

NEWS FROM HOME

Volume 1 — No. 6

WHITINSVILLE, MASS.

April 1943

“Life on the Home Front”

BY GERRY GAUDETTE

It has occurred to me that a great many of the boys who have gone into the service have not been able to get home on furloughs for various lengths of time and must wonder just what changes have undergone here on the Home Front. I have spoken with many parents who have told me that they have not seen their son or sons for periods of time running up to a year and more in some cases.

We at home have had the opportunity of receiving letters from the different boys and also reading various commentators' reports of the many types of experiences that you boys undergo to adapt yourselves to your new mode of living. It is not unlikely that you all have received letters from your families and friends in which they have told incidents regarding the changes we have had to make in our way of living. However, this applies mainly to you lads stationed far from your home town, when my turn came around to write the editorial, I sincerely felt that an impartial report on this subject would be of interest.

There is no question but that the most drastic change in our way of living is due to the fact that you and you and you are in the Fighting Service of Uncle Sam. There are very few families living in this town today who have not one or more members in the service. It is somewhat difficult to say and yet it is a fact that there is a constant ache in the hearts of most of us. It is a hard thing to put your finger on and clearly describe and yet it is clearly noticeable, especially when the conversation veers around to the last letter received from you or you as it invariably does. As the time since that last letter stretches into weeks or longer it is more and more apparent. We have been told time and time again to keep up our flow of letters to our men in the Service as a letter from home is better than a tonic to most of you lads. This is an apparent truth that most of us recognize and several people in this town are spending a lot of their time in writing letters to various boys in the Service. However, remember this fact, that such a program works both ways and that your letters are looked forward to with

perhaps even more longing by your families because they date your health and wellbeing by your “last letter received”. Make this “last letter” arrive as often as possible.

The physical changes that we have had to acclimate ourselves to have not been too hard for most of us to swallow. The shortages and scarcity of the various commodities has in a great many cases been made to appear worse than it actually was. I know of no family in this section that at any time has not had sufficient to eat and sufficient fuel to keep them warm. It is no longer possible to eat certain foods until we have to let our belts out a few notches. Those of us who heat with oil could not maintain a temperature of 75 or 80 degrees but we, myself included, learned that a suit of long B.V.D.s is worth at least 10 degrees of heat. These changes in our way of living, as compared to certain other parts of this world are so trivial that I definitely feel that anyone who complains cannot be fully aware of what you boys are fighting for, and what you have given up in order that you could fight.

Every day we read truisms and platitudes that have been embroidered and paraphrased until they sound smug and complacent. However, deep in the hearts of most of us on the Home Front is a fervent hope that we be worth and worthy of, the tremendous sacrifice that you make for us.

About the Pictures in This Issue

1. We all gathered together to have our pictures taken so you could refresh your memory as to what we look like. Jerry Gaudette and Hans Theiler are the only ones not in the group. Hans, because he took the picture and “Jerry” because he stood for half an hour, waiting for us in the wrong place through a misunderstanding.

2. How do you like the Cafeteria?

3. “Gals” like this are replacing you boys and doing a fine job of it in the W.M.W.

Acknowledging Letters

(By Lawrence M. Keeler, Editor-in-Chief)

Well, another month has rolled around again. I have a great many more letters to let you all in on. Keep 'em coming.

Sgt. “Nish” Oolovgian is in China, flying around like a kite (my mistake, like an aeroplane). He says that our raids over Canton, Hankeow, Hong Kong and many other places in China and Burma have been done with the odds greatly against us and at one time they were as high as twenty to one, which is on record. Boy, that is something!

Sailor Hank Ferras is in the S.W. Pacific. He liked our paper so much that he sent money to us for it. We returned the money, Hank. Thanks for the thought but we have to do our duty, too. We are doing a small thing in comparison to you fellas.

Pvt. Mike Ovian is at the Air Base in Leesburg, Fla. Tell me, Mike, are the alligators as big as reported down there?

Mike Zwien, S 2/c, is in New York attending Radio School. New York! Ah, there is the life! How about it, Mike? Or, is a week's vacation there enough?

Donald Greenwood is in Jacksonville, Fla. He has risen to Aviation Metalsmith 2/c. Nice work, Don.

I have received many letters from WAACS and WAVES but they have been sort of personal. Heh, he. I bet you would like to read 'em. However, here are a few that I'll tell you about.

Aux. Virginia West, Daytona Beach, Fla., is hard at work and she states that the only two things that get you on the double of your own account are mail call and mess call.

Lt. Alice Dalton, England, says she glares at every American soldier she sees, hoping that he might be from Whitinsville. No luck as yet. Incidentally Alice is not a WAAC or a WAVE, but a Nurse.

Lt. Betty Spence is at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Notice Betty's a Lt. already? Speedy girl, eh?

(Continued on next page)

NEWS FROM HOME

Issued Monthly

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Acknowledging Letters

(Continued)

Whoops boys, another Nurse, Lt. Rita St. Andre, somewhere in the Pacific. Rita likes our paper too. Don't rush, boys!

Pvt. Al. Kapolka is in Florida at Camp Blanding. It is nice down there he says, especially when a spider gets you. Keep away from the spiders, Al.

Pvt. John Darling, Station Hospital, Camp Wheeler, Ga., says he is always looking for somebody from around here to come to the same camp that he is in. Nobody has to date. Keep on looking, John, somebody will show up one of these days with fallen arches, I'm sure.

I always thought that the girls favored the Sailor Boys. Perhaps I'm wrong, as Charley Harrington, Amphibious Training Base, says that NEWS FROM HOME breaks up the monotony of Little Creek, Va.

Frank Bikes Msmth. 2/c, Pacific Ocean, is one of the "Subies". Good luck, Frank. That's the stuff. The "Subies", as you probably know, build up the advance bases in the far corners of the world.

