



# The Centre Democrat



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## Casualty Reports List 7 Countians

### Pvt. Harold K. Decker, Curtin, Killed in Belgium on Christmas Day; Pfc. Irvin Shoemaker Missing in Action; Five Wounded

As another week of World War II drew to a close yesterday, the casualty lists for Centre County revealed one man killed; five wounded and one missing in action.

Pvt. Harold K. Decker, 30, of near Curtin, married and the father of three children, was killed on Christmas day in Belgium.

Pfc. Irvin F. Shoemaker, 23, of Pleasant Gap, has been missing in action in Belgium since December 24, 1944.

The wounded are: Sgt. John H. Hoy, 21, formerly of Hubersburg, wounded in Belgium on Christmas Day.

Pfc. Fred C. Hendershot, of Proserstown, Bellefonte, slightly wounded on Leyte in the Philippines on November 22.

Pvt. W. Eugene Dando, 27, Julian, wounded in the European area.

T. S. Samuel M. Egler, 29, of State College, wounded in Belgium.

Harold LeRoy Blazer, 18, Radamant 3 c, seriously wounded in the South Pacific.

**Missing In Action**  
Pvt. Decker Killed  
Pvt. Harold Kenneth Decker, 31, married and the father of three young sons, was killed in action in Belgium on Christmas Day, according to a War Department message received Monday by his wife, the former Florence Margaret Hockenberry, of Howard, R. D.

Mrs. Decker and her three sons, ranging in age from three to eight years, reside on the old Garman farm off the "back road" between Milesburg and Curtin.

The county soldier, son of the late Joseph Decker of Tyrone, and Mrs. Grant Corbin, now of Gettysburg, is the second son in a family to lose his life in the war. A brother, Dorsey, was killed last year.

In a letter Pvt. Harold wrote to his wife on December 16, and received December 28, he expressed a wish to be home as soon as possible. He was called for service on (Continued on page Six)

**Car Plunges Into Milesburg Building**  
One man was injured and considerable damage resulted Friday when a coupe operated by David Evans, service station operator of Milesburg, skidded on the icy highway and ran into the Milesburg postoffice building owned by Toner Hugg, also of Milesburg.

Bud McMullin, a passenger in the car, suffered a severe laceration at the back of the head which required several stitches to close. He was taken to the Centre County Hospital by Flight Officer Kenneth Watson of Milesburg, who is home on furlough. Mr. McMullin was able to return home after being treated.

Bricks were torn away causing a large hole in the building from the center door to the north side and also a large plate glass window was shattered by the impact. The right rear fender, right side and rear of the coupe were damaged. Miss Mary Adams, postmistress, who was in the building at the time, was uninjured.

**Judge Walker To Speak on Delinquency**  
An interesting and instructive program has been planned for Tuesday evening, January 23, at 7:30 o'clock in the high school cafeteria, when Honorable Ivan Walker, president judge of the Centre county courts, will speak to the Bellefonte Parent-Teachers' Association on Juvenile Delinquency.

This is a serious problem in our country today and one which cannot be ignored. Every parent and every teacher is urged to be present to hear this informative address.

**JUDGE W. H. KELLER DIES SUDDENLY**  
President Judge of Superior Court Succumbs at Lancaster

Judge William Heustis Keller, of Lancaster, president judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and native of Bellefonte, died Tuesday night at his home in Lancaster.

The 75-year-old jurist, brother of the late Judge Harry Keller, Bellefonte, became ill while shoveling snow. He entered the home and told his wife he wasn't feeling well. The judge died several minutes later.

Judge Keller was born in Bellefonte, where his father, the late Daniel S. Keller was a prominent attorney. He attended the Bellefonte public schools and after graduating from Columbia University, Washington, D. C. (now the George Washington University), he engaged in private law practice in Lancaster.

In 1915 he was appointed first deputy attorney general by Francis Shunk Brown, then attorney general. He held the post until January 6, 1919, when he was named to the

**NAME CHAIRMEN IN POLIO DRIVE**  
County Quota \$6,000; Coin Cards Should be Sent to Local Chairmen

The Centre County infantile paralysis campaign committee, with the help of one of the largest campaign committees ever assembled in "the Mile of Dimes" drive in Centre county, predicts a substantial increase in contributions to help fight polio.

The Centre county quota this year is \$6,000, one thousand dollars more than last year's quota. The 1944 quota was exceeded, contributions totaling \$5,451.43, 50 per cent of which was sent to the National Foundation and 50 per cent was retained by the county chapter.

