Grove Fire Victim Recovers Slowly

John J. Billings, '45

Pulls Through Crisis

According to the latest report, John J. Billings, '45, who was wounded in the Cocoanut Grove disaster last Saturday night, is improving slightly. In the hospital, where he was taken at the time of his injury. Although he is still in a coma, he has pulled through a crisis, and it is believed that he may be allowed to have visitors within the next week or so.

Billings, who was the only Technology student who went to the Cocoanut Grove last Saturday night, which took the lives of three undergraduates and more than a hundred people who were coming from a play, was transported to the Red Cross with some other wounded persons that night. Saturday morning and had donated a pint of blood to the Red Cross blood bank. Coming to the Institute after two six-week periods in the Resin Plant under its draft law, he has been preparing for his last freshman year.

Both Billings' father and brother went to Technology, both being Acting Editor of the Tech in 1944.

TRAFFIC JAM

As is obvious to the most unobservant laymen, the traffic problems are more a reality than a myth in many areas of man and materials to the places where they can be most effectively utilized in the advancement of our war efforts. The strain on the nation's facilities, however, is becoming increasingly severe, particularly in the passenger service. The Pullman Company, for instance, will have transported some 7,000,000 troops in organized movements at the end of this year alone, and on certain days half of the company's entire fleet of sleeping cars is "in the service."

The mousing military traffic, add the hundreds of thousands of civilians Monoengaged in essential war work, and then throw in hap-hazardly one hundred thousand or more college students homebound for the holidays, and it is evident that an epic traffic jam temporarily paralyzing America's production and military programs could result. Fortunately, some schools, Dr. Cory D. Stevley of the Association of American Colleges reports, are aware of the danger and are staggering vacation dates so that no more than one college in a single area will close or re-open on the same day. But there must be individual cooperation by the students, also, if troop movements are to be made on schedule and if vital traffic materials are to reach factories and docks on time.

Students who plan to travel during the Christmas vacation would do well to obey the following simple rules: make Pullman reservations early so that railway men may gauge the traffic and make adequate preparations, cancel reservations promptly if plans are changed, take as little luggage as possible in order to facilitate baggage storage problem, and keep available accommodations cheerfully.

Fire restrictions have thus far been placed upon civilian travel. Willing public cooperation in the observance of such simple voluntary rules as the foregoing has been a big factor in making this excellent railroad performance possible. College students, as members of the public, can do their part by also observing these rules, particularly during the critical holiday period that is three weeks off.

A STEADY FLOW OF BLOOD

The value of blood plasma as a sewer of human lives was clearly and forcefully demonstrated to the Boston public last weekend when that single item saved 150 victims injured in the Cocoanut Grove fire the means of successfully combating their almost fatal wounds. Some have been continuously impressed upon the minds of firefighters with our armed forces abroad who have watched the transported plasma move miraculous miracles in military hospitals.

The overcrowded availability of this vital war material is the purpose of the Red Cross and Alpha Phi Omega, honorary scouting fraternity, who have organized a permanent Technology drive for blood plasma. To date, the drive has brought in the amount of plasma that the Red Cross and Alpha Phi Omega have donated to the blood plasma drive. The Technology staff and students will be able to make reservations for blood donations in the Main Lobby of Building 10 any day from 11:00 to 1:00.

It has been evident from past contributions that most Technology men have refused to take seriously the Red Cross' eager plea for blood. Now perhaps, with the dire need for donations emphasized by last Saturday's catastrophe, they will make amends for their former indifference.

For Boys To Play

By Gene Schmid

A busy weekend confronts the members of the Institute for the next few weeks, for when the dance starts failing so fast that only desperate measures can extend them all. Some are to try to take in all the events of the evening, hoping to have an event to start in the Walker Gym at seven o'clock, and watch the freshman basketball team as they face the Harvard Club in the opening game of the championship.

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