

u.s. Lady

MARCH 1965 • 25¢

The Service Family Journal

POST OF THE MONTH
ORLEANS, FRANCE

WIVES AND CHILDREN
LEAVE VIETNAM.
WILL THEY GO BACK?



*Orleans' Joan of Arc statue
is favorite place
for picture taking*



u.s. Lady

The Service Family Journal

COVER: Sgt. Maj. Floyd Kerchner, of the 819th Hospital Center in Orleans, France, poses his family in front of the famous statue of Joan d'Arc in the Orleans **Place du Martroi**. With his wife Margie are ten-year-old Michael and eight-year-old Kristina. For more about U. S. military life in this charming old city on the Loire, see pages 14-21. (U. S. Army photos by Sp4 Curtis O. Messer.)

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Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C. and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription Prices: United States, Possessions, APO's and FPO's, \$3.00 for 14 monthly issues; \$5.00 for 28 monthly issues; \$10.00 for five years (60 issues). All other countries, above rates plus \$1.00 postage per year. Payments from foreign countries, except Canada, must be made in United States funds. Send both old and new addresses with your change of address notice as much in advance as possible. If you want the post office to forward magazines, add your husband's name and military title to address when subscribing or renews.

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Manuscripts or art submitted to U. S. LADY should be accompanied by addressed envelopes and return postage. The publisher and editor assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts or art.

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Published monthly, except July-August issues combined, by the AMERICAN SERVICE PUBLISHING CO., INC. Editorial, business and subscription offices at 620 Warner Building, 13th and E Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20004. Publishers of U. S. LADY Magazine and the Growth and Progress File. Copyright 1965, by the American Service Publishing Co., Inc., Copyright under International Copyright Convention. All Rights Reserved. Printed in U. S. A. Title: "U. S. LADY," Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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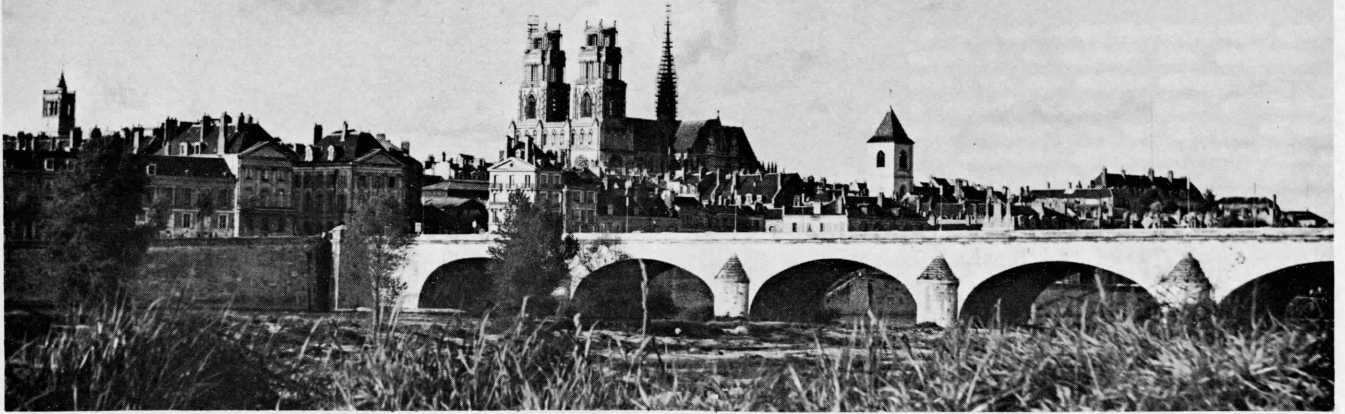
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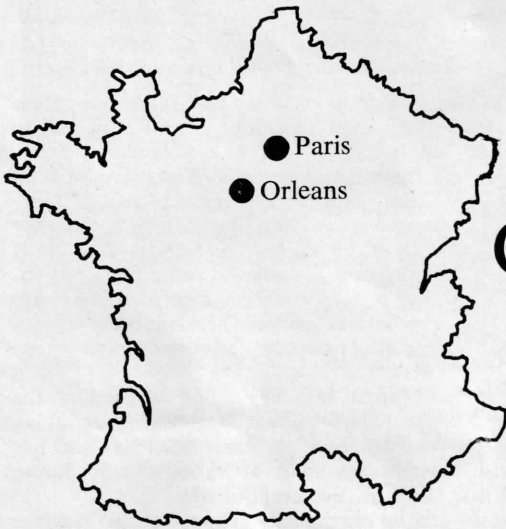
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View of Orleans with the George V bridge in the foreground and the Cathedral of Sainte-Croix rising above the shops and apartment houses.