The drives are conducted to maintain the chapter's many services to children and adults, victims of polio.

Workers have been chosen to solicit through industry, men's organizations and auxiliaries, women's clubs and schools throughout the county.

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## TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS OF HEALTH LAWS

### Charges Filed Against Eating Places Is Order of Council

Declaring that health certificates as issued at present are little more than pieces of paper, Borough Health Officer W. W. Bickett, at a regular meeting of Council Monday night declared that in order to make health certificates effective it will be necessary for Council to name a borough physician.

Painting a gruesome picture of conditions as they exist in some Bellefonte eating places, the Health Officer declared that health certificates as issued now to persons handling food in eating places, are entirely worthless as a safeguard to public health.

If the borough designated a physician, the Health Officer explained, all persons employed in handling food in eating places would be examined by him and the examination would include a Wasserman test. Under present conditions, he pointed out, the applicant for a health certificate is not given an examination and health certificates are issued much as a matter of routine.

The fee charged for certificates is 50 cents and the certificates are good for six months. Under the proposed system the fee would be considerably higher, since the charge for a Wasserman test might be as high as \$7.50 the officer said.

Mr. Bickett reported that offending restaurants have been warned repeatedly to correct unsanitary and unhealthful conditions, but that

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**MISSIONARY SPEAKER AT CLUB MEETING**  
Miss Lois Blair, daughter of Dr. William Blair, of State College, who recently returned from South America where she served as a missionary, was the speaker at a meeting of the Linn Mission Circle of the Bellefonte Presbyterian church held last Wednesday night at the home of Miss Bernice Conkey, in Coleville.

Miss Blair returned to the United States to take a special course of instruction in Philadelphia, after which she expects to resume her missionary duties.

The speaker related in detail some of the customs and told of the spiritual life of residents of some of the northern lands in South America. Thirteen members of the group were present and Mrs. John Covey, president, was in charge of the business meeting.

**MAHLON K. ROBB HEADS TRUST CO.**  
Elected President to Succeed Father; N. E. Robb Named Chairman

N. E. Robb, president, announces that at the annual meeting of the Stockholders held on Tuesday, all of the present Board of Directors composed of Francis H. Crawford, W. J. Emerick, A. L. Francis, G. E. McClellan, N. E. Robb, C. S. Sommer, J. H. Turner, C. Y. Wagner, and M. L. Wetzel, were re-elected.

At the reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bellefonte Trust Company held the same day, the board re-elected the same officers for the coming year. N. E. Robb, president, resigned as president and director, and the board elected Mahlon K. Robb to succeed him as president and director. M. K. Robb resigned his title of assistant to the president.

The board of directors elected N. E. Robb to a newly created office of chairman of the board of directors for the coming year. The present

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**Wingate Soldier Wounded in France**  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher, of Wingate, yesterday afternoon received a War Department telegram notifying them their son, Sgt. Nelson M. Fisher, 21, had been slightly wounded in France on January 1.

Not until they received the telegram did his parents know that he had been promoted to a sergeant. In letters written December 26 and 28, the county soldier gave his rank as private first class, but added that he was a squad leader.

In the letters he said that he was fine and that he'd just helped a French farmer milk his cows and butcher a veal. He said he had returned from the front lines, and was in fine condition.

Sgt. Fisher entered the service on March 1, 1943, trained in the Infantry at Ft. Lewis, Wash., in Louisiana, and at Camp Phillips, Kansas. He was sent overseas in September 1944.

**Commissioners Name Township Official**  
At a regular meeting of the Centre County Commissioners, Tuesday, John R. Conrad, of Taylor township, was appointed Supervisor of Taylor township, to fill the unexpired term of Frank Walk who recently resigned.

**Game Warden Urges Aid in Feeding of Deer Herds**  
The plight of wildlife in Centre county in the worst winter since 1936 was reviewed graphically by Game Warden Thomas Mosier, of Bellefonte, who spoke at the luncheon and meeting of the local Kiwanis Club at the Penn Belle Hotel, Tuesday noon.

"Deer at the present time seem to have sufficient food, but if the snow continues for two more weeks their condition will be serious," Warden Mosier declared, urging sportsmen to take time out to cut down aspen and soft maple brush in the woods to provide food for the deer herds.

"It is impossible for us to provide sufficient corn for deer," he declared. "Corn is scarce, and anyhow it is practically impossible to get it into the woods through the deep snow."

He pointed out that brush makes an ideal natural food, and has the advantage that it doesn't have to be carried into the woods.

