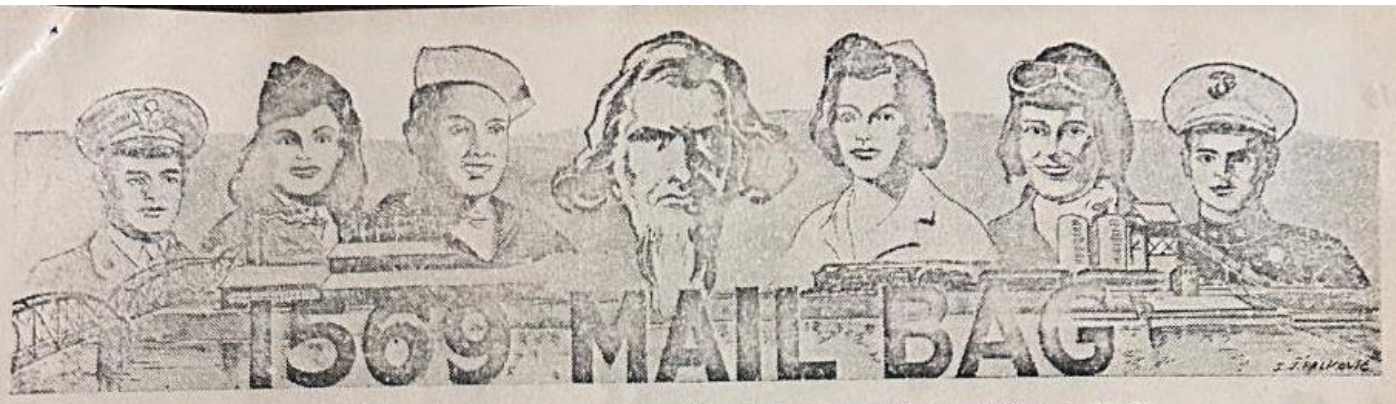
1569 Mail Bag, March & April 1945

Published by the 1569 Club - Benwood, Boggs Run & McMechen

Submitted by Cindy Musilli Vargo.



This Issue Mailed To 1475 Home Town Men and Women In the Armed Forces All Over the World

Vol. 4 MARCH AND APRIL, 1945 No. 5

Union District Red Cross Drives Over the Top

Following a pre-established custom, the Red Cross quotas for Benwood, Boggs Run, McMechen, and Sherrard were fully subscribed.

Joe Fisher, popular Boggs Run citizen was Marshall County Chairman of the Drive, and did much work to help put it over.

Pete Moran, prominent Benwood barber and Mayor Tom Cooper, and Thomas Welch, principal of McMechen public school, were conducting the drives in their respective communities.

Of course, we must never forget those who make all drives possible and over the top—the Door Knockers or The Woman's Infantry, also all the various local industries cooperated splendidly, as well as practically every lodge, labor organization, and religious institutions and home town merchants.

Many kind remarks by word of mouth from those who were home from the battlefields also helped in no small manner.

The quota for Union District was $7,500, and was oversubscribed according to the latest compilation of collections.

Lions Club Sponsors Means to Fletcher Hos.

On April 18th, a bus load of the entire cast of the Union High Junior and Senior Shop Class Minstrel, will be heading westward over U. S. Route 40, to entertain the wounded veterans, stationed at Fletcher General Hospital, at Cambridge, Ohio.

At their last meeting, held in the V. F. W. dining room, McMechen, after listening to an earnest appeal by Harold Stern, son of prominent McMechen merchant, Dave Stern, the members voted unanimously to sponsor this worthwhile project.

In addition to this patriotic gesture, the Lions Club, are now conducting a drive for 50,000 pounds of used clothing, in conjunction with the National Clothing Drive for Allied Refugees. Bill Bartlett, of Benwood, and Tom Welch, of McMechen are co-chairmen of this worthy enterprise.

The following places will be used as collection centers for the clothing:

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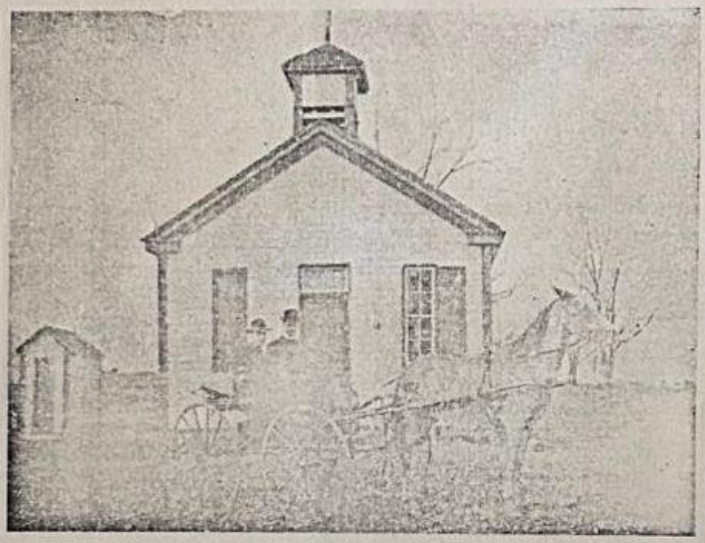
Paw Paw Normal At Its Greatest Heights



Original Photo Courtesy "Jack" Reilly, McMechen, W. Va.

Paw-Paw School in 1898. Mud road at right of school, is new blacktopped road connecting Riley Hill Road from McMechen, New Hill Road from Benwood, and also Boggs Run Road. Seated in buggy, left to right: "Jack" Reilly, now employed by the Keller Lumber Company, of Wheeling, W. Va. Seated beside Mr. Reilly, is Mr. John Lappert, now deceased, and former custodian of the Bellaire, Ohio post-office. This school house was built over 75 years ago, and has been converted into a fine dwelling, now occupied by Lawrence (Steve) Frank. Little building shown to the far left of picture was known as "Headquarters of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Thumb-Wetters and Page-Flippers of Sears & Roebuck Catalogs," Alpha Chapter., Paw Paw Normal College."

To the tune of Yankee Doodle, the Paw Paw Normal Alumnus Society was solemnly singing:

(Sung to the tune of Yankee Doodle)

First Verse:

Hail to Thee, Our Dear Old Paw Paw, High Upon the Knob,
Switches Swished Against Our Britches, How Are Hearts Did Throb!

First Chorus:

Baseball Games and Spelling Bees, Fox and Geese and Races,
Beam Bag Games, Pie Socials Too, that Brightened Up Our Faces!

Second Verse:

Our Lessons We Would Never Get, With Eager Pos-i-tive-ness,
But when Our Teacher Turned Her Back, Oi-Yoi-Such Monkey Business!

Second Chorus:

Paw Paw Dear, Old Paw Paw Dear, Our Memory's Un-a-bated,
We Never Went the Whole Darn Year, But Always Grad-u-ated!

Verse by Yasem Povida, Class of 1903

Choking with suppressed emotion, with tear-stained eyes, its president, Jack Reilly, arose, slammed his mug of suds on the table and exclaimed:

(Continued on Page 3.)

Amidst Flood Wesley Butts Reaches Benwood

"When I left for the army in 1943, Benwood was having a flood, and when I got back to "HOME, SWEET HOME", she was having another, recalled Staff Sergeant Wesley Butts, former Union High Football Star, during one of his many visits to the 1569 Club.

Butts, as tail gunner, on a B-24 over Italy, was unfortunate to be in the direct path of Jerry Ack-ack, which resulted in Butts parachuting to safety, while on his twelfth mission over Italy. As bad luck would have it, Butts was carried down in German territory, and was moved around through Germany to German Hospitals, and finally was "exchanged" and came home on the Gripsholm.

When asked whether or not the Red Cross was a benefit to American prisoners, Butts emphatically stated, "You can say that again. If the Red Cross hadn't taken care of us, by sending those swell Red Cross boxes of food, we would have damn near starved, although I will say that the German Doctors who worked on me, did the best they could . . . and I am thankful for that . . . and believe me, I was very, very glad to see Benwood, even though my home was flooded."

