

# FRANKLIN WELCOMES VETS WITH "HERE'S YOUR HOME"

**How a small New Hampshire city is solving the housing problem. By helping veterans it is also helping the community**

**BY ISABELLE H. DANIEL**

Setting a praiseworthy example to other communities, the little city of Franklin, New Hampshire, is making homes for its own 1067 ex-GI's, and welcoming *any* veteran who feels that his home town is neglecting him.

The enterprising mayor, Henry J. Proulx, a veteran of World War I, has won a campaign so that every veteran can have a lot at a price of \$1.00 for 15,000 square feet of land in a beautiful wooded section. And severely maimed veterans get even better breaks.

The city, 6900 population, had a tract of 40 acres overlooking the Merrimac River and the nearby White Mountains. A few miles from this tract the city also owned timberland near Lake Webster which it wanted to clear for use as a park. The first tract was laid out by architects—the center to be used as a playground with GI houses built around it. Timber from this tract and from the larger one was cut to supply lumber for the first 25 houses. The lumber, processed in a mill owned and operated by veterans, is now exhausted and additional supplies will have to be obtained in the open market.

Veterans who want jobs can have them, building roads, laying out streets and putting in water and sewer mains. These improvements are free to the veterans who build there and are not assessed against their property. Basements are dug and built for half price. The mayor personally maneuvered a loan from a Boston bank to finance the cutting, sawing and trucking of lumber from the large tract near the lake, and in these operations additional veterans found employment.

When the Park Commission first announced the plan, 200 veterans wanted the 60 lots available, so they drew

chances. To take care of those who lost out, and still other veterans, more hundreds of acres have been made available to meet the demand. As long as this land is available, any veteran is welcome.

Obviously, not every veteran in need of a home can be accommodated by this one community, but Franklin is doing its utmost to take care of as many as possible. A veteran interested in locating there should write to Mayor Proulx stating that he will make his home permanently in the community. Also, he must

**Mayor Proulx and Arthur Newton, blind vet, who is digging a trench for water pipes to his new house**

agree to build his cellar and deck-flooring timbers and rough flooring—within 30 days of the award of the lot.

The veteran may build any type of home as long as it is permanent. No temporary structures are allowed. Most of the houses constructed to date are of four rooms and bath, though there is one seven-room dwelling almost completed. The basic four-room home has a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and bath and is heated with a hot air furnace with a register in each room. Living room and bedrooms have hardwood floors, with in-



**These five vets are never going to seize the city hall. That's Mayor Proulx in the middle, and all he sees are smiles**

laid linoleum in the kitchen and bathroom. Ready for occupancy, these homes have been costing \$4800. However, it must be pointed out that this price was based on the cheaper lumber supplied by the city. About \$600 will have to be added to this in future building to cover the additional cost of open-market lumber.

Typical examples of what Franklin is doing for its veterans are cited by some of them. Paul E. Clogston is building a \$15,000 7-room ultra-modern house with full basement and rumpus room, forced hot water heating system with oil burner

and cedar clothes closet—for about \$8,000. "I have worked as a spinner in the woolen mills here for about 15 years. I am well pleased with what the city is doing for me. It's not just for home-town veterans either," said Mr. Clogston. "The man across the street is from Massachusetts and the one next to him is from Virginia."

Ex-sailor Ronald Dube is constructing a 5-room house on a lot with a fine view. "I'll have a \$10,000 house for about half price. It gives the veteran a break?" Mrs. Dube, who works at a Building and Loan

Association office, volunteered, "A GI can get a loan easily around here. Four percent is the usual rate of interest charged?"