The speaker declared the Commission provided corn for feeding small game, and persons wishing to distribute corn to feeding places are invited to call at the Warden's home to obtain supplies.

Warden Mosier declared that the present winter shows all indications of being as severe as the memorials of the Harristown Kiwanis Club, and Rev. Earl Ormiston, pastor of the Bellefonte United Brethren church.

**GEORGE A. MILLER DIES AT RAVENNA**  
Former Prominent Local Business Man; Funeral Saturday

George A. Miller, for nearly half a century a prominent Bellefonte business man, died at the Ordinance Company Hospital at Ravenna, O., at 2:50 o'clock yesterday morning, after a brief illness with uremic poisoning.

Mr. Miller, who for about two years had resided in Ravenna, where he was employed as a storekeeper by the Atlas Powder Company, spent the Christmas season at his home in Bellefonte and was in unusually good health at that time. He became ill quite suddenly Friday night and on Saturday was admitted to the hospital.

There his condition was recognized as being serious and his wife and daughter, who reside on North Spring street, Bellefonte, were summoned to Ravenna, Saturday night. They were with him until his death.

The body will arrive in Bellefonte sometime today and will be taken to the family residence on North Spring street where funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon with Rev. Harry C. Stenger, Jr., pastor of the Methodist church, officiating. Interment will be made in the Union cemetery, Bellefonte. Mr. Miller was a lifelong member of the Methodist church.

Deceased was a son of Jonathan and Harriet Toot Miller and was born in Bellefonte on February 9, 1874, making his age at time of death 70 years, 11 months and 8 days. In 1892 he and his brother, the late Harvey Miller, entered the tinning and hardware business in Bellefonte, their shop being located in the rooms now occupied by the Central Pennsylvania Gas Company

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## ANNOUNCE NEW SYSTEM FOR PERSONAL TAX

### County Mails Forms For Reporting Taxable Personal Property

The Commissioners of Centre county announce the new procedure in handling personal property tax for the year 1945.

For the past several weeks various citizens throughout Centre county have been receiving from the Commissioners' office, a form on which they are to return their personal property taxable for the year 1945.

These forms are in duplicate with complete instructions for filling out, signing and returning to the Commissioners' office.

All persons who have received these forms will note the instructions given on the forms. If you have no personal property taxable for 1945, forms are to be signed and returned to the office. All stocks and bonds taxable in the State of Pennsylvania should be returned. Any judgments, mortgages, etc. held, are taxable. The value of stocks and bonds must be given, as near as possible, as of January 1, 1945. All banks will be glad to furnish information as to the value of stocks, or same may be secured from the Commissioners' office.

The Commissioners are checking the records in both the Prothonotary's office and the Recorder's office for any judgments or mortgages that have not been returned heretofore, and, if they are not returned for the year 1945, the taxpayer will be charged with this tax for the current year.

These forms are to be sworn to by a Justice of the Peace, or if returned directly to the Commissioners' office in person, the clerk will notarize the same. All forms are to be returned by February 10, 1945. In case there are any persons who have not received forms they can be secured from the Commissioners' office, as the local Assessors do not have them. Kindly advise the Commissioners and they will be mailed promptly.

Personal property tax is not paid at the Commissioners' office but is paid directly to the local tax collector at the same time other taxes are paid.

**PRISON FUGITIVE SENTENCED HERE**  
Clinton, Blair Counties to File Charges For Car Thefts

Edward Rupert, 19, Clinton county man who last Tuesday morning escaped from Rockview penitentiary and who was apprehended in Tyrone 14 hours later, on Friday appeared before Judge Ivan Walker at a special session of court and heard his original sentence of 2 to 5 years imposed as a penalty for his brief freedom.

He was taken to the Western State Penitentiary at Pittsburgh, Saturday, by Centre County Sheriff John Galaisa.

Although he was formally charged with escaping from prison, judges indicated that charges arising from the theft of an automobile in Tyrone and another in Lock Haven during the time Rupert was at large, will be filed against him. These charges stand against his record for disposition before he will be released from prison, it was reported.

Upon leaving the institution last Tuesday, Rupert waded through heavy snow to Shiloh, hitch-hiking to State College, and then to Tyrone. In Tyrone he stole a car owned by D. W. Rice, of that city, and drove to Bellefonte, where his girl declined to have anything to do with him. He then drove to Mill Hill, where he abandoned the car when its fuel supply was exhausted. Hitch-hiking into Lock Haven he took another car which was parked in front of the Lock Haven Moose Home. He drove the machine to Tyrone, and was apprehended when he went into a restaurant for lunch. Blair and Clinton county authorities will file formal charges of car theft against Rupert.

