

HOUSING HERE MORE CRITICAL

Mrs. Roope Reports Twice as Many Turned Down as Placed.

The housing situation in Columbus is becoming more critical every day, Mrs. Lena Roope of the Chamber of Commerce housing bureau informed members of the Chamber's housing committee at a special meeting Tuesday.

Although an average of about ten applicants are being placed in quarters daily, the number of applicants is now running from 30 to 35 a day, according to the records of Mrs. Roope.

Casualties brought back from overseas to Wakeman General hospital at Camp Atterbury are helping to increase the local housing problem. Wives, mothers, sisters and children of the wounded come here to visit them and immediately begin a search for sleeping rooms or furnished apartments.

"Most of them want to remain here as long as possible," Mrs. Roope said.

Wives Arrive Daily.

Wives and children of members of the 106th Division at Atterbury also arrive daily and want to stay here as long as their husbands are at Atterbury.

An Atterbury soldier called at the housing bureau Tuesday. He was in search of a small furnished apartment. "My wife and 4-month-old baby will arrive here tomorrow from Seattle and I must find a place for them to stay," he explained. Numerous applications of this type are received.

Here is another typical case. It is the wife of a soldier. She just arrived in the city. "My husband sent for me," she explains. "He thinks he'll be leaving soon and I've come all the way from Winston-Salem to be with him. A sleeping room, a small apartment or anything will do."

Although many of them are satisfied with sleeping rooms, Mrs. Roope reports that the housing problem presented by members of military families is hardly any greater than that of permanent residents.

Rental Homes Sold.

The housing bureau has on file the names of dozens of permanent residents whose rental homes have been sold over them and who are unable to find new locations.

There is a group of newcomers who plan to become permanent residents. Many in this group prefer to buy property.

Dozens of applications for houses have also been received from members of the staff at Wakeman hospital who desire to move their families here.

In view of the situation, the housing bureau is making another appeal to residents not only of the city but of the entire county to list all available sleeping rooms, apartments and houses.

"The housing situation in Columbus today is the worst it has been at any time in the last two years," Mrs. Roope asserted.

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