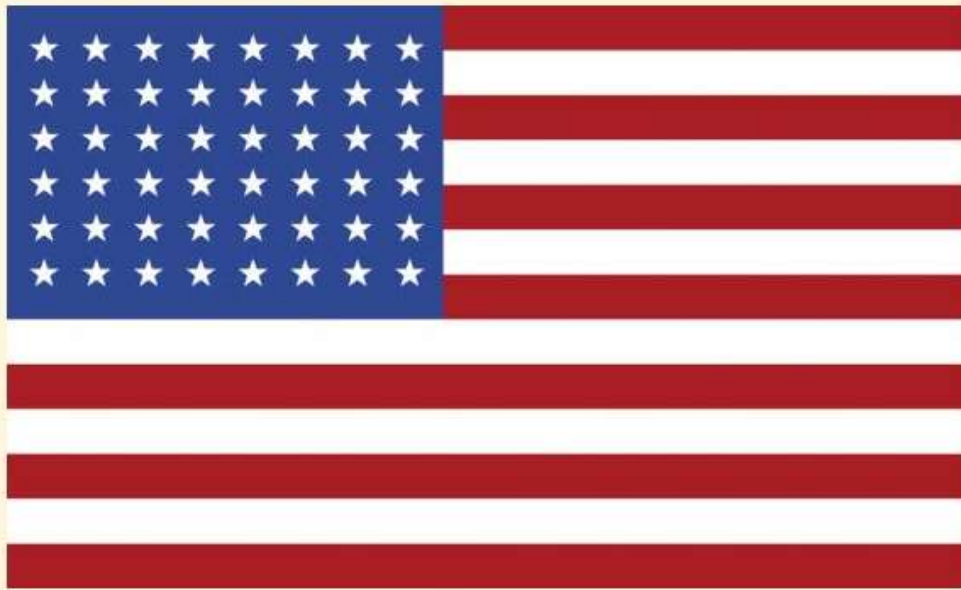


Letters Home



FROM OUR
**WORLD WAR II
COLLECTION**

LA CRESCENT AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The World War II Effort

During World War II, with many young men and women serving in the military, the La Crescent Community Club, a group of volunteers, created a newsletter to local men and women in military service. In return, the service men and women wrote back to the volunteers, sharing information that would be published in subsequent newsletters.

The newsletters, mailed monthly to 80 or more individuals, were written by a variety of people including Ed Hurley and Mrs. Georgia Fay, mother of Gordon and Hugh. Each newsletter recapped “hometown” events news from the service men and women. Not everyone on the mailing list sent a letter back, but the Community Club wanted all of them to feel closer to home.

At first, Community Club volunteers typed the newsletters on manual typewriters with layers of carbon paper to make copies. An “e” often looked like an “o” because the ink gummed up on the striking key. Eventually, local organizations stepped forward to offer their gestetner and ditto machines. Because of the war effort, volunteers did not use high quality paper, which eventually lead to many pages yellowing or the ink fading over the years.

1995 Exhibit

On the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Julie Zuehlke and a crew of volunteers assembled the newsletters and letters for an exhibit at Gittens-Leidel Post 595 American Legion. Because the letters were fragile, the volunteers re-typed each one in a uniform format. After the exhibit, Zuehlke donated her research and the work of the volunteers to the La Crescent Area Historical Society, where all of the letters and newsletters are archived.

2020

During the week of Veterans Day 2020, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the war’s end, the exhibit was displayed for the public in the Legion Room of the La Crescent Event Center.

Letters Home

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NOTE

The quality and readability of the newsletters vary. An “e” will often look like an “o” because the ink gummed up on manual typewriter keys and often needed cleaning. Because of the war effort, volunteers did not use high quality paper, so many pages have yellowed or the ink faded. At first, Community Club volunteers typed the newsletters with layers of carbon paper to make copies. Eventually, local organizations stepped forward to offer their gestetner and ditto machines.

Letters Home: Volume 2

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La Crescent, Minnesota
November 9, 1944

At the first fall meeting of the La Crescent Community Club it was decided that a news letter would be sent to all our boys and girls in the service. (Incidentally, 40 fellows and gals represent our town in the armed forces). By using the method of passing out slips of paper at the meeting, various and sundry types of news items were turned in, and we've tried to assemble them in an interesting manner for you. We may jump from one news flash to another, but bear with us for its all "the truth, the whole truth, and nothin' but the truth."

SPORTS NEWS: Just in case your sweltering in tropical heat of the S. W. Pacific, or clinging to your woolies in the Aleutians, or sleeping on crusty frozen ground in the European theatre, don't give up the ship because you can look forward to our typical beautiful fall seasons around La Crescent in the very near future. This year has been outstanding for lovely weather and the usual colorful artistry that Mother Nature always manages to display. On the first day of November we were all wearing light summer coats, no hats, mittens, goggles, etc., and no need for roaring furnace fires to date. To you hunters who are longing to be around here these days, reports state that game is very scarce this year - so cheer up, maybe the ducks are waiting for your return home to give you more of a chase during the season. Further sports news are that Walleyed pike are biting these days, and hunters are counting their shells for the deer season soon to open. Out where you fellows are hunting its open season year 'round, we understand, and we're hoping you "bag" plenty of those German and Jap birds that happen across your path. Along with our sports report comes news that the Rod and Gun Club has been reorganized with Nathan Randall as the new president. They sponsored a Halloween Dance at Carroll's October 30th.

For you former football enthusiasts and players - Central High School is the championship team to date with an undefeated record. They took Aquinas with a score of 26-20, and the City Championship game with Logan by a score of 13-0.

The bowling leagues are going "full blast", and the GOOD bowlers who are in the service are certainly missed. Art Gittons finally joined up and is learning to throw a mean ball. Says Art: "Must not be mean enough by the looks of my average." Time will tell.

GENERAL VILLAGE GOSSIP: From the romantic side, we make mention of Vic Leidel's marriage to Gladys Bevnton at the Cargil Home. They are living in the Leidel home, while Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leidel have purchased and moved into the John Welch home.

