M. Wesson**  
*Chief of Ordnance*

ON June 3, 1938, Major General Charles M. Wesson became Chief of Ordnance of the Army of the United States—the fifteenth officer in the history of our country to assume that high title. The roster of his distinguished predecessors begins with Decius Wadsworth who assumed the title in 1815; it includes the names of great administrators, engineers and technicians who carried the responsibility of arming our military forces in peace and in war. Craig, Ripley, and Ramsey directed the operations of the Department through the American Civil War; Benet and Flagler, through the Spanish-American War; Crozier and Williams through the World War. These also led the Department in its peace-time responsibilities together with Bumford and Talcott; Dyer and Buffington; Hof and Tschappat; but none of these—eminent though their service and great their responsibilities—none undertook command of the Ordnance Department faced with a peace-time task equal to that which rests upon General Wesson.

The magnitude of this task can best be visualized in terms of the funds which have been obligated by the Ordnance Department since the nation began its large scale preparations for defense. For the fiscal year 1939, Congress appropriated \$51,239,284 for Ordnance Department activities of all kinds. This entire amount has long since been converted into guns and ammunition. For the fiscal year 1940, the amount of \$163,817,350 was appropriated. This, too, has largely been converted into Ordnance equipment. For the fiscal year 1941, a total of \$2,977,913,998 was appropriated, this total being made up of funds appropriated at various times since July 1, 1940. A large portion of the total has been appropriated during the past few weeks. Due to plans laid well in advance the Ordnance Department was enabled to put these funds to work almost as soon as appropriated.

General Wesson was born July 23, 1878, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was appointed to the Military Academy on June 15, 1896, and was graduated a member of the class of 1900. On June 13th of that year he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Cavalry. Shortly after his graduation from the Military Academy, General Wesson was ordered to Cuba where, as a member of the 8th Cavalry, he served at Columbia Barracks from August 30, 1900, to July 15, 1901, and at Camp R. S. Mackenzie until February 28, 1902. His first station upon his return to the United States was at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he served until July 1, 1903. From then until December 20, 1906, he was an instructor in the Department of Philosophy at the United States Military Academy, West Point. His first detail with the Ordnance Department began July 1, 1907, when he reported for duty at the Sandy Hook Proving Ground. Later that year he was transferred to the Watervliet Arsenal, New York, remaining

there until July 1, 1910. In August 1911, he was graduated from the Ordnance School of Technology and began a 7-year tour of duty at the Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts, during part of which period, the summer of 1914, he was on a tour of observation at Sheffield, England.

On October 25, 1918, General Wesson sailed for Europe and upon arrival in France was placed in charge of construction and maintenance of ordnance, A. E. F., with station at Tours. In December, 1918, he became commanding officer of the Ordnance Repair Shops at Mehun-sur-Yevre. He returned to the United States August 10, 1919, and resigned his commission on September 30th of that year. Having accepted a commission as major of Ordnance on August 3, 1920, General Wesson served in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance at Washington until July 1, 1924. He attended the Army War College from which he was graduated June 30, 1925. He was then assigned to duty as commanding officer of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, serving in that capacity and also as constructing quartermaster until February 18, 1929. In April of that year General Wesson sailed for England to become Assistant Military Attache at London. Upon his return to the United States, September 1930, he was assigned to duty as chief of the Technical Staff, Office of the Chief of Ordnance. After a 4-year tour there, he returned to the Aberdeen Proving Ground where he again assumed command on July 4, 1934. On April 25, 1938, he was nominated by the President to be Chief of Ordnance, with the rank of major general for a period of four years, with rank from June 3, 1939, to succeed Major General William H. Tschappat, whose term of office expired June 2, 1938. The nomination was subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate.

General Wesson was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with the following citation: "For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services. As commanding officer, Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts, from January to October 1918, by his indefatigable energy, great administrative ability and thorough technical knowledge he planned, erected, equipped and brought to a highly efficient working basis a new factory for the manufacture of 240 mm. howitzer carriages as well as a new forging plant for large caliber guns—a definite contribution to the military power of the nation. From November 1918, until August 1919, as commanding officer of the Ordnance Base Repair Shops at Mehun-sur-Yevre, France, he again rendered highly meritorious service in a position of great responsibility in salvaging ordnance material valued at millions of dollars and prepared it properly for shipment to the United States." He also was decorated as an officer of the French Order of the Black Star.



... Major General Charles M. Wesson



# SPORTS

*He who makes wise use of his life allots a goodly portion of it to recreation.*

## Seen ON THE SPORT SCENE

By JOHN BJORKMAN

Latest sport to make its debut at the Plant is archery. Some folks believe that the sport is a rifle range "gone sissy", but don't be fooled. A child can fire a gun by exerting only a little pressure on the trigger but it takes a set of good, steady muscles to set an arrow under way so that it will come close to its objective. The Plant is fortunate in having among its employees a staunch follower of the sport, Leroy Quayle, a member of the Cleveland Archery Club. Quayle, the author of many articles on archery, has volunteered to coach any persons interested in the sport.

\* \* \*

### Bowler's Prayer

"In contemplative moments I offer a prayer of thanks that I was reared to expect very little, and what I have enjoyed beyond the customary necessities of life has been a kind of extra. I can do without the extras if I have to, but I'll be darned if I'll give up without at least an occasional strike or spare."

### Football

According to present plans, there will be no organized football team for the Ravenna Ordnance Plant this fall. However, it has been suggested that various groups form "touch" teams and play a schedule similar to that just completed in softball. All persons interested are asked to contact Lori Newman, Hunkin Conkey recreational director, and make further plans. It has been suggested that all entries be filed before Sept. 18 so that a schedule can be set up and equipment purchased. Games will be played on Saturday afternoons.

