

Town Topics

# Royal Parade Marches On

By Marie McNair

MARTIN McKNEALLY, national commander of the American Legion, is a bachelor and handsome, too.

So—at his reception and buffet supper in honor of the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff last night at the Army Navy Country Club, there was no place for wives in the receiving line. Instead, they were able to move about the club's spacious rooms to find their friends and do what women are supposed to do best. And what's that? That's—talk.

With the American Legion's commander were Gen. Nathan Tanning, USAF, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs until Friday, when he retires from active duty; Adm. Arthur Burke, Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. Thomas B. White, Chief of Staff, USAF, and Gen. David Shoup, Commandant of the Marine Corps. And behind them, as colorful "props" were the personal flags of the commanding officers of each branch of the services, the American Legion commander's flag and the Stars and Stripes.

Among the several hundred guests were top officials of the Defense Department including the Secretary, Thomas Gates, and Mrs. Gates; members of NATO and SEATO and their wives as well as Inter-American Defense Board members and their wives. It was, in fact, the largest par-

ty ever held in Washington by the Legion to honor the military and the first to salute the Joint Chiefs of Staff in this fashion by a veterans organization.

The reception was planned because, according to McKneally, "during the past 13 years since the Department of Defense has been in existence, we have had the opportunity to work closely with all of the services and give our full support to security measures designed to insure adequate defense of our country and preserve its prestige as the bulwark of democracy in the free world."

Secretary of the Army and Mrs. Wilber Brucker were there and among the few civilians were Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Morris and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cafritz.

Gen. Charles P. Cabell and Mrs. Cabell, talking with Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Murray Snyder, discovered that Mrs. Cabell and Murray were both from San Antonio.

Adm. Jerald Wright found friends, so did Rear Adm. and Mrs. Adrian Perry who chatted with Vice Adm. William Raborn of Polaris fame.

Rear Adm. Thomas H. Robbins, new Commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command, and Mrs. Robbins who are living at Tingey House said they're delighted with it, that they've seen the ghost of Admiral Tingey twice.