Of course, Matt Polus, president of the Club, has practically been Butts "aide-de-camp" while Staff Sergeant Butts has been home on his well-deserved furlough. Like Mike and Ike, you see "Matt" and "Wes". They eat and go almost every place together. They even cook together! Just recently Matt cooked steak and onions at 4 A. M. for Wes, and Matt got somewhat peeved, when Wes accused him of never having been taught by the Rangers how to cook steak properly! Matt replied, that Rangers, seldom ate steak, but was positive that he could make the best "filet a la K ration and goat-meat souffle" that Butts ever ate. Butts positively refused and said, "No Matt, after eating Grman potatoes and turnip soup, I like good old Center Benwood steak, smothered with Harmony Hill onions, even though you did use my last darned red meat points to get steak!" But in order to pacify Matt", who used to be a "slum burner" at Fort Knox, in 1941, Wes did agree to wipe the dishes.

Evidently Polus' dietetic suggestions

(Continued on Page 3.)

Fahrion Fancies

T'was a lover and his lass
That through the green fields did pass
With a hey, and a ho, hey, nonny ho!
Sweet lovers love the Spring!

Indeed they do! even war cannot hold out against the little fat boy with arrows, Dan Cupid to you. So, to all you Sweet Lovers and Loveresses in Uncle Sam's Service, come the greetings of Spring along with the sincere hopes that before many more springtimes, you too, may be "feelin' like a feather in the breeze" and "sailing away on Moonlight Bay,, with the "Girl of Your Dreams" if you feel romantically nclined!

Now after that sentimental outburst for the S. Y. T's. (Sweet Young Things) in Service, a note for the more staid and sober minded warriors. This time of the year, perhaps, more than all other cheers the soul. The leaves are showing signs of life, flowers are appearing, grass is getting green and the sun feels good for 'rheumatiz." So all of us feel life isn't so bad after all, and at long last, this war must end and it will be Home Again, where everyone can get in on this Spring Stuff in his or her own fashion, be it helping The Boss, cleaning house, eating green onions, or making love!

Benwood is recovering from another flood—the boats are being put back in storage again and the work of papering, plastering, and cleaning-up in general, is going merrily on its way. One pessimistic individual was heard to remark that as far as he was concerned—"that ! ! ! (deleted by censor) icebox was staying on the second floor until that river stayed where it belonged!" Another 'Gloomy Gus," after learning that the Benwood Subway was flooded for the fourth time in as many weeks, opined that "they ought to put a lid on that river and clamp it down!"

Wetzel Street developed such a bottomless mud hole that it was finally closed to traffic, after load after load of slag sank from sight.

A labor gang recruited from the masculine ranks of Union High School rendered valiant service and learned what work is really like as they helped dig out mud, clean streets, and repair stretches of track.

But the river is subsiding, pianos are ceasing to be front-porch decorations and now the sound of the carpet-beater is heard in the land while painters of various kinds and ability, sling paint and varnish to cover up traces of winter dirt and spring floods.

In McMechen, the City Solomons are appearing to bask in the sunshine found at City Square on Ninth and Marshall Streets. The never ending basketball games, go on in the lot just below the City Building. Bicycles and riders of every kind, sort and skill, go wobbling or rolling by! There are the Sweet Lover, too, hand in hand, strolling so happily along the "Main Drag" eating ice cream cones and murmuring "sweet nothings into each other's shell-like ears!" At Arthur's corner and Yoho's Inn, may be found the various members of the High School and Younger Set in all forms of life, liberty and definitely the pursuit of happiness!

So Spring has come and if you, who are so far away, can't be here to have a part in these activities, perhaps you can picture all that goes on in your mind and maybe the bit of verse below may give your souls a "life" as you read it and remember that YOU, and I do mean YOU, are always in our hearts and minds.

DRESS PARADE

The Earth is "all dressed up" today
With leaves and blossoms bright and gay;
For Spring has come as proof again
Of the Power supreme, o'er lands and men.

Trees once so bare, march dressed in green;
On bush and plant, fresh flowers are seen,
While man takes heart, and hopes are high
As he looks up to God's blue sky.

So while the world still rocks with War
And you, so tired of battle's roar;
Find hope, look up, and see again
Blue skies, that prove God's love for men.

With every good wish always,

Mary A. Fahrion.

How Does It Feel To Be A Civilian Again!

By Matt Polus

It wasn't very long ago that I like many G.I.'s used to say, "Boy, I wish that I could get out of this d_____ army!"

I griped as much or maybe more than the average G. I.

Finally a day arrived when I was to be examined for a probable release from the service. Talk about getting excited, yon should have seen me . . . WOW!

A couple of days later, I was informed that I had passed the Board, and it wouldn't be but a matter of 72 nours until I would be discharged. Talk about time passing slowly, it fairly dragged.

After signing my "John Henry" to about a hundred places, I was told that I was now on my own, which was O. K. with me. So I picked up my final issue of duds and took off.

For once, I had lots of time, so I "took in" the large cities en-route to DEAR OLE WEST VIRGINIA. I had a thousand miles to go, so each time I hit a likeable spot, I would try to paint the town red, but it usually ended up the opposite way. Oh well, time passed on, and I finally arrived home—five days behind schedule.

I had my uniform on just long enough to get rigged up in "civvies" and then I stepped out. I boarded a bus heading towards Wheeling, and a couple of girls sitting behind me commenced to throwing a few insults my way, such remarks as, " I wonder who he knows to keep out of the service", another said, "Oh, he's just another 4F'er." Honest my ears almost fell off—and I got off that bus, took a little walk to COOL OFF.

All went well for almost a week, when an out-of-town serviceman asked me why I wasn't in uniform. I showed him my discharge pin, and my PURPLE HEART, and this "wise guy" sneers, "Hell, that's probably your brothers." I slowly looked him over, and could see that he was fresh from boot camp, so I walked out. A week later I saw this guy, showed him my discharge papers, and popped him. I think it taught him to be more careful. This happens quite often but I am getting used to it, however. I notice that usually such remarks are made by recruits or guys who never heard a gun go off.

This life isn't so bad though, but it isn't the same as when I left here in 1941. Women are more plentiful, and drinks are more scarce, but as it is, I don't look at either . . . much.

If You Don't Write You're Wrong, Say The Letter Writers

Mrs. Delpha Ross	30
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BOGGS RUN

y Anne Sabo & Helen Kutrovac

llo from Boggs Run:

Here we are with some news from "HOLLER." Well! Looks like d man river" paid us a visit again. fact, three times! The first two ies it just came into the Subway—ough to stop traffic. Anyway, a cation for the school kids. But the d time! It stuck around for a v days. It was backed up as far Cesar's bridge. (The bridge re-ained). The traffic was up on etzel Street as usual. With all the n and the mud it was tough going. iere were a few boats around. But t like before when you all were me. How about that S. Nemeth, Conjeski, J. Brayec? Now all the nilies in the flooded areas are back normal. The families all decided the next flood, they would all get gether to sing "River Stay Away om My Door," with the help of the sculine voices of Bukas, Sabo, Ku-ovac, Krevecich, Winkler, Nemeth, izo, and Brayec under the leader-ip of Curly. Now we of the "Hol-" ask "Would it dare to come up ain?"

Uncle Sam grabbed a few more of ir young men. On the twelfth of arch, Alex Horvath, Walter 'Vudge' azelon and Bernard McGilton left om Moundsville to Huntington. here are still a few left such as: ibby, D. Lucas, R. Toth etc. Let's l wish them and all the other boys e best of everything.

The ones home on furlough now e Pfc. Jack Myers, Panama, Johnny amsey S 1-c, Atlantic-Destroyer Es-rt. Gabriel Nemeth Bosm. 2-c and pl. Joe Ceshi, Detroit. They are l looking swell and it is good to see u boys.

Newlyweds

The former Theresa Vargo, now lrs. John Gildea is residing in Mo. lr. Gildea is formerly from N. J. id has been recently discharged from ie U. S. Army after nine years of rvice.

Helen Toth is now Mrs. Frank berhart! They returned to their ome in Virginia after a brief visit ith their parents. It was a great union for Frankie and his mother, lrs. Ora Eberhart, who is also serving ith the WAC.

Jack Myers and Helen Rorata of off Street exchanged vows while he as on furlough. Congratulations to iese newlyweds and Happy Days.

Well, Good-bye for now, and we ill keep you tabbed on the latest from ie "holler."

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Walter Mazelon, Jr., Albertus leal Ankrom, Robert Alfred Butts, ichard John Smith, Ellsworth Char-s Baker, Robert Jack Kerns, Charles ewis Gorkon, Alex Louis Horvath, Edward Frank Boginski, Nick Hes-ey, Raymond Marion Mays, Arch Vincent Albaugh, Sr., Wilbert Robert Hoskins, Bernard Clyde McGilton, Sr. Norman Suder, Friend Porterfield, Merl Huggins, James C. Arrasmith, ohn J. Glustich, Jeith N. Russ, Geo. Harick, Jesse J. Marteney, Mildred

PAW PAW NORMAL

(Continued from Page 1.)

