



# The Centre Democrat



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## Centre County War Toll, 1 Dead, 7 Missing, 7 Wounded

### All of Week's Casualties Are Reported from France, Belgium and Germany; Some of Missing May Be Prisoners

War Department messages received by relatives during the past week reveal that one Centre county man has been killed, seven others are missing in action, and seven are wounded. All this week's casualties were in France, Belgium and Germany.

Cpl. Leslie Kephart, of Osceola Mills, lost his life in action in France on September 10.

The missing are: Pfc. John G. Granite, 22, Clarence, in France, Nov. 15.

Cpl. Lewis Pletcher, 23, Howard, in Belgium, December 27.

Pfc. Edward Charlin, 26, Orvison, in Belgium, Jan. 7.

Pfc. Blaine H. Woelger, 23, Pottery Mills, in France, January 5.

Pvt. Lester White, Julian, in Belgium, December 24.

Sgt. Russell Alvis, 21, State College, missing in flight over Germany December 21.

Pvt. Robert Albright, Jr., of Scotia, in Luxembourg, December 20.

The wounded are: Pfc. Thomas M. Johnston, 22, of Rockview, seriously, in Belgium on January 2.

Pfc. Allen J. Fye, Jr., 22, slightly, in Belgium, January 5.

Pfc. Henry B. Kanner, Osceola Mills, in France, January 3.

Pfc. John Spella, 23, Clarence, slightly, in Belgium, January 4.

Pvt. Gerald Green, 19, formerly of State College, slightly, in Belgium, December 31.

Pvt. Donald K. Hassinger, 29, of Belleville, slightly, in Luxembourg on December 26.

Cpl. Kephart Reported Killed

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kephart, of Osceola Mills, have received word



CPL. LESLIE KEPHART, Missing in Action



PFC. ALLEN FYE, Jr., Slightly Wounded

CPL. LEWIS PLETCHER Missing in Action

211 County Men To Undergo Examinations

A total of 211 Centre county men are scheduled to undergo pre-induction physical examinations at Harrisburg in February, it was announced this week.

Belleville Board No. 2 will send 77 men for examination on February 5, and Board No. 1, State College, has been directed to send 134 men on February 8.

State College draft officials said it would require all the 1-A's on the board's roster and some 2-C's (agricultural deferments) to fill the quota.

Williams Resigns Post at Court House

Mark W. Williams, of East High street, Belleville, who for slightly over a year has been assistant clerk to the Centre County Commissioners, this week tendered his resignation, to become effective on February 1.

Mr. Williams has accepted a position as an inspector at the Titan Metal plant here. Yesterday the Commissioners had not named his successor at the Court House.

Cpl. Kephart was engaged in transporting infantrymen across the Moselle river at Pont a Mousson. Cpl. Kephart entered the service September 17, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. He was sent overseas in July, 1944.

Sgt. Theodore Kephart, another son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kephart, was wounded while on duty in the South Pacific and, having been returned to the United States is being hospitalized at the England General Hospital, Atlantic City, N. J. He entered the army on July 23, 1942, in the U. S. Air Corps, and was sent overseas in November, 1943.

Pfc. Granite Missing  
Pfc. John G. Granite, 22, son of George and Elizabeth Granite of Clarence, is reported missing in action since November 15 in France, it was disclosed in a telegram received by his parents from the War Department, Monday.

The Clarence soldier, who was called for service March 1, 1942, was serving with an infantry division. He first trained at Camp Phillips, Kan., and was then sent to Fort Lewis, Wash., where he continued to train until being sent overseas early last summer. Before going overseas he spent two furloughs at his parents' home.

Pfc. Granite attended the Clarence schools and was employed as a truck driver and at odd jobs until being called into the Army. He has a brother, Andrew Granite, S. I. C., who has been overseas more than a year.

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## SERGEANT WIPES OUT NEST OF SNIPERS SINGLE-HANDED

Staff Sergeant Joseph F. Seftchick, 23, of Clarence, Centre county, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Major General Louis A. Criss, Commanding General of the 9th Inf. Division for extra-ordinary heroism in killing four snipers and knocking out an 88-mm gun in Normandy last June.

Sgt. Seftchick, who enlisted in the Army in October, 1940, participated in the North African invasion and the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns before entering operations in the Normandy shortly after D-Day.

He is a member of the 9th Division Regiment which cut the Cherbourg peninsula, later drove into the city of Cherbourg and constantly distinguished itself during the liberation of France and other occupied countries.

