



The Centre Democrat



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Casualty List--2 Dead, Wounded

S-Sgt. Victor B. Dann, Bellefonte, and Pfc. Cyril Moerschbacher, Hecla, Lose Lives. 5 of Wounded in French Area.

Casualty reports for the week list two Centre countians dead and 6 others wounded, according to War Department messages received by relatives.

The dead are:
S/Sgt. Victor B. Dann, 26, Bellefonte, who died in a plane crash outside the United States.
Pfc. Cyril Moerschbacher, Jr., 20, of Hecla, killed in action in Germany, December 2.

Wounded are listed as follows:
Pvt. Irvin W. Wenrick, 33, Snow Shoe, slightly wounded in Germany, November 11.
T/S Andy Wozniak, 33, Clarence, slightly wounded in Germany, December 1.
Cpl. Roy Mardis, 36, Hecla Park, seriously wounded on Leyte, November 12.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME, WORKSHOP

Jerry Houser, 69, Loses All Clothing and Tools in Blaze, Sunday

A well known 69-year-old Bellefonte man, who for many years has sold homemade axe handles, wooden kitchen ware and other wooden novelties at the Bellefonte curb market, lost all of his tools, stock, and clothing shortly before noon Sunday when his workshop and living quarters were destroyed by fire.

The man is Jared Houser, who for about eight years has resided and conducted his workshop in a two-story frame building at the rear of the Mrs. Jerome Harper residence on East Bishop street.

Included in the loss are a number of articles of furniture Mrs. Harper had stored on the second floor and some furniture in the Houser workshop for repairs.

The blaze was caused by an oil stove which either exploded or overturned, according to reports. Mr. Houser was cutting kindling when he felt a sudden heat behind him. Turning, he found the oil stove which was used to heat the room.

BHS Glee Club Entertains Kiwanis

A program of music by members of the senior glee club of the Bellefonte High School, and a distribution of gifts by committee members when Santa Claus failed to make his scheduled appearance featured a regular luncheon and meeting of the Bellefonte Kiwanis Club at the Penn Belle Hotel, Tuesday.

The glee club, consisting of about 16 members, was under the direction of Mrs. Lenore Martin. The program included a number of group Christmas songs with solos by Miss Mildred Hookman and Miss Dorothy Reese. Miss Jean O'Hara and Miss Alice Hartman were pianists.

Kiwanis Christmas program committee members, E. E. Widdowson and Herman Hazel distributed gifts which each member had brought with him to add to Santa's bag, after Santa reported he had become snowbound and was unable to be present.

Guests at the meeting, in addition to the glee club, included Major C. W. Roberts, formerly of Bellefonte; Kenneth Widdowson, now attending a military school, and W. R. Epstein, a representative of the Goodyear Rubber Company.

Council Opens Coasting Zones

Bellefonte Borough Council has established two coasting zones in the borough and notified the public that coasting is prohibited on all other streets and alleys.

The two authorized zones are on North Allegheny street, from Curtin street north, and on East Logan street, from Blanchard to Allegheny street.

During peak coasting hours it is expected that officers will be posted at the two zones to direct motor traffic while coasting is in progress.

57 Countians to Undergo Physicals

A total of 57 Centre countians are scheduled to go to Harrisburg in January to undergo pre-induction physical examinations.

Twenty-seven men from Board No. 2 of Bellefonte, are to go to Harrisburg January 11, while 30 from Draft Board No. 1 of State College, are to have their examinations on January 9.

Boys Out Home
Mrs. Mary Caldwell, proprietor of the Hofbrau, East Bishop street, Saturday purchased the late William H. Ott residence on West High street at a bid of \$9,000. It is reported that Mrs. Caldwell plans to lease the property.

