ISU NOTES

Members of Italian Service Units are former prisoners of war who have volunteered for work in the American war effort. Italian prisoners hostile to the Allies are held in prison camps.

PLASTIC EYE

Artificial eyes of water-clear plastic, tinted to duplicate the natural eye, are now being created by skilled technicians for use by wounded veterans and soldiers inducted with glass eyes.

Living Cost Rise Is Halted, Says Official

Los Angeles living costs showed no change between mid-December and mid-January as declining food costs were offset by rising prices for clothing and house furnishings, Charles A. Roumasset, Price Economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced here today.

Costs of food, which account for over 40 per cent of family expenditures were down 3 tenths of a percent, led by declines of over 10 percent in the prices of eggs, 20 percent in the costs of lettuce, and 3 percent in prices of oranges and carrots.

Moving against the trend were increases in the prices of onions (up 36 per cent), cabbage (up 17 per cent) and apples (up 6 per cent). Despite this month's decline, food costs are 1 per cent higher than they were a year ago and have risen almost 52 per cent since August 1939.

Price increases for both men's and women's cotton clothing were chiefly responsible for a 6 tenths of a per cent increase in clothing costs over the month. Men's work trousers, overalls, work shirts and undershirts and women's house dresses all brought higher prices as stores reported continuing shortages in all cotton goods. Increased costs for cook stoves and bedroom and living room furniture occasioned a 1.1 per cent rise in house furnishings as limited numbers of better quality stoves were offered for sale and lower priced lines of furniture continued to disappear. Costs in the miscellaneous groups of goods and services, virtually stable since July and prices for fuel, electricity and ice which are 6 per cent lower than they were at the start of the war in Europe, showed no change. Rents were not surveyed this month.

Since the start of the war in Europe living costs here have advanced 28.5 per cent as compared with a greater than 80% rise during the first World War period. Price increases from other significant dates are as follows:

Since January 1941 (Little Steel Formula Date) up 25.6%.
Since December 1941 (Pearl Harbor) up 15.0%

Since May 1942 (Price Conbor) up 15.0%.

Gramling Regains Use of His Leg, Foot, He Says

Mrs. Florence Gramling, 908 Cota ave., reports that her son, Pfc. Carl J. Gramling is making normal improvement as notified by the War Department. In a recent letter, he said he can now move his leg again. One of the greatest thrills of his life, he wrote, was when the doctor removed the cast on his foot and he was able to move the foot.

Gramling said he lay for hours and just watched his foot move, "like watching a show" he said.

PRECIOUS PENICILLIN . . . Small bottle in doctor's hand contains penicillin, part of quota in use at Ruth Home, a Community Chest agency which for more than 20 years has been in the first line in the fight against venereal disease. The home specializes in the care of infants, children, young girls and mothers who have suffered infection.

More Penicillin Allotted to Use Of Chest Agency in Fighting Diseases

By government permit, additional penicillin has been alloted to Ruth Home, a Community Chest agency for the treatment of venereal disease, and its purchase has been made possible by a special appropriation of $120 a month from the Community Chest, in addition to the regular annual appropriation.

Ruth Home devotes its services to the care and treatment of infants, children, young girls and young mothers who have suffered venereal infection. The agency is at one time a hospital with pre-natal and maternity service, a child caring organization, has special vocational and educational training facilities for girls prevented from attending public schools. Emphasis is placed on rehabilitation of older girls that they may be ready to enter a good environment upon discharge from the home.

Capacity of the home is 150 patients. Some are first offenders remanded from Juvenile Hall, many are private patients, and admission is made without distinction as to race, creed or color. During the last 20 years in which the home has been serving the Los Angeles area, 1223 children and 1476 girls have received care and treatment. More than 600 babies have been born, and the proud record of the Home is "never a blind baby."

Twelve million units of penicillin are now allowed the home each month. It is stated that the drug is effective in 95 per cent of cases.

Admissions to the home are made only through its Social Service Department, 724 Title Insurance Bldg., 433 S. Spring st., MIchigan 9761.

GETTING OLDER

Average age for cars now in use is nearly eight years as compared with the peacetime average of 4 1-2 years.

431 Southland Motorists Hit By OPA Action

With war rationing boards clamping down on gasoline ration violators in January, 431 motorists in seven counties in this area lost their right to purchase the precious fuel through revocations and suspensions by the board panels during the 31-day period.

During the preceding month, December, revocations and suspensions numbered but 264.

In addition to the more drastic penalties, the boards sent notices of warning to 400 motorists as compared to 334 during December, while cases directed against 432 individuals were dismissed.

Common Cold Subject of Health Officer

H. O. SWARTOUT, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Los Angeles County Health Officer

Colds are more than common; they are almost universal and account for more than half of all absences from work and school.

The cold virus, a germ so small that it cannot be seen through the most powerful microscope, is passed from person to person by sneezing, coughing, spitting, or on articles carrying infected saliva.

Other germs that lurk more or less harmlessly in healthy bodies may start working on membranes weakened by the attack by the virus and cause infection or inflammation of the sinuses, ears, or bronchial tubes. Tuberculosis germs are notable opportunists in this respect.

Some lucky people have a natural resistance to colds. How far one can play his luck against overheated or poorly ventilated rooms, lack of rest and exercise, errors of diet and prolonged chilling of the body is not known. Healthful habits man contribute much of this so-called luck.

Bed rest, hot drinks, hot foot baths and cold applications to the head help to restore unbalanced circulation. A light diet with an abundance of water and fruit juices will aid in flushing wastes from the body. Hot fomentations to the chest and inhalations of steam from a mixture of water and a few drops of tincture of benzoin may relieve soreness or tightness in the chest.

Bed rest for at least one day after the temperature has returned to normal helps to protect the public's health as well as that of the patient.

MONTANA PICNIC

The Montana State Society of Long Beach will hold its annual picnic in Bixby Park on March 4. Lunch may be purchased on the grounds.

WYOMING PICNIC

Wyoming State Association of Southern California, mid-winter reunion will be March 4 in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles.

MISSOURI PICNIC

Former residents of Missouri will gather for their annual spring picnic all day, Sunday, March 18, at Sycamore Grove park, Los Angeles. All who ever lived in Missouri and their friends are invited to take part and enjoy a program that will be continuous throughout the day.

MICHIGAN PICNIC

Michigan State Society "Wolverines" will gather for their all day outdoor reunion Saturday, March 17, 1945 at Sycamore Grove park, Los Angeles. Speaker for the occasion is former Gov. Frank F. Merriam.