

FROM: PRO, DEPT. OF WASH., VFW
4134 ARCADE BLDG., SEATTLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A state-wide search for the "most worthy veteran" in the United States, who next spring will be awarded a fully developed and equipped, \$50,000 irrigated farm on the Columbia Basin Federal Reclamation Project in Washington State, as part of an initial water delivery celebration, is being launched this week by V.F.W. posts in this state, Department Commander Van Fredenberg announced today.

The farm, 80 acres in size, will be planted to crops and fully equipped with farm machinery, live stock, three-bedroom farm home, barn and other outbuildings. It is to be created during a spectacular 24-hour period from raw sagebrush as the highlight of a five-day celebration heralding the arrival from Coulee Dam of the first supply of Columbia River irrigation water to the million-acre project.

At the invitation of the state-sponsored Columbia Basin Celebration Committee, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is conducting a search nationally for the most deserving veteran. The winner of the prize will be awarded the farm during a festival which will mark the end of a 35-year struggle for the Bureau of Reclamation project.

Dept. Comdr. Van Fredenberg said that the state-wide contest would be conducted through the various local posts in Washington. Each post will select its most worthy veteran through a board of impartial judges and from the local selections of the posts a state winner will be chosen by a State Board of Judges. The final winner of "Farm-In-A-Day" will be chosen from the 48 state winners by a National Board of Judges.

Deadline for entries at the local post level will be January 15, 1952.

Only veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict are eligible for the "Farm-In-A-Day". Veterans must have had farm experience, be physically able to engage in farming, and meet certain other qualifications. Interested veterans may secure full information by writing or calling on their nearest V.F.W. Post or to the Department Headquarters, V.F.W., 4134 Arcade Building, Seattle, Washington.

"What the V.F.W. is looking for," said Commander Van Fredenberg "Is a veteran about whom everyone will say: 'Isn't that swell? It couldn't happen to a nicer guy'. The prize is one of the largest ever offered and we are most anxious that news concerning the search reach every qualified veteran".

The land, farm home, farm machinery, crops and labor are being donated by manufacturers, contractors, businessmen and labor unions. While an 80-acre farm would be considered small in some sections of the country, the average irrigated farm in the West has considerably less acreage. A greater crop production is derived from irrigated acreage.

The search for the "most worthy veteran" was unanimously endorsed as one of the major projects for the V.F.W. for the year at the recent 52nd Annual Encampment of the organization in New York.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

"Farm-in-a-Day" Applicants

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

National Search for the Most Worthy Farm Veteran in the United States who will be awarded a \$50,000 Irrigated Farm on the Columbia Basin Federal Reclamation Project in the State of Washington during the Water Delivery Celebration May 7-11, 1952.



In the state of Washington, there has been under construction for some 18 years one of the world's greatest irrigation projects. It's called the Columbia Basin Federal Reclamation Project and it involves the ultimate irrigation of a million acres of semi-arid but very fertile land. For about 35 years the people of the Pacific Northwest have dreamed of the day when a dependable supply of water could be delivered to the huge tract — water that would turn the sagebrush land into a community of fertile farms. That day is at hand. Water is about to reach the land.

Through construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, the world's largest concrete structure, and a vast system of dams, irrigation canals, and pumps, water is being lifted out of the mighty Columbia River and discharged into a huge reservoir, from where it will flow next spring to thirsty acres in the desert.

Some 87,000 acres of land are to be brought under irrigation for the first time in 1952. Thereafter some 60,000 additional acres are to be served each year until the entire project is finally transformed from sagebrush to a pattern of green fields, with white houses and roving livestock. The eyes of the nation are on this development, which ultimately will make available 13,000 new farms, and new towns with thriving businesses. It will expand the population of the state of Washington by 200,000 people, and create new markets for products of the Middle-West, the East, and the South — farm machinery, automobiles, refrigerators, cigarettes, clothing, and other human needs.