POST OF THE MONTH

ORLEANS, FRANCE

By Maj. Pearl Fuchs

U. S. Army Photos

Bonjour, Mesdames, so you're coming to Orleans along the lovely Loire in north central France. The City of Joan of Arc welcomes you, the chateaux along the river beckon, and Paris—only an hour away by train—winks an intriguing eye. So brush up on your French, orient your mind toward *la vie française*, pack up and be on your way for a wonderful tour.

There's plenty to do and much to learn in and around Orleans if you'll seek it out. This ancient capital of old *Orléanais* province basks in a green valley that is still famous for its farmland after hundreds of years of cultivation. But before we show you around and recount a bit of Orleans' fascinating history, let's explain why you are coming here.

The Army's Mission in Orleans

Orleans is the headquarters for the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe (USACOMZEUR), currently commanded by Maj. Gen. Webster Anderson, USA. Your first question might be, "What is a communications zone?" It's a vast complex of pipe lines, supply depots, truck fleets, railroad rolling stock and seagoing harbor craft, plus the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees needed to run it.

USACOMZEUR provides the U. S. military, serving in Europe as part of NATO, with everything from the food the U. S. forces eat, the transportation they require and the weapons they use, to the hospital and medical services which may save their lives.

This great complex, which today extends over 700 miles from the Atlantic to the Rhine, is a direct descendant of the Service

of Supply set up by General Pershing in World War I. That headquarters was first established in Paris and later moved to Tours. Its largest depot was located at Gievres, near Romorantin, just 80 miles south of the present COMZ headquarters.

A Service of Supply functioned again during the early months of World War II, operating from England. The name was changed to Communications Zone immediately after the 1944 Normandy invasion and its headquarters moved to France. With the end of the war the need for such a tremendous operation ceased and the occupation troops were supplied directly.

The Berlin crisis and the Korean War demonstrated a need for less vulnerable supply lines in Europe. On November 6, 1950, France and the United States concluded negotiations which permitted the U.S. to organize a supply line across France for our forces facing the Iron Curtain.

To the mule trains of World War I and the Red Ball Express of World War II have been added aircraft and pipelines which can deliver a diverse range of new equipment to combat troops in record time. Electronic computers and other modern stock control equipment have been installed and new supply techniques are constantly being developed.

The Orleans military community is composed of 12 military establishments located in 12 geographic areas within the French *département* of Loiret. These make up the U. S. Army Post, Orleans (USAPORL). In addition to Orleans itself, where Coligny Caserne houses the headquarters, commissary, post exchange and many other facilities, major elements of the community are located at Maison Fort, La Chapelle, St. Jean de la Ruelle, St. Jean de Bray, Olivet, Saran and Foret d'Orleans.

U. S. Army Post, Orleans, currently commanded by Col. Franklin H. Hartline, is similar to a post headquarters in the



Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Webster Anderson are shown here at home in lovely "Les Charmes," a chateau situated among beautiful gardens on the banks of the Loiret (Little Loire) River, a tributary of the Loire itself. When General Anderson took command of USACOMZEUR, "Quarters One" was due for redecoration. Mrs. Anderson, with her excellent taste and wide knowledge of French period architecture, took an active part in this happy task. The canape on which the Andersons are sitting is among the antiques she purchased in Orleans and had recovered. COMZ's First Lady is a collector of left-handed mustache cups (foreground) and porcelain birds. The general is an enthusiastic gardener and collects miniature trains, to which an entire upstairs room is allocated. He loves fishing and hunting and has a freezer full of pheasants and partridge, ready to serve his dinner guests at home.