**Red Cross Group to Take Initial Steps Toward County Project**  
Initial steps toward the establishment of a children's home in Centre county are to be taken by the nursing activities committee of the Bellefonte Red Cross, following a meeting held last Wednesday afternoon in the nursing headquarters in Petrikin Hall, Bellefonte. The meeting was in charge of Mrs. George B. Tompkins, chairman.

The matter of a children's home was discussed at length and the consensus of opinion seemed to favor the establishment of such an institution. The committee is to make a further study of the matter and report in more detail at a future date.

Miss Rimmer, chapter nurse, gave the following report for the month of December: Total of 84 visits; 2 maternity, 87 morbidity; 18 health, and 6 school visits; taught 9 classes in home nursing. The class at Hubersburg is completed and the class at Howard has 23 junior and sophomore of the Howard High School.

The tuberculin testing of borough and county school children began (Continued on page Two)

**First National Bank Re-Elects Officers**  
All officers and directors of the First National Bank of Bellefonte were re-elected at the annual organization meeting held at the banking house on January 9.

Officers re-elected were: Newell B. Long, president; Henry S. Linn, vice president; Louis S. Schad, cashier; R. Linn Krape, assistant cashier; Charles Scott, trust officer, and James C. Furst, secretary.

Directors retained for another year were: Mr. Linn, Mr. Furst, Thomas B. Beaver, L. Frank Mayer, Paul M. Corman, John McCoy, Henry A. Brockerhoff and Mr. Long.

The president reported a transfer to surplus of \$25,000 and \$6,018 to undivided profits.

**Bellefonte Exceeds War Bond Quota**  
Bellefonte topped its 6th War Loan Campaign quotas by substantial margins, according to a report by Horace J. Harristuff, chairman of the local War Finance Committee.

The Bellefonte quota of E bonds was \$190,000 and sales were \$204,756. Mr. Harristuff said. The overall quota of all types of bonds was \$740,000, and sales aggregated \$972,138, the chairman said.

**INFORMATION WANTED.**  
The Centre Democrat has on hand the photos of five service men which we would like to publish. However, information about the men is lacking, and we appeal to relatives or friends to call or write us, giving information to publish with the photos in our "Honor Roll."

The men about whom information is desired are:

STEVE FARNEY  
PERCY WALKER  
FRANCES CASEY  
LESTER REESE  
RICHARD BAIRD

**Boy, 5, Injured in Coasting Accident**  
John Smith, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith, of West Linn street, Bellefonte, is recovering from an injury while coasting at the rear of his parental home.

The youth is reported to have run into a sled and a protruding nail struck his right cheek causing a severe laceration. He was taken to the Centre County Hospital where several stitches were required to close the wound. He returned home the same day.

**Man Shoots Girls, Then Kills Self**  
56-Year-Old Morrisdale Man, Spurned by Sisters, Found Dead at Home; Victims Recovering at Philipsburg Hospital

William G. Strange, a 56-year-old man, shot and wounded two young women who spurned his proposals of marriage, and then killed himself Monday, at Morrisdale, a Clearfield county mining town, three miles beyond the Centre county line.

The young victims of the wound-bearer assassin's bullets are sisters, May Dullen, 21, and Virginia Dullen, 19. Both are now patients in the Philipsburg State Hospital, where their condition was stated to be good. Virginia was shot in the hip and thigh and her sister, May, in the abdomen.

After shooting the two girls, one a blonde and the other a brunette, Strange, known by the nickname of "Zeke," went to his own home where he took his 16-gauge shotgun, cocked it, and by means of a necktie and piece of string fixed to the trigger and hooked around his right foot, fired the gun, blowing the right side of his face and the top of his head off with a pumpkin ball.

State Police officers from Clearfield and Clearfield County Coroner Dr. E. S. Erhard of Cuvensville, investigated the shootings. Police stated that Strange had been drinking. Strange reportedly arrived at the Lowell Way home, where the two girls lived with a married sister and her three small children, about 1 o'clock Monday morning carrying a (Continued on page Two)

## Wounded Veteran Arrives Home

Pfc. James O. Workman

Among the 1900 or more wounded veterans of the European War who arrived in New York during the weekend for rest cures at home and for hospitalization in this country, was a Centre county man, twice wounded in battle in France.

