

Philip Orr Receives Carnegie Medal for Life-Saving Effort

By B. F. ROLAND



Philip E. Orr, Jr., of Natchitoches, La., a member of the staff of the A&M Research Foundation oyster mortality project, has been awarded the Carnegie Medal and \$250 for his efforts to save the life of David E. McLendon, another member of the Foundation staff. McLendon drowned in Timbalier Bay, near Leesville, La. last March despite a three-hour attempt by Orr to keep him afloat.

Orr, a naval veteran and graduate of Louisiana State University, is 22 years old.

On May 8, 1948, McLendon, Orr and a boat driver, Steve Chouest, left Grand Lake to collect oyster specimens at the Barre Field. In Timbalier Bay the boat's motor sputtered and died. In an attempt to anchor the boat, the anchor rope was lost overboard. While Chouest and Orr were in the cabin trying to start the engine, McLendon slipped off his clothing and jumped overboard in an effort to recover the rope.

PHILIP E. ORR of Natchitoches, La., member of the staff of the A&M Research Foundation's oyster mortality project, was awarded the Carnegie Medal and \$250 for his efforts to save the life of a co-worker.

The current was strong, so that the boat and McLendon drifted rapidly apart. After a while McLendon called for a life-jacket. Orr went overboard with the jacket and swam to McLendon who complained of leg cramps. The two were unable to return to the boat, because wind carried it in one direction, while tide carried the two swimmers away at an angle. Chouest, the boat driver, tried to halt the boat with a temporary anchor made by the boat's battery and a rope, but it failed to hold. Just before the swimmers reached a small island of the Fornation group, McLendon slipped off the life-preserver. Although Orr got him back on the preserver and subsequently onto the island, McLendon was unconscious, and failed to rally despite two hours artificial respiration given by Orr on the tiny island.

Pulling the battery back in from the water and re-connecting it, Chouest made a last desperate attempt to start the motor. Too late, it responded. Orr and McLendon were picked up, and artificial respiration continued. At Leesville, McLendon was pronounced dead.

The Battalion CLASSIFIED ADS

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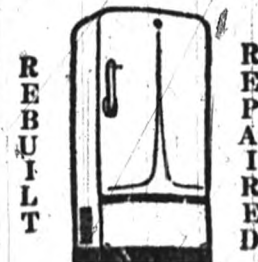
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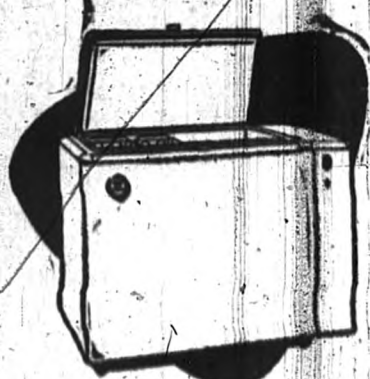
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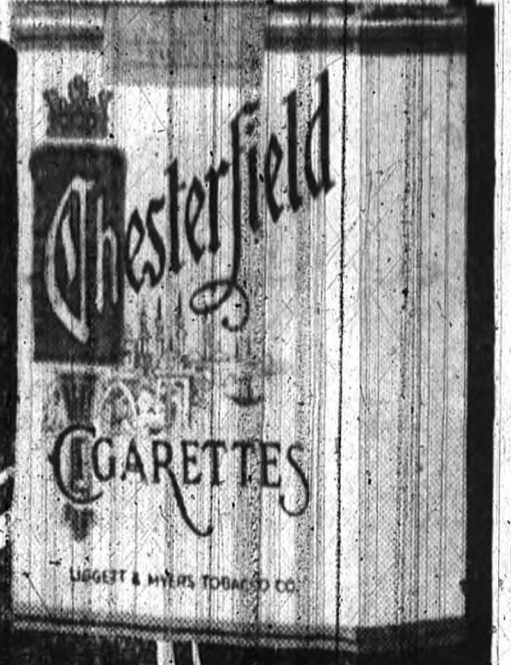
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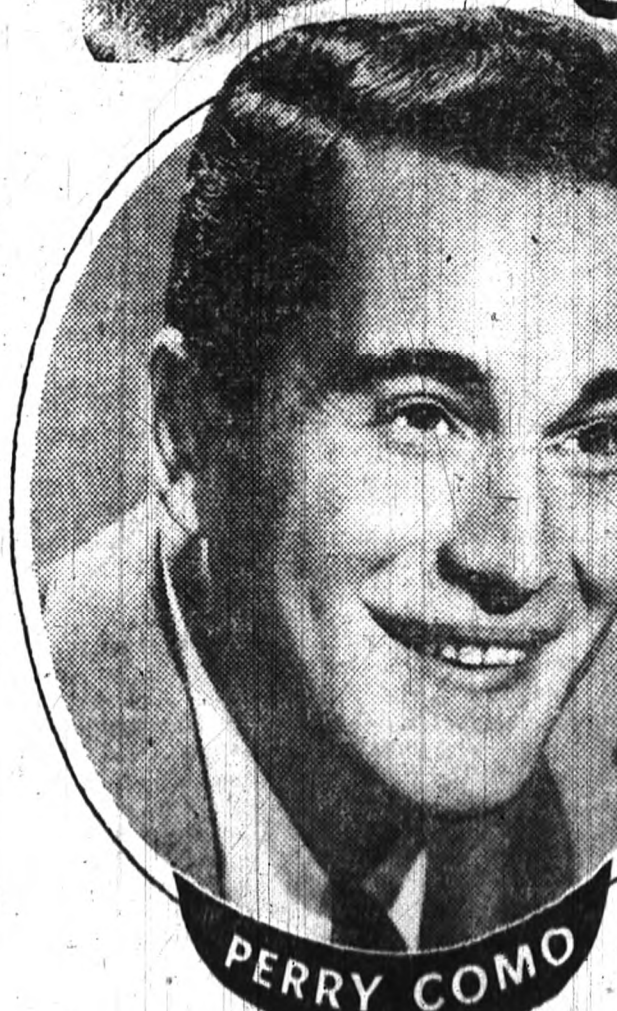
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