43 SOLDIERS TO WORK AT TITAN PLANT

Skilled Mechanics to Aid Production of War Goods

HERE FOR 90 DAYS; GET REGULAR WAGES

W. J. Emerick Home Is Made Available For Housing Workers

Forty-three soldiers, who in civilian life were skilled mechanics are expected to arrive in Bellefonte soon to aid in increasing the production of 105 mm. howitzer shell parts during the next three months, Titan officials said yesterday.

The company expects 3 machinists, 12 tool makers, 16 turret lathe operators and 10 forge press operators. These men who will be sent here from various eastern camps, will be under no military supervision and their status will be equivalent to men on a 90-day furlough.

They will be required to wear uniforms when off duty and will be in uniform up until the time they arrive at the Titan plant for work. There they will be provided with quarters in which to change into working clothing.

Since the men will be paid the regular civilian wages for their jobs they must provide their own quarters and meals. The Titan Company has completed arrangements with W. J. Emerick whereby his unoccupied home on West Linn street will be made available to the soldier-workers. The Army has provided beds, bedding and other equipment for furnishing the rooms to be rented to the men. Arrangements for their meals have not been completed.

At the expiration of the 90-day period, it is hoped that the local industry will have obtained sufficient civilian workers to eliminate the necessity for a continuance of aid from the armed forces.

YOUNGSTERS GREET SANTA CLAUS HERE

Excited Children Upset Plans for Distributing Gifts

Several thousands cheering, bustling, excited youngsters assembling on the Diamond here last Thursday night to greet the Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus on his visit to Bellefonte, upset Santa's plans for an orderly distribution of gifts and as harassed officials strove in vain to form lines and restore order, Santa and his aides somehow managed to distribute more than 2,600 individual parcels of candy.

There was enough for all the youngsters, but some of them, giving up the struggle after an hour of jostling in the crowd, went home without their gift.

As Santa's procession approached the Diamond from Bishop street, with the American Legion Junior Band in the lead, the crowd on the Diamond surged out into the street and the truck bearing the distinguished visitor edged slowly into position along the sidewalk in front of Governor Curtin's monument.

It had been planned for boy Scouts to distribute tickets to all children in the crowd, and then have the children pass before Santa's truck, where tickets were to be exchanged for the gift. This system was set up (Continued on page Two)

Warner Employees Receive Yule Bonus

A bonus, representing about two-thirds of a week's salary, has been distributed to all employees of the Warner Company, it was announced yesterday.

The bonus, which totaled approximately \$10,000, was paid through checks mailed early this week. All plant and office workers share in the fund.

The Warner company has paid an annual bonus at Christmas time for about four years.

Condition of Pine Hall Girl Serious

The condition of Miss Grace Loesch, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Loesch, of Pine Hall, near State College, who on December 8 was seriously burned in the explosion of an oil stove at the family home, remains serious. It was reported yesterday by officials of the Centre County Hospital, where she has been undergoing treatment since the accident.

Miss Loesch suffered severe burns about the body from the knees up before her father smothered her flaming clothing with a blanket. Her condition is described as being serious.

Named Bank Director
Preston A. "Jack" Frost of State College, has been named a director of the Peoples National Bank of State College, to succeed the late Guy Z. Stover.

County Short on E Bond Quota. Won't You Help?

Centre county has three more days in which to "redeem" itself on the 6th War Loan Campaign.

The county, according to latest figures available last night, was still \$240,000 short on its E bond quota.

Claude G. Aikens, chairman of the War Finance Committee, reported that sales of bonds to corporations and clubs, and of the types purchased by individuals other than E bonds, were proceeding satisfactorily, but that the relatively poor showing on E bond sales threatens to mar seriously the fine record the county has established for meeting quotas in previous War Loan drives.

The county's allocation of E bonds is \$750,000 and to date sales total only \$510,000. Mr. Aikens reported. The campaign closes Sunday.

He suggests that persons engaged in "last minute" Christmas shopping can solve their own problems as well as make a substantial contribution to the war effort by giving E bonds as gifts.

