

Sept. 27, 1943

From Mildred Burrage , Counselor , First Shift.

To Mrs. Fraser, Womens Personnel Dept.

Subject: Posters for Women Ship Yard Workers.

I should like to make a report to you on the subject of posters for the Yard.

The first assignment I had was to make posters for the Safety Fashion Show in July. I made thirty two. They had a transient appeal and could not be used again.

I next made four Safety posters for Captain Tubbs about womens' dresses. The caption was, "It is n't a picnic- It isn't a party- It's War. Dress Safely, Smartly, Suitably. Wear a Coverall. with turned down trousers. Stout shoes with flat heels. Cover the hair. Keep on the Job."

I made four posters about shoes with the caption, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp the Ship Yard Girls are marching- An army of working women behind an army of fighting men. Welders and tackers wear high shoes. Others stout shoes with flat heels."

I made two posters about hair. One, for the welding school where there have been boys and girls , had a limerick, " There was a young Tacker named Anna , With curls not concealed by bandana, Sparks got in her hair , Burned out bits here and there- Her boy friend now goes out with Hannah."

Another shows a girl with unbecoming head covering, a third girl becomingly turbaned- with added pictures to show how to achieve this.

Captain Tubbs told me the doctors were anxious to have the women wear girdles as they were having ruptures and back aches. HE He asked me to design six posters urging women to wear girdles. Instead of making several copies of the same design I made six different ones. We are moving them from Rest Room to Rest Room, which gives the girls more variety. They all say "Wear a girdle".

1. A girl bending over, painting marks on a steel bar.
2. A welder bending over her torch.
3. A welder.
4. Song, with the music. (A parody of "This is the Army, Mr. Jones")
" This is the Ship Yard, Yes. Miss Jacks. This is no place for Aches in Backs. So wear a girdle, if you never did before- And You won't have a Back Ache any more! "
- 5 Two girls lifting a steel bar, the right and the wrong way.
- 6 Two girls lifting up the templets- the right and the wrong way.

I hung this last poster in the Fabrication Building where I had seen the women lifting up the templets. One of the women in the Rest Room pointed to the figure of the woman reaching the wrong way and said, "That is a picture of me before I saw the poster. I was out sick for two months, and when I came back I thought I could not take it. Then I saw the poster. I put on my old girdle. reached up the way it showed. I'm fine now."

The girls were talking about this poster one day, and I said if they would think up ideas for posters I would carry them out. Stella was washing her hands. "Wash your hands before you eat", she said. I made two drawings of Stella in the lunch periods, which I said I would give her, and I am making the poster in color.

Another girl, Jean Martelle had her trousers rolled up. She

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Date: Sept. 27, 1943

Description: Burrage notes on shipyard posters

must have been spoken to about it many times this summer. She laughed and said, "You could make a poster about trousers rolled down the way you want them". I said I would make a picture then of her legs, with trousers rolled up, and I would make a picture of her with them rolled the right way if she would sew them up. The next day she appeared with just the proper length, and her shoes nicely whitened. This is the girls I thought we might make this poster a parody on the song the service men like so much- "Move It Over". Said the Counselor to the new Girls, "Roll 'em Down." One girl objected "But old girls do it", and they all laughed when I said I would hate to admit it.

Another girl wishes a poster made about being careful that you do not hit anyone with your hammer. She had almost hurt a girl the day before.

Mrs. Van , who had put on her girdle because of the poster said that even if she had not thought up the poster she had proved it was true so I should draw her- which I did to her pleasure.

A Mrs. Robert Johnson, who is a checker, told me her husband, who drives a truck in the Yard , had been to Art School and was much interested in the posters. I asked her how he had seen them , and she said the men went into see them and went in when the girls were not around.

Mr. Bennett told me he considered it a splendid idea, and now considered them part of the Rest Room equipment.

Captain Tubbs has been pleased, I know.

I feel that this is the constructive way to hand out many ideas to the girls which we have had difficulty in doing in the past. It interests them, makes them take part, and they are all flattered to be drawn, which does not hurt anyone and makes for good feeling. I intend to give them the drawings properly matted. Mr. Bower, Director of the L.D.M. Sweat Museum in Portland, says he would like to have an exhibition as soon as I have made enough drawings.

There are so many subjects that need to be covered, which are of interest and importance to women working in a ship yard in war time. Clothes, Safety, Nutrition, Posture, Behaviour, Morale, Patriotism. Then there are the special occasions like the Bond Drive. I made a sketch of the Commander speaking the other day, and I would like to make a "reminder" poster to use this last week of the drive. I would like to make one of the crowd on "M" day , and the flag pole- "Keep it Flying." I would like to show different phases of life in the Yard as we all see it- the Whistle blowing, for instance "When the whistle blows are you all the job going on ships?" "Victory" which would be used with the caption, "Fooling on the Job helps Hitler. Quit it or look out for a Quit Slip." or "Time Out for Fun won't Win the War." or the crowd going in the gate- "No absentees at N. E. S. C. - Let's Punch the Clock for Victory".

The posters should be colorful, pictorial, of recognizable people and places for the most part. They should apply [typed over] an outbreak of rolled up trousers or some similar and, perhaps, more important aberration, and that would be the time to put out a poster covering the situation. A condition in one of the wash rooms, very trying to the matron, was corrected in this way. I made the poster and good results followed.

The posters should all be framed and properly hung. A messy poster loses most of it's appeal.

I would like to make more posters as a Counselor working with the girls, along the lines I have enumerated above. I would like to make

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