Pfc. Ray Pelland, Seattle, Wash., is in Alaska (I think). It must be a trifle cold up North.

Col. Harold Guyette is engaged! He met the lovely lady in Virginia. Boy, I wish I could meet a girl in Va. or anywhere else for that matter. Harold is at Camp Rucker, Ala., and goes to New Orleans every other week. New Orleans. My, oh my!

"Nap" Ledoux has been transferred to Bennett Field, Brooklyn.

Alton Peck, S 2/c, N.Y.C., must have had a swell time marching in the parade honoring the French sailors of the battleship Richelieu. Now tell me, Alton, aside from the parade, what else do you do in the big town?

Pvt. Al. Seagraves, Rentschler Field, East Hartford, Conn., hands out some nifty compliments for NEWS FROM HOME. Glad you like it so well, Al.

Pvt. Florian Boucher, Fort Bragg, N. C., is a Paratrooper. He says "The boys are in fine spirits and hope to make their last jump in Tokio. Here's hoping, Florian.

Pfc. Jimmie Forsythe is at Camp Gordon, Ga. He doesn't know what the girls are talking about down there because of their drawl. Tough luck on "Jimmie".

Cpl. Everett Minor, Fort Monmouth, N. J., says: "If there are people that haven't anything better to do than look for misplaced prepositions while others are breaking their necks to do some worthwhile thing for us fellows they should be sent down to my outfit. We have to find someone for K.P. every morning at 4 A. M."

John Weatherburn, AOM 1/c, Fleet Air Wing One, San Francisco, writes that he met up with his brother, Gordon, somewhere in the Pacific. What a small world this is.

Jacob VanDyke, S 1/c, is on the cutter Yeaton. Jake is in the jungles. I don't know where, but white people are very scarce. Come now, WAAC and WAVES, can't you send a few of your staff down there.

This little paper sure gets around. Here are three from North Africa: Ens. Phil. Hathaway, Pvt. Emile Aussant and Pvt. "Chuck" Turner. Phil says he is in with a swell gang of fellows 100% guys (join the Navy). Emile and Chuck are getting along fine (join the Army).

Hermon Muldonian, Argentia, Newfoundland, is in the Coast Guard. How about the salmon fishing, Hermon?

Chester Romeszewski, SF 2/c, Postmaster San Francisco, is in the Navy. He can't tell what he knows or where he is going. Well, all the boys and girls say that. We don't mind. We're glad to hear any news from them.

Pvt. Peter Youngsma, Postmaster Seattle, Wash., writes that he is engaged to Miss Gladys VanderSluis of Quaker St. Nice work, Peter. It is a long way to wherever you are, but love will find a way.

Pvt. Leo Howard is up in the Yukon territory along the Alaskan Highway. In January he says the temp. was 50 to 60 below. I wish I was there. Yes, I do—Not.

Ruel Ellis, Fort Williams, Maine, is doing some instructing in radio.

Sgt. James Linquist is out on the Pacific. Where—he doesn't tell. Save a bomb for Togo, James.

Pvt. Jimmie Burke is in the Coast Artillery. His address is Postmaster New Orleans and so your guess is as good as mine.

Sgt. Thomas Cahill likes San Francisco, but he doesn't think there is enough action. He is with the Air Wing Defense.

Peter Bedrosian, A.S., Newport, R. I., and Pvt. Dominic O'Gara, Fort Hancock, N. J., both like the paper very much.

Well, that winds me up for this time. So long.

Lawrence

W. M. W. Office Chatter

(By Tillie Marker)

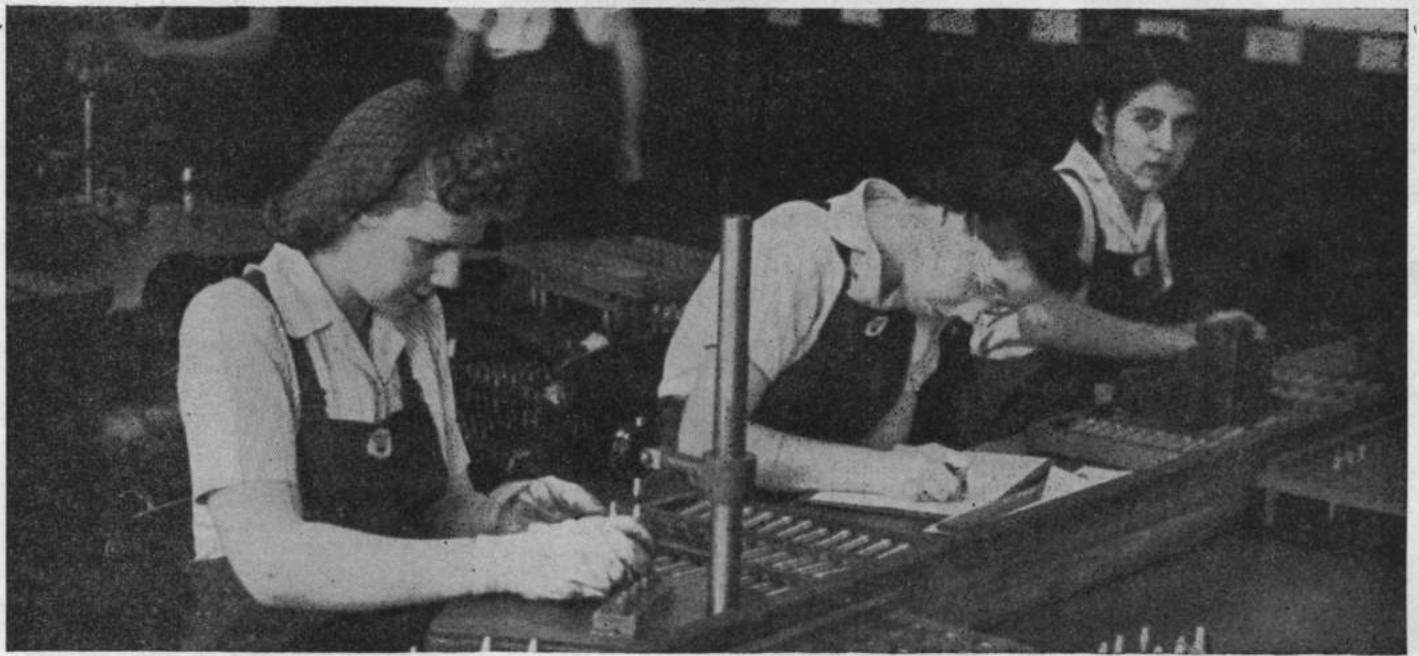
Don't look now, soldier, but there's a bug crawling up your back. April Fool!