United States, supporting the U. S. military units and activities in the Orleans area.

Orleans' Colorful History

Now let's go back 2000 years to the early beginnings of Orleans itself. Even before it received its modern name, the city was captured and burned by Julius Caesar in 52 B.C. Emperor Aurelian rebuilt the Roman outpost and named it after himself. Atilla and his Huns assaulted Orleans in 450 A. D., but were driven out by Saint Aignan, Bishop of Orleans. By the middle of the sixth century Orleans was flourishing as a center of trade and commerce, second in importance only to Paris.

Orleans became a part of the Protestant movement during the religious wars of the 16th century. It was occupied at various times by both the Huguenots and the Catholics, but was finally conquered by Henry IV of Navarre. John Calvin studied at the city's law school, which was a going concern until about a century ago. (A hundred years more or less means nothing in Europe, you know.) The entire Orleans area today is honey-combed with underground passages used by both Protestants and Catholics during those years when it was "off with your head" if you happened to belong to the wrong church.

But it is for *Jeanne d'Arc* that Orleans is most renowned. During the Hundred Years' War (1338-1453)—basically a dynastic quarrel between France and England for the control of France—Joan of Arc led her French troops in liberating Orleans, strategic city of the war. Its recapture by the French turned the tide and led to the eventual expulsion of the English. Everyone versed in French or Catholic history knows of the Maid's execution and ensuing martyrdom. Orleans brings this medieval drama to life each year on May 7th and 8th in pageantry that draws pilgrims and tourists from every part of France.

Modern history pales besides the fervor the average *Orléanais* has for Joan, but the city did suffer three more invasions—all by the Germans. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815,

the Prussians occupied Orleans, and again they took it in 1870-71. The Nazis entered in 1940 and destroyed the entire center of the city. The Church of Saint Paul, where Joan of Arc prayed during the siege of Orleans, was gutted by fire, leaving only the facade and the Chapel of our Lady of Miracles. This chapel, incidentally, contains a famous "Black Virgin" (*Vierge Noire*) statue, the object of pilgrimages since 800 A. D.

The four-year occupation of World War II ended on August 16, 1944, in a key-action breakthrough from the Normandy beachhead. A task force of Col. Bruce C. Clarke's Combat Command A (4th Armored Division) overcame Nazi resistance and was welcomed into the city by the French.

Orleans and Environs Today

The city is progressively rebuilding itself and has come a long way since the devastation of World War II. Landmarks that first catch the eye of every visitor are the statue of Joan of Arc in the main square and the Cathedral of Sainte-Croix which Joan faces as she sits astride her horse. Built originally 500 years ago, the cathedral was destroyed by the Huguenots during the religious wars and restored by order of Henry IV, who laid the cornerstone in 1601.

The *Hotel de Ville* (City Hall), north of the cathedral, was built during the Renaissance. Its center arch leads into a formal garden, which like the cathedral, the *Jeanne d'Arc* statue and the City Hall itself, is illuminated during summer nights.

The oldest part of the city is surrounded by boulevards built on the sites of ancient fortifications. *Rue Royale*, the main street, is lined for blocks by a massive arcade, behind which small delicatessens, specialty shops and a large department store feature a wide variety of merchandise.

Many of the old houses are built of white porous stone quarried from the ground beneath them. Some of these buildings boast as many as seven levels of cellars, used mainly for storing wine.



Preceded by retainers, the Orleanaise maiden chosen to be the 1964 Joan of Arc parades through the streets on her pony. The Cathedral of Sainte-Croix is in the background.



An American honor guard participates in Memorial Day ceremonies with the French Anciens Combattants (veterans) in the Place Gambetta. In the background are typical apartment houses, old and new.

All roads from Orleans lead to points of interest. Forty miles to the north is Chartres, with its famous cathedral dating back to the 11th century. The picturesque village of Beaugency, parts of its medieval wall still intact, is less than 25 miles away. About an hour's drive eastward is the Monastery of Saint Benoit, great intellectual center of the Middle Ages. And at least half a dozen of the more famous Loire valley chateaux are just a pleasant summer Sunday's excursion away. These are a must!

