

## Blonde Red Cross Worker Proves Good Morale Builder

By RUTH CONSTAD

Sombody told us that Barbara Torrence Nelson was back in State College, so we decided to have a look in and find out what a Red Cross volunteer does in Alexandria, Egypt. Besides, a soldier we met the other night, recently returned from Egypt, confided to us that Bobby's jitterbugging was legendary throughout the Middle East, so we set out with our expectations on the optimistic side.

We found Barbara at home excited over a huge box which had just arrived from Egypt via her husband.

"Well," she told us, "we can start right from the beginning and I'll give you some idea of the work we did in our club in Alex." When she went to fetch the pictures we observed that Mrs. Barbara Torrence Nelson was a very attractive blond who could do wonders for any soldier's morale.

Bobby was graduated from the College in June 1942, where she was Queen of the Senior Ball and a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. With Alice Noll, another former Penn State coed, she went overseas as a Red Cross worker the following summer. The American Red Cross Club in Alexandria was their destination.

Their work was not easy but they met the challenge. The eight girls in charge of the American Red Cross Club exerted all their ingenuity in making the club as home-like as possible, and with the aid of the boys, who were eager to help, seem to have succeeded pretty well.

Bobby tells the story of a couple of American soldiers who took a Sudanese native under their wing. The result of their prodigious coaching could be heard any afternoon or evening when the gahrui driver parked in front of the club lustily intoned "Pistol Packin' Mama" in a garbled native tongue.

Working hours for the girls were any time an enlisted man pulled into the club. The thousands of boys coming and going throughout the Middle East who stopped in Alexandria were taken horesback (or camel) riding, dancing, sailing down the Nile, and if their passes were long enough on a flying trip to Beirut for a look at the country.

Thinking about Bobby's husband, the major, we muttered something about not limiting that terrific morale building job of hers to just the enlisted men.

"That was a friendship," Barbara confessed, "started two weeks after I arrived in Alexandria." Nine months later Barbara Torrence and Major Harold Arthur Nelson, commandant of the Alexandria Port Command, were married, the first couple to be wed in the American Red Cross Club there.

Gault MacGowan, New York Sun correspondent, now a prisoner of war, described the affair as



BARBARA TORRENCE NELSON

"a swagger wedding with a double ring ceremony." British and American society were thicker than flies and a Greek industrialist presented the bride with a silver fox coat.

Although Bobby's marriage did not hamper her work the Red Cross regulations governing volunteer workers require that married women be assigned to different combat areas from that in which their husbands are stationed. In order to apply for reassignment Bobby flew back to the States in July of this year. By then, she learned that there was a chance of her husband coming to the States, and so she resigned from overseas service.

Right now she is awaiting his return, for according to the Army rotation plan, the major should arrive here within a couple of months.

Before we left we couldn't resist inquiring about a heavy gold ring which Bobby wore. "That's about the nearest we could come to an engagement ring," she told us. The raised gold script on either side of the band spells out Alexandria and Ethiopia, both places to which her husband had been assigned, and the heavy gold work in the center represents the sign of Judah. Major Nelson had it copied and wears the other one.

We took our leave of Mrs. Nelson with the sincere hope that her husband would arrive per schedule.

## Freshman Women Honor Big Sisters At Annual Tea

Big sisters will be entertained by their little sisters at the traditional freshmen tea on the lawn outside Women's Building from 4 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Miss Julia Brill and Dr. Anna Stevens will pour.

Under Ann Dunaway, general chairman of the tea, are the following committees: invitations and publicity—Lynn Clark, chairman, Barbara Green, Joan Keller, and Sally Knapp; music—Gay Swartz, chairman, Marion Simone, Helen Weber, and Carol Wilbur.

Refreshments—Grace McMillin, chairman, Jean Brenner, Rachael Emerick, Betty Jane Florey, Clara Jones, Margaret Linley, Maria Hanclik, Nancy McHenry, Frances McNight, Margaret Reisher, and Sarah Sholly.

Hostesses—Selma Sabel, chairman, Ann Baker, Joanne Feaver, Trina Boocock, Lois Fehr, Elizabeth Goodlin, Sally Knapp, Ruth Kuntzleman, Betty Lovelass, Elizabeth Parke, Berna Stridinger, Helen Weber, and Mary Frances Wheland.

