

# Navy Veteran, Family Live In Central Areas Garage

Henry Farmer served in the U. S. Navy during the war on a transport, a destroyer and a mine sweeper. His experiences would set a listener's hair on end. However, to Farmer, the thrills were secondary; he was dreaming of the beautiful home with green shutters in the post-war era.

Today, the discharged sailor, his wife, and three children, are living in a dark, damp, stench-ridden cubby-hole garage in the rear of 2350 E. 31st Street. His wife, Mrs. Oddie Bell Farmer, is disillusioned. She watches the rain leak into several pans on the matted floor.

Home Sweet Home for this veteran and his family is a night mare. They cook on a kerosene stove. The odor of decaying garbage from nearby cans seeps into the horrible living quarters.

The Farmes have lived in the garage since December, 1946, shortly after the father was discharged from service. "We were paying \$24 a month rent," Mrs. Farmer angrily exclaimed. "But last month my husband told our landlord that we couldn't afford to pay that much for the garage. So now we pay \$20 a month a month but get no electricity."

## Terrible Shape

When the garage was first



Living in miserable quarters in a garage is this family of Henry Farmer, a discharged naval man. Shown above are Mrs. Oddie B. Farmer and her three children, Archie, Albert, and Hattie Mae.

rented it had no floor. The family put wood planks down. The only light is from two small windows. During the evenings, the group use a gasoline lamp. There is no water nor sanitary facilities, no electricity, no gas,

no insulation, and only a small coal stove for heat in the winter. In this garage which is smaller than fifteen feet square, the Farmers have three beds. There is hardly room for the children

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# NAVY VETERAN

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to move around in the quarters. When it rains, one of the beds must be turned upside down in order to protect it from the leaks.

## Looking For House In Vain

The veteran and his family have been looking for a house for more than eight months. He applied on August 7, 1946 to the Veterans Information Service for housing but his name was among countless thousands, and so the application went untouched.

The Veterans Administration Service official told the Call and Post that hundreds of veterans are in front of the Farmer clan and it might be months before they get to his name—with the current shortages of houses.

## Evicted From First Home

The Farmers moved to this city from Alabama and at first lived on St. Clair Avenue. When the landlord discovered that there were children, he evicted the tenants. With no place to go, the Farmers moved into the garage of property owned by Mrs. H. Coleman.

Farmer is employed at the McGlean Chemical Company, working at the warehouse.

## Owner Denies High Rent

Mrs. H. Coleman, who rents the garage to the Farmers, claims that the tenants asked her for some rooms in her house. Having no space, they asked to rent the garage. "I hate to see people out on the street, especially kids," said Mrs. Coleman, "so I told them that the garage wasn't fit to live in but if they wanted to fix it up they could live there."

When asked how much rent was paid a month, Mrs. Coleman replied that the rent was \$11 which didn't tally with the Farmers' figure.