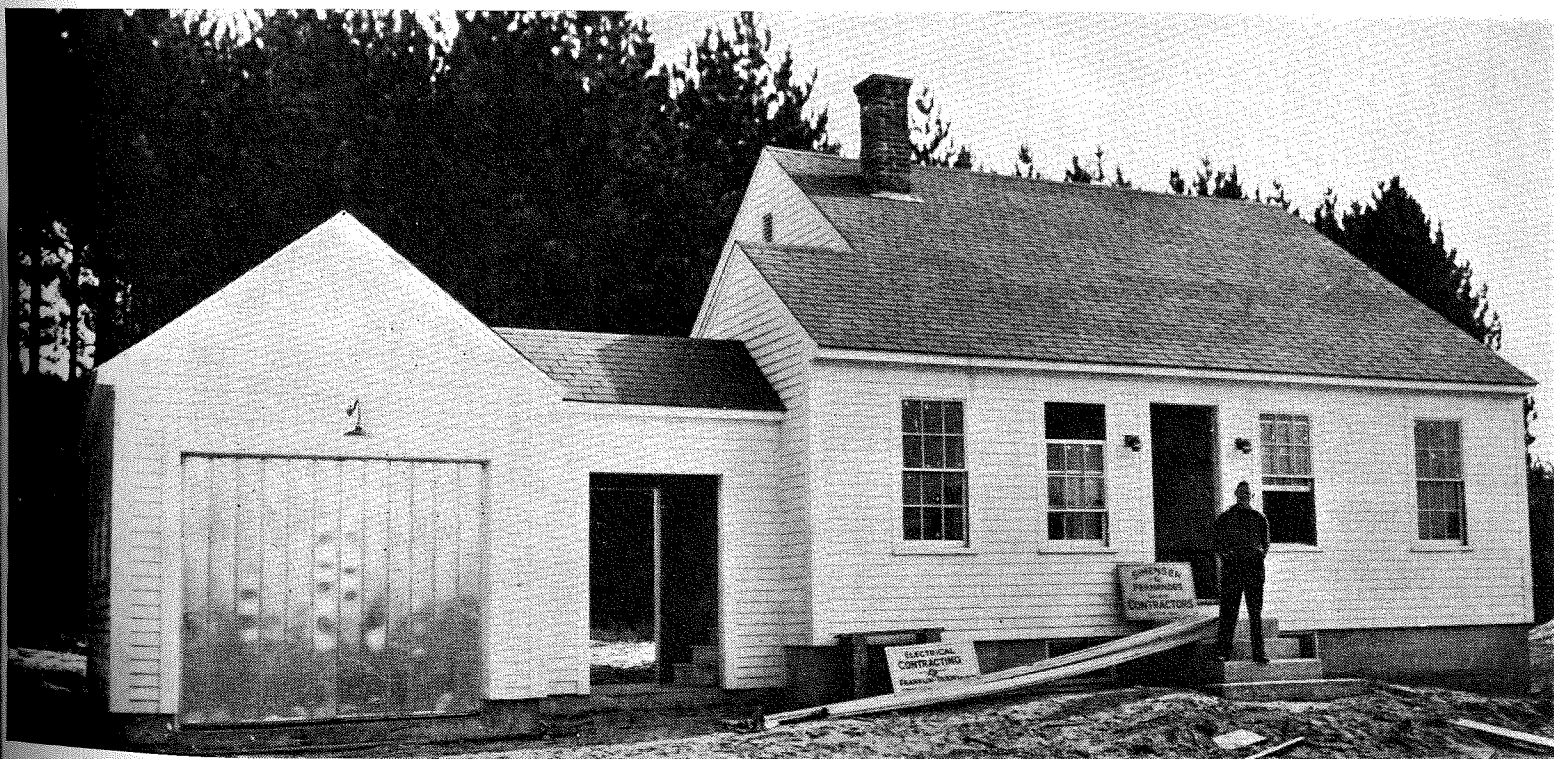
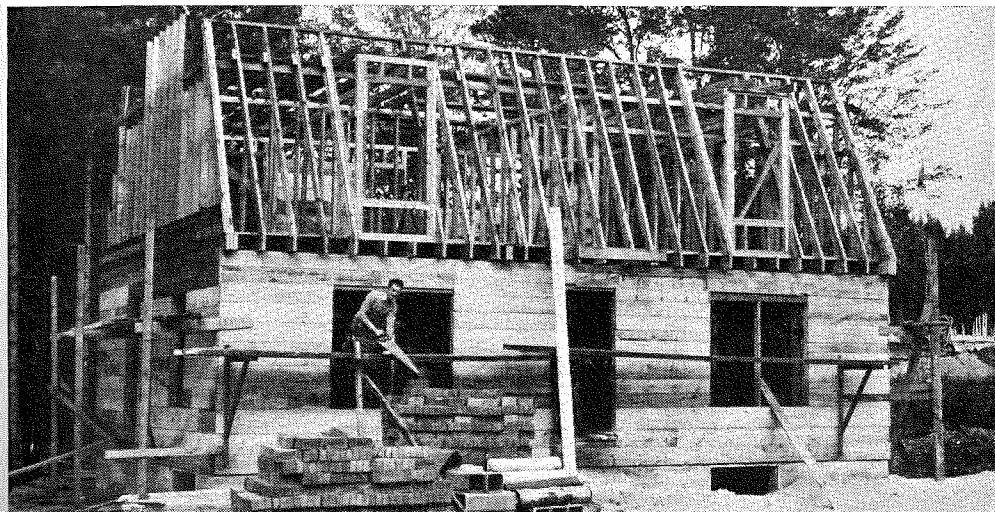
Robert Morrison, who lost both his legs in the Battle of the Bulge, came home broken in body and spirit, with no home for his wife and baby. The city of Franklin makes exceptions in cases like his and is building his house. His lot cost \$1.00, the lumber \$1.00 per thousand board feet, and the wiring, plumbing and other services are free.

GI Village is within a half-mile of the shopping centers and is ten minutes by car from the beach at Lake Webster, a popular summer resort.

Franklin rises from both sides of the Merrimac River and is on two major highways and in the foothills of the White Mountains. It is the birthplace of Daniel Webster, who said about these great hills, "There God makes men." They're living up to it.

As Franklin benefits its veterans, so it profits from the venture. Two textile mills, in addition to the several which are there already, will be built by large companies.

**"Boy, this makes it all worth while," says Arthur Sawicki as he saws away with a will on a home of his own**



**Royce Conner, formerly of the 276 Armored Field Batt., proudly poses on the threshold of the home his home-town made possible**