Once upon a time a mild joke of this sort was in order on April Fool's Day (?), but since you fellows have left us gals behind to manufacture our own amusement we are going all out for devilry and tricks. Just to show you what I mean, let me take you back home to the Repair Department of the Main Office on April 1st, 1943.

We were all sitting at our desks absorbed in our work when blonde Ruthie Payson pipes up to Evelyn Litke, "Hey, Eve, want a nice cracker with jelly?" Evvie, being the sociable type, said "Oh sure," and proceeded to take a big bite. Then Ruth began to laugh and laugh 'til she could hardly speak. Finally she managed to utter, "Gee, Evelyn, you'd better not eat any more of that. There's soap in that jelly." Evvie turned a little green around the gills, and five minutes later saw the gullible Mrs. Litke racing for the ladies' room, where she departed with her breakfast. Well, that was just the beginning! In a half hour, Evvie had to give in and go home, but believe me, she wasn't feeling any worse than poor Ruthie! Guess that joke kinda backfired, hey what? But it didn't stop there. After lunch, Ruth was called to the outside phone, and a very phony voice said, "This is Dr. Bouvier. I'm taking care of Mrs. Litke and I want to know what you gave her to eat. She's very sick." Ruth managed to stammer that it was only a little soap, and boy, when she came back to her desk she was actually trembling! So we decided we'd better put her wise, and we told her that one of the fellows, namely, Ollie Walker, was "pulling her leg".

And that's how it came about that Ollie was our next victim. Some mean culprit got near enough to Ollie to pin a sign on his back. My humble modesty will not permit me to repeat the contents of that piece of paper. Anyway, ignorance is bliss and Ollie was happy. He went walking all over the office and people just stared and laughed. Every now and then somebody would ask him why he was displaying the price tag, but he was afraid to look for fear somebody would yell, "April Fool". Then finally he caught on, ripped off his coat, and BOY was his face red. He threatened to get back, and we gals just sat on pins and needles the rest of the day, but nothing happened.

I suppose our antics were really nothing compared to what you boys got away with, huh? How about writing us about your experiences so we can compare notes?



News Picked Up At "Austies"

Everett Burgess, former N.H.S. athlete, is in the Army and is stationed on the other side of the U.S.A. That is at the Salem Air base, Oregon.

★ ★ ★

Floris G. Ebling decided while on furlough here to hitch into double harness and was married to Ruth Oberg of Upton, Mass. Floris is on the U.S.S. Denebola. Brother Ed was home at the same time but returned single.

★ ★ ★

This is forest fire time back home and the boys are just as busy as ever. The only complaint from the fighters is that the weather is so cold they really have to use their tools or stay chilled to the bone.

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Adrian San Souci and Bill Roy want to be remembered to their buddies. At present they are stationed at Camp Cooke, Calif.

★ ★ ★

I received a letter from Harry Cornell the other day. Harry is out of the country and when he left Camp Edwards they lost one of their best cooks.

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Andy Keyes of the air force has had his wings clipped by Peggie McGuinness of Prospect Street.

★ ★ ★

Sidney Vander Sluis from Quaker Street is now CM 3/3 on the New Caledonia and has sailed from San Francisco to help somewhere in the Pacific.

★ ★ ★

Aviation Cadet Henry Osterman is training at the Thurston Flying School at Enid, Oklahoma.

★ ★ ★

My good friend and neighbor Vernon Liberty has been stationed in Beloit, Wisconsin. His parents are on their way to visit with him at this writing.

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Ed. Trasavage of Fletcher Street is with the Tank Destroyer Division. This outfit has its headquarters at Camp Hood, Texas.

★ ★ ★

Andrew Frieswick recently stationed at Great Lakes, is being sent somewhere into the South Pacific according to latest reports.

★ ★ ★

Dick Moran, who used to be such an ad for beef, is now slenderized down to a 32. Such is the method of Uncle Sam making little ones out of big ones.

★ ★ ★

Pvt. Gerrit Oppewall, finalist in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette Bowling tournament at Worcester last year, will be making strikes and spares at the Japs as he has left Los Angeles, California.

★ ★ ★

Murray Moran is having an extended furlough at St. Vincent's Hospital at Worcester. Murray had two days' leave and became the victim of appendectomy.

Armand Lemoine of Linwood Ave. has entered the Marines. Good luck Armand, and may more of your friends choose the Marines for their branch of the service, because at present we have so few from Northbridge in your branch.

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Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Cramm on the birth of a son.

★ ★ ★

Corky Corron has made four trips to Africa on convoy duty. Corky may go many places but he never seems to see anything (at least he never talks about it).

★ ★ ★

Big "Hawk" Malkasian is in a very busy division. He is with the Seabees Construction Battalion stationed at present in Virginia.

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M. Feddema is back at W.M.W. Mike was M.P. at Fort Wadsworth, N. Y.

★ ★ ★

We had the pleasure of having Jimmie Fitzgerald home with us again after his enlistment in the Marine Corps nearly a year ago. It was his first leave and, boy, did he visit people!