"The war isn't won, and our country cannot afford to fall down on its share of speeding the day of victory," Mr. Aikens declared. "If all of us put forth a little extra effort this weekend, we can reach our E bond quota."

GRANGE OFFICIAL DIES AT HOME

George W. Ralston, 72, Succumbs to Illness; Funeral Yesterday

George W. Ralston, 72, of Centre Hall, R. D., for 12 years chairman of the Centre County Grange Fair Committee, died at his home at 12:30 p. m. Sunday, December 17, 1944, after an illness with a complication of diseases.

Mr. Ralston was a son of Samuel B. and Hannah Tate Ralston and was born near State College on December 5, 1872. On May 19, 1897, he was united in marriage with Nora Belle Eiters, who survives with two children: B. Hayes Ralston and Hugh M. Ralston, both of Centre Hall, R. D.

Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. John Gross, of State College; two brothers, William A. Ralston, of State College, R. D., and J. Burton Ralston, of Lock Haven; 7 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Ralston for 47 years was a member of the Centre Hall Evangelical church; was a member of Progress Grange, Centre Hall; Old Fort Lodge, F. and A. M., of Centre Hall, and the Williamsport Consistory.

Funeral services were held at the home yesterday afternoon, followed by services in the Centre Hall Evangelical church with Rev. J. F. Bingham, of Mexico, Pa., assisted by Rev. W. K. Hosterman, officiating. Interment was made in the Centre Hall cemetery.

S-Sgt. 'Monk' Fanning In Hospital in W. Va.

S/Sgt. Paul C. "Monk" Fanning, aged about 43, of Bellefonte, is in government hospital at Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, relatives here learned last week.

Sgt. Fanning, who left Bellefonte with the National Guard unit and who underwent training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Sutton, N. C., had been in England until the local artillery unit was sent into France.

He arrived in this country on December 12 and was in the Staten Island hospital until December 15 when he was sent to the West Virginia hospital. He has talked by telephone with relatives, several times since his arrival in the United States, and from his conversation it is believed he was wounded in Aachen, Germany. He has given no information as to the nature or extent of his injuries, but is believed to be wounded in the legs.

In the telephone conversations Sgt. Fanning said he had received no word from his wife here for three months, leading to the belief that he may have been wounded in the early fighting in the Aachen sector.

His son, Lt. Paul Fanning, arrived in Harrisburg, Monday, from a camp in North Carolina, and he and his mother, who resides on South Spring street, Bellefonte, left at once for Sulphur Springs for a visit with him.

Spring street, sister-in-law of Sgt. Fanning, reported that no members of the family were notified that he had been wounded or had left the battle area.

Two Towns Sell \$15,825 in War Bonds

Reports from the Milesburg and Unionville areas indicate that the sale of bonds in those two districts during the 6th War Loan campaign just ending was approximately \$15,825.

Mrs. Margaret Roberts, of Milesburg, who is in charge of the district comprising Milesburg borough and Central City, reports that sales in Milesburg total \$1,225, and in Central City, \$13,100, or a total of \$14,325.

J. B. Holtzworth, chairman of Unionville borough district, reports sales of about \$1,500 to date, with a number of soldiers not having made final reports.

No Damage in Fire
Members of the Logan Fire Company, Bellefonte, were called to the Fred Yearick home on Penn street about 8:45 p. m. Sunday, when the fire was discovered to be on fire. Firemen stood by while the fire burned out with no damage resulting.

COUNCIL TO ENFORCE SNOW REMOVAL LAW

Sidewalks Must Be Cleared in 18 Hours After Storm

LIBRARY SEEKS 1945 ALLOCATION OF \$630

Borough to Purchase New And Larger Truck as Replacement

Plans for the purchase of a new truck for the borough, an order by Council for the enforcement of the ordinance calling for removal of snow from sidewalks, and pleas for an increase in the borough appropriation to the Centre County Library were highlights of a regular meeting of Council, Monday night.

