

Wenonah Designer Is Inventor Of Trestle Used in Shipyards

**J. Lynn Mahaffey, Jr., Whose Talents Once Ran to
Wallpaper, Draperies, Rugs, Improves on Wooden
Devices Employed by Welders and Painters**

There have been many cases in history where men have forsaken the arts and subsequently achieved fame in another line of endeavor. An outstanding example of such a vocational about-face is Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph, who was an outstanding painter prior to entering the field of communications.

The career of J. Lynn Mahaffey Jr., 37, Mantua and Marion avenues, Wenonah, runs almost parallel to that of Morse. Son of State Health Director Mahaffey, he is the inventor of the Mahaffey Safety Trestle, a device now in general use in shipyards in the East.

Prior to the war, Mahaffey was a designer of wallpaper, draperies and rugs. His talents were also employed in fashioning women's dresses for some of the leading shops in New York. He received his art education at the Philadelphia School of Industrial Arts, the Barnes Foundation at Merion, and the studio of Roy Spreter, Ardmore. Travel in the Southwestern United States also afforded him an opportunity to study Indian arts and crafts.

Did Camouflage Research

When this country entered the war, Mahaffey started research in the art of camouflage, and was awaiting a commission from the Navy to work along those lines. In the meantime, he was rejected for

Army service and this precluded his being commissioned by the Navy.

He then closed his business and took a job as a painter at the New York Shipyard. It was here he conceived the idea of improving on the weeden trestles used by welders, shipfitters, painters, etc.

Granted a medical release from the job, Mahaffey started work on plans for an adjustable steel trestle which could be regulated to different heights and would do away with the necessity of having a different wooden one for every size.

In Use at Phila. Navy Yard

He made arrangements with the Belmont Iron Works, Philadelphia, to manufacture his invention, and a short time later the Philadelphia Navy Yard became the first to use the Mahaffey Safety Trestle.

Since than large quantities of the trestles have been put into use in Eastern shipyards. The device has also been tested by the Pennsylvania Railroad and has been recommended for use on the entire system.

In describing his trestle, Mahaffey said that the smaller ones are light enough for a man to carry. The device can be regulated to five elevations and may be used by itself for work above a man's reach or as supports for scaffolding. They are made in sizes ranging from three feet six inches up to special types 22 feet in height.

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