"By golly, I'm burned up! Why? Well—here's why! Every doggone school ot higher learnin' in West Virginia is splattered over the pages of the newspapers like ragweeds on my 200 acre patch back on the knob. No one ever mentions a lousy thing about Paw Paw, and by golly, I'm going to do something about it! That was the best college in West Virginia and I'll stack my learning at Paw Paw against, Yale, Harvard, or any other "Hoosier" University!

Hey you, don't you write for the 1569 Mail Bag, . . . Well, stuff that chunk of pig feet in your teeth, because you are going to write a story about Paw Paw . . . or else ! ! !" . . . The other members scowled. . . Hence, a story about "Paw Paw Normal!"

"Paw Paw Normal" grade school, which served as a cultural and social center, along "Sky Line Drive" and farms near Riley and Glendale roads, for 75 years, through the demands of its famous alumnus, is at last to be recognized.

Among its famed alumnus, who have upheld its sacred standards, in contributing to civic welfare, industry and society are: Carl, Tom, Matt, and John Hazlett; Mayors Thomas Cooper, Ralph Deegan; Thomas Deegan, Post Master Benwood; Jack Reilly, Arthur and Amos McIlvain, John and Jim Merinar, Ollie Marcus, Joe Yocum, Wesley Corns, Floyd Campbell, Mrs. Eugene Nollinger, Mrs. Charles Ebberts, Mrs. Guy Shafferman, Francis and Frank Gatewood, Paul Rogerson, Herman Schafer, Carl Thonen, Mrs. James Tribett, Mrs. Clarence Ensinger, Delbert Baker, Harold, Bernard and Thomas Markey, Mrs. David Hall, Willard Rogerson, Herman Rogerson, Frank McCarthy, Mrs. Clyde Gatewood, Phillip Markey, Charles Klages, Clarence, Wilbert and Helen Klages.

After years of reflection upon their school days, "Paw Paw Normal" graduates speak with highest respect for its former teachers, and solemnly vow, that their task was not a menial one.

Some of its teachers were: J. T. King, Carrie Campbell, Mamie Hazlett, Lawrence Riggs, Dora Hazlett, Joyce Cook, Almeda Reilly, and Mary Holmes.

A history of "Paw Paw" would not be complete unless a few incidents that happened at "Paw Paw" are told. For true incidents of "Paw Paw" we are indebted to the president of "Paw Paw Normal Alumnus Society," Honorable John William Reilley, erstwhile known from the ore pile to the car barns as Jack Reilley, and who incidentally is one of McMechen's City Fathers. When we interviewed President Reilley, we mentioned that it was our opinion that discipline among school children was no worse than in the days that he went to "Paw Paw." To which thought Jack reflected, and as he rubbed his bald plate, he stated, "Now I wouldn't want to be quoted but I'd say the average school kid is about one-half as ornery as the student of "Paw Paw Normal." You see we were country kids, and when we saw each other at school we always tried to outdo each other in playing tricks. For instance, I distinctly recall one morning that I will never forget. We used to play ball before school took up, at recess and noon hour. Well, one morning after the school bell rang, I thought of a trick. Rafe Deegan, the present mayor of Benwood, lived right next to the school. Well, their cow used to wan-long story short, the cow was not exactly sanitary, and quite a few "land mines" were "planted" on the school lot. Well, the kids all beat it into the school room, but I stayed behind, which gave me time to roll the bat handle in the land mine. Well, when the recess period was started, usually the biggest boy, who I didn't like, usually grabbed the ball bat, and was first batter. The bat was under the stoop, and when he grabbed the bat this time, well—he was "messed up," and while he was violently shaking his hand, the other kids gave him the big hee haw, and he "declared" himself. By that time, the teacher, J. T. King, came out and investigated, and without a chance to "lie out of it," I was "given the hickory," and I bawled so loud, my father heard me, two miles away. And I got another licking when I got home, too."

We contacted Paul Rogerson, chief inspector at the Wheeling Steel, and Paul's eyes fairly sparkled as he recalled his school days at "Paw Paw." Besides baseball, we also played fox and geese. Yes, the girls played-too, and if the day was too warm, a fox and geese game might last all day . . . much to the teachers consternation. That's the way we learned the different trees and plants, and it usually ended up that the ring leaders got a licking—in school and at home. He recalled an incident when the "big boys" thought a certain teacher was "too tough" and they held a caucus that evening and decided to "Dress him down a wee bit." By removing a stone from the foundation, they crawled under the school floor, drilled a hole under the teacher's deck, one under Paul's desk. Then they made a contrivance, that rang the cow bell, by dragging the heel against the knot. Of course the teacher traced the knot in the rope to my desk, and I got another licking. Of course, we would cut rings around the switches which caused them to break, but that time, he secured the hickory, to make sure it wouldn't break . . . and it didn't I can assure you."

Evidently the students were most likeable, because Rafe Deegan whose house was only 75 yards from the school, used to pack his lunch just to be able to eat with the gang. "Didn't want to be left out on the latest trick" said Rafe. Of course, Brother Tom, now postmaster in Benwood, packed his lunch too.

Carl Hazletr, who when he learned that Ken Harbison was running for the school board, and wrote him a five page letter, asking for the job as "Librarian of Paw Paw Normal," recalled what he thought to him was the crowning literary highlight at "Paw Paw." Said Carl: "I'll never Washington's birthday, and present mayor, Tom Cooper was asked to recite his piece of poetry. Tom bashfully approached the teacher's podium, gulped a few times, stuck his hand in his percale blouse, and recited to the awe-strucken audience:

I am just a little boy,
I never fired a gun,
I never led an army,
Like brave George Washington.

That was the longest piece of poetry ever recited at "Paw Paw," but Tom really was the Ty Cobb, when it came to shagging flies in the outfied.

Spitting on the teachers coat tails, shooting paper wads, putting frozen ink-wells next to the pot bellied stove, which caused them to explode, hiding in the attic, throwing ice snowballs, was just regular "stuff" at 'Paw Paw." Other shenanigans of course can't be printed in this article.

However, all in all, "Paw Paw" did contribute to society in no small manner, and judging by its alumnus, its former students have reasons to speak so highly of its fair name.

It is now unofficially reported, that a movement is on foot, to have weekly meetings o fthe "Paw Paw Normal Society," at the cabin now occupied by Scout Troop 76. Jack Reilley has engaged Governor Meadows to ex-

WESLEY BUTTS

(Cotinued from Page 1.)

to Butts has produced results, because Butts has gained 25 pounds since being home. 'Every time Matt and I go up town, he takes me to a restaurant, and as soon as he hits the joint, he makes me whistle, "One Meat Ball" . . . and then we really get the spaghetti laid about in front of us. Boy, does Matt burn up, when I tell him he should have been in the air corps, where he would have been used to good food."

Butts has visited the Club quite frequently, and due to his bashfulness, his many feminine admirers could see more of him, but since Matt is a confirmed "woman hater," Butts is, too . . . "we hope."

Yes, Butts, has even helped us fold the Mail Bags, and seal the envelopes so that you men in the service can get the Mail Bag on time. Say Butts, "Boy, I don't mind this job one bit, and I more than once would have given my right arm, just to bt able to do this little job, **"I'm tickled to death to be home—and livin' ".** .....

LIONS CLUB

(Cotinued from Page 1.)

McMechen—St. James' school, Prettyman's store, Lineberger's store, Star Clothing store, Post Office, Center McMechen school, Lorentz's store, J. T. King school, and Specht's store.

Benwood—North Benwood school, St. Catherine's school and the Minnie Nay Settlement House, Mike Perkovich's store, Sun Construction company, City Building, Center Benwood school, Morningstar store, 1569 Club and Union High school.

After this clothing has been gathered, it will be sorted, classified, packed and shipped to the various ports, to be on its way where according to your letters, the clothes are badly needed.

Union High News

By Helen Gaynor

"Hello again, all you in blue, green, and khaki. The Union 'gab bag' is filled to the brim, and we're ready to start unloading."