On all sides are ancient forests and streams, a paradise for hunters and fishermen. For those who would explore the gastronomic delights of the region, there are many small restaurants which feature hearty French cuisine. Sample a lark *pâté* from the town of Pithiviers, smoked cheese from Valencay, pastries from Nancy and, of course, the many good wines to be found throughout the province.

Other regional specialties include books, photographs and drawings of the Loire castles; fishing equipment (a good birthday, anniversary or Christmas gift for your husband); pottery

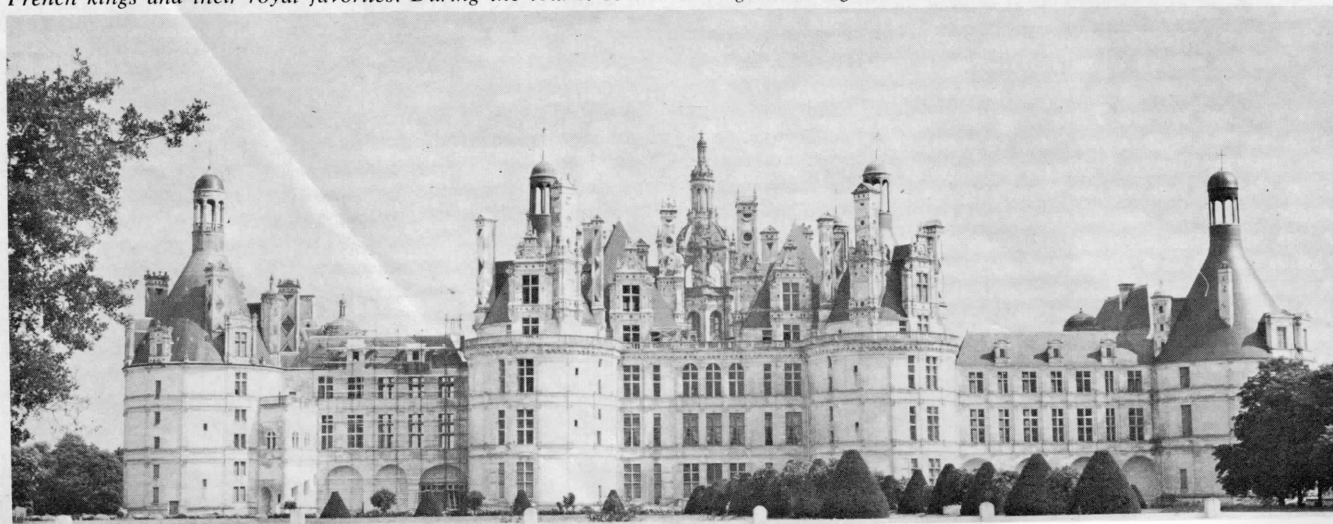
from the towns of Gien and Malicorne, and antiques ranging from firearms and lances to jewelry and furniture. "Junking" is the favorite weekend pastime of a close-knit fraternity, who scour the countryside for objects old and not so old to add to their collections.

But if Orleans is to be your home for a few years, the more practical aspects of living will occupy your attention before you decide what to see and buy.

Climate and Housing

Orleans' climate is somewhat milder in winter than, say, New York City, and a good deal cooler in summer. Annual rainfall is rather high, especially in winter, and the city's location in the river valley subjects it to heavy fogs and high humidity. Good rainwear and woolen clothing are essential, since dampness makes the otherwise mild temperatures more penetrating. There are very few really hot days by stateside standards.

Chambord, perhaps the best known of the many fascinating Loire valley chateaux, was built four centuries ago and lived in by many French kings and their royal favorites. During the tourist season it is lighted at night.