Sgt. Seftchick answered a call for volunteers when his platoon was cut off from the remainder of the unit during a night infiltration deep into enemy territory on June 3.

Armed with a sniper's rifle, his citation continued, "Staff Sgt. Seftchick inched his way along hedge-

rows and ditches until he came to a point where he could observe four enemy snipers. Without disclosing his position, Staff Sgt. Seftchick killed the snipers and then observed another enemy unit in the process of setting up an 88-mm. gun to fire point blank at the crossroads occupied by his platoon.

"Crawling forward despite ground fire in his direction, he reached a point from which he threw two hand grenades, killing the entire crew and putting the gun out of action. By his heroic actions, Staff Sgt. Seftchick saved the lives of many of his comrades and enabled his company to maintain its forward position until contact with the main body was reestablished."

"Staff Sgt. Seftchick, by his bravery coupled with a gallant and unswerving determination to destroy the enemy, rendered services of high value to the military service and set an example worthy of emulation."

He previously was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds in Tunisia. Staff Sgt. Seftchick is a son of Mrs. Verna Seftchick, of Clarence.

MAKE PLEA FOR CHILDRENS' AID  
Kiwanis Speakers Urge Establishment of County Agency

A plea for public interest in the care of dependent children in Centre county was made before the Belleville Kiwanis Club at its weekly luncheon in the Penn Belle Hotel, Tuesday, by Mrs. Mary T. Denham, of the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Ora Kirby, of State College, welfare chairmen of the Federated Women's Clubs of Centre county.

The speakers were introduced by Mrs. R. C. Blaney of Belleville, who was introduced by Kiwanian Horace J. Hartranft as the presiding officer for the speaking program. Kiwanis president M. E. Rumberger was in charge of the meeting.

The speakers pointed out that the State has provided financial assistance for mothers and for dependent children where such children are maintained in the home, but that the county has no provisions to take care of children when for any reason it is impossible or impractical to permit them to remain in their homes.

The care of such children was delegated to the County Commissioners seven years ago when the county institution district system of administering aid supplanted the former system whereby overseers of

Important Notice To Electric Users  
The West Penn-Power Company wishes to notify its patrons in the Millheim area that electric service will be off from 1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m. on Sunday, January 28, in order that very necessary repairs may be made.

This will affect all users of service in Potters Mills and Georges Valley, Penna Valley east of the Charles Faulstich farm, and Brush Valley east of Penna Cave.

In case of inclement weather this interruption will be postponed until a later date.

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A total of 211 Centre county men are scheduled to undergo pre-induction physical examinations at Harrisburg in February, it was announced this week.

## DRIVER OF MAIL TRUCK IS ROBBED

### Two Armed Men Force Machine Off Of Highway Near Triangle

Two armed bandits forced a "U. S. mail" truck to the side of the road early Monday morning and robbed the driver but were unsuccessful in getting other loot because the truck was empty.

Ralph Curuso, 23, of Osceola Mills was driving a truck owned by his father-in-law, Frank Prestipino, of Chester Hill, to Altoona for a load of newspapers when a maroon colored Chrysler sedan forced him off the road near the foot of the Tyrone mountains, just north of the Triangle, and the occupants held him up with a revolver, robbing him of \$10—all the money he had with him.

The truck was empty when held up although it is believed that the bandits thought they were holding up a shipment of mail.

The truck, also used to mail mail, is lettered "U. S. Mail." That particular trip, made each morning, is not part of a mail route and is not contracted for by the Postoffice Department. It is strictly a paper route, paid for by the publishers.

Ordinarily, it was stated, two persons made the trip but recently, due to being shorthanded, Ralph drove alone. The stick-up occurred at 1:30 a. m.

His wife, the former Geraldine Prestipino, said that her husband would recognize the men if he saw them again. She also drives some of the routes hauling mail, express and papers and she said that for some time the same maroon car has been trailing one of the trucks. She said she would also recognize the men if she saw them up on the road.

State Police from Rockview Monday morning, but the investigation later was turned over to the Hollidaysburg sub-station because the hold-

(Continued on page Four)

## SAYS DELINQUENCY THREE INJURED IN MOTOR ACCIDENTS

### Judge Ivan Walker Claims Home, School Greatest Influence for Good

"There isn't any juvenile delinquency, only paternal delinquency," Ivan Walker, president judge of the Centre County Courts, declared in an address to the Belleville Parent-Teachers' group at the high school Tuesday night.