The borough's International truck is rapidly wearing out and is in the shop for repairs much of the time, it was reported. Officials were instructed to consider the purchase of a new and heavier truck and report at the next meeting.

Council, receiving complaints that many sidewalks have not been cleared of snow, called on police and other officials to enforce the borough law requiring that walks be cleaned within 18 hours after snow ceases falling. The borough has authority to clean the walks of persons who fail to comply and to levy the costs against the property owner.

In behalf of the Library, Mrs. Robert Mills Beach and Frederick Warner, in letters addressed to Council, asked that the borough appropriation to the Library in 1945 be increased to \$630, which is approximately 20 per cent of the cost of operating the institution for a year. The request is based on the fact that about 20 per cent of the library's services go to Bellefonte residents. Demand for library service is increasing, it was stated, and the costs of maintenance, wages and labor have increased substantially.

The police report showed 90 tags issued for parking violations, 1 arrest for assault and battery, 2 auto accident investigations, 2 transients lodged in the lock-up, 3 confidential reporters, receipts of \$313.99 from parking meters and \$2.45 from market fees.

The Fire and Police Committee reported cleaning the water wheel at the Gamble Mill. Collections totaled \$371.75.

The Fire and Police Committee submitted a report showing collection of \$43.40 in fines.

The Sanitary Committee submitting the report of Health Officer W. W. Bickett, noted that a restaurant and 3 drug stores had been inspected. Council is to instruct the owner of the building in which the New York Lunch is located that when management of the establishment changes hands January 1, certain changes will be mandatory or the restaurant will not be permitted to re-open.

A report of the borough garbage collection system from March 30 to December 30 showed that the receipts for the period were \$421.21, and expenses were \$372.45, or a net of \$48.76.

Cpl. Mann Receives Purple Heart Award

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey T. Mann, of Howard, have received the Purple Heart award given their son, Cpl. Walter Mann, who was wounded July 29 in France.

Cpl. Mann served with the Infantry forces in Normandy after being wounded he was in a hospital in England for three months, after which he served in France, Belgium, and Holland. At the present time he is serving with his original company of the First Army in Germany.

Cpl. Mann has been in the service since February 21, 1941.

Furst Is Named County Solicitor

At a regular meeting of the Centre County Commissioners, Friday, former Judge James C. Furst, of Rebersburg, was appointed as solicitor for the Commissioners, succeeding the late M. Ward Fleming.

Mr. Furst's appointment became effective immediately.

Mr. Furst, who has been serving as solicitor for Sheriff John Galda, will continue to serve in that post. It was announced yesterday.

Shoppers Warned to Lock Car Doors

Chief of Police Harry Dukeman, of Bellefonte, yesterday appealed to shoppers to keep their car doors locked after placing packages in the machines.

Last year a number of cars were loaded of Christmas gifts, and it is hoped to avoid similar thefts this year, the Chief said.

Want Names for Honor Roll
The honor roll for Milesburg borough and Boggs township is being brought up to date, and officials ask those wishing to add the names of service men or service women to the roll to call Mrs. F. I. Holt immediately, dial 3783.

Titan Announces \$155,000 Bonus

Represents About 2 Weeks' Pay For Every Plant and Office Worker. 1,585 Persons to Share in Distribution.

A Christmas bonus totaling \$155,000, and representing payments to individual employees of from \$1 to \$278.73, was distributed yesterday by the Titan Metal Company to 1,585 employees. Checks for this sixth annual bonus were placed in the mail yesterday, officials said.

The bonus represents five per cent of the wages the employee received during the first eleven months of 1944 and is equivalent to approximately two weeks' pay. All employees, with the exception of company officials and part-time and temporary employees, share in the bonus.

The \$155,000 distribution includes more than \$20,000 in bonuses sent to former Titan workers now in the armed forces. Each service man will receive a check for \$100. Three of these checks will go to beneficiaries of former employees killed in action.