Where will you live during your tour? Probably in a French house or apartment, since government housing is limited. French domiciles present the same problems inherent in living most places abroad—unfamiliar architectural design, heating and plumbing apparatus different from those at home, fewer conveniences than you're used to. Practically all French houses and apartments are rented unfurnished, and you can take this word literally! "Unfurnished" means without stove, refrigerator or closets, perhaps without ceiling fixtures, and usually without kitchen shelves or cabinets. French landlords expect their tenants, French or American, to supply all these.

Items to include in your household goods are gas ranges adaptable for burning bottled gas (in case your house is outside the city gas lines), kitchen cabinets if desired, and portable clothing closets. The European Exchange Service has a furniture annex at Foret d'Orleans with a selection of major appliances and furniture. Other items may be ordered.

Do NOT bring electric stoves, TV sets and other large electrical appliances which depend on timers and motors designed for 60-cycle current, since these probably will not work. The electricity in your French house may be either 120 or 220 volts, with 50-cycle current. Adaptor plugs and transformers are available through the PX, but larger appliances must be converted to the new cycle. Many French houses are not wired for heavy electrical loads.

Most local houses are heated by coal or *mazout* (oil) furnaces. Some apartments in the center of Orleans are furnished "city heat," for which an additional rental fee is paid during the five or six cold months.

Your sponsor will arrange for hotel reservations when you arrive and also help you in the various orientation and processing procedures for arriving personnel. There is a 60-day temporary lodging allowance for you and your family while you are house hunting.

The billeting office of Orleans Post will aid in finding your house or apartment. This office also controls three government housing areas, open to both officer and enlisted personnel. Such housing consists mainly of two- and three-bedroom units. A few have four bedrooms. All are equipped with stove and refrigerator, shelves and even closets. But you should not count on government housing, especially for the first several months. Once you have settled into your French house and accustomed yourself to its occasional oddities, you may never want to move!

Schools and Medical Facilities

There are two schools for American children in the Orleans area. An elementary school comprising kindergarten and the first three grades is located in La Chapelle, near the U. S. Army Hospital and St. Jean de la Ruelle housing area. About 500 students are enrolled. Orleans American School, at Foret d'Orleans, combines elementary, junior and senior high school facilities, with an enrollment this year of some 1,600 pupils. Hot lunches are served in both schools and bus transportation is available in Orleans as well as from outlying areas.

Military medical dispensaries are located at Harbord Barracks, Coligny Caserne, Saran and Foret d'Orleans. Dependents are also treated at the Army hospital at La Chapelle, four miles west of the city, where emergency ambulance service is available and an emergency room is open 24 hours a day.

Complete dental service is available to all personnel, with clinics at the La Chapelle hospital and also at Coligny Caserne, Harbord Barracks and Foret d'Orleans.

A veterinarian at the hospital provides food inspection service and operates a small animal clinic where your pet, if you have one, will be registered, get its shots and receive other necessary medical care.

Cost of Living

France is having inflation troubles and prices keep going up, despite efforts by the French government. There is no "average" rental; costs range all the way from \$60 or \$70 per month for a small apartment to \$150 for a large house and grounds.



Modern government housing for the American military at St. Jean de Braye is in sharp contrast to the vintage homes and apartments of old Orleans.

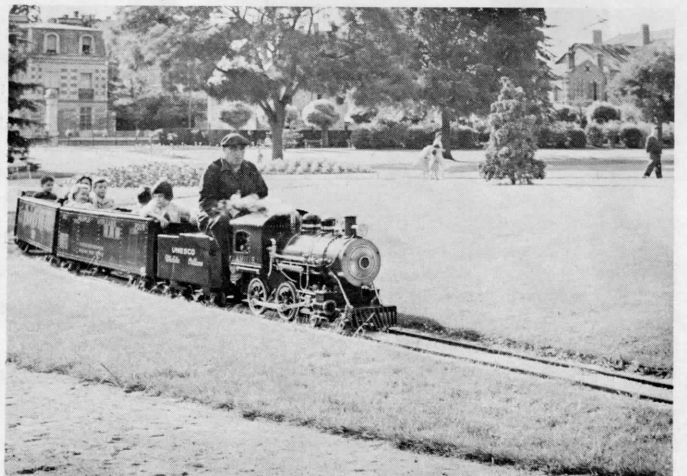
Electricity and gas cost more than back home. You will learn not to leave unnecessary lights burning and you may find bottled gas more economical than the city variety. You will have to pay a *taxe mobiliere* (tenant's tax) and if you live on the French economy you will probably pay many other taxes and services—for water charges, garbage removal, sewage, etc.—all of which adds up. On the other hand, you will buy most of your food at the commissary (located at Coligny Caserne), which offers almost everything to be found in a stateside commissary. In addition, the European Exchange Service operates small delicatessens at Coligny Caserne and Maison Fort. These facilities operate during and after duty hours and on weekends and holidays, and offer limited selections of staple foods and specialty items.