★ ★ ★

Pvt. Harold Youngsma was recently home for 10 days to see his wife and baby girl. He is now stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

★ ★ ★

We had a Navy blimp go over town the other day that was so low you could see what they were having for dinner.

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Thurston Brown, who is now a Master Sergeant, gets home once in a while. He is one of those quiet fellows who is going places.

★ ★ ★

There are so many girls entering the service from town that it looks like the boys that are left will have to dance with themselves. Gussie, please check this one.

★ ★ ★

Kenneth Cahill of Border Street has gone into the Army Air Corps. Ken was a third-year student in engineering at Boston University.

★ ★ ★

Both the Senior High and Junior High schools have been awarded the Minute Man flag for their purchase of war stamps and bonds. The students have purchased enough bonds since January to buy 13 Jeeps. This flag is awarded only to the school that has 90% of its pupils buying war stamps or bonds.

★ ★ ★

Sergeant Roy Drinkwater, now a veteran Marine, is having a well earned rest. Some of you know that Roy was a very sick boy out on the west coast and really has seen as much of this war as anyone. It was nice to see him and know that with time he will be well again.

★ ★ ★

Elmer Buma W.S.N. of Farnumville Rd. this week completed a course in Diesel engines at Naval Training School, Boston.

★ ★ ★

Frederick W. Crothers is in Co. Service Co., 306th Inf., A.P.O. 77, Man. Area Leesville, Louisiana.

"Shavings" from the Pattern Shop

(By Patrick A. McGovern)

Just across the way from my house stands an old, unused henhouse and a vacant lot.

What fond memories they must bring back to the boys who played there in days now gone. For this henhouse was their club and the lot their game area. Jimmie, Jack, George and Eddie were the gang. They are all in the big "scrap" now—but they had plenty of "scrap" in their own way in those days. Shirts were ripped off, seats out of their pants, scratched faces and bloody noses.

They will all no doubt be enemy-chasing soon—but in that not so long ago they were being chased. Chased for having dumped a garbage can on my doorstep at Hallowe'en—or throwing a big cannon cracker under my window on July Fourth. And did they love it!

Now they are all in there getting ready to chase the Axis or the Japs. Jimmie is a Corporal Technician, Jack an Air Corps Cadet in search of his wings, George an Ensign in the Navy and Eddie in the Medical Corps.

Here's hoping that some day soon they will all be able to return to the old club house and relate their adventures of this warfare game. I hope I'll be around to hear it all—as related by Corporal James Graham, Air Cadet Jack Foley, Ensign George Foley and Pvt. 1st Class Edward Helland.

When Norma Jackson left the Pattern Shop Office to join the WAVES I wrote that I was worried about how she'd sleep in a sailor's hammock. She wrote us a letter last week and added a postscript for me—in which she told me to stop worrying because she has a fine bunk and is very comfortable. She took her basic training at Hunter College, New York City, and is now stationed at the Yeoman's School in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Hurry home, boys, for times are changing around here. When you return you'll find the ban on smoking in the shop has been lifted. Here's a secret—not military. It was such a shock to some of the boys to be allowed to smoke that the cure was worse than the disease. The aroma around the place now would make you think some of the big shots had just had a smoke.

When that day arrives to return we won't worry about time out for smoking—it will be "Time out for Dawson's" then. (This is not an ad—no fee has been paid.)

Pvt. Roger Branowicki, who worked in the Pattern Shop and was later transferred to the foundry, has been called to the colors to Camp Pickett, Virginia. He's one of those tall, dark and handsome lads who'll make a fine looking and, no doubt, a better acting soldier.

Riverdale News

(By Dr. Earle Barclay)

It seems that Spring will never come. Every day we have a flareback to Winter, and the only springlike thing that we have experienced so far is the melting of the snow, but doubtless some of you boys will have worse weather by many degrees.

We have heard from Henry Wood, whom we must announce, is now Pfc., and is conducting his campaign in Africa.

One of the boys who had occasion to be in Michigan last winter proved to us that the white boys in camp up there can be just as chivalrous as the southerners are noted to be. This instance will prove the case. The white Yankee boys gave up their barracks and went into tents in order that the colored boys from the south could survive. Otherwise they certainly would have perished.

In this issue we are going to give you a lot of data on the Haywards. On the occasion a few days ago of the visit of Pvt. Richard from Camp Breckenridge, Ky., a reunion was held at father Nat's home. From Worcester came two aunts and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth and Addie, and Mildred and Rachel respectively. From our neighboring town came Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hayward and daughter. From Rockdale came Mr. and Mrs. Hector Lemoine, and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hayward. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Hayward and four children came from Brimfield. Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hayward, Jr., and two children came from Charles River. Residing with Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hayward is Mrs. Chester Hayward. Dick reported that an enjoyable day was spent, but that he didn't mind a bit getting back to camp.

By way of San Francisco we received a letter from Chester, who has traveled considerably since leaving Riverdale. Let us note something about Chester. He is now with the 825th Battery C. A. and gives his address as A.P.O. 502, care of Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. He has been gone from the states for overseas duty over one year, and has been in the service over two years. So far he has been gone from the states since February 2, 1942, and has been stationed at seven different Army camps, and two overseas posts since his induction on February 13, 1941. Since receiving our letter, we have learned that he has had a minor operation at his present location, and we will welcome further news from you, Chester.

Now let us go more than half way around the world, and we will meet his twin brother, Clarence, now in North Africa. Clarence is in Company A, 48th Arm. Med. Bn., A.P.A. 252, Postmaster, New York City. These two boys are quite far apart considering how close together they were at one time.

Raymond Douville spent a few hours leave here last week.

We have only one obit. to report this month. Four-legged Jack Lange unwisely got his head under the wheels of a passing truck, and Kurt buried him with due ceremonies under the same oak tree where he has planted several of Jack's forerunners.