He is Pfc. James Owen Workman, 29, son of William Workman, of Mingoville, who arrived unannounced and unexpectedly at his home there Monday morning. Last word relatives had received from him was (Continued on page Six)

**GAP DISTRIBUTES WELFARE FUNDS**  
11 Agencies Participate in \$1,061.84 Allocation This Week

Cheeks were mailed Monday to the participating agencies in the Pleasant Gap Welfare Drive, which totaled \$1,061.84, of which all was in cash except \$200 in pledges. It is announced by Roy H. Adams, chairman of the drive committee. Participating agencies will receive a pro-rata share of the total except in such instances in which the donor specified that their contribution be given in full to a single agency or specific agencies.

The total distribution to the participating agencies is as follows:

Centre County Hospital	\$272.37
Boy Scouts	151.55
Girl Scouts	53.09
Crippled Children Soc.	68.95
Salvation Army	51.71
Pleasant Gap playground	51.71
Centre County Library	25.86
Y. M. C. A.	25.86
Emergency Fund	60.00
Pleasant Gap Fire Co. and Ambulance Fund	290.46
Administration	10.28

The balance due organizations from pledges will be mailed as pledges come in.

The committee wishes to thank those who contributed to the fund as well as the solicitors who gave of their time.

**DINNER TO HONOR BOARD MEMBERS**  
Meeting For Local Groups Will Be Held Jan. 24 in Bellefonte

A series of seven dinners will be held in the next ten days to honor volunteer members of War Price and Rationing Boards in the 14-County Williamsport OPA District on the third anniversary of operation of the local board organization.

The meeting for the Bellefonte, Spring Mills, State College, and Philipsburg Boards will be held in the Broeckerhoff Hotel, Bellefonte, at 6:30 o'clock, Wednesday evening, January 24. Professor C. M. Sullivan, Dean, Lock Haven Teachers College, will be the speaker.

Six other meetings for the members throughout the district have been scheduled as follows: January 16, Penn Lee Hotel, Shamokin; January 17, Hotel Lewisburg, Lewisburg; January 18, Williamsport local, industrial, Central District Trade, Fire, and Montgomery Boards at Larry's Creek Fish and Game Club; January 18, at the same place, for Renovo, Lock Haven, Jersey Shore, and Wellboro Boards.

The three meetings in the western section of the district will be held January 22, Bradford; January 23, St. Marys; January 24, Bellefonte, with Mayor Hugh Ryan of Bradford, District Attorney Edward J. Blatt of Elk county, and C. M. Sullivan, Dean, Lock Haven State Teachers College, as speakers.

Joseph L. Ray, Williamsport OPA district director, will be chairman of the meetings.

**Woman's Club To Meet at Cafeteria**  
A regular meeting of the Bellefonte Woman's Club will be held at 6:30 p. m. Monday, January 22, at the high school cafeteria. Each member is asked to bring a covered dish and table service for one.

A tureen supper, sponsored by the Junior Section, will be served, with the Junior Section providing meat, loaf, rolls, and butter. After the supper a short business meeting will be held with Mrs. Harry Jones, president, in charge.

Entertainment will include a special musical program by the Titan Chorus under the direction of Frank Gallo, of State College. Miss Kathryn Burkett, chairman of the program committee, will be in charge of arrangements.

—Buy More War Bonds to help speed Victory!

**Soldiers Need Furniture to Brighten Bare 'Barracks'**  
Bellefonte has a chance to put out the "Welcome" mat to the Army—or at least to a small segment of the Army now residing here.

A score or more of army men, who in civilian life were skilled mechanics, have been sent here to help out in the production of war goods at the Titan Metal plant. Within the next few days more men are expected here, with a total of 45 all told.

The soldiers have rooms at the W. J. Emerick home on West Linn street. The army has furnished cots, bedding and other necessities for them at the Emerick home.

But the first floor living rooms are as bare of furniture as a haunted house. They have an old table or two, and one or two broken down chairs, but the rooms are far from being comfortable or cheerful.

The soldiers are working well at the Titan plant. They're interested in their work, keep at their tasks steadily, and get along well with the civilian workers. But they don't work all the time. All of them are strangers. They are away from home and their families.

In their leisure hours they have two alternatives—to go to bed, or to wander about the bare living rooms trying to find some way to put in the time.

They haven't complained a bit but visitors to the home can see that the men would be far more happy and far more at home if they had a davenport or two, some easy chairs, some floor lamps, a few tables, maybe a rug or two, a victrola and records, or a radio.

The things wouldn't have to be new. The men will be here for three months and at the end of that time the furniture could be reclaimed by (Continued on page Four)

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