Judge Walker pointed out that next to the home, one of the greatest influences in the life of a child is the school, since he spends so much of his time there. If the home and the school do their part, there should be no juvenile delinquency.

The State College Parent-Teachers' Association has extended an invitation to the Belleville group to meet with them on February 19, at which time there will be a panel discussion on "Our Public Schools in Relation to Proposed Legislation," as well as a social get-together after the main meeting. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should get in touch with either Mrs. Ralph Blaney or Mrs. Charles Martin before that time. It is hoped that there will be a large turnout from Belleville.

A square dance will be held in the Spring street gym on February 2. It was announced by the ways and means committee. This is the first (Continued on page Four)

## Heart Attack Fatal To Wingate Man

Oscar J. Summers, aged 64, of Wingate, employed as a trackman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, died while sitting in a chair at the Robb store, Wingate, at 6:10 a. m. yesterday while waiting for a bus to take him to work.

Centre County Coroner Charles Shecker of Milesburg, said death was due to a heart attack. The body was taken to the Wetzel Memorial Chapel in Milesburg. Funeral arrangements had not been completed yesterday, but interment will be made in the New Union cemetery, Union township.

Mr. Summers was a son of George and Jane Spicer Summers and was born in the Wingate area. His wife, the former Anna E. Estright, preceded him in death.

Surviving are these children: Mrs. Beale Idolings, Tyrone; Mrs. Esther Baumgardner and George E. Summers, both of Belleville; Mrs. Florence Lucas, of Curtin; John Summers, Wingate, and James, of Niagara Falls, N. Y. Also surviving are two step-sons, Claude Estright, of Tyrone, and Harry Estright, of Altoona, and these brothers and sisters: Thomas, of Lewistown; Harris, of Akron, Ohio; Zachariah and Mrs. Irvin Lucas, both of Wingate, and William, of Milesburg.

## \$250 Damage In Motor Accident

Ice on the highway was assigned as the cause of an accident near Titan Plant No. 4, between Belleville and Azemann, about 7:10 o'clock Monday morning in which cars driven by Samuel Gordon, 47, of Howard, R. D., and Thomas A. Kelleher, 26, of Belleville, were involved. No one was injured.

The accident resulted when the machine operated by Gordon skidded sideways in front of the Kelleher car, causing the latter machine to strike the right side of the Gordon car, according to State Police from Pleasant Gap sub-station who conducted the investigation.

Damage to the Gordon machine was estimated at \$150, and to the Kelleher machine \$100.



LT. EDGAR A. SPICHER RETURNS FROM GERMAN PRISON

### Writer Knew Belleville Man in Camp; Tells of Conditions

In the January issue of "Cosmopolitan," Larry Allen, war correspondent who had been a prisoner of war in Germany, writes of his experiences there before he returned to the United States as an exchange prisoner aboard the Swedish liner Gripsholm.

Prior to the publication of the story Mr. Allen got in touch with Mrs. Mary Louise Spicher, of Belleville, wife of Lt. Edgar A. Spicher, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bord Spicher, of Pleasant Gap, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany for nearly two years and who is in the same prison camp, named "O Flag 4," where Mr. Allen was a captive.

Mr. Allen told Mrs. Spicher that he met her husband in the prison camp and that they came to know each other quite well. The correspondent said the food in the camp was scarce and of poor quality. Breakfast consisted mostly of water, at noon there was a weak soup and in the evening each prisoner received one or two soggy potatoes. If it weren't for the packages of food (Continued on page Four)

## 3 OFFICIALS DIE AT LOCK HAVEN

### 92-Year-Old Coroner and Two Former Office Holders Expire

Clinton county's 92-year-old coroner, believed to be the oldest official in Pennsylvania, and two former county officials died in Lock Haven over the weekend.

Dr. William J. Shoemaker, 92, coroner for 13 years, died early Monday morning at his home on West Main street, following a short illness. Pneumonia was the cause of death. Funeral services will be held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Burrill L. Haag, 43, a former district attorney, also died early Monday following an illness of six months. Mr. Haag served two consecutive terms as district attorney and served as local counsel for the Pennsylvania Railroad, and for the Renovo Utilities Building and Loan Association. He was elected city solicitor in 1944. Mr. Haag's remains were taken to Milton, Wednesday, for burial.

Third death was that of William T. Knecht, 85, a former county treasurer, who died in the Private (Continued on page Four)

## Seven Get Final Citizenship Papers

Seven Centre countians received final citizenship papers at a session of naturalization court held here Saturday morning with Judge Ivan Walker presiding.