Clarence Votsch is doing a good job of operating the Tooterville Trolley, (The Riverside Bus Line) between La Crescent and La Crosse. Clarence has decided to name the streets of our town so that he can call his stops just like they do in the "big towns." Thus far he is calling the street running past the post office - Wilshire Boulevard, because of the similarity it bears to the boulevard of the same name in Los Angeles studded with palm trees. (Strictly corny humor). Any suggestions for avenue titles from you boys to Clarence will be appreciated.

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Our town has been flooded with rock dust for the past weeks because of the 77,000 yards of crushed rock that is being hauled from the Lautz hill to the French Island Airport. The nightly blasting of the rock roars throughout town giving the semblance of a bombing attack in our own back yard. We imagine, however, that the bombing you fellows are staging "over there" is a little more rugged and destructive than this mild stuff at home - eh?

La Crescent contributed \$285 to the annual War Fund drive. The civilian defense women conducted the drive, and while collecting money in their respective sections about town (there are six sections with three or more workers to a section) they brought the addresses of the people in service up to date. Just in case any of you want current addresses of some of your La Crescent friends, drop a line to the Community Club and we'll be glad to furnish you with this information. The surgical dressing fall allotment has been completed. La Crescent women have earned a reputation in Houston County for their excellent work along these lines. Bill Lockwood is well again and walking without the aid of a crutch or cane. He sends his "hello" to all of you out there. LeRoy Luther deals in second-hand cards and operates the vegetable and fruit stand "under the hill." Regarding the La Crescent night life, Carroll's and the Commodore are doing their usual thriving business accommodating people from La Crosse and surrounding area. The Commodore has added a new wing which will result in a larger dining room and kitchen.

REAL ESTATE CHANGES: A number of homes have been sold and people have been doing their fall moving getting settled for the on-set of winter. Ed Gittens sold his home to Leo Loechler's brother-in-law, and Ed bought the Leo ~~Bowman~~ house. Adrian Umberger sold his place to Miss Emma Schlabach and moved to Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Panke occupy the house and Mrs. Panko assists at the telephone office in place of Mrs. Umberger, who keeps house for Adrian. The Ames' sold their home to a Dr. Ashworth of La Crosse, and they have built a new house across from Harris' store. The Van Loon's bought a cottage at Eagle Bluff and have constructed it for year-round living. John Walters bought the George Farrell home in Pine Creek. He moved it on a lot across from the Justin place (the old Smith Wildwood) and sold it to Aloysius Corcoran. Bill Carroll bought the Yohe house, has modernized it and his mother will occupy one apartment. Henry Abnet, Jr. has made fine and extensive repairs on his house and has installed water and made sewer connections.

FURLOUGH NEWS: Walter M. Volk and Johnnie Volk have completed a furlough home; Hugh Fay finished his "boot training" at Great Lakes and spent a 9 day furlough in La Crescent. "Boobor" Gavin came home from the State of Washington to see brother Jack, who had completed his 60 European missions as a Gunner and came home to see his new daughter. Jack has since reported to Florida for re-assignment. George Davis had a 10 day leave and returned to Farragut to attend radio school for 20 weeks. The first lad to enlist from La Crescent, Albert Reider, who has been in every big engagement in the conquest of the South Pacific, was here on his first furlough in three years. Albert said that all the "kids" had grown up while he was away. He also stated that he wished his people lived here so that he wouldn't have to divide his time away from "the old home town." Albert was in 1st class condition and expected to go over season shortly. Lorraine and Roland Stellick both left for the Navy the 1st of October. Lorraine will be our first Wave representative from home. Donnie Loechler expects to enlist before he is 18 in March. Mrs. Paul Vidani, the former Lucille Hurley, is another war widow

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home waiting for her husband, Lt. Vidani, help clean up the streets of Toyko and hurry home.

FLASH: Here is a bit of news of a more tragic nature. On Wednesday, November 2nd, LeRoy Luther, while flying a plane from the La Crosse Airport, crashed on the vacant lot adjoining Orvie Wetzel's home. The accident occurred about 5:45 P. M. The cause has not been determined as yet, and LeRoy is presently at Grandview Hospital suffering from internal injuries.

Here is a little note found among those written at the Community Club: "Dear Soldiers: We hope and pray that you will be successful in winning this war, and that you will be back with us real soon." Guess - that just about expresses the sentiment from all of us home towners.

This letter has just been an initial experiment boys and girls, but if you enjoyed our amateur attempt at "snoop reporting", how about dropping a line to the Community Club and maybe we can make it a regular feature. And by the way, we'd like to have you tell us some bits of information concerning yourself so that we can pass it on to others. This edition has just contained the local small town "stuff" but maybe it passes along the thought to you that we're behind you and thinking of you all every minute - and waiting for that day when you can come back to liven up the old home town,

Best and sincerest wishes to you,

The Parent Community Club

December 7, 1944.

Dear Friends,

The first service letter, which we hope you all received, was read at the last Community meeting, as were the replies from some of the boys who seemed to be glad to get a Community letter and asked for more. So you see something has been started. If some of you do not receive the news letter, remember many of you are like the irrepressible flea--"put your finger on him and he ain't there, go where he is and he's gone." We asked for items then and since, and here they are. One is as follows:"You should have seen the pleased expressions and heard the applause when the return letters were read at the November meeting. We think those replies came P.D.Q. Thanks fellas -they made us glad."