"River Stay Away From My Door" is the song the people of Benwood sang during the week of March 5. Approximately 150 students were absent from school. Some were absent because of the flood, and others worked for the Sun Construction company helping to clean up . . . On January 26, the students matched their wits on a Quiz program sponsored by the student council. Jane Kaufman won first prize, a ticket to the Warwood game . . . The same evening the "Vikings" of Warwood defeated Union, 62-45 . . . January 30, Union bowed to the "Trojans," the score being 49-37 . . . Four days later the Wheeling "Wildcats" defeated the Craigmen. 33-30, February 3 . . . This year the Hi-Y boys received red and blue jackets with the Hi-Y emblem on the back . . . I must say they really lok nice . . . Red sweaters instead of jackets were purchased by the G. A. A. girls. The sweaters have the regular G. A. A. emblem on them . . . February the Hi-Y boys took the girls of the G. A. A. to the YMCA for an evening of dancing, swimming, bowling, and of course refreshments . . . In return. the G.A.A. will give the Hi-Y a chicken supper on April 17 . . . February 6, the Union cagers were beaten by Bellaire, 50-33 . . . The "Purple Riders" of Martins Ferry over-powered the Ironmen, 58-26 on February 9 . . . The tide turned on February 16 when Union took the boys of Shadyside, 44-42, during an overtime period . . . "Blind Date" was given by the G.A.A. in the gym February 16. Jane Kaufman acted as mistress of ceremonies. Ruth Furbee, announcer, read the commercials on fuzzy wuzzy furof famous movie actors, George Bartsch, George Logston, Ralph Kerlined shoe strings. Taking the names wood, Mike Moczek, Mitchell Gresak, Don Wiseman, Charles Conner, and Bill Hicks turned on all their charm to outwit one another in trying to get a date with Pearl Judge. Jean Crow, Stella Grombka, and Delores Gongola . . . February 20, the Ironmen trounced Cameron, 75-35 . . . February 23 found the Unionites victorious over Central Catholic, 39-37 . . . They also won a victory over Williamstiwn, 71-28 on March 2 . . . The annual sectional tournament was played on Warwood's floor on March 8, 9, 10. The first night found Union victorious over Sherrard, but the second night the Ironmen lost to Wheeling, 31-30, in an overtime period . . Wheeling defeated Moundsville. and Warwood was victorious over Wheeling. Warwood won the sectional.

The females of Union have shown the boys that they too have athletic ability. G.A.A. has been victorious over such court foes as St. Joseph's, Wheeling. and Gregesville . . . We are proud to say the Girl Reserves of Union have earned the title of "Ohio Valley Baskervall Champs" by defeating St. Clairsville, Madison, and Bellaire . . . Old minstrel men will be glad to know that Mr. Pastorious is directing another Junior-Senior Minstrel. It is to be presented in the Center McMechen grade school auditorium on April 5-6. The junior and senior classes have each lost one member to the armed forces. Wido Curitti and Hugo Trubiano, varsity players of the 1944 football team, are now receiving their boot training at the naval training school at Great Lakes, Illinois . . . Eleven hundred and fifty-two invitations have been ordered by the Senior class . . . February 27, Mrs. Gertrude Riley of the Merle-Norman Studio in Wheeling showed the girls how to apply make-up. June Slonaker and Florence Stern acted as models . . . The students of Union contributed $27.47 to help the drive against infantile paralysis . . . Since basketball season is over, dancing has been resumed in the gym . . . A St. Patrick's Day dance was sponsored by the Girl Reserves on March 17 . . . The Seniors had a priority on the gym for March 23. An interesting floor show was presented.

Well our "gab-bag" is empty now. but you can be sure it will be filled again, the next time you hear our "Hello!"

School Paper Earns First Honors Award In Event

The Spotlight Scores More Than 1110 Points

In the 23rd annual state-wide competition of newspapers and news-perio icals publsihed by students of West Virginia high schools, The Spotlight was rated as a "First-Honors" high school publication, according to Dr. P. I. Reed, director of competition.

To attain a "First-Honors" award, The Spotlight had to score more than 1110 points. Scoring was based on the following twelve factors: newsprint and format, typography, pictures, makeup, news stories, sports articles and features, editorials, general features and literary work, headlines, advertising, copyreading and proofreading, and service to the school.

In both state and national judging contests last year, The Sportlight received "First-Honors" ratings. Mary Jo Metz, '44, edited the 1943-44 publication. Ruth Furbee, '45, is this year's editor-in-chief.

Seven Varsity Boys Gets "U's" for Basketball

Seven Ironmen will receive varsity "U's" for basketball, according to Coach Harry Craig.

Ironmen receiving the awards are: Altman Gandy, Larry Supan, James Gresak, Bob Riedel. Max Szymialis. Dick Thurnes, and Arden Smiley, manager.

Supan and Gresak are retiring senior lettermen. Next year's cage squad will have the services of the following veteran letter winners: Gandy, Riedel, Szymialis, and Thurnes.

Shop Minstrel "Lays" Them In the Aisles

Just like an orchid wrapped in cellophane was the manner in which the Junior and Senior Shop minstrel was presented to two packed audiences, attending this show on April 5th and 6th, at McMechen Public School Auditorium.

These gyrating Thespians presented a fine chorus of songsters, soloists, jokes which were well chosen, and spotlessly clean. The specialty acts were well chosen, enacted, and without a doubt, many hours of hard practice were put in to produce such a fine show, as has been all past Union High minstrels.

Two little skits without a doubt high-lighted this entertainment-fiesta. Ane, in which "Red" Kerwood, "Dicky" Thurness, tried to double-cross the waiter, Kenny Castilow. After much argument Thurness "sold" Kerwood his invention—a magic eyectric eye, which, with the help of an unseen rope placed a little above the stage, wass upposed to trip, the suave waiter, Castilow. So the two gourmonds are seated, and they order a custard pie, and contemplate with anxiety, the mirth they will exhibit, when the waiter trips over the taut string, and dives headlong to the floor. The waiter enters, so sedately, his hand outstretched, with said warm custard pie, resting thereon, and the electric eye is turned on . . . it works . . . but . . . when Castilow sprawled, the juicy custard pie, is dexterously shoved in Kerwood's cork stained face. The scent of that juicy pie dripping from Kerwood's "puss" really "Laid 'em in the aisles." Another scene in which a toy band, composed of all the endmen, playing toy horns etc, but with "Gene Krupa" Stewart, really "beating out" the drums, also met with hearty approval of the crowd. And of course, where would one find a prettier female cast? Nowhere.

We know this show, so well coached and directed, will make a hit with the wounded veterans at Fletcher hospital. Space does not permit a just adjudication of this show.

Lisred below is the cast:

With George Logston, student body president, as interlocutor, the third annual Junior-Senior Machine Shop minstrel was prested in the Center McMechen school auditorium Thursday and Friday evening, April 5 and 6, at 8 p. m. Robert Pastorious, machine shop instructor, is directed the show. Mrs. Beatrice Hart Dixon, of McMechen was the pianist.

Minstrel endmen include: Mr. Bones, John Johnson; Jasper, Ralph Kerwood; Tambo, Fred Oser; Dewdrop, Elwood Stewart; Sassafras, John Dobias: Chuck, Henry Dicarlo; Pete, Dick Thurnes; Mush, Mike Moczek.

The eveninns' program is as follows: Modern Paul Revere, John Burgess; Opening Number, "Hello", "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are," George Longston; Minstrel Chorus Song, Chorus; Endmen Song, Endmen; Introduction of Eendmen, Geo. Logston; "Mammy," Bones; "Mary," (Specialty), Tambo and Chuck; "Dinah," Chuck; "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," Endmen and Sassafras.

Specialty, Joe Boraski; "My Dream Are Getting Better," Pete; "Accentuate the Positive," (Specialty) Nan Fullerton; "I'm Confessing," George Logston; "Evelina," Tambo; Accordion Solo, (Specialty), Nick Conti; Specialty, Pete, Jasper, Kenneth Cotilow, Regina Burley, Gloria Lowe; Specialty, Roy Dale Hunt; "Alabama Jubilee," Dewdrop; Specialty, Edward Vidonic, Richard Bohlmann.

"For Me and My Gal," Musical Toe Tap Dance, (Specialty(Flo Belle Rider; "Beautiful Doll," Jasper Specialty, Dean Wiseman and John Burgess; "Shine", Sassafras; Service Songs, (Dedication to the Armed Services), Nick Conti; "My Buddy," Everett Arthur; "A Fellow On Furlough," Altman Gandy; "Always," Eileen Hawkins; Soldier, George Bartsch; "God Bless America," Chorus and Audience, "There's A Long, Long Trail," Chorus.

