

# 1918 Whistle Herald Waits For War's End

When peace came to the world in 1918, it was Walter C. Parsons, then a young engineer at the College power plant, who told the news to all of State College with one mighty blast of the whistle. After 27 years, he's waiting to do the job again, unless the radio or an official decision to omit the whistle-blowing deprives him of the opportunity.

Parsons was on the night shift in November 1918. He went to work on the night of November 10 with no expectations of excitement, for isolated State College had not caught the "armistice fever." When false reports of peace had roused most of the nation a few days before, the news that the story was false reached State College almost simultaneously with the original report.

At 6 a.m. November 11, Parsons recalls, he got a telephone call from George Graham. "Blow the whistle!" Graham said excitedly.

"What for?" Parsons asked, and the jubilant words "For peace!" came back to him.

Not wanting to take on the authority of rousing the town for perhaps another false report, Parsons called the ground and buildings superintendent to ask if he should blow the whistle. "Not until I call you back and tell you to," the superintendent said, "because we want to ring the church bells and blow the whistles all at the same time."

Thus Parson had to "sit on" the news of a lifetime for half an hour before he could let loose with the blast that wakened all of State College. By the time he had blown the first few blasts it was 7 o'clock, his relief man came on, and he was free to go out and celebrate with the rest of the borough. But the whistle, he says, continued to blow at intervals all day.

Parsons, who lives at 119 Heister street, has been employed at the power plant for 31 years. After his unique experience in World War I he continued on the job during the intervening years with an occasional fire to rouse the whistle to action. Then when World War II began, he and the other plant engineers blew the whistle again for air raid practices, which were given up last year.

Now, with most of the town waiting by their radios for the news of peace, there's a good chance that the power plant whistle's tidings will be second hand. But Walter Parsons is hoping to repeat his World War I performance before this year is out.

Theodore Roethke, former assistant professor of English composition and varsity tennis coach at the College, has been awarded a fellowship for creative work in poetry by the Guggenheim Foundation. He is a professor of English at Bennington College.

## Calendar

### TODAY

Sabbath Eve Services, Hillel Foundation, 7:30 p.m.  
Alpha Lambda Delta meeting, Dean of Women's office, Old Main, 5 p.m.

### TOMORROW

All-College Cabin Party, leaves from rear of Old Main, 2:30 p.m.  
Cwens meeting, WSGA room, White Hall, 10 a.m.

### SUNDAY

Chapel Services, Schwab, 11 a.m.  
Alpha Chi Omega hike for X-G-I Club, 2 p.m.

Town meeting, "What Is America's Interest in the Postwar World?", Hillel Foundation, 7:30 p.m.

PSCA Open House, 304 Old Main, 2-5 p.m.

Treble Singers rehearsal, 117 Carnegie, 6:30 p.m.

Theta Sigma Phi Tea for journalism majors, N. E. Atherton Lounge, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

### MONDAY

Orchestra rehearsal, 117 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

Treble Singers, Schwab, 7 p.m.

First Semester Club Mixer, Hugh Beaver room, Old Main, 7 p.m.

Fencing Club, Body Mechanics room, Old Main, 7-9 p.m.

Penn State Engineer candidates meeting, 2 Armory, 7:30 p.m.

Druid meeting, Old Main, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY

WRA Executive Board meeting, WRA lounge, White Hall, 6:45 p.m.

IWA Date Bureau, Wednesday too, Service Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Second Semester Club, Hugh Beaver room, Old Main, 7:15 p.m.

Panhellenic Executive meeting, 305 Old Main, 7 p.m.

Panhellenic Council meeting, 305 Old Main, 7:15 p.m.

X-G-I Club meeting, 405 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

Treble Singers rehearsal, 117 Carnegie, 7 p.m.

Candidates for Collegian advertising staff, ad office, Carnegie, 7 p.m.

Candidates for Collegian editorial staff, Collegian office, Carnegie; first semester, 7 p.m.; second semester, 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Club Presidents' meeting, WRA lounge, White Hall, 5 p.m.

Junior Service Board meeting, Dean of Women's office, Old Main, 5:10 p.m.

ISC meeting, PSC room, Old Main, 8 p.m.

Orchestra rehearsal, 117 Carnegie, 7 p.m.

Newman Club Discussion Club, Lady of Victory Rectory, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY

GSO meeting, 10 Sparks, 7 p.m.

Choir rehearsal, 117 Carnegie, 7 p.m.

Intramural Board meeting, WRA lounge, White Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Freshman Council meeting, WSGA room, White Hall, 5:10 p.m.

House of Representatives meeting, 305 Old Main, 5:15 p.m.

(Continued on page seven)

WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE AND FUN NIGHT—7:30 P. M. Square Dancing, Games, Fun, Songs, Fellowship, Group Participation

STUDENT DEPARTMENT Sunday 9:30 A. M.