Decorations—Phyllis Schmelzle, chairman, Carolyn Currier, and Amy Kaliney; clean-up—Mary Jane Rudy, chairman, Ruth Auchenbach, Phyllis James, Mae Kunkle, Lois Meng, Marjorie Rex and Marjorie Watson.

## WRA to Sponsor Annual Co-Rec Day Tomorrow

Annual Co-Rec Day, sponsored by WRA, will be held on the lawn of White Hall from 6 to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Two courts of badminton will be set up along with a court of fist ball and a game of volley ball. Bridge, ping pong, and box soccer will also be presented. A softball game will be lined up from students attending.

All students and servicemen are invited to participate in the events. Refreshments will be sold.

Mary Gundel and Doris Huck are co-chairmen for the affair, assisted by Betsy McGee and Nan Black on the refreshment committee. Ellynmae Hottenstine in charge of equipment, and Fay Young handling publicity.

## Frosh Coeds to Live In Town Dorms in Fall

First semester coeds and transfers will live in organized town houses for the fall semester, announced Charlotte E. Ray, dean of women, today.

Coeds who lived in town last year are coming to campus dormitories for the fall semester.

Those in town will receive help in orientation from Freshman Council, Junior Service Board, Senior Sponsors, and WSGA Senate. Eight or nine new houses added to last year's list will include those formerly occupied by Acacia and Delta Theta Sigma fraternities.

## GSO Plans Skating Party

GSO is sponsoring a skating party at the Coliseum skating rink, located at College avenue below the Duck Pond, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow. Admission is 25 cents per person. This skating party, the first ever attempted by GSO, is open only to members and servicemen, announced Nancy Norton, president.

## Beecher House Reunion

Beecher House will hold its first annual reunion for members of the Beecher family, which includes all former residents of the house.

The reunion will be at Beecher House at 5:30 p.m. September 15. A tureen supper will be served and games and contests will highlight the evening.

## Women In Sports

In an effort to coordinate recreation for coeds, civilian men students, and servicemen enrolled at the College, WRA is sponsoring Annual Co-Rec Day on the lawn of White Hall tomorrow.

Opportunities will be available for practice, for testing one's skill in a particular sport against that of another student, or for just plain fun. Fist ball, played with a ball about two feet in diameter, may be a new sport to many coeds and servicemen but assures a hilarious time for all those participating.

Summer games, ping pong, and badminton will be set up for everyone while volley ball season will be initiated at this time. Bridge has been planned for inactive pastime along with box soccer. Softball fans will have the chance to organize their own game on Holmes Field.

### Intramural Golf, Tennis

Intramural programs have been hampered continually the past week by the weather man. However, Doris Huck, assistant intramural chairman, says final winners will be announced next week in both golf and tennis.

In the only tournament played on the green this week, Ath East defeated Alpha Epsilon Phi, 58-64. Putting for the winners were Betsy McGee and Jean Robertsons while Audrey Kreegar and Nancy Sobelman represented AEPHi.

Scheduled to meet next week are Thetas vs. Delta Gammas and Women's Building frosh against Kappa Kappa Gammas.

AEPHi put out another losing team this week when their netmen lost to Mac Hall freshmen, 2-0. Judy Lapkin defeated Elia Piering, 6-2, and Trina Boococh trounced Harriet Morton, 6-0.

Next week Ath West will play

the Chi Omega coeds and Women's Building frosh will meet AEPHi.

### Navy Takes Championship

Copping the Army-Navy softball title, Navy "wolves" trampled the Army squad, 16-2, in the third and final game of the series on Holmes Field last Thursday.

Led by Mary Gundel, pitcher, who hit a three-base hit, the Navy held a constant lead. Captain "Irish" Craig tallied a three-bagger and Ann Baker, fielder, played a no-error game catching several spectacular flies.

Harriet Richards began what appeared to be a fifth-inning rally for Army when she hit a home run scoring the team's only two points.

The lineup follows:

Navy: Laura Craig, captain, Janet Shaffer, Mary Gundel, Ria Hanzlik, Trina Boococh, Lucille Cox, Gloria Simpson, Sandy Berger, Jeanette Garofano, Ann Baker, Jo Broberg, and Carol Andre.

Army: Kay Setter, captain, Marybeth Trescher, Anita Geiger, Mary Lawther, Harriet Richards, Doye Pachelbel, Phyllis James, Jeanne Covert, Sally Knapp, Nancy Neilan, Betsy Ross, and Marjorie Dunmyer.

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