The post exchange and its annex, at Coligny Caserne, sell clothing, shoes, household goods and other items normally found in stateside exchanges, though selections are necessarily limited and specific sizes may be temporarily out of stock. If there are certain clothing items you just can't live without, or if you can wear only one certain make of shoe, better bring a supply with you.

The quartermaster laundry offers both laundry and dry cleaning service, and provides an additional bonus of 24-hour service to newcomers living in hotels. EES also operates laundry and dry cleaning pick-up points at all casernes, and there is a laundromat complete with automatic washers and dryers at Maison Fort.

Meals in French restaurants are not too expensive, and you will not want to miss this wonderful experience for at least an occasional treat. A good meal in a typical restaurant costs about \$2.50.

Citizens of Wichita contributed this miniature train for Orleans children. The city was liberated by elements of the Kansas National Guard from Wichita during World War II. As a result the two are "Sister Cities" in the People-to-People program, and the mayor of Wichita recently visited Orleans.



Recreation and Religious Activities

There's plenty to keep all family members busy during off-duty and after-school hours. The Officers Club and Civilians Open Mess—a converted chateau with spacious grounds and ancient trees in Olivet—has many evening programs, as does the equally attractive NCO Club at Harbord Barracks.

Movie theaters are located at Coligny Caserne, La Chapelle, Harbord Barracks and Foret d'Orleans. There are three bowling alleys (Maison Fort, Harbord Barracks and Coligny Caserne) with a total of twenty lanes. Libraries at Coligny Caserne and Harbord Barracks have books for children and adults, and lend records as well. The Community Activities Building at Harbord Barracks is used for many community functions, and is the home of the Orleans Players, a little theater group. Its most recent production, Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid," took four awards in the latest USACOMZEUR Play Festival.

Gymnasiums are located at Coligny Caserne, Harbord Barracks and Foret d'Orleans, with sports equipment available on loan. A nine-hole golf course located at Chateau La Touche is open to members and their guests every day except Monday. Adjacent to the course is a recreation and picnic area.

Both baseball and football, with company level games and USAREUR competition, are played at Patton Field at Harbord Barracks. Maison Fort, Saran and La Chapelle have softball diamonds. Tennis courts are located at Maison Fort, Chateau La Mothe, La Chapelle, Saran and Chateau La Touche. Basketball and volleyball facilities are also available.

The American Youth Authority (AYA) in Orleans maintains four diamonds near Maison Fort for Little League and Babe Ruth League competition. It also sponsors a full season of basketball with leagues for youngsters in various age groups.

France abounds in game and boasts more licensed hunters than all other European countries combined. For the Americans, Orleans Post Rod and Gun Club offers hunting, fishing, skeet and trap shooting to members and their guests in beautiful surroundings.

There is a comprehensive Scouting program for Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers. And, as is so often the case, more volunteer adult leaders are needed.

For summer vacation periods there is Camp Cazaux, located on a lake in a beautiful spot near Bordeaux in southwestern France. Here youngsters in various age groups can have an un-

forgettable week of organized camp activities. In addition there are two periods in mid-August when the whole family can go together.

Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish faiths have full religious programs. Denominational services are conducted by Episcopal, Baptist, Christian Science, Latter Day Saints and Seventh Day Adventist Churches. Maison Fort, Coligny Caserne and La Chapelle have Protestant Sunday schools. Secular organizations for Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish personnel also schedule activities throughout the year.