Late bulletin received as we were going to press: F. Eden returned from a trip to New York much engaged, and on the next train Ruthie Lemoine and prospective S. in L. Gertie Douville left for a campaign in the same city. Details later.

You various sons will be interested to know that your fathers at home have every intention in the world of feeding all the necessary vitamins to the coneys around our village. Last summer John Ashton, Jr., was the only one who fed them well, but this year, under the auspices of our Victory Gardeners they will be fed a great variety and abundance (if anything comes up).

Fish Stories

(By "Sally" Jones)

Received a telephone call from Ernest Keyes the other night. He told of a large dog breaking through the ice in the Arcade Pond, about 100 yds. from shore. I told him he had better call the "chief" and see what he could do about it. I hurried down to Arcade Street but could see no dog. Mr. Keyes and John Leech were by the shore watching what they thought was a dog in the water, but was a piece of paper with one end frozen in the ice and the other end loose, the loose end would raise and fall with the breeze, "Wonder what Al Cullen said to Mr. Keyes."

It won't be long now boy—April 11th will be the first day for club members and there will be a large crowd out. The first day will not be much fun as they are hungry and will bite 'most anything. The club has stocked "Reilly's Pond" again with "hrookies". There should be quite a few of the large ones left from the last two years. The 15th of April will be regulars open season on all pond fish but bass.

At a meeting of the Fish and Game Association at the Gym it was voted to let all you boys in the service fish the Association's private trout pond at "Castle Hill." So come and fish when you have a few days off.

Bill Gummy Montgomery came to his desk in the Production Department and saw a note to call a certain outside number and ask for Graves. Gummy called for Graves and the person at the other end said, Yes, what do you want—a single or double grave? He had called Pine Grove Cemetery, and it was April 1st.

Robert Couture of Linwood has just recovered from the measles at Sheppard Field, Texas. Who is going to pay for the midnight oil that a certain little North Main Street girl burns each night writing to Bob?

Garret Ebling, Assistant Foreman of the Core Room, who is also an able fireman on Co. No. 2, needs a blood tonic. He was on the rear of the truck on a practice run around the meadow pond, when they got to Fair Lawn he signaled the driver to stop. He told Capt. Cy Hemingway he was frozen and would like to ride in the cab. So Ebby rode in the cab while Capt. "Cy" rode the rear.

Society Column

(By the Society Editor)

You know boys, this Society Column is having a hard struggle for existence. "Austie" and "Gussie" always get the news first—they have so many underground reporters.

As far as Society with a capital S is concerned, there just isn't any. Society means parties—now just how would you have a party without sugar, coffee, meat, fruit juice—and—men!

Therefore we are sort of confined to the news we can "grab" first. Someone told us the boys resented being mentioned in our column. In contrast, just listen to this.

"Vaskie" Asadoorian, home from a recent visit to Trinidad, says he has decided all the girls in Whitinsville are beautiful! (He saw only natives for months.) He met a lad in Trinidad who played golf with Doug Carr on the Whitinsville course. The chap was from Worcester. The world is small, isn't it!

Henry Henderson of D Street has returned to San Francisco after a furlough. He recently graduated from Aerial Radio and Gunner Schools in Jacksonville, Fla.

John Higgins of Fletcher Street has been promoted to Corporal at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

Charles Simmons of Linwood Avenue, a Northbridge High Senior, has been called to report to the Naval Reserve.

The Army Air Force has called Ernest Keyes to Maxwell Field, Kenneth Cahill to Atlantic City, and Jack Foley to Michigan State at Lansing. All are Aviation Cadets.

Lt. Leland Metcalf—Naval Air Corps—"brezed" into town one day. He is now stationed at Cape May, New Jersey.

Our list of young lady enlistees is a rather full one this month and includes Ruth Cameron of Maple Street and Phyllis Kane, who have joined the WAAC and Adele Fredette of Main Street, Sophie Szerlag of Northbridge and Louise Muldonian of Church Street, who have joined the WAVES.

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Gwendolyn Rae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rae of 5 Woodland Street, to Corp. Tech. C. Howard Reinhardt. The couple were married in Dover, N. H., and are residing in Machias, Maine.

Thomas Cullen, son of Chief of Police and Mrs. J. Albert Cullen, of Linwood Avenue, will be awarded the American History medal for the best essay on Thomas Jefferson at a meeting of the D.A.R. Young America in the making

Cupid has scored another hit. Helen DeBoer of the Main Office came in Monday morning sporting a beautiful diamond. Congratulations Peter Devries of the tool job, of the W.M.W.

Rockdale News

(By Gerry Gaudette)

Each month as the time approaches for this paper to go to press it is my fancied dream that this time I am going to start early and get this column all completed before the deadline appears but again this time I find that it is no different and that at the last minute I'm rushing against time and swearing that next month I'll do different.

During the last month there have been several boys home but for some reason or other I did not have a change to talk with any of them to learn what they have been doing. This has kind of left me up in the air for newsy items and might say at this time that I would appreciate it very much if when you boys from Rockdale do get home on furloughs you would drop into my office and say Hello. It would make it a great deal easier for me to write this and possible to give more information to you other lads from Rockdale.

Raymond Tetreault was home and wearing Corporal stripes, which isn't bad, considering the short time he has been in service. Home from 'way out in Tacoma, Washington, was Charles Lawrence. Also home was Jessie Brunneau, who last heard from was completing his Paratroop training and feel quite disappointed that he did not call and let me know how he made out. Bobby Fontaine home from his station at Philadelphia. Arthur Noel spent a few days at home, coming up from his station at Atlantic City. Also home for a few days was Paul Barrette and Arthur Pelletier.

During this past month we at home had a dreadful tragedy in the sudden and untimely death of "Spike" Kosiba. "Spike" was well known to most of us and well liked by all of us. His death came as a severe shock and he will be greatly missed.