The meeting itself had some interesting developments. It was decided to ask for the free Traveling Libraries from the State, and to make an effort to have movie films shown occasionallyRev.Kroonmeyer, the Presbyterian Minister in the village, gave a very fine and inspiring talk using as his subject, "My Youth in Holland." The community singing was especially good.As village clerk, Ed Hurley brot some interesting notes on village business, extracts from which are given as follows:

In 1939 the village was bonded:

For water ---\$27,000@ 3%

For sewerage *--\$ 18,000@ 2½%

Sewerage bonds are retired each year in the amount of \$2000. \$8000 has been paid to date. Water bonds have \$3000 yet to be paid. The revenue from 131 water connections does not meet the expense of operation. Some income is derived from sewage assessments and taxes, but the bulk comes from the several licenses which total close to \$3000 A year. The water service has, however materially lowered insurance rates. Ed also reported 394 votes cast at the November election, 12 of which were service voted. The village election on Dec. 5 is for an almost complete set of Officials. The death of Mr. John McCaffrey on Nov. 3 leaves that office vacant, and Mr. Thos McCaffrey refused to file. Miss Kathrine McCaffrey has filed for Treasurer.

AROUND THE VILLAGE.

Mr. Jim Gillespie is home again from the hospital.Walter Stoehr is now at home permanently and is-tender on the Milwaukee Ry. bridge with Merle Wilsey and Wm. Vetch on the other shifts.Roger (Rochester) Olson is now working for the Western Union Telegraph system over the Milwaukee lines.The addition to the Commodore is completed and the grand opening is to be Dec. 5.The Vetch family have their share in the news. Lillian, you know, has married a soldier and her name is now Richmond. Bill's wife is hospitalized and Mrs. Clarence has been ill for some time following a tonsillectomy. The grandmother, Mrs. Louise Vetch, attained the age of more than 97 years before her death on November 29. ... Mrs. Gittens, the elder, celebrated her 80th birthday Nov. 14 with 5 children, 23 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren about her. "Doc. didn't get here. He was busy reading poetry, extracts from which explain

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cars for his Uncle. Bob holds a Civilian Pilot's license also.

More News of our Service men.

Lads on furlough just now are Robert Stocker, Bill Richardson and Roland Stellick. Rob't has been at Camp Gruber and is a Ts. Bill got in while they scraped the barnacles from his boat, and is now a Petty Officer lc- looks fine- bigger than ever- has seen and been places. Rollie has finished his 'boot' at Great Lakes- likes the service- will be sent to engineering school. His sister Lorraine from Hunter, was shipped direct to San Francisco where she types at the Fleet Postoffice. Esther Onsgaard joined the Waves. Harold Broring sent home a captured German flag, and coins from various European countries where he has been. Robert Boehm, wounded in Belgium, an inmate of English, Mass. and Kentucky hospitals will be permitted to spend Christmas at home. Jim Griffin is in a hospital in Italy, and would like letters. Pfc Arthur Oldenburg says Hawaii reminds him of home, and that on his way to the Philippines he saw two Jap planes shot down. On being transferred from Keesler Field, Miss. to Warner-Robins Field, Ga. Don Fay was given a "delay enroute" and came up on Nov. 14 to marry a girl whom he met in Milwaukee while at Radio School two years ago- Miss Beatrice Fuiske. Don is in Radar with the Army Air Corp.

Sport News

Everyone who went deer hunting bagged their game. Among those were Leon Luce, Roland Daley & Wm Carroll- Carl Bahr and Billy Farrell- Ken Shepardson with Rolland and Boma boy. Mr Grover looked for bear in Canada and had the rare treat of seeing 15 or more Whistling Swans. The bear was here on Nigger Nathan Hill and some Wisconsin hunter bagged him. Deer, in quite large numbers have been killed during the season in woods and swamps around La Crosse and Tomah territory. One buck weighed close to 300 lbs. Fruit growers still complain of damage to trees by wild deer. Sparce hunting of ducks etc, in this region continued with some mild excitement. Don Loechler and Wayne Lottes couldn't tell time by the sun, according to the game warden- and Dynamite like McGintz- explored the "bottom of the sea" till brought back to this world of sorrow by two other hunters.

They say the women bowlers are still going to town! Betty Gavin's team is still in the lead with 15 wins and only 6 games lost. Mrs Daugherty heads another team. She has at present gone North with her husband, who with Ray Mattson, has moved to a job at Detroit Lakes. George Stellick lost a part of a finger while lifting a bumper caught on his car, and that he'd have to learn to bowl left handed. Skoogy says he's glad he didn't lose his whole finger. His first bowling since the accident netted him a 173 average. Webster had 170, Morbison 169, Wittenberg 170, and Cabbot 168.

The Ladies his is- Morrison 15 Win 12 lose; Gavin with 11 Win 16 lose; B. Gavin 17 Win 10 lose; Daughtery 11 win 16 lose. While among the men, are as follows:- Stellick 18-15-545; Morrison 12-21-369; Webster 15-18-455; Wittenberg 17-16-515; Oldenburg 20-13-606; Loecher 18-15-545; Schwartz 12-21-364; Kelly 20-13-606. Fritz Pilger had 235 the other night, but still the team, Morley (grandpa) Webster lost by 72 pins. A tournament is being planned at the middle of the season. A note handed the committee said Farrel made two splits recently, which was really good.

Editorial

Among the one hundred greatest poems of the world is one written many hundreds of years ago and could be La Crescent's Song,

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beginning " I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help" We spoke in our last letter of the beauty of the Autumn hills. How the demand for crushed lime rock for the French Island airport had caused constructors to lift their eyes to the Lantz hill quarry. Now their desires have taken them up the South Ridge Hill and rock will be hauled all winter, by forty-five trucks.

It was the hills that gave La Crescent its name as they form a curve around the plateau on which the village is built. On these hills the first crocuses and anemones and "Dutchman's Britches" were found- where the boys of all time have tracked fox and other game. Where they have played pirate and other desperado games at the cave on Stony Point tracked Bold Eagle on the bluff North of town- skied and sledged on the steepest spots.

In 1854 John I Harris raised his eyes to the hills, and chose a farm among them where he followed his profession of gardener and horticulturist, the beginning and most profitable and interesting industry in the neighborhood. As a boy, his grandson D.C. Webster, followed him about and absorbed his interest and enthusiasm, later developing extended acreage on the hills into orchards. Followed by a number of growers whom you will enjoy recalling. The soil, climate and terrain have all combined to make this the number one fruit section of the middle West.