### Bowling Definitions

Ten pin—The one pin you are most

## Heads Net Squad



John Sanford, captain and star of the R. O. P. tennis team, is shown receiving equipment from Lori Newman, recreation head. Led by Sanford, the Plant team will meet the Ravenna City squad tonight on the R. O. P. courts. The teams were scheduled to meet September 4, but the match was postponed because of rain. The teams battled to a tie August 28 when darkness interrupted competition in which each team had won one match with two matches not completed. The members of the squad, in addition to Sanford, are O. K. Klaffer, Bob Pragnel, Frank Sanislo, and Ken Lowry.

likely to get mad at most often.

**Bowling ball**—A gadget you wish would go where you want it to more than it does.

**Public enemy No. 1**—The fellow who insists on picking out a bowling ball while others are bowling but who can't be found when it's his turn to bowl.

**Poodle**—This kind doesn't bark, but when you get one you're apt to bark plenty and "chew your gums".

**Bouncer**—A ball that refuses to leave

your thumb and ends up bouncing down the alley—with you after it.

**Score keeper**—The fellow you generally keep your eye on. Some are mathematical wizards. They lag several frames behind and then leisurely snap out of their lethargy and proceed to catch up with the score.

Bowling is a lot like baseball. In both, you have a foul, a strike, a hit, and the walk is what you sometimes wish you had gone for.

## Office Workers Preview New R.O.P. Uniforms

**S**TYLE-LOVING, feminine employees of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant, anxious to have their apparel "chic" and smart, will have nothing to fear when they don the official uniforms of the Plant. The outfits, recently previewed, drew complimentary sanction from all in attendance.

The uniform consists of matched slacks and blouses of light brown trimmed in chocolate brown. The blouses have no pockets. Woven in the blouse is the Atlas R.O.P. Crest of brown thread to match other trimmings. These outfits, together with special powder shoes, will be worn by all girls working in load lines and other manufacturing departments.

Use of uniforms is one of the more important safety steps taken by the company to safeguard employees. It has been proven through experience that dresses worn along assembly lines are hazardous because they are easily caught in moving machinery.



Miss Dorothy Holcomb, Industrial Relations Department secretary, shown second from left, won the honor of wearing the first new R.O.P. uniform when it was previewed recently.

Admiring the uniform are Mrs. H. A. Shorter, War Department; Miss Betty Beebe, Engineering Department, and Miss Co'ette Corrigan, Procurement Department.

Employees will have no worries about keeping their uniforms clean and ready for wear, for this will be done in the Ordnance Plant's own laundry.



There is little chance of the bottom falling out of the new Fuze and Booster rd. which has recently been put into operation.

The road, cut through solid rock, required a total of six tons of Atlas dynamite to move 12,965 cubic yards of rock necessary to bring

it to grade.

Built to service the Fuze and Booster area, the road will have a macadamized surface.



# Bloomers' Bats Blast Hyland's Hefties



Feature of the first War Department employees' picnic was a softball game in which Trivelli's "Bloomer Girls" bested Hyland's "Snoopers," a men's team, in an abbreviated softball game.

Members of the winning women's team are,

left to right, Connie Grogen, Betty Ely, Margie Brown, Carolyn Reisterer, Marguerite Gossett, Fern DePigeon, Margaret Glanzer, Marguerite Hoover; and front row, Emily Trivelli, and Randa Tozer.

Following the game, a community sing was

conducted by Walter J. Jonas. A buffet luncheon was served in the Commissary and Lt. Col. R. S. Chavin addressed the group of 225 persons present. Miss J. J. White and H. C. Hyland headed the committee planning the affair.

## R.O.P. All-Stars To Play Richmond

With a record of three wins against an equal number of losses, the R.O.P. All-Star Team is today sharpening its batting eyes for the Richmond Athletic Club which will play here tonight in a twilight tilt.

Bill McCluski, who pitched the last three innings of the Fisher Food game, is expected to be the starting hurler for the All-Stars.

McCluski's ability on the mound, however, does not overshadow that of Vernon Maines, who set the American Legion All-Stars of Cuyahoga Falls down with three hits. Maines also collected a double and triple to help the locals to a 5-2 win.

## Bowling Interest Lags; League Idea Abandoned

Because only 17 persons indicated their desire to take part in an Atlas bowling league, recreational heads have decided to abandon the idea.

It has been suggested that those interested make arrangements to enter another outside league.

Attention has been called to a duck pin alley in Ravenna which is being reserved for Atlas employees on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is 40 cents for three games. If enough persons are interested, a league will be formed.

Scores of games to date follow:

R.O.P. ....	8	Ravenna P.I.A.C.L. ....	2
R.O.P. ....	5	Ravenna Merchants 2	
Kenters ....	4	R.O.P. ....	0
R.O.P. ....	5	Am. Leg. All-Stars....	2
Warren Ramblers....	4	R.O.P. ....	3
Fisher Foods.....	12	R.O.P. ....	3

## Banquet Planned For Electricians

Plans are nearing completion for a sportsmen's banquet, to be held in the near future, in honor of the Hunkin Conkey Electrician's softball team which defeated the F. A. Pease Engineering team, 13-1, for the first R.O.P. softball toga.

A trophy for the winner and one for the runner up, will be presented at the banquet, Lori Newman, recreation head, said.

The Pease team advanced to the finals in the B league by defeating Wilbur Watson 10-8. No defeats were registered against the winner throughout B league play.

Twenty-eight teams took part in the tournament.