Especially for the Ladies

Women's clubs in the command are numerous and very active. The Officers Wives Club meets regularly at the Officers Club, Chateau La Mothe. The current president is Mrs. Robert Nelson. Mrs. Webster Anderson, wife of the USACOMZEUR commanding general, is a member of the administrative board.

The Franco-American Women's Club also meets regularly at Chateau La Mothe. Striving for a closer relationship between French and American women, this fine organization conducts a number of money-raising auctions and bazaars to provide funds for two scholarships awarded annually to French students. In addition it sponsors lectures on area specialties, travel tips and cooking. Members have pooled their culinary know-how and published a cookbook of favorite recipes. (*See this month's Menus and "Cuisine Diplomacy," June 1964.—Ed.*)

Other special interest women's groups, such as the Medical Services Wives, the Ordnance Wives and the Engineer Wives, also meet periodically.

The NCO Wives Club meets each Tuesday at the NCO Club, Harbord Barracks. Current president is Mrs. Marian Knight.

Along with their charity work for the orphaned, ill and indigent, their guest speakers and fashion shows, these clubs maintain a number of worthwhile service activities. One example is the Thrift Shop, operated by the Officers Wives Club, where you can pick up a bargain in almost anything under the sun or put up for sale that "perfectly good dress" you never liked.

What to do with the baby while you are engaged in all these activities? A post nursery is available at Coligny Caserne for children from six months to eight years during the day and up to 12 years in the evening. Other service wives and American teenagers also do babysitting, or your wonderful husband may permit you to have a French maid.



Eleanor Hood, wife of William E. Hood, a Department of the Army civilian, and Eula Pitts, wife of Capt. Riley L. Pitts, discuss a possible purchase during a "junking" tour.



Randy, 3, and Beverly, 5, tell their mother, Mrs. James E. Bardwell, what newly discovered sweets they want to sample. Army Captain Bardwell and his family are new arrivals in Orleans.



Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., chief of staff, USACOMZEUR, and Col. Franklin H. Hartline, commanding officer, Orleans Area Command, throw the first ball at the opening of the Coligny Bowling Center last October.

Your French Neighbors

Whatever your husband's assignment in Orleans, you, he, and every member of your family will have a happy and important mission during your stay here. That mission is to help in every possible way to continue the pleasant relationship we already enjoy with the *Orléanais* and the French in general.

To that end many events are planned each year which bring together members of the French and American communities. Perhaps the most important and impressive affair is the annual reception for local mayors. Escorted by French-speaking U. S. officers, *maires* from the various communities surrounding Orleans attend a luncheon hailed by the French press as a "tradition particular to Orleans."

Members of various U. S. professional groups also hold receptions for their French counterparts. A host of Christmas parties for the underprivileged and orphaned, the aged and the ill take place prior to and during the holiday season.

The 76th U. S. Army Band gives frequent concerts in *Parc*

Pasteur, the large park in the center of town, and travels to other nearby communities to perform. At Christmas each year the band combines with the Orleans American High School Choir to present an evening of seasonal and religious music, an event attended and applauded by both the French and Americans.

The American Red Cross Community Center, located in downtown Orleans, is the meeting place for Franco-American groups like the stamp and coin collectors. It also schedules cooking classes in French cuisine.

Unlike an American community where the oldtimers break the ice, your French neighbors will expect you to make the first overture, but from that point on you will find them friendly, helpful and enjoyable.

If you already know how to speak French, you'll find that the best ticket of all toward making friends. If you don't, join one of the free French classes offered to military personnel and you'll soon be chatting away.

Voilà! Now that you have some idea of what our community is like, it only remains to wish you *bon voyage!* ★★★

In the receiving line at the Officers Wives Club welcoming tea last September are (l. to r.) Mrs. Jack Knox, wife of the commanding officer, 37th Transportation Command, Mrs. Webster Anderson and Mrs. Franklin Hartline.



Mrs. Webster Anderson, left, and Mme. Roger Secretain, wife of the Orleans mayor, admire an antique lamp up for sale at the Franco-American Women's Club Chinese Auction last December.