"D.C." has helped to make this letter to you possible by meeting the financial expense.

We may not measure up to your vision of home as you see it now- but we carry on from here with our thoughts for your safety now and your safe return to the home base which we will do our best to keep fit for that coming. Be see'n you!

To The "Byes"--

In this third letter to community men in the service, we will try to bring ourselves up to date from December 1.

wh The village election on "the first Tuesday after the first Monday" which was the 5th, 93 votes were cast. Officers for 1945 are:

Ma Mayor-----J. A. Lilly
 Trustees----August Schwarz
 Ed Hasselbusch
 Ed Gittens Sr.
 Treasurer---Katherine McCaffrey
 Assessor----Thomas McCaffrey
 Clerk-- ----Ed Hurley
 Constable---Jim Farroll
 Justice of
 Peace-----Charles Gittens

The village council is zoning the village for business and residence districts.

On the 7th another of our grand "old-timers", Mr. "Jim" Gillespie, departed. Probably none of us had a greater capacity for, nor loved work more than he----He had built up a constitution and love of life that resisted the inroads of time for many months.

December has been a more encouraging month for Mr. Vern Yolton. He has been a generous contribution to the income of hospitals for some time. Since being in Rochester he makes some gain slowly. Ralph Welch serves his mail route meanwhile.

Early in the month, Vinnie Cook left for South Dakota for the winter--- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Liedel went out to Portland to visit Pouchie and Elizabeth. Dorothy Brown came home from Minneapolis for the holidays*****Betty Gavin gave a dinner party for some girl friends** ****Orvie Bob Wetzel entertained at dinner one evening ~~he~~ he went to the Lutheran Hosp. for some surgery. He is still there but doing O. K. Too much football for Orvie Bob.

June Newhouse celebrated the holiday season with a new baby daughter, and word reaches us that Santa Claus brought Sgt. John Waldow a son!!!

Christmas and New Year celebrations were decidedly on the quiet, family-gathering side. Several children's programs were given. The school presented theirs in the afternoon this year. A notable family gathering was at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Willard Luce on the 26th--observing their fifty-year wedding anniversary. Eight of their children and the grand-children made up the large party*****The favorite indoor sport of the majority of youngsters has been a bout with the mumps----some of the oldsters have had their fun with them too, and, if you recall, it's no laughing matter. Outdoor fun has been the usual skiing--mostly on Eagle Bluff--skating, of course, and sliding has been thrilling on the Vollenweider hill road, though the young fry like the short, steep, shoots through the orchards west of town. Missing the track and barking young trees and a potential barrel of apples, bring grief to both grower and the apples-to-be.

We've had our share of winter weather--sometimes 6 or 8 degrees below zero. Wonderful winter skies, clear with a gorgeous moon--the same old canopy over us all. We've had some snow--some slippery weather. Country roads continue to be icy.

Mr. Fred Heil is confined to a hospital with a hip fracture caused by a fall on the approach near Maurice Cramer house. A few hours later Miss Ellen Vetsch fell at the same treacherous place, and broke her left wrist. La Crosse hospitals treated many fractures at that time.

Crushed-rock-to-the-airport hauling was suspended. Frost was too severe on drills****Navigation on the river is closed. Bridge tenders Merle Wilsey and Walter Stoehr have been transferred to the Milwaukee Railroad round house until spring.

Everybody works. Space forbids listing the names of all the women here who are at defense plants. Farmers mainly work harder than ever. They have uncomplainingly met the call for increased production despite lack of the usual man-power assistance. As no restriction on the number of hours a farmer should work exists, they are like the lad who was bringing in the forty milk cows from pasture at 6 A. M., after having said farmers worked about the same number of hours as on jobs in town. He said they only had to get the chores done first.

December 17 the Presbyterian congregation observed the 85th anniversary of the organization of the church. At the service, flags--national, Christian, and service; and new stained glass windows were dedicated.

The sixth war loan quota for the village was met and went over the top. The Catholic congregation played Bingo in the basement of the rectory to buy War Bonds.

Mr. & Mrs. Reider spent Christmas with Windy's family--drove down by car. Maza is a young lady. She works after school at a Minneapolis hospital as a nurse's aide. Toughy has grown a lot--enjoyed the skating with kids he had known. Mrs. Reider told of Albert who is now at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina where he works on communications. We see by the papers that on his way back from Warm Springs, Ga. F. D. R. stopped at Le Joun. (We assume, to call on Albert.....and why not???!!!). Windy is at Shoemaker in fire control training.

We had a few furlough lads here during the month. Ken Yeiter from Ft. Benning****Jack Gavin came on a forty-hour pass from Buffalo, N. Y. to spend Christmas. Jack is doing mechanics on troop carrier planes.****Rolly Stellick came from Great Lakes for Christmas with home folks****Robert Boehm is having a real time around town****Jim Richardson returned from the South Pacific--one of about eighty gunners who will receive advanced training after a visit at home. Jim says he was stumbling through the jungle one day and came face to face with Eddie Amos!!! Sensation****Jim Griffin is back in the states, hospitalized at Foster General Hospital, Jackson, Miss.****Rudy Newhouse arrived in New York by plane just recently and will be assigned to Borden General Hospital, Chickasaw, Oklahoma. Jim has arthritis--Rudy was wounded.

Christmas letters to his mother came from Bob McLaughlin in Belgium. Mrs. McLaughlin also had a note from Ireland written by a friend of Bob's****Ralph Kathan was in the Mariannas where they were building their own hospital. We recall when Albert Reider wrote they were contracting the furnishing for their U. S. O. somewhere out there.****When Gord Fay went to Jacksonville, it was a new base and he got a lot of fun out of throwing in with the Sea Bees on the construction of his special devices building. When it came to installing the equipment for the building it was another story--really work! Fog has held up flight training there lately. Unusual cold has prevailed in the southeast for recent weeks****Dan Webster is in Hawaii in air-plane repair. His letters to his aunt, Mrs. Mark Smith, are full of enthusiasm for his work in an orchestra.****Myron Waldow made port at San Francisco, and was able to see Lorraine Stellick before coming home.