The first trickle of crystal-clear water from the Columbia River to the first farm in the million-acre area will set off one of the greatest public celebrations ever held in the West. This epic-making occasion will be marked not by one day but by *five* days of spontaneous, well-directed public observance — with pageants, ceremonies, with carnivals, dancing, and every other conceivable means of letting the people express their enthusiasm.

Highlight of the five-day celebration will be the spectacular 24-hour transformation of an 80-acre piece of sagebrush land into a completely developed irrigated farm, having an attractively furnished three-bedroom house, farm buildings, planted crops, machinery, other equipment and supplies. The new farm will be worth \$50,000.

This farm will be given away FREE. As a tribute to our fighting men this farm will be awarded, without encumbrances, to a veteran of World War II or the Korean War.

Because of its outstanding record on behalf of veterans everywhere, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been asked by the Columbia Basin Celebrations Committee to find the most worthy and deserving farm veteran in the United States. To him will go this farm and the opportunity for livelihood in farming.

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO TO APPLY FOR CONSIDERATION IN V.F.W. SEARCH

First read the qualifications below. If you meet these, then read on:

Qualifications: To be eligible for consideration in this search, you must meet the following qualifications:

1. You must be a citizen of the United States or have filed application papers for citizenship prior to Aug. 27, 1951.
2. You must be a World War II or a Korean veteran (you need not have had duty overseas).
3. You must have an honorable discharge or its equivalent.
4. You must prove your ability to operate a farm.

Send your applications to _____

5. You must be physically capable of performing normal farm work (partial disability will not disqualify you).

6. You must live on the farm and operate it.

7. You and your family must be present on the day the farm is developed at the site, ready to accept it and assume residence.

8. You and your family must be willing to cooperate in activities such as posing for photographs, appearing on radio and television shows, and to be interviewed by the press.

9. You must be well recommended as to character, honesty, and dependability.

10. You must agree not to sell or lease the farm for five years, except for bona fide health reasons.

11. You must submit a complete and accurate financial statement.

12. You must agree that the decision of the judges shall be final.

How To Submit Your Application

If you feel you meet the above qualifications and are willing to agree to the stipulations described, you are eligible to submit your application for consideration, and you should do so as follows:

1. Explain as clearly as possible in a letter why you feel you should be considered the "most worthy" farm veteran in the United States and as such should be awarded the 80-acre farm on the Columbia Basin Federal Reclamation Project in Eastern Washington. Make your statement any length that you desire, keeping in mind that writing ability is not necessary. Nor will fine language be considered by the judges. State your case as clearly as possible to convince the judges that your situation is worthy of their favorable consideration. You may, if you wish, have someone else write your story or help you write it.

2. In your statement stress particularly unusual circumstances which you believe the judges should consider in reviewing your case. For example, you may have had a farm and lost it recently due to the flood of a nearby river. Perhaps you lost an arm or a leg in the war and have lost your farm because of a drought. These are just examples. Your own story may be much more impressive.

3. Clearly describe your war record, campaigns, etc.

4. Explain your honorable discharge, or its equivalent.

5. You should make your statement strictly accurate in every detail. Any half-truths, untruths, or deviation from the facts will justify disqualification. Winning application will be rigidly checked as to accuracy of all statements before actual awarding of the prize.

6. State the number of persons in your family, their sex, their ages, their names.

7. Describe your farming experience fully, including length of time devoted to farming, kind of farming, whether as laborer, owner, manager, or partner.

8. Make a statement of your family debts and assets.

9. Sign your statement with your bona fide signature under the words, "I swear that the statement above is wholly true and correct and I agree to the stipulations required for qualifications."

10. Mail your entry to the V.F.W. Post in your locality *not later than January 15, 1952.*

11. If you do not meet the qualifications cited herein or believe you have no chance for the \$50,000 irrigated farm but know of some veteran who should be given consideration, hand this to him.