A total of 213 Titan workers are in the service, that figure including one member in the WAVES, one in the WAC and four killed in action. Titan has paid a Christmas bonus to employees ever since 1939. In that year payments totaled \$18,000. In 1940 the total was \$33,000; in 1941, \$64,000; in 1942, \$100,000; and in 1943, \$107,000.

In 1943 about 1000 employees benefited with 148 checks going to those in the armed forces. The payroll in 1943 was \$2,552,000 including the bonus.

In 1944, 1585 employees, including soldiers, will benefit from the bonus. The annual payroll this year will total about \$3,660,000.

Titan is rounding out the greatest year in its history, having produced 40 per cent more products, by weight, than in 1943. This increase resulted largely through the purchase of brass rod from other firms to keep their forging and finishing departments working at peak capacity. Since the new extrusion press was placed into operation recently, Titan now manufactures more rods than it needs for its own finishing departments. The plant is working entirely on production of parts for artillery ammunition.

In addition, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Marshall, chairman of the Daughters of the YVW reported that 15 pounds of home-made candy has been sent to persons in service and that additional candy was ready for mailing.

Mrs. Barbara L. Kline, chairman of the war activities committee, reported sales of war bonds and stamps at the Murphy store booth no. total \$42,317. The Auxiliary voted to purchase a \$400 bond in the 6th War Loan campaign.

At the session a letter from National Headquarters was read in which each Auxiliary member was asked, when paying 1945 dues, to include an extra \$1 for use in building a cottage for children of veterans of World War II.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME AT CURTIN

Family Burned Out Second Time in Little More Than Two Years

The Oliver Walters family, for the second time in slightly over two years, lost their home and their possessions about 8 o'clock Monday night when their home at Curtin was destroyed by fire. The family's first misfortune was in October, 1942, when the Curtin Estate property they occupied at Curtin was burned.

Monday night's blaze caused the loss of nearly all the family's possessions. The Christmas gifts of the five children ranging in age from one to seven years, and the log and frame house which was owned by the Curtin Estate. Only a few pieces of furniture were saved as the building was leveled by the flames.

The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Walters when she heard a crackling sound upstairs and found the upper rooms swept by fire. She sent one of the children to a neighbor's home to summon the Undine Fire Company of Bellefonte, but by the time firemen reached the scene after traveling through a heavy snowstorm, the building was doomed.

In the loss were bedding and clothing, and a quantity of canned goods stored in the cellar. Part of the loss on the house is covered by insurance. The Walters family is living temporarily at the home of Mr. Walters' father, Charles Walters, along the Jacksonville road.

Titan Workers Top Bond Quota

Employees of the Titan Metal Company, Bellefonte, responded to the 6th War Loan campaign just ending by buying more than their assigned share of bonds, it was revealed yesterday.

The quota was fixed at \$99,000, representing the purchase of an average of one \$100 bond for every employee. Up until yesterday total sales were \$110,850, and it is estimated that \$7,000 more will be purchased until the end of December, making a total for the 6th campaign of about \$117,850. All figures represent the actual cash purchases, not maturity values.

Since the campaign began a total of 2,579 individual bonds have been issued to Titan employees to date.

Salvation Army To Bring Christmas Cheer

William W. Sieg, chairman of the Bellefonte Salvation Army Service Unit, announced that within the past few days an appeal by letter has been sent to a number of friends in this vicinity who the committee feels would be interested in aiding the Salvation Army in their work of bringing Christmas cheer.

Checks should be made payable to The Salvation Army and mailed to Earl S. Orr, treasurer.

DON'T DESTROY YULE WRAPPINGS

Officials of the local salvage committee urge the public not to burn or destroy Christmas boxes or wrappings. The material is needed by the paper industry and a townshipwide collection will be made in Bellefonte on Friday, January 5.