SPORT NEWS--On the second Tuesday of each month the Rod and Gun Club meets at Carroll's Hall. At the December 12th meeting Dr. John Greenbank from the Wisconsin Department of Conservation of Fish and Game spoke on a plan to stock the Mississippi River. Bill Roesler was chef. He served a supper of roast coon and delicious venison stew. About 30 of the more than 50 members were present. Wm. Lathrop was made secretary, Glen Eyler, vice-president. Nathan Randall presided. Theodore Jansen shot a wolf lately on the Walter McArthur farm. One evening a deer stepped down the street past John Gerde's house.

COMMUNITY CLUB--Your community is made up of approximately 200 homes a population of about 900. There is a school, four churches, a number of organizations for various purposes. The community club functions without any special aims, required no dues. Everyone in the neighborhood is a part of the club, with a right to what it has to offer, to assist in its activities. Each month a different group plans, arranges and presents the entertainment. This year, the committees are made up, almost entirely, of people who have not done this before. The groups who serve coffee, add to the enjoyment of the evenings. On December 18th the girls of the 7th and 8th grades did themselves proud in a group of songs. Hollis Papenfuss played violin numbers. Several ladies from the La Crosse Chap. of the Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic, came and presented the club with a fine new flag with staff and standard. Pres. Hurley graciously acknowledged the gift. Mr. Wm. Godtl was the evening speaker. Recently he built an attractive home an addition to the village. He is connected with the Allis-Chalmers plant in La Crosse, his work taking him into the field for his firm in their efforts to provide efficient farm implements. He has spent much time in South America and talked interestingly of the country of Colombia.---Others who add to the interest of the meetings and help to attract a full house are you men many miles away. Everyone wants to hear read the splendid letters received each month from some among you. Any word from anyone of you will be gratefully and happily received. A personal reply to each letter received goes from our president Ed. Hurley.

MORE LA CRESCENT HISTORY--Nearly a century ago, two young men went to the Choctaw nation in Oklahoma, one as a missionary, the other sent by the U. S. Govt. To teach the Indians farming and gardening. Malaria forced them to leave the territory. In 1858, Sheldon Jackson came to La Crescent where he organized the Presbyterian church and began his first pastorate. Among the friends he persuaded to come here was Edmund Evans, whom he had known in the territory. Mr. Evans took up farming here eventually developing the small fruit culture. Thus began the profitable red raspberry industry here. It has spread from the obscure beginning at the "Silver Tower" on South Ridge, through the community to "Fruit Acres" on North Ridge. Fruit Acres is owned by Mr. August Schwarz. Both Mr. & Mrs. Schwarz are interested in the welfare of their community and are serving it in numerous ways. "Augie" goes to Caledonia each Monday to serve on the Fuel Rationing Board. He assists in the various War Fund drives from this part of the county while "The Mrs." is a member of the County Red Cross Committee, The Child Welfare Board and local Red Cross Home Service Chairwoman. We are indebted to Mr. Schwarz for the means by which this letter is made possible.

Happy Landing's!

Your Community

Flash!!! As we "go to press"--the following bulletin has just been handed in, as Jack Martin says:

Thursday night (Jan. 4) the big bowling tournament was played off. This was the first half--the second will be played some time in April. Ninety dollars in prize money was distributed as follows:

High three game singles---Bullock 618 \$10.00
Next high---Orr 580 \$5.00

High Single Game---Morley Webster 224 \$5.00
Next High---Dick Kabot 222 \$3.00

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There are eight teams in the men's league.

Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Handicap	Total	Prize
	9					
Stellick	980	978	1055	297	3310	\$16.00
Oldenburg	1054	965	949	305	3261	12.00
Wittenburg	919	939	960	330	3140	10.00
Morrison	894	819	886	458	3037	8.00
Schwarz	790	869	873	504	3036	6.00
Loechler	939	889	782	375	2985	5.00
Webster	717	953	900	375	2945	5.00
Hokah	908	926	797	312	2943	5.00

Joe Gittens is president of the league this year, Ernie Fowler, secretary, treasurer.

Hi Ya Fellows:

Here we are again--this month of January--with our staff scouting up all the local gore, and sending it to all corners of the wide world. We at home feel pretty optimistic about the present war set-up. Looks like you G. I.'s with an APO New York address will soon be carrying out the threat in that popular tune, "There'll Be a Hot Time In The Town of Berlin." And to you FPO San Franciscan's, we hope at least one of our home-towners will have made a triumphal walk around the streets of Manilla by the time this edition reaches you. Just let us know in case it's you!!

Since it is soon the day of valentines, one local Miss submitted the following thought for your approval:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
With you fellows all gone--
What's a poor girl to do?

And here is still another poetical submission:

Roses are red,
Coal is black.
Get out of those fox-holes--
And hurry back.

It has been suggested that both young things join the Lonely Hearts Club-- it might ease the situation temporarily.

Returning to that old worn-out but always flexible subject, the weather, might we state here that January came through with flying, howling, colors, and left most of us blue (mentally and physically) quite a bit of the time. It growled, snapped, and shizzed as only Minnesota can, during the first month of 1945, and then to our disgust, Mr. Groundhog forcefully announced that we'd have six more weeks of the same.

Breaking down the hometown folklore into sections, we list first the recent elections that started out with the new year. The Pine Creek Valley Telephone Company elected Ed Hurley, President, Paul Aronson, Vice President, and Ernie Fowler, Secretary-treasurer. The company was organized in 1928 with 28 subscribers and has grown to its present capacity of 167 subscribers. The La Crescent State Bank posted these names as the results of its election: Henry W. Leidel, President, Frank Ormsby, Vice President, Jerry Lilly, Cashier, and Katherine McCaffery, Assistant Cashier. The new directors are listed as: Jerry Lilly, L. L. Atkinson, and Henry Bey. The bank serves the territories of Dakota, Dresbach, and Hoekah, and has at present \$1,000,000 in resources.