I have been the recipient of several letters during the past month which I would like to acknowledge.

Got two "V" mail letters from overseas, one from Cpl. Jessie Laperriere, who reported getting his copy of the News and that he is fast becoming accustomed to the way of life in England but is looking forward to coming home. Also from England a letter from Cpl. Johnny Postaski and Emile Roy, who collaborated in writing that they too were getting their paper regularly and enjoying it very much. It means a great deal to us to receive these letters.

Heard from both of Rockdale's aviators, Chick Adams, U. S. Naval Cadets and Danny Nobel, U. S. Army Air Force. Both Chick and Danny are now flying and eating it up.

I guess that Rockdale is going to have another flying man in Billy Spratt. Bill was examined for Army Air and was un-

der the impression that he had passed all his tests only to learn the day before he was to be inducted that he could not be considered because his nose had been broken and had not healed straight. It would be necessary for him to have his nose rebroken and reset but he had to report the next day to Devens. So Billy went last Friday, the second, and expected that his ambition to fly was ended. However, today I learned that the Army was going to have his nose operated on and that when it healed he would start his training. We are all glad that it worked out like this for his sake.

Also leaving for the Army on the second was Fernand Adam, who when last heard of was at Devens.

To get back to my letters, find Leo Laverdiere is attending Clerical School at Hattiesburg, Miss. Finds his schooling very interesting and would like very much for Arthur Alix to get in touch with him. His address is Co. B, Class No. 6, Army Adm. Sch. Miss. So. Col., Hattiesburg, Miss.

Was very glad to hear from Dona Klockek, who is in California awaiting assignment to a new ship after having to leave the U.S.S. Hornet in a very sudden and, I gather, rather undignified manner. I certainly hope that he does not ever have to experience such a thing again.

Albert Laflash stationed at Memphis, Tenn., has become one of my most faithful correspondents and again am indebted to him for a swell letter. I can go you one better, Al, for the chronic complainers, and that is, instead of taking a deep breath and then blowing it out, I suggest that they hold it indefinitely.

Edward Flamand, who is with the 37th Air Base Sqdr. at New Orleans, writes that country around there is very impressive but he cannot see any reason for Henry Kaiser to build giant transport planes. He suggests that they capture a few of Louisiana's mosquitoes and swears that this will answer the problem. Maybe he has got something.

Thanks to Joseph Sampson, also of Louisiana, for his card of acknowledgment for his paper. We will try and keep the presses rolling just as long as we can, so that you may continue to receive it.

From Emile Aussant, 'way out in Africa, a nice card (properly censored), saying that while reading his paper he felt as close to Rockdale as possible under the circumstances.

From Paul Lavalley at Camp Hood Texas, information that Texas has lived up to his expectation from both the standpoint of being a beautiful State and also of having beautiful women, both of which he has not been able to enjoy for some time due to the fact that he and others in his company are quarantined due to measles.

Was pleased to hear from Dick Allain that he has graduated from Radio School

and received his rating as ARM 3/c and has now been transferred to Pensacola, Fla. According to Dick, it is really God's country down there and next to Rockdale likes it best.

From Chicago a letter from Gerry Hisoire, who recently graduated as Radio Mechanic and operator and now awaits further orders and anxious to get them. Gerry sent me a daily program of the amusement facilities available to service mtn in Chicago. They sure go all out and apparently rate the top billing that they get.

Eddie Lafrancois writes from Buckley Field, Col., that he is instructing in gunnery, that he has been promoted to Sergeant and that he has been married since joining the Army in January, 1942. Would like to have any other Rockdale lads stationed in that vicinity contact him at the 768th Tech. Sch. Sqr.

For the card received from Gerry Moussette asking to have his copy sent him you can betcha no sooner asked than done.

It was a real pleasure to hear from Clarence Haywood, who is somewhere in North Africa with the Medical branch of the Armored Force. Troop 144 misses you very much, Clarence, and are all looking forward to the day when you can be here to help us out again.

Boys, when I say I am plumb fresh out of news I mean just that, but will see you all in print next month.



Concert News

(By Ray Adams)

The soprano soloist for the cantata, "The Daughter of Jairus," to be given Palm Sunday evening, is Miss Mildred Faye Lawton of Providence.

Johnny Evans and the boys are still playing at the Gym for the Saturday night parties.

Dick Benner is now at Newport attending school.

There are three new musicians in our midst—the proud daddies are Oscar Erickson, Sonny Adams and Joe Martin. Wow! at last I've struck a new note for this usually dull column, and if I'm not stealing any Scoops, Whispers or such, I might say some of the girls in the Magneto Department are getting to be very good whistlers—if you doubt this just ask Orrin Austin.

Linwood News from Home

(By J. Harold Baszner)

Well, here we go again for another month. I'll reach around and see what we've got that will interest you boys. We're off!

Pvt. Roland Nolet, recently inducted, is stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

Pvt. Rene Letourneau is stationed at Kearns, Utah.

Pvt. Harvey Gazaille is stationed at Miami, Fla.

Tech. Sergt. Eugene Royer spent the weekend at the home of his brother, Charles Royer, Sergt. Royer is stationed at Springfield.

Returning from furloughs with their parents are the following: Corp. Norman Boutiette to Camp Myles Standish, Taunton; Corp. Roland Boutiette to Camp McQuaide, Cal., following a 15-day furlough; Donat Pouliot to South Portland, Me.; Pvt. Emery Pouliot to Duxbury; Pvt. Ernest Roy to Camp Picket, Va.; Lieut. Oscar Picard to Harrisburg, Pa.; and Walter Pouliot to New London, Conn.

Mrs. George M. Guertin has returned from spending a month with her husband, Pvt. George Guertin, stationed at Camp Kilmer, N. J.