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP—6:20 P. M. Topic: "What Service Men Expect from Religion Now and on Their Return Home"

THURSDAY MATINS 7 A. M. Fireside Room

Have You Attended "The Workshop" Sessions? Hear Dr. Rasmussen Monday 8 P. M.

# Navy V-12 News

Have you ever visited a Naval Base, Naval Training Station or Air Station? If you have, you no doubt were shocked by the bleak dreary surroundings. What a contrast is our duty station at Penn State!

By comparison it is a paradise with the result many of our men who leave for other duty feel they must revisit the campus. Here are a few who had that urge: Ensigns Ronnie Blair, Ross Christian, and Hank Ryan stopped in with their new gold braid glistening in the sun and the relief from the restrictions of Midshipman's School fresh on their faces.

Dick Strucker, Bob Kofmehl and Joe Tezza were here on short leaves from other duty with the fleet. Bob Killian also spent a week-end aboard on a leave from Philadelphia.

"Anchors Aweigh," our all-unit social event for this term is slated for May 5. It will be even better than the "Ship's Ball" or the "Navy Winter Ball". It is dedicated to all citizens of State College and the College Staff. They have done much collectively and as individuals to make our duty here a pleasant one. For their understanding of our problems and their constant willingness to lend a helping hand, we, in V-12 are truly grateful.

It's not all drill, field days, inspections and restrictions in V-12. We are honestly trying not only to be good sailors, but to be loyal

Penn Staters. This is evidenced by the many V-12 men who are engaged in campus activities.

Did you notice A/S Glenn Ortendorf, the bandmaster of our military band, in the trombone section of the Blue Band at its concert on April 15? He also wielded the baton for the Blue Band rendition of "Sky Anchors Aweigh." HCQts rOOak

Here's a roster of V-12 participants in varsity sports: baseball—Boykin, DeLorenzo, Dimmerling, Griffith, Hopkins, Jacobs, Johnson, Jorgensen, Leedom, MacHale, Martin, Nelson, Spencer, Stetler, Williams, and Zeigler; track—Crease, Condon, Einbecker, Hopper, Light, Martin, Mullins, Nugent, Rea, Rose, Sankey, Shaw, Steed, Williges, and Willing; lacrosse—Bauer, Ciarmella, Kerwin, Klepper, Laudig, Locotes, Meeker, Nolan, Reid, Rocha, Rubin, Soza, Stevens, Taylor, Tiedeman, and Vesco.

As most of you know, V-12 is to be incorporated in the Naval ROTC program in the near future. Under the new set-up men will receive more thorough training before commissioning and assignment to sea duty. Here's hoping our NROTC training may be taken at Penn State. There's a possibility so we are keeping our fingers crossed.

A mobile speech clinic was created at the College in 1936 to serve the public schools and health agencies of Pennsylvania.

## The FIRST NATIONAL BANK of STATE COLLEGE

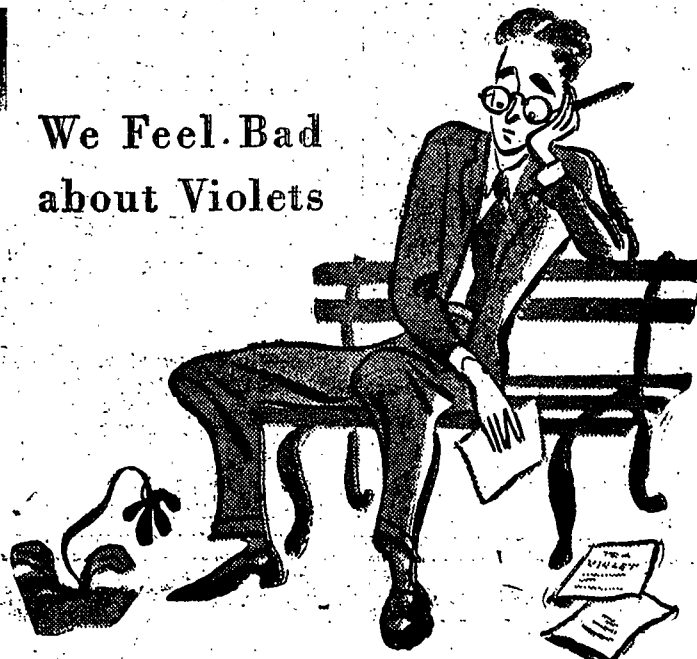
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So we've spent our life making the shirt that *doesn't* shrink, the Arrow shirt. It's Sanforized-labeled, which means fabric shrinkage less than 1%, and its Mitoga figure fit is superb. Arrow's collar is the world's finest. Try an Arrow today! \$2.24 up.



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# ARROW

SHIRTS and TIES