Chorus members are George Bartsch, John Burgess, Donald Logston, Joe Storm, Adolph Rubcich, William Wright, Joe Banaski, Frank Bill, Kenneth Castilow, Tom Quigley, Arden Smiley, Leonard Subasic, Paul Baum, Anthony Chieffalo, Altman Gandy, Leonard Gordon, Paul Huggins, Robert Kinkes, George Mc Glumphy, Joe Takach, James Gresak, James Marple, Everett Arthur, Edward Vidonic, Richard Bohlmann, Bob Hossman.

Ushers consist of the following freshmen: Delores Gongola, Jun Wagendoffer, Delores Vidonic, June Slonaker, Stage hands are Tony Paskevich, Louis Moser, James Garvey

Craigmen to Begin Track Season, April 7

Opening their track season Saturday afternoon, April 7, the Ironmen will participate in a joint meet with Wheeling and Triadelphia on the Island cinders.

While Wheeling and Triadelphia may lose their track captains, both by induction into the armed forces. Union will also be weakened by the loss of Paul Bissett, '44, Union's one-man track team. The Orange and Blue will be denied the services of Tony Provenzano, dash man, who has enlisted in the U. S. Navy.

Trackmen reutrning are: Altman Gandy, John Lov, James Garvey, Thomas Welch, Bobby Kinkes, Don Wiseman, Dick Thurnes, and Don Wiseman.

James Gresak Gets Berth On Sectional Five

Center James Gresak was the only Union varsity member elected to berth on the mythical sectional tournament team. Jim, a senior, is one-year award winner in varsity basketball.

Members of this year's all-tourney aggregation include: Forwards—Martin, Warwood; Hutchison, Wheeling; Center—Gresak, Union; Guards—Berry, Warwood; Underdonk, Moundsville.

★ ★ ★ Letters Received But Not Published ★ ★ ★

Drawn by Sgt. Palkovic

England

Pfc. Louis Urbanek, S 1-c John DeCrease (2), Cpl. Martin Burke, S-Sgt. Norman Ellis, EM 3-c Joe Crow, T-Sgt. William Hall, Pfc. John J. Labos, Sgt. Robert E. Miller, S-Sgt. Sam Cerra, Cpl. Robert Hadorn, Cpl. Howard Finnegan, Pfc. John P. Howard, Cpl. Alex Slovski, Pvt. Charles Melko, Pfc. George Warsinsky.

France

Pfc. Joseph Dick Straghan, Pfc. Joseph Toth (4), Pvt. Bernard McIlvain, Sgt. Stanley Bartolovich, Pvt. Michael Kutrovac (2), Pvt. Ralph Robinson, S 1-c George Kessler, Cpl. George Kessler, Cpl. Michael Mucci, Battista (4), T-Sgt. Stephen Burskey, Cpl. Arnold Kokai, Pvt. John K. Thomas, Pfc. Charles C. Hawkins, Cpl. Mike Roscoe (2), Cpl. Martin P. Burke, Pfc. Carl Peabody, Sgt. Harold Marshall, Cpl. Robert A. Knapp, Pgt. George Safreed, Pvt. Andy Brofcheck, Pvt. Rocco L. Rich, Cpl. Joseph George, Cpl. Joseph M. Blake, Cpl. Robert E. Steen, Cpl. John T. Scanlon, Pfc. John E. Hornek, Sgt. Walter Marcus, Cpl. Alex Slovski.

Italy

Pvt. Charles Melko (2), Cpl. Robert Pollock (2), Pvt. Bruce Strawn (3), Sgt. Harold Gooldin (4), Pfc. Mike Kokai, T-Sgt. Leo Owoc, Flt. O. Steve Gracik, S-Sgt. John Takach, Sgt. Floyd McNinch, Pvt. Joe Kostelecsky, Pvt. Bruno Shalayka (2), Pfc. Angelo DeCrease, Cpl. Albert Yarnevic.

Germany

Cpl. Robert Materkoski (3), Lt. Steve Sarka. Sgt. David Kettlewell, Capt. Mike Deegan, S-Sgt. Jack Pennybacker 3), Cpl. Earl Hamilton (2), Pvt. John K. Thomas, Pfc. John Freeland, Pfc. Andy Brofcheck, Pfc. Thomas Mrzlak.

Ireland

Sgt. James H. Wright 2).

India

Cpl. Herman Chieffalo (2), Sgt. Albert Yanni (2).

Iraq

Cpl. Albert J. Yanak (2).

Mediterranean

MM 3-c William I. Martin.

China

T-Sgt. Guy Snyder.

Middle East

S 1-c Edgar Fiest.

Belgium

M-Sgt. Robert Stoneking, Pvt. Encil Hawkins, Pfc. Lawrence Lynch, S-Sgt. Steve Burskey 2), Cpl. Henry Kosticky.

Luxembourg

Pvt. Michael Kutrovac (2), Pfc. James Provenzano, Pfc. John E. Bernhard.

Burma

Pfc. Frank C. Senek.

A.P.O. New York In Transit

Sgt. Charles Murphy, Cpl. Joseph Marchani 2), Cpl. Norman Pastorious, Sgt. Robert Reilly, Sgt. John Martino, Cpl. Hubert McIntosh, Pfc. Charles D. Pell, Pvt. Rocco L. Rich, Pgt. Joseph E. Hornak, S 1-c Harry Bilinsky, Cpl. John T. Scanlon, Pfc. Stanley P. Lydinskey, Lt. Robert E. Burke, Sgt. Kenneth Rogerson, Sgt. Charles R. Muldrew.

South Pacific Area

S 2-c Walter Materkoski, Sgt. Tony Kralovic (3), Pvt. Arthur Lancia (2), S 1-c Bernard Baltz, F 1-c Herman Marchione (2), EM 1-c Albert Riggle (2), MM 3-c George J. Sabo, Pfc. Raymond Hartman, S 2-c John Pope Reilly, Pvt. Peter Jefferson, S 1-c Andy A. Kleinedler, CRM C E. Gresak (2), S 2-c Walter Materkoski, S 2-c Richard Crow, Pvt. Peter J. Jefferson, ARM 2-c Kenneth A. Whittington, MAM 3-c Thomas J. Tweedlie, S-Sgt. Harry W. Juergens.

Hawaii

Cpl. William Finnegan, Pvt. Arthur Lancia, SK Albert Foster, Cpl. Eli Botizan.

Mariana Islands

Lt. Edward Hrusovsky, F 1-c Clarence Buchannan, Pfc. Harry Gordon, GM 3-c Charles Yurkovitch, Cpl. Robert E. Marple (2).

New Guinea

Lt. Walter C. Polley, Pfc. Oliver Kaschke, Pfc. H. E. Elias.

Bouganville

Pfc. Stege Rakovicky.

Netherland East Indies

Lt. John J. Robey.

Iwo Jima

Cpl. John Masarick, Pfc. George Wallace, Pfc. Stephen J. Kramer.

Mani Island

RM 2-c Chester Zimpla.

Phillipines

AMM 3-c Frank Fullerton (8), Pfc. John Sevcik, Pfc. John Raymond, S-Sgt. Donald Craig, Pfc. Ralph Fabrizio, Cpl. Irwin Black, Pvt. Nick Bilich, GM 2-c Joe Rakovicky, EM 3-c Paul Pearson, Sgt. Tony Kralovic, MoMM 3-c Robert B. Sullivan, Cpl. Thomas Morris, S-Sgt. Donald Craig, S 1-c Perry L. Tilbett, Cpl. Mario L. Conti, Pvt. Edward Pastilong, GM 2-c Sam M. Olson, MM 3-c Nile A. Neff, S-Sgt. Phillip J. Skvarka, Pfc. Ralph N. Fabrizio, Pfc. Frank V. Babich, Cpl. John Lanch, SF 2-c Rex Lee Mellott, Pfc. Mike J. Uarich, Pfc. John J. Sevcik.

A.P.O. Seattle

Aleutians

S-Sgt. William H. Schultz.

A.P.O. New Orleans

Caribbean

Sgt. George M. Rowley.

Panama

Sgt. Kenneth P. Stephens.

Arizona

Yuma: S-Sgt. William Bernhard.

Arkansas

Camp Robinson: Sgt. Connie Pavelka, Cpl. Irwin Thornton, Cpl. Albert Ferrie.