Louis E. Gregoire is a member of the class of aviation cadets graduated from the "Bombardier College" at Deming, N. M. He was given the silver wings, symbolic of the aeronautical rating of bombardier, and given a commission as Second Lieutenant. May I pause to say at this time, if Louis drops those bombs on the Axis as positively as he used to lather up around your ears, nose and eyes, when he served as a barber's helper with his Uncle Bill Gregoire in Whitinsville, then I'll say the Axis "Ain't seen nothing yet." If you happen to read this article, Lieutenant Gregoire, you'll remember my wish to you when I last saw you in your uncle's shop, "Good luck and Godspeed to you." Incidentally if I ever have to go into the service and you become my superior officer, all that I said above, Ha, Ha, I was only fooling!

Mr. and Mrs. Philius Remillard of Main Street have received word that their son Raymond, stationed at Fairfield, Ohio, has been promoted to Corporal.

Lieut. P. Oscar Picard has now been transferred to the following address: 546 Bomb. Sq., 384 Bomb. Group, Windover Field, Utah. So, if any one of his friends care to write, this is the correct address to date. Thank you Lieutenant for sending it to me.

Pvt. Leo J. Trotter has the following address: BRTY D. 387th Sep. Bn. Co., Camp Edwards, Mass.

Corp. Kenneth M. Champlin has the following address: Co. E, 1st Marine Raider Bn., c/o Fleet Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. Corp. Champlin was promoted from Pfc. during the week of March 8th. He enlisted in the Marines Dec. 14th, 1941, after one year in the regular Army. Congratulations, Corporal.

Pvt. Walter Merchant of Lake St. arrived home for a 24-hour leave from New Jersey. Came home at 7 o'clock Friday night and had to leave Saturday morning at 7:30 A. M. We hope that he'll get a little longer next time, so that he may renew acquaintances.

Pvt. Leonide Pelland of Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., spent the weekend with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Philippe J. Vermette have received word from their son, Pvt. Armand P. Vermette, that he has arrived in Australia.

Pvt. Harvey Roy, M.P., stationed at Fort Devens, spent the weekend at the home of his parents.

Pvt. Alfred Blouin has received a medical discharge from the service owing to a knee injury.

Pvt. Blouin has been stationed at Camp Croft, S. C.

Pvt. Roland Handfield, stationed at Staten Island, N. Y., has returned after spending several days with his parents.

Pvt. Ernest Corteau of Camp Edwards has returned after spending the weekend with his wife.

Mrs. Henry Miller has left to spend several weeks with her husband, Pvt. Henry Miller, on furlough at Ocala, Fla. Private Miller is stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Pfc. Raymond Marshall has been transferred to Atlanta, Ga., from Camp Butler, N. C.

Mrs. Richard Mooradian and Miss Yvonne Gazaille have left to spend several weeks with relatives stationed at Camp McCain, Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph St. Pierre have received word from their son, Roger, stationed in England, that he has been promoted to Corporal. Corp. St. Pierre has been in England several months.

John Gorman, driver and delivery man for the Town Talk Bread Co., and father of Pvt. Edward Gorman, is recovering from a skull fracture he received when he fell on Main Street during the sleet storm. We're very happy to state that he will soon be on the route, well and strong again.

Pvt. Emory Pouliot, stationed at Duxbury, has returned after spending several days with his parents.

Pvt. Albert Raiche, who has been stationed at Atlantic City, has been transferred to Carlisle, Pa.

Pvt. Raymond Berube has been transferred from Atlantic City to Seymour Johnson Field, N. C.

Pvt. Victor Parent, who was stationed at Fort George Meade, Md., has been transferred to New Orleans, La.

Pvt. Wayne Buker, stationed at Fort Devens, spent the weekend at his home.

Pfc. George Remillard has returned to Fort McKinley, Me., after spending a furlough with his parents.

Corp. and Mrs. Marcel Trotter are the parents of a daughter born March 21st at the Whitinsville Hospital. Corp. Trotter is stationed at Portland, Me. Mrs. Trotter was formerly Miss Loretta Marshall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Marshall, Lescoe Court.

Alexander Merchand, Seaman Second Class, has finished his training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., and is now in Boston.

Well, fellows, that's all for this month, but I expect to have some nice news for you in the next issue, also a few good laughs. So long, now.

Whispers Column

(By Augusta Winchell Lorenz)

Spring has not as yet arrived. It is colder than—Greenland. Ha Ha! I fooled you.

Let's see—news is what you want. O.K., here goes.

The Cafeteria is now open in the evening from 5 to 7. It is a great little point saver besides being a nifty place to eat. Miss Sally Bodwell is to be congratulated. The place runs without a hitch. Swell food—swell service, in fact nothing to complain about. Swell garbage too (for the pigs, you know). I am building a maternity ward this week.

If any of you fellows run across any chickens (I mean the two-legged variety with wings and feathers), please send them to me as I wanted to raise them and can't get any. They are very scarce as everybody had the same idea as Lawrence and I did.

The front office is looking very chic, all dressed up in a very beautiful sterling silver Honor Roll for you boys that worked at the W.M.W. 902 names on it. More to be added.

I am glad to report that "Jimmie" Duggan is at home and looks quite well again. He has got what it takes.

Douglas Rd. Greenhouses won roll-off from Lynch's Pharm. at Spare Time Alleys in Community Bowling League.

At last WORK has caught up with Dutton Alden. He is actually working these days, at the W.M.W.

All kidding aside, those bank people are wonderful. They work all day in the bank and then go to the shop at 6 P. M. and work until 11 P. M.

The hospital has had an inside paint job done and a new little nursery has been added downstairs. Maybe you're not interested right now but you might be in the future.

Hats off to the following ladies who have given so much of their time to study and work to become Nurses' Aides to relieve the shortage of nurses: Mrs. Francis Ziembra, Mrs. Rosina Spencer, Mrs. Eliz. Fullerton, Mrs. Mary West, Mrs. Marge Hutcheson and Mrs. Eliz. Toohey.