The January 15th meeting of the Community Club presented an interesting program. From the musical department, Mrs. Godtel, Lark Donald, and Mrs. Yolton came forth with a bit of good harmony; Patty Knapp and two of her friends from Aquinas High, Sandy McGinnis and Alicia Briesky, gave a baton demonstration. They performed in their brief, swishy satin uniforms, and some of the young men in the audience, whose names we will not mention, but confidentially, whose initials are Larry Cavens, Ronald Shepardson, and Robert Justin, were hardly able to contain themselves. Ah young manhood!! Harold Krugimire furnished a movie projector and ran off two films, one concerning the process of synthetic rubber and a second on the conservation of wild life. Both were furnished by Firestone Company with which Harold is affiliated.

Mr. Ezra Hartl, Director of La Crosse recreational facilities, gave an interesting talk on his field of work, and made suggestions for engaging the activities of young people during their leisure time. But really fellow--need it be emphasized again---the highlight of our monthly meetings is the reading of letters received from you out there. Interesting notes were read from Lt. Donald Yolton, who is in the Dutch East Indies. He told us a bit about his daily life, living conditions there, etc., which is always so new and interesting to us at home. Jim Griffin dropped us a line from Jackson, Mississippi, where he is hospitalized with arthritis. Sgt. La Vane Boehm's letter said that he is located in the Phillipines, so we're assuming that he's a busy little sergeant these days. George Davies dropped us a short and snappy note saying simply that he "got the news letter, it was swell, and keep up the good work." Might we reciprocate on your remark, George, to "keep up the good work"---we understand that your recent 1945 addition "Michael Davies" is a pretty handsome guy.

Just a bit more comment about these letters that are read at each meeting of the Community Club--don't think just because you've written once that that is enough. With the roving lives you are leading these days, we are always glad to learn of your new locations, the food you're eating, the climatic conditions, etc. From one local G. I. we learned that the secret of keeping down the K-rations is to swallow faster than you burp! Maybe some of you could second that.

From the "New Citizens" department, La Crescent has been flourishing in full strength. David Vern Yeitor is the most important individual in Lois and Bud's household today. He arrived in the community January 7th equipped with a healthy head of black hair. We have already mentioned George Davies' new son, Michael. S/Sgt. and Mrs. Wilbur Hanson (Joan Gittens) have added Wilbur Mark to their household. Sgt. Hanson is overseas. John Waldow's wife brought their month old son to La Crescent for the grandparents' 100% approval. Grandpappy Waldow has been spreading tall tales about how he and grandson have long midnight walks and talks, but we think he crossed his toes when he told that one. John is currently on transfer from New Mexico to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Another La Crescent lad, Eddie Gittens, received the same transfer from his Indiana post. His wife and son are also in town until the two boys have located housing facilities.

From the vacation and travelogue section, two FBI'ers have been home recently. Molly McClave from the seat of the government where she is doing her bit for the war effort in the fingerprint division of the Dept. of Justice. Another of Edgar Hoover's efficient but "silent" stenographers, Leon Oldenburg, spent a weekend here from the Twin Cities, where she is employed in the St. Paul Field Division.

Mrs. Griffin enjoyed her recent trip to Jackson, Mississippi, where she visited son Jim. Alfred "Chick" Tourville flew to Oklahoma to see Rudy Newhouse. Seems that "Chick" walked into the large hospital ward and shouted: Rudy Newhouse. You can imagine Rudy's complete surprise as he turned to see an old home townor standing at the door. Rudy uttered that famous old saying that comes quickest to the masculine mind. "Why Chick, you old (censored). Rudy will be hospitalized for some time because of shattered bone in the upper left arm. He has been awarded the Purple Heart.

Other travelers of the month were the John S. Harris' who attended a grocers convention in Minneapolis. Stanley came home from the University during this time to conduct the business while they were away.

Other Twin City callers were D. C. Webster and Henry Leidel who attended Farm Week events at the University. At this point, we might add that Mr. and Mrs. Leidel spent the holidays in Portland, Oregon, where they visited their two daughters and various Oregonian fruit sections. Upon interview Henry stated, that while he had a grand time, "this is the only place God hadn't needed to improve."

Among social events was the card party sponsored by the Gopher Sportsman Club January 31st at Carrolls. One of the functions of this organization is to supply grain for the wild game. However, the purpose of this party was to add a few more dollars to a fund being held in reserve to throw a big feed for you fellows when you all return home. Sportsmanlike, dontcha think??

On Sunday afternoon, January 28th, residents saw a plane circle about the slough south of the causeway, and finally land on the ice. Bud Yeiter was having himself a field day with his Cub plane, equipped with skis, giving future airmen a whirl for a buck each. Weather permitting, Bud said he'd be back.

Other organization news concerns the La Crescent Girl Scout Troop. The girls meet each Monday night except the night of community club. There are 18 members at present and their leaders are: Mrs. Bill Lathrop (Rose Oldenburg), Mrs. Ann Randall, Mrs. Wm. Zumach and Mrs. Irvin Harlos. Here's a happy insertion for the serviceman who recently wrote and asked if there were any girls left in town--we refer you to the above number of Girl Scouts to date. Hope that builds up your morale, Irvin Vetsch, they grow fast, you know.

Some of the young lads about town have taken out memberships with the La Crosse YMCA and are enlarging their biceps twice weekly on basketball, swimming, etc. We don't know if all this effort is to make them more irresistible to the Japs or gals!