Those who became full-fledged citizens were: Valentine Beref, of Osceola Mills; Wincenta U. Pietrasun, Osceola Mills; Louise Kepura, Winburne; Andy Limer, Fort Matilda; Joseph Fuzano, Belleville; Moses Arens, New York City, and Elizabeth Barbara Sanasky, Phillipsburg.

## Bellefonte Youth Enters Air Force

James Clark, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer W. Clark, of Buffalo Run Valley, who upon becoming 17 last August enlisted in the Air Force reserve, has been notified to report to the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Ky., February 1, for pre-flight instruction.

Clark, a member of the senior class at the Bellefonte High School, has been a letterman on the high school football squad for the past two years.

## Gregg Twp. Couple Wedded 65 Years

Friday, January 19, 1945, marked the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Gobble, of Spring Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Gobble were quietly married January 19, 1879, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Eitel, of Crown Grove, by the Rev. E. Stambach.

They followed the occupation of farming until 1915, and during their many active years resided at various places in Gregg township. Mrs. Gobble has been in failing health for a number of years, but Mr. Gobble was active until a year or more ago.

Their days were spent quietly at their son's home in Georges Valley, with whom they have lived for several years.

## Centre Opens February 26

Centre County Criminal Court will open on February 26, and Civil Court is scheduled to begin one week later, or March 5.

## COUNTY TOWNS TO HOLD POLIO FUND BENEFITS

### Carnival, Dances And Card Parties Being Planned, Contest Announced

The March of Dimes Campaign in Centre county reports many activities being planned in celebration of the President's Birthday for the all-out battle to fight infantile paralysis. Mrs. Balser Weiber, of Howard, county chairman of the drive, said yesterday.

Tuesday, January 30, the President's Birthday Ball and Carnival will be held at the Elks' Auditorium, State College. Chairmen Robert Y. Edwards and Russell W. Adamitz announce. W. K. Ulerich is chairman of the ticket committee. On their program will be a dance preceded by an hour's entertainment, and in the game room a carnival with many attractions.

In Bellefonte, the Undine Fire Company will also join the Birthday celebration with a dance in their ball room in the Fire Hall on Bishop street, Tuesday evening, January 30.

Mrs. F. V. Goodhart, in Centre Hall, announces a card party to be held in addition to the regular March of Dimes Campaign.

The Women's Activities Committee in Phillipsburg will hold a celebratory benefit in the form of a card party at the Elks' Club, January 30.

Mrs. Edna Storeh, State College, local activities chairman for organization, reports plans for a card party sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary in the Legion Home.

Tentative plans for more card party benefits throughout the county are in progress but the dates and places have not been decided.

Hundreds of the Centre county school children are joining in the March of Dimes this year on a competitive basis.

The borough or township public school in the county which raises the largest amount of money in the current campaign, will be designated as sponsor to some child of Centre county, a victim of infantile paralysis, to be sent to Camp Diddy Allen, for eight weeks (July-August). The camp is in the Pocono Mountains, a health retreat for crippled children.

The boy or girl to be given this opportunity will be recommended by the Centre County Crippled Children Society, Inc. The school winning this honor will be announced when the funds are returned to County Campaign Headquarters, and in June the name of the child benefiting also will be given. In this manner the winning school will have a direct share in seeing that some other young person is receiving the best treatment and an opportunity to help restore the ability to play and walk again.

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## To Build Cannery Near Centre Hall

### New Industry Will Employ 150 Persons this Year; Work on Buildings to Begin as Soon as Weather Permits

A new farm industry in Centre county is scheduled to open this spring, bringing to the farmers of Penna and Brush valleys an outlet for an entirely new type of crop. It was announced yesterday by J. Keene Saulsbury, president of the Mifflin County Packing Company, Redsville, and owner of the Saulsbury Canning Company in Hanover.

The new industry will be a vegetable packing plant to be erected on the Bradford farm along the main highway just east of the Old Fort. The plant will be operated under the name of the Mifflin Packing Company, a subsidiary of the Redsville Canning Company.

For some time drillers have been at work on the site digging a well to provide water for the industry, and as soon as weather permits, construction will begin on the plant buildings, Mr. Saulsbury said.

It is estimated that approximately 150 persons will be employed at the plant this year, and the plant is expected to begin operations in June when peas will be processed and canned.

The Centre county industry will be operated by Mr. Saulsbury, with the assistance of A. Roland Thompson, of Belleville, secretary of the Mifflin County Packing Company.