Sports Column

(Harold Case, Pseudo Bill Cunningham)

I wonder whether you fellows get the impression as you read the NEWS FROM HOME that it comes out weekly? Probably not, but by golly it seems as though I just get through writing one column and the editors are on the phone telling me to come through with some more news by the first of the week. Pretty soon it is going to be like squeezing blood out of a turnip to come up with news. However, the big leagues will be opening up soon and then I can at least give you some box scores. I guess you can get all the standings daily anyway can't you? I was "chinning" with Roy Drinkwater (he is home from the Solomons for a few weeks) and he says that they had a radio at his base over which they could pick up stations from the States, or could until it was ruined by a near miss. If that radio could pick up the New York stations anything you fellows have at your bases certainly can get the daily scores. Maybe I can swipe some stuff here and there from the sport pages and not be sued for plagiarism. Will Rogers always said that "all he knew was what he read in the papers." That goes for both of us.




We have a feud now in regard to the merits of the various obstacle courses in the service camps. Pryce Spencer insisted that his camp had the toughest but Harry Remillard, who is in training at Miami Beach, says that his outfit has the worst; especially as they have to run through ankle deep sand. I guess all the courses are "beauts" until you get into shape.

Last week-end was a big time for swimming. The National A.A.U. championships were held in New York and Adolph Kiefer, from Chicago, but now in training in the Carolinas, lost his first backstroke race since 1935, thus ending one of the longest reigns in sports. Ohio State easily copped the team title, dethroning Michigan and Yale who have dominated the swimming field for years.

Here's one for Ripley. It occurred at the meet. One of the judges fell in the water, clothes and all, and believe it or not his name is Water Cleaver. Mr. Cleaver says that his name was supposed to be Walter but an error was made in the filing of his birth certificate and the "l" was left out, and he has had the odd first name ever since. An 'ell of a note, if you ask me.

The Rens played here last Saturday against a team of all-stars from Worcester, defeating them by 10 points. Ziggy Stryzlecki was the outstanding player of the game and kept a crowd of about five

hundred on edge with his spectacular shooting and fancy passwork.

Coach Smith called out the '43 football candidates last week and approximately fifty boys turned out. Spring practice will be held through April and will end with Northbridge playing Agawam High here either the last Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May. There might be another game in the books but it is not definite. Coach got a better turnout than the Iowa University coach. The results of Iowa turnout indicated that the University might have to resort to six-man football—the total number of candidates added up to seven men including two freshmen. A New York sports writer commenting on the turnout says that there was a time when most schools had more coaches than that. In fact, Sutherland at  says of Jock Sutherland at  ed to be two coaches for each team specializing in plays to the  the other in plays to the right, with Jock co-ordinating the plays through the middle.

The Worcester Telegram and Gazette annual bowling tournament has started with the county playoffs being held this week. By the time the next issue is due I'll have the final results.

The mail came in a few moments ago and I stopped long enough to read a swell letter from Jimmie Magowan. I hope you fellows enjoy getting your copy of the NEWS as much as Jim does. He gave me a very good idea; right now is when I act upon it. Jim thought that someone should let it be known just how much Mr. Arthur Clark is helping to keep up the morale and spirits of the fellows who are doing their part in every section of the globe. Since this is supposed to be a sports column and Mr. Clark has been, and still is, one of the town's most ardent sport fans, it seems appropriate to present a short word portrait of this man in this column. Most everyone from town either knows personally, or by sight, Arthur Clark. Mr. Clark has for a long time been keenly interested in sports and much more interested in boys. Quite a few of the fellows in service have played ball under his sponsorship and are better men for it. Even though most of his boys have gone away he still keeps in touch with them and Jim tells me that he corresponds regularly with over forty fellows, sending them all the new addresses when their outfits shift so that each and every one can keep track of the other. That is some job for one man to tackle but Arthur Clark is like that. Remember how he used to work on Vail Field before going to work in the morning and then again immediately after supper? He is one friend a person cannot afford not to have and I know that he would be very happy to hear from any of you men even

though you didn't know him personally. I might add that he also boosts this paper to the skies. In fact, he is our best circulation man and regularly each month he comes in the Gym to get a number of copies as soon as they are out to distribute through the shop. Drop him a line if only to say "hello". He will enjoy it just as much as you do when you get a letter from home or as I did when I just received Jim's letter.

'Til next month, hang on,—or rather, KEEP PUNCHING!

Casey

News from Plummer's

Pvt. Albert A. Kapolka and Bob Ferguson are at Camp Blanding, Fla. They were visited by David Buma and Dick Marshall and they all had a great time talking over home news together.

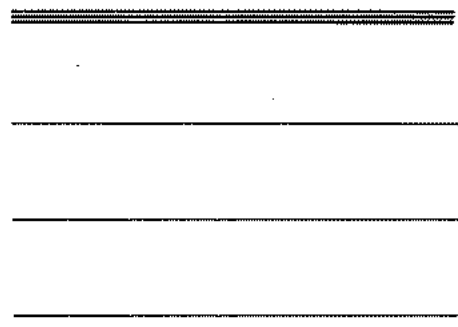
Pfc. John P. Konvent made a surprise trip home to his wife and folks.

Pfc. Anthony Rymeski and Pvt. Frank Rutanne were home for a short while.

Michael Bikes, of the Navy, is a proud daddy. The offspring is a little girl.

"Cappy" Kapolka and "Buddy" Malkasian have a bulletin board up at the P.A.A. Club with service boys from Plummer's pictures on it. They would like to have all "Plummer" boys' pictures on it, so send them in, fellows.

A shower was given at the Polish Hall for Mrs. Julia (Kapolka) Kane. There were 150 people present and a swell time was had by all.



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