From the furlough news department, several familiar faces were welcomed home this past month. Francis Walter, a Maine son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walter of La Crescent Township, was home after seeing service at Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan. Esther Onsgard graduated from the hospital corps school at Bethesda, Maryland, January 22nd. She spent a furlough here looking very smart in her blue Wave uniform. She reported at Corona, California, February 3rd. As we are rolling this off the press we notice the Navy clad figure of Rolly Stellick home for the weekend. February 14, Don Fay, Eddie Gittons, Jim Richardson, and Myron Waldow left for their various bases after short furloughs. Here are a few general notes regarding local servicemen. Harold Rinkel is now at home with a physical discharge because of a broken knee cap. Harold was a member of the armed forces for two and a half years and liked the service so well that he wouldn't mind being called back. Lloyd Kaston is presently in Italy. We learned that Eddie Ames had another stripe added to his uniform. Ed, a Marine, is now a Technical Sergeant. John Spangler was called to the Marines January 24th. He has gone to Paris Island, S. C. for his initial training. Dallas Ames is in the process of overseas service, and Lorraine Morrison Peterson's husband, Paul, has been overseas since Nov. Janet Mc Clave's rating is now Ph. M. 3/C. She is located at Shoemaker, Calif. Wayne Herten writes from Belgium that he is billeted at times in old barns or warehouses, but he is often a guest of a Belgian family who treat him royally.

Another news item states that Mrs. Gillespie's son James, a Sea Bee in the South Pacific, is in a hospital from an injury. He writes that because of the climate in that area wounds heal slowly. Donald Frappier is serving as a gunner aboard the S. S. Yorktown, which is the large flat-top featured

in the current combat movie, "The Flying Lady."

As mentioned previously, most of the news we relay to you monthly is gathered via passing the hat at each Community Club Meeting. We would just like to say here that Mrs. Hartman, one of La Crescent's oldest residents, has never once neglected to drop in a note to the boys wishing them happiness and good welfare.

Right about here we think it is high time to throw a couple of orchids to the staff, who have maintained this letter each month. This work is all voluntary, of course. The Chairman, Georgia Fay, has really carried most of the weight connected with each edition. Mrs. Fay receives the up-to-date addresses of you boys from the Civilian Defense women by means of a door to door canvass. Betty Broring and Lucille Hurley Vidani lend their stenographic ability for the project, and Rev. Britz has furnished the mimeograph machine and his aid when it is needed. Mrs. Boodecker has been Johnny-on-the-spot to help address envelopes whenever she is called. A high school typist, Marion Zumach addressed the envelopes for this letter.

And while we're handing out orchids here's an extra-special one for the local men's bowling league who have financed this edition. We thought you might like to be refreshed on the teams so we're listing them for you as they stand this season:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| (1) Stolliek--captain
H. Paponfuss
P. Bullock
J. Farrell
J. Gittens | (2) Oldenburg--captain
A. Orr
G. Eylor
E. Waldow
R. Kabot
H. Vollenwieder | (3) Wittenburg--capt.
D. Olson
C. Richardson
P. Knapp
H. Krugaire
H. Vetsch |
| (4) Morrison--captain
E. Fowler
R. Panke
A. Gittens
O. Wetzol
A. Grob | (5) Schwarz--Captain
N. Randall
W. McCaffery
E. Voglan
C. Vetsch
L. Luce | (6) Loochler--capt.
E. Gittens
Rev. Britz
W. Vollenwieder
G. Klotzke
H. Riobold
F. Grover |
| (7) Webster--captain
Pilgor
E. Hazelbush
M. Hickenbotham
B. Vetsch
R. Sonn | (8) Kelly--captain
Britt
Fairbanks
L. Ender
A. Ender | |

As a wind-up of thought, we read this bit of garnish concerning our fighting men: "The Russians fight for the Seviet Union; the English fight for the United Kingdom, and the Americans fight for the hell of it"--How about that????

Our goodbye and good wishes, and how about dropping us a line. Just address it to the Community Club.

Until Next Time,

your Community

CALLING ALL SERVICEMEN! CALLING ALL SERVICEMEN!

This is your L C C O station calling all servicemen and women from this Community. WARNING! All roads leading through village in icy condition--use precaution--driving hazardous. The groundhog made good his threat, and also made the front page. Everybody talks about the WEATHER! We had nine inches of snow, night of February 3. Eight more February 19, 20, and 21. Between times the mercury would go to 40 degrees or thereabouts, thaw, turn cold, freeze, and do it all over again.

It did not, however, keep people from attending the Community Club on the 18th; there was a record crowd. Entertainment was offered by two High School girls, Shirley Nelson at the piano, and Eleanor Johnson with the violin. The proposed movie plans took form. Films were obtained from the University of Minn. and the new Farm Bureau agent, Mr. Hanson, brought the projector from Caledonia and operated it. Lunch was served from Carroll's under the direction of Mrs. L. W. Webster assisted by Marie and Florence Mintemann, Bessie Betts, and Mrs. Helemar Anderson.

A letter is sent each month to Billy Carroll, a one time La Crescent boy, now a Yeoman 2/c on Midway. Billy won a name for himself at Logan and La Crosse State Teachers College, in band work, basketball, and football. It was in acknowledgment for letters sent that Mr. Carroll extended the courtesy of the lunch.

We are pleased to send a letter also to Bob Roessler whose father requested it and made a contribution to finance them. Bob played football for Aquinas and spent a great deal of time in La Crescent. He is now a S K 2/c on the U. S. S. Massachusetts.