During the first year—this year—the plant will process peas, corn and tomatoes and later on the facilities will be expanded to process other vegetables.

The main building will be 50 x 80 feet in size and will be two stories in height. The warehouse will be 60 by 100 feet.

During 1945 the company expects to plant 700 acres of peas, 1200 acres (Continued on page Four)

## Wounded Soldier Phones Parents From California

### Mr. and Mrs. John Stover, who reside near the airport, and their daughter-in-law, Mrs. John Stover, who makes her home with them, were agreeably surprised Saturday night when their son, Pfc. John F. Stover, who was wounded in France last October, telephoned his parents from his bed in a government hospital at San Francisco, California.

Pfc. Stover seemed to be in good health and good spirits, his relatives report. He said that as a result of his wound, his left leg has been removed between the knee and hip and that he is getting along well. Pfc. Stover expected to be moved to a hospital in the eastern part of the country sometime this week, he said.

The county private was a member of the local National Guard organization and left here with the troop when it was called to Camp Shelby, Miss. He was with the troop when it later went to Camp Sutton, N. C., and later when the unit was sent to England.

He had been overseas for nearly 20 months before being returned to the United States recently for further treatment.

Saturday night Pfc. Stover was unable to say when he would be able to come home.

## PLAN TO EXPAND 4-H CLUBS HERE

### Local Leaders to Meet at Penn Belle Hotel, Next Monday

Plans for expanding and extending 4-H Club activities among more rural boys and girls of Centre county will be outlined on Monday when local leaders for the 1945 agricultural 4-H Clubs will hold their annual meeting and dinner in the Penn Belle Hotel at Belleville.

Joining in the affair with the leaders and bankers will be chairman of the agricultural committee of Kiwanis Clubs at State College and Belleville, T. H. Patton will represent the State College club and Dr. Samuel B. Guss is chairman for the Belleville club.

William S. Jeffries, State 4-H Club leader, will lead the discussion on "4-H Programs, Projects and Problems." Also attending the event, an annual affair, will be Earl Orry of Belleville, who has been designated as "key" banker for this county, by the Pennsylvania State Bankers Association to aid in supporting agricultural work among rural youth.

(Continued on page Four)

## RED CROSS WAR FUND SETS QUOTAS

### \$13,700 to Be Sought in Local Drive; 34% to Remain Here

Preliminary steps were taken recently to inaugurate the annual Red Cross War Fund Campaign in Belleville and vicinity when general chairman, Fred Warner, appointed Charles Way, Orvis Reed, Louis O'Donnell, and the Rev. D. A. Sower of Milesburg, to head various committees.

An increase in the 1945 budget of approximately \$900 over that of last year was announced by the general chairman. Belleville's quota, which includes various outlying districts, is \$13,700, of which the local chapter will receive approximately 34 per cent for its own use, or \$4,741. The drive last year netted a grand total of \$11,925, of which the Belleville chapter received \$3,256, Warner revealed.

The entire area is divided into several sections in charge of various chairmen: industries in and around Belleville are asked to contribute \$4,785. Charles Way and Orvis Reed are co-chairmen in charge of this group. Belleville borough individual contributions will be under the direction of Mrs. O'Donnell, with a quota of \$4,400. Local clubs are asked to contribute \$800, and the outlying districts under the direction of Rev. Sower are expected to raise at least \$3,817.

The campaign will begin Monday, March 5, and continue for at least two weeks, Mr. Warner stated.

## College Man Files Bankruptcy Petition

George Barclay, employed as an auditor at the Hotel State College, in State College, has filed a bankruptcy petition in Federal Court in Scranton.

Barclay lists his debts at \$256,093 made up of promissory notes and \$180,000 in bonds, of which he is guarantor. His assets were listed as \$55.

The petition was filed to settle up the affairs of a partnership of which Mr. Barclay was a member, and operated a manufacturing plant in Williamsport until discontinuing about ten years ago.

## Appeal to Sportsmen to Provide Food For Deer

To the sportsmen of Centre County: I would like you to know I am at present feeding twenty-five deer up in the mountains. I have asked the game warden, Mr. Moser, of Belleville, for feed for deer and he advised me that the State Game Commission does not furnish any feed for deer. I have been feeding these deer for a month now and they are in very good condition yet, and we want to keep them that way. Today the Port Matilda sportsmen gave me 100 bushels of ear corn and it was taken up on the mountain by George Harpster, John Bailey and myself. It was put in five different feeding (Continued on page Four)

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