Newport: Sgt. Frank Mojzer.

California

San Bruno: Y 3-c Joseph Donovan (5).

Camp Cooke: Sgt. Charles Murphy.

Alameda: F 2-c Victor E. Anderson.

Hamilton Field: S-Sgt. John S. Mojzer.

Menlo Park: Pvt. George W. Barton.

Fort Ord: Pvt. Adam R. Rubey.

Connecticut

Bradley Field: S-Sgt. Donald A. Morris.

Florida

Tallahassee: Pvt. Frank Robbins (12).

Orlando: Capt. Emil E. Naric.

Miami: Pvt. Albert Salomone.

Coral Gables: T-Sgt. Robert Hoffman (3).

Jacksonville: Pvt. Paul Buchannan.

Georgia

Augusta: Pvt. Ardentine Pollsinella.

Fort Benning: Sgt. Victor Cerra.

Illinois

Great Lakes: A. S. Russell M. Sturm.

Scott Field: S-Sgt. William Bernhard.

Proving Grounds: Cpl. John Skvarka.

Pvt. William Sandrick, Pfc. Mark (2).

Indiana

Fort Ben Harrison: S 2-c Willis Criswell.

Kentucky

Fort Knox: Pvt. Albert Furlo (3).

Louisiana

Alexandria: Pvt. Frank Bozicevic (3).

Maryland

Fort Meade: Pvt. Rocco L. Rich Pvt. Joseph E. Hornek (2).

Baltimore: S 1-c John DeCrease

Mississippi

Camp Shelby: Sgt. Argent Cavichia.

Missouri

Camp Crowder: Sgt. Herbert Inone.

Nebraska

Lincoln: Cpl. George H. Hirsch Sgt. Harold Applegate.

New Jersey

Atlantic City: Cpl. Camilo Anastasia, Pfc. Joseph Subasic.

New York

Broklyn: Cpl. Nellie Mae Schmi (2), MM 3-c Frank Wright (2).

Sampson: S 2-c Richard Supan.

North Carolina

Kinston: Pfc. John A. Markowski (2).

Camp Mackall: Cpl. Thomas Finnegan.

Fort Bragg: Pvt. Francis McDonel

Ashbora: Jr. Eng. John Downey.

Ohio

Wright Field: Pfc. Dorothy Wrigl (2), Pfc. Harry E. Groves, Sgt. Ea Musilli.

Cambridge: Pfc. Dorothy Cooe (4).

Oklahoma

Tinker Field: S-Sgt. Harry W. Juergens.

Camp Gruber: M-Sgt. Thomas A Pavlich.

Frederick: A.C. Bernard Riedel.

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia: S 2-c Edward Morningstar.

Rhode Island

Newport: S 1-c Walter Walley, S 1 Robert F. Horn.

Tennessee

Memphis: Cpl. Clarence L. Scanlon (4).

Texas

Camp Wolters: Pvt. James Fladin (3).

Camp Howze: Cpl. Paul J. O'Bri (2), Lt. Charles A. Haislip.

Camp Hood: Lt. Joseph R. Bocevich.

Fort Sam Houston: Pfc. "Perpe Musilli.

Utah

Salt Lake City: Daniel Goodwin

Wendover Field: Pvt. Walter Hu berg.

Virginia

Norfolk: ARM 2-c George Kutrovac, AMM 3-c Charles N. Pasorin S 1-c Robert Horn, S 1-c Nel Burch.

Langley Field: Pfc. Henry Machin

Fort Belvoir: Sgt. Emil Rykosk

Little Creek: S.C. 1-c Rocco P. K

Edited by Miss Anne Kubeck

Out of the jungles of Dutch New Guinea, **Lt. Walter C. Polley** sends word that life is a little more pleasant and is on the lookout for Zelic and anyone else from home.

—o—

S/Sgt. Albert J. Kalcun, now of New Guinea, is very willing to pay **Steve Davis** one pound for a glass of that good Benwood and McMechen water.

—o—

Using a cigar box as a writing desk, **Pete Jefferson** tells us mail is like striking a gold mine in California. Sends his thanks to all for the letters.

—o—

Seems **Pfc. Oliver "Ollie" Kaschke** finds the New Guinea custom of people removing their shoes before entering their homes and upon leaving, putting them on again quite funny. Is quite anxious to see some white women again.

—o—

Meeting **Eddie Stresky** down in the Moluccas Islands, **Pvt. Arthur Lanch** also met up with a delayed **Mail Bag** which he claims is a bundle of joy. Art is wondering of the Benwood police still make guys on furlough clear the streets after midnight.

—o—

F 1/c Clarence E. Buchanan hopes to run into **Morrison** and others out on the Admiralty Islands. Joins in with all the rest in high praises of Mrs. Fahrion's poems.

—o—

It was a happy day when **Charles H. Yurkovitch, GM 3/c,** moved alongside an LST and spied **Jack Silver.** They had a great time gabbing of good old Benwood. He's now looking forward to meeting his brother, **Mike,** who may be around there, in the Marianna's.

—o—

Down in the Phillipines where things were plenty rough, **Sgt. Emil E. Neduchal** writes of the hardships the natives suffered under the Japs and how they all are happy again and rebuilding their homes.

—o—

Assuming that **Pfc. Frank V. Babich** is a member of the famous Liar's Club, one so often reads about, he adds the following morsel. "Oh! does it get hot! It gets so hot it makes the rocks crack. There were five of us out one day and we ran into five hundred Japs. There we were not knowing what to do. So believe-it-or-not, the sun came out and it got so hot the rocks started to pop like popcorn. The Japs thought there was a whole Army of us so they all surrendered. Boy were they surprised when they saw only the five of us. Yes! it sure does get hot here." Kate Smith might like that one for the reads

Now enjoying a few luxuries of life after a hand to hand bout with a Jap, **Pfc. Lloyd McKinney** wished the "WATER VALVE" (Steve Davis) were there to help him with the Native Boy Scouts of Troop No. 7 in Hawaii. He's now been a member for nine months.

—o—

After reading of the 36 inches of snow covering West Virginia, **Robert Cochrane S 2/c,** was willing to welcome some of it down in the Pacific just to cool the place off a little.

—o—

In Habboniya, Iraq, **Cpl. Albert J. Yanak** proudly boasts to his pals that they don't know a West Virginian until they see one, and just because our one leg is shorter than the other from walking around the hills, we can still stand up to the best of them. That's the boy, Albert.

—o—

Leaving a Hindu Christmas ceremony where the natives celebrate with lots of drink and dancing, **Cpl. William P. Rockaway** saw one GI, a little tipsy, remain to sing some prayers in the Hindu language. He tells us clothes there are of a piece of cloth six yards long left in one piece and wrapped around the body to form a garment. They bathe without soap and wash their clothes at one time in a mud pool. "Whatta life!"

—o—

William J. Martin, MM 3/c, sings high praises from way out in the Mediterranean of Mrs. Fahrion's articles and "Bill's Bits." He really enjoyed his visit to the Club and was amazed at all the souvenirs in the show case.

—o—

Even in the land of Dikes and windmills where the Huns "advanced" so fast in the other direction, and left enough radios for most of the GI officers, we hear the boys listen to Bob Hope, James Melton and the Gay Nineties Revue. **Sgt. Bob Welsh** even gets snowballed there the same as did here at home. The kids in Holland are much the same as back here in the states.

—o—

In the Belgium woods where the Nazi's fire everything they have until there's nothing left and come out yelling "Kemrade", **S/Sgt. Stephen L. Burskey** has no pity for such prisoners. He felt lucky for a while because he slept in a house once again.

—o—

We're duly informed by **Pfc. Charles W. Niedermyer** that a dugout somewhere in Belgium has been named 'THE FIRST AND LAST CHANCE', even equipped with everything, almost, except electricity. Charles and the gang wonder if Mike Gordon shouldn't set them up to a beer for advertising his place across the water

eight feet of concrete and steel, but out in the open they just can't take it.

—o—

Another Belgium tourist, **M/Sgt. Robert E. Stoneking,** sends high praises to Mrs. Fahrion and Iggie for the wonderful Christmas card. Is still waiting for his copies of the **Mail Bag.** We hope they reach you soon. "Stoney" only found the Narrows changed and the lack of familiar faces during his last visit here.

—o—

Luxembourg had a very puzzled GI for **Pfc. James Provenzano** had a time figuring out who the fan mail writer from the **1569 Club** was that wrote to him. Says his life lately has been one great experience. We'll see about writing our names more legible on the letters from now on.

