

IT SEEMS

There were two Texans...



As youths both had set a goal. One to "crew," the other to pilot the airplanes that make the U.S. Air Force a thundering voice for tranquillity. Now, other young men in every state have similar goals.

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dear guardsmen:

It took the passage of 26 years, and a visit to Camp Perry, Ohio, to uncover an omission and suggest a story that we hope to be able to tell in a little more detail some time soon.

Lt Col V B McMillen, Ohio's Asst QMG, supplied the tip. He wrote about seeing at Cp Perry, during the last Natl Matches, the NGAUS' trophy for the high National Guardsman in the President's Match, presented for competition the first time in 1929. Though there's a silver plate for each winner over the years, he noted there was none for Sfc Herschel Stemen who (he confirmed with other old-timers) was the first winner—and who still shoots on Ohio's team!

Sure enough, the printed Official Proceedings of the Assn's General Conference that year, include the announcement of the winner. Back in those days, the Assn had no office and no fulltime staff, and all of the organization's affairs were handled as additional duties assumed by the elected officers. The affixing of an appropriately inscribed plate was overlooked. In the intervening years, the trophy was passed from winner to winner and, in the course of events, became "stranded" in Massachusetts throughout WW II. Adj Gen W H Harrison, Jr, unearthed it after the war and, with the Assn occupying permanent headquarters, the trophy likewise found a permanent home.

The vicissitudes of travel have made many marks on the fine old trophy. Now it's headed for a refurbishing as well as for the attachment in a commanding position on the base, of a silver plate commemorating Sergeant Stemen's achievement—, all thanks to Colonel McMillen's vigilance.

THE STAFF

contents

As We See It	2
Beating the Draft	4
Armored Mobility for the Doughboy	6
Washington Report	12
Gilleland's Devilish Engine	16
Pentagon Paragraphs	17
Technical and Tactical	20
Posting the Guard	22
Sound Off!	30
"Nat Gard"	30
Beverly Brown	32

our cover

Like bugs against a windshield on a hot Summer evening, machine gun bullets splatter spectacularly but harmlessly on the side of an Armored Infantry Vehicle. Amphibious, versatile, this homely tracked carrier gives promise of revolutionizing land warfare, says Military Writer Garry Underhill in a two-part article starting in this issue.