—o—

T/Sgt. Leo Owoc whose picture appeared in a recent Wheeling newspaper sends word from Italy that his buddies are greatly impressed with the biggest-little newspaper in the world. Also sends his praise to all the merchants in the vicinity for their continued subscriptions and help to the same. Thanks, Sarg.

—o—

Knowing there are plenty hometown guys slugging it out in the Grand Duche of Luxembourg, **Cpl. Bud Byard** hasn't given up hope of running into any of them. Says hello to all the gang.

—o—

Capturing a warehouse full of cognac wasn't so bad, muses **Cpl. Alex S. Rich,** somewhere on the Western Front. Sends his thanks for all the fine letters.

—o—

Our thanks to **Cpl. Robert J. Pollock** still in Italy, for the clippings. The "Libports Deliver the Goods" was a fine article and it is a good job indeed. Hope Bob doesn't tackle too much of the so-called "Blue-Death" drink.

—o—

Pfc. Bruce A. Strawn marks time with his buddies on a map until his next assignment. Writes Bruce: "Through you I have now a friend writing me 'wonderful' letters. I thank you." Good luck fellow.

—o—

Helping to knock out mortars in surrounding enemy territory, Italian based **Flight Officer Steve J. Gracik** is looking forward to the day when there are no longer any targets to bomb.

—o—

Yearning for a taste of good old Wheeling Steel smoke and dirt way over in France, **Pfc. Mark Battista** would even be willing to eat his share

won't be long 'til you all can inhale some if our good ole smoke once again. Mark sends his congratulations to the VLW and hopes his sister will have top place on the list for letters written. Would like to have Bill and his movie camera along to get some good stuff for the Club. Pleads with "Hardwater" Davis not to go behind the water meters to bust them just so he can charge everybody more on their bills. Thinks Davis would make a darn good shoe salesman for he could sell anyone two shoes for one foot without the customer knowing it.

Note Editor—Hey Mark, let's go fishing and I've got my license. Did you buy yours?

—o—

Although **Pvt. John K. Thomas** doesn't understand the French people he thinks what they say may be okay, and finds them fairly friendly. Says hello to the Hi-Y gang.

—o—

Cpl. William Sivard and his buddies in France got a kick out of the poem from Cpl. Miller entitled "They Have To Go Home." Regards to all the crowd.

—o—

Another Sergeant who has no pity in the way of punishment for the Nazis for all the destruction and death they have reaped on so many innocent people is **Tony Raymond.** Is glad to hear there still exists the old "punch em" rivalry at the Wheeling-Union game.

—o—

Sending us some of his own manufactured "hot air" **Pfc. Lawrence Lynch** hopes to run into some of the gang over in France. All of the places that he has seen so far was pretty badly hit, but expects to see some nice spots soon.

—o—

Arriving in France as a member of an Airborne unit, **Jack Layte** has had a long visit, so he writes. While visiting he found Nice a very lovely place.

—o—

Getting extra duty by having to clean GI cans didn't seem like such an interesting job to **George Kessler, S 1-c (RM)** until he saw they were good ole Wheeling Steel, so he just made them sparkle by "turning to." He hopes the Ohio doesn't go on a rampage after so much snow all winter. The answer to that will be found somewhere among these pages.

—o—

With Patch's 7th Army in France, **"Kaiser" George Warsinsky** thinks the Navy might be able to visit the Club these days, but soon as the war is over the Army will overrule the Navy right off. Thanks all the VLW

Not finding a "hock shop" Pvt. Clarence "Irony" Butts thinks it just is wise to send his Purple Heart home. After knocking off a few Jerries Irony ran into an 88 but is back with his old gang again. Hopes Joe Bucket and Muddy Water Davis are okay.

—o—

Still among the French we come up none other than Pvt. Emery N. Vance who is hopefully loking forward to seeing some of the hometown gang. Says the towns around him are shot to hell and the homes are in one big mess.

—o—

Saying so long to Hugo Curitti and hello to John Bernhardt didn't leave much time for Pvt. Andy Brofcheck to brood over parting. Hopes to hear from Lt. Baric and Lt. S. Narick. Finds duty at four a. m. rather drowsy, but other wise everything's okay. Even the pretty WAC who invited him to the dance where he can have all the champagne he is able to hold. Would like some hard-to-get shoe polish.

—o—

Thanking the gang for their fine letters T/5 Robert A. Knapp sends the following poem by a member of the 101st Air Borne Division.

THE HILLS OF BASTOGNE

The crops should be full in Belgium next year
The soil should be fertile, but the price has been dear
The wheat should be red on the hills of Bastogne
For its roots have been drenched by the blood of our own
Battered and reeling we stand in their way
It's here we are, and here we will stay.
Embittered, wratchful, we watch our pals fall
God, where's the end, the end of it all?
Confident, and powerful they strike at our lines
But we beat them back—fighting for time
Beserk with fury they are hitting us now
Flesh against steel, we'll hold—but how?
For each day that we stay, more mothers must grieve
For each hill that we hold, more men must we leave.
Yes! honor the men who will some day come home,
But pray for the men 'neath the hills of Bastogne.

—o—

Aboard a minesweeper where West Virginia is well represented, Joe Crow EM 3/c, was happy to meet former Benwoodite, Harold Steinman and also Joe Letzelter of Warwood. Says hello to all the gang.

—o—

From England and Pfc. John J. Labos, Jr. come congratulations to Matt Polus for his fine letter as a new reporter for the Mail Bag.

—o—

Listening to a game of Tiddly Winks over the air would be far better than the football game Jack L. Morris SM 3-c heard. Mustabeen quite a game.

—o—

Trying his wings from the top of a German building Pfc. Circoloff now in England saw George Barton, one of the Glider boys. Hopes the guys on the front can enjoy some good meals soon as he knows how tired one gets of C rations. Lots of luck from the gang.

—o—

Missing his old 48th St. gang as all guys miss their old gangs, Jack J. Humphrey GM 3-c sure got a kick out of John English's poem. Says hi to all.

—o—

Pfc. Mike Kokai of the 15th Air Force finds Italy very nice and wet and muddy, which he claims always makes a guy look like a wet rat.

—o—

Skipping from Europe to India once again we find Sgt. Frank Raymond had a nice bull session with Pat Healy and they both agree India is a helluva place, so now Frank is hoping to run into Sgt. Albie Yanny and find out if he is on their side about India. Thanks for the paper.

—o—

Knowing the guys can all depend on the gang back home and the state of W. Va. Lt. John J. Robey, way down in the Netherlands East Indies, congratulates the entire staff for such a fine Club and sincerely hopes all plans for the future will be carried out. For without the aid of the Club many guys wouldn't be getting any mail, and feels he is speaking for the entire gang that it will be long remembered just as Pearl Harbor and World War II shall be. Our sincere thanks from the Club for the picture and your fine remarks.

Benwood Flood Disaster Com. Comes to Rescue

By Miss Anna M. Sabo

Just before the recent flood, Benwood decided to have a flood disaster committee. They called a meeting of the citizens of Benwood to form this committee. The following men were appointed: Paul Moran, chairman, Bill Bartlett, Vince Fordyce, co-chairmen. First ward, Bill James and Geo. Yarnevic; Second Ward. Mike Kostolich. Third Ward, Mayor Deegan. Fourth Ward, the co-chairmen; Fifth Ward, Tom Cerra.

So the week of March 5th the flood came to Benwood. It was up to this committee to assist those in the flood district that have boys or girls in the service as well as other needy citizens. The first thought was to get the people moved out before the flood came in. There were several volunteered to bring their trucks. They were: Henry Musilli, Ernest Liggett of McMechen and J. A. Sionaker, of McMechen, also a truck from the Prison with Prisoners helping with the work. Much credit must be given to the following men who worked tirelessly for thirty six hours, moving refrigerators, stoves, pianos, living room suites, either in their upstairs or to the city building or center Benwood school.

Other offering their assistance were: Herman Conti, Joe Zilka, George Ward, Edward Morningstar Jr., Louis Moser, Toney Pasikevich, Mike Fusco, William Kleineidler Jr., Mike Kostolich, Pete Moran, Vince Fordyce, Mike Moczek, Sam Raymond, Merle Huggins, Okey Boreman, Mike Ralbusky, Paul Zilka, also several prisoners from Moundsville, thanks to Warden Ketchum.

After that task was completed there was the soup kitchen to get ready to feed the needy people from the flood district. The soup kitchen was set up in the Fifth Ward Hose House which also was the temporary Police Headquarters. Many thanks and much credit should be given to the following women who also worked tirelessly making soup, sandwiches, spaghetti and coffee, plus rendering first aid. Mrs. Frankie Gandy, Mrs. Ethel McCormick, Mrs. Margaret Howard, Mrs. Berneda Yates, Mrs. Lillian McCellan, Mrs. Virginia Burch, Mrs. Margaret Steward.

Some of the children that lived in the flood district had to be housed, so sleeping quarters were set up in the gym at the high school. Beds were furnished by the Marshall County Red Cross through Mrs. Wodruff County Chairman. The following girls also worked tirelessly making beds, washing the children, tucking them in at night and seeing that they were fed. Miss Eileen Whittington, Miss Elvera Cerra, Miss Betty Burskey, and Miss Dorothy Ellison.

After the flood went down, the task was to move the furniture back into the homes, so the gang went to work again. Now everything is back to normal and everybody is happy, hoping that there will be no more floods.

Scouting News

During Boy Scout Week, Troop 76 sponsored by First Church of God, of McMechen, displayed a wooden model derrick. Not a nail was used in its construction, and the workmanship on this project was superb. It was built by Jack Schrumpf and William Rider, and they also built a model lean-to.

These were displayed in Leeds Confectionery window. In addition to this display, a weather vane, constructed by Cub Scout Kenneth Bartley Jr. was exhibited. It was also very well designed and constructed. Troop 83, of the Methodist Church, is plugging right along, and is contemplating much camping this summer. Troop 94 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Boggs Run, is on the ball as usual, and their popular Scoutmaster, Mr. Delford Ross, was awarded the Captain Foreman District award at the Huronuo's Council Annual Recognition Night.

Mr. Ross, most certainly deserved this award, as he has been very faithful in all his attendance to district meetings, and also conducted a swell camporee last spring. The Cub scouts of Troop 83 are growing by leaps and bounds, are holding their pack meetings every month, and what meetings they are. Full of fun, and the last meeting, they were given a nice talk by "Porky" Wilson, popular Marshall Countian. A kite flying contest is to be held the latter part of March, and Mrs. Charles Shcrumpf, Mrs. James Kasnic have volunteered as Den Mothers, and now have their dens meeting weekly in their cellars. Ken Bartley and Bob Stewart are up to their ears in work, keeping ahead of these hard-working den mothers, and everyone connected with this cub movement certainly deserve plenty of credit. And by the way, all you who are in the service, are at all times cordially invited to attend your troop meetings, because the present scouts are always anxious and glad to hear from former troop members . . . and by the way "Scouter" McKinney, of Troop 7 in Hawaii, how about a little exchange of correspondence and snapshots between your scouts and the scouts of McMechen.

Visiting Club

Sgt. William Howard, Sardinia.
Pvt. Frank Bernas, Hamilton Field, Calif.
Cpl. Louise Balgo, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.
Sgt. Emil Rykosky, Fort Belvoir, Va.
Cpl. Benny Carszinsky, Columbus, Ohio.
Yoe. Joseph Donovan, San Bruno, Calif.
Sgt. Earl Musilli, Dayton, Ohio.
T. M. John S. Downey, Baltimore, Md.
Pvt. Richard Mojzer, Ft. McClellan, Ala.
Mr. Victor J. Mojzer, Dayton, O
Pfc. Joseph L. Marsh, Kellogg Field, Mich.
Cpl. Steve L. Kramer, So. West Pacific.
Capt. Thomas Strganac, Italy.
S 2-c Charles D. Willison, Sampson N. Y.
S. C. 1-c Rocco P. Rich, Little Creek, Va.
Cpl. Joseph T. Renfro, England.
Cpl. Earsel C. Sole, Germany.
Cpl. Francis R. Pearl, Fort Moultrie. S. C.
Pvt. Elwood B. Hall, France.
Pfc. William W. Williams, Williamsburg, Va.
S-Sgt. Wesley J. Butts, P.O.W. Germany.
Pfc. Harry E. Groves, Dayton, O
Cpl. Frank Eberhart, Richmond Va.
Pfc. Ora Eberhart, Fort Lewis Wash.
S 1-c John S. Ramsey, Norfolk, V
S 1-c Jack Cunningham, So. West Pacific.
Cpl. Arthur S. Dunham, Brazil
F.O. William R. Withrow, Nashville, Tenn.
Cox. Albert "Buddy" Epifano, Mariana Islands.
Pvt. James Flading, Fort Meade Md.
Cpl. Francis J. Higgins, New Guinea.
Pfc. Henry Machine, Langley Field Va.
Sgt. Victor Cerra, Augusta, Ga.
Pfc. Thomas M. Crebs, France.
S 1-c John DeCrease, England.
Lt. Rudy Baric, France.
Lt. Mildred Gatts, Belgium.
Sgt. Argent Caviccia, Camp Shelby Miss.
Pvt. James C. Howard, France.
Lt. Charles A. Haislip, Camp Robinson, Ark.
S 2-c William E. Chalk, So. West Pacific.
Pvt. John P. Shimek, Butler, Pa.
S-Sgt. George (Dutchy) Sabo, Corsica.

TALES OF HOFFMAN

S/Sgt. Bob Hoffman, radio operator, recently returned from England after "completing his sight seeing tour" over France, Germany, the English Channel in a B-17, visited the club. He was interviewed by a lady Wheeling News-Register reporter. Did we ever feel sorry for that gal! Bob was scared to death and that is for sure. When she left, Bob, sort of eased off a bit, and said that that was one trip through flak alley, and you got religion and he didn't care who knew it. Bob visited the club frequently during his well-deserved furlough, and we certainly hope that when this darn war is over, that we will have more swell confabs—like we and Bob had.

RICH CARTOONS

"The ship was sailing the ocean blue," but there's something unique about this one. Fore, of the ship an overhead extension just wide enough for one sailor. He's very busy, for there are tomatoes, corn and beans ripening in his Victory platform of a Victory garden. He's whistling and hoeing, while his buddy and the Captain stand in awe. "Course," insists Rocco P. Rich's buddy to the Captain, "He insists on a Victory Garden, Sir." Yes, it's another one of Roccy's clever envelopes with the above picture.

Famous Sayings

"My son had to stop and discontinue Chemistry."

—o—

"I don't know whether my son is in the Infantry or in the Army."

—o—

"I'll break you in half!" (Apologies to "Oops.").

—o—

"One louzy piece of tin foil, and we lose the flag." (Apologizing to Sgt. Albie Yanny, now in India).

—o—

"No sir—I never put the limberger cheese in the radiators."

—o—

"As soon as my son manures a little bit, I'll send him to college."

—o—

"If United States declares war against Japan, Texas will too!"

—o—

"I got an invention to the the Wheeling Electric Cooking Dinner."

—o—

"We had a short circus in the armistice and I thought it was in the field, so we put cemetratin oil in the static."

—o—

"How many editorial votes did Roosevelt get?"

Can't say a lot of things, the censor's to blame;
Just say what I'm well, and sign my name;
Can't tell where we sail from,
Can't mention the date;
Can't even number the meals I ate.
Can't say where we are going, don't know where we'll land,
Can't even mention if met by a band.
Can't mention the weather, can't say if there's rain;
All military secrets they must remain.
Can't have a flashlight to guide me at night,
Can't smoke cigaretes, except out of sight;
Can't keep a diary, for such is a sin,
Can't keep the envelopes your letters come in;
Can't say for sure fellows, just what I can write,
So I'll call this a letter and close with "GOODNIGHT."

Sent by Paratrooper Dominick Basso from the Netherlands East Indies who has some 39 jumps and 3 missions.

FOXHOLE POETS

I wish that I could be a snake,
And travel wide, and far,
There's lots of things I'd like to know
And this is what they are.

I thought a snake was lower
Than a man or beast could be
Yet, Hitler comes along and takes
The pleasure from me.

The day will come just wait and see,
When Hitler meets his fate,
He'll be six feet below the ground
And lower than a snake.

(By S/Sgt. Reed Co. "D" 1st Bn. 330th Inf.)

1569 MAIL BAG

Published every 6 weeks by the 1569 Club of Benwood, McMechen and Boggs Run, as a token of our appreciation to the men and women who are now in the armed forces throughout the world Defending Our Liberty.

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