At the meeting, letters were read from LaVerne Cass, Joe Hodge, and Arnie Ender. Arnie didn't tell too much, but gave the censor a sly nudge. However, we do know that for the first few days after he reached the Marianas he spent most of the time dodging the overhead visitors. After that eighteen to twenty hours of work each day left little time for what the Japs were up to. The amphibious command and the Marines undertook to remedy the matter and are cleaning up the Lidie-hole of the little men on adjacent Iwo, relieving the tension on the Marianas. LaVerne Cass wrote he was trying to see all he could of Hawaii but couldn't tell us about it. Joey Hodge wrote a nice V-Mail letter saying he had been ill but was better and working in a hospital in France. Joe was trained in Texas; on entering the service was placed in the Medical Corp. He drove an ambulance through the African campaign, driving nights because it was too hot in the day time, and then as the fighting got even hotter, he drove both night and day. He later drove in Egypt, then Italy. Here Joe makes his little joke; He saw Nice and it was nice! He also spoke of seeing his old friend of the days when they affected gay cowboy outfits, namely Lester McClynon, whom he ran across in Italy. Joe expressed the wish that he might be where he could help take care of Jim Griffin. Rudy Newhouse had also written a fine letter but being present himself he granted an interesting personal interview instead. Rudy is home for thirty days. Jim

Jim Carson is home on leave; also two Ammerman boys who are newcomers here--but you may know of the family. Gerald Schwarz is also here. Dan Webster arrived from the Hawaiian Islands for thirty days. Lorraine Stellick is to have a first leave soon. The Brorings expect both Ralph and Fritz who was badly wounded in Europe and is still confined to a hospital in Texas. George Davies family are awaiting his arrival, and we think Jim Griffin is on his homeward way. Captain Lawrence Nysosky, wounded in France, is in Baxter General Hospital, Spokane, Wash. Staff Sergeant Harley Greenwood, brother of Mrs. Howard Papenfuss, has been on a twenty-one day stay, after completing thirty-five missions as a ball-turret gunner in France. He is reporting to Santa Ana for reassignment. A brother, Marvin, is a German prisoner, last heard from October 23. He was then in a concentration

camp at Belgard on the Baltic Sea. Since our last letter, Walter Wolk, Dallas Ames, and Kenny Yeiter have been sent into the fracas, and Hugh Fay started on his way across.

A note taken from a Chapel Hill, North Carolina paper states that Joseph H. Whitfield has been given the Bronze Star for "Meritorious Achievement in Combat." Master Sergeant Whitfield is the husband of Myrtle Wuest Whitfield of our village.

We understand the work or fight agitation is to bring about some changes here too. Howard Papenfuss, Fritz Pilger, Gerald Welch, Harold Krugmire, Bob Wallace, and William McCaffery have had their notices from the Selective Service Board. Bill McCaffery has resigned from Pepsi-Cola, and is working in a foundry. Gerald Welch and Fritz Pilger went to St. Paul for their pre-induction physicals. Donny Loechler enlisted in the Navy on the 13th. His folks held open house at the Commodore in his honor. School friends, the village kids, and the Bowling League members enjoyed dancing and lunch. February 18 Donald was Petty Officer of the squad of volunteers for the Navy who went to Milwaukee for induction. He is now on twenty-four call.

REAL ESTATE NOTES!

Property owners are on the increase; the Bob Panke's have bought two lots adjoining the Ormsbys property on the west. Jim Farrell bought land west of them and moved a house which he had purchased on South Pettibone. Some people from La Crosse, Shaw by name, bought Lewis Lenke's house on Pine Creek and moved it to a lot between Mrs. Vix and the Burton Mach's (Katherine Oldenburg). Lois and Bud Yeiter have bought the lot adjoining their home on the west. Happy Hill has purchased two lots in the Handorf addition and will move his house adjoining the tavern in Hokah to this village.

The much vaunted "Man Power Shortage" is no myth; it just isn't possible to do all that should be done. Materials are short too, but necessity keeps a weather eye out for the main chance and things progress. We have one standby whom is always dependable. The water mains are faithfully flushed, and the sidewalk crossings are always kept free from snow. All the odd "city" jobs are done without ostentation, and Orvie has made the sewage plant grounds a thing of beauty. As you see home here in your mind's eye, plan the things you can do when you get back to make your town beautiful and attractive. Now if the whole area between the Government refuge and the railroad tracks was filled in and converted into a Park, wouldn't that be a handsome approach, and an attractive addition, to the village? Historic too-- the first building in La Crescent was a trading post at the spring down there.

THE VILLAGE GOSSIP!!

We neglected to give you some bits of new in January. Little Mary Gittens finished her training at St. Francis and is now a full-fledged nurse.

Maggie Vetsch and Elsie Miller were not satisfied with the March of Dimes at the Commodore, and pledged all tips of one dime to the cause. Once it cost Maggie twelve dimes, and then Elsie had a big party and there were thirty dimes for the box. And so it went on, till the box was filled. Noble, we call it! It's the Red Cross Drive with us now. Our Quota is \$510, but the Committee men, August Schwarz, chairman, aim to bring it to \$700.

And now, a word from our sponsors: The Women's Bowling League is made up of four teams with five members each. Ruth Daugherty, Marcella Morrison, Ruth and Betty Gavin are captains. At the last meet these bits were tossed in for your pleasure. Lucille Karrigan said, "If the alleys were shorter she could do better." Eleanor Senn reported a few of them were taught the do's and don'ts in bowling one

night, then took the teachers, Joe Daugherty and John Oldenberg. Jean Oldenberg plaintively said she could bowl a lot better if her dad wasn't there. Katherine Mc Caffery wants to know: "How about it boys, can't we girls have a game with you when you get home?" Elaine Oldenberg seconds the challenge. However, Marcella Morrison warns, "Look out for Betty Gavin, top bowler and her top team." Betty says, "Not hitting so hot lately, but Gravel, I'll take you on any time and beat you. Smoke, better get practiced up, and Boob, well I don't know what to beat you in." Dorothy Oldenburg does some boasting on her own--"Well, here goes for our team which is Ruth Gavin's. We are neck and neck with Daugherty for low score, but we think we'll be on the bottom in the end. Who cares, someone has to be and I guess we can take it." Rose Heyerdahl says she isn't hitting eighty but is going upstairs to help Rudy celebrate his birthday. Losi Yeiter has a word for brother Donny; she wishes him good luck and says everything is fine here at home. Virginia Gavin wishes everyone the best of good luck. Bernice Pilger dittoes that remark to all the boys and girls.

And now, more gossip!!! Even our Taverns close at midnight beginning February 26.

Fire destroyed the "Ship" February 4, also the Salzer Church in La Crosse during the same night.

During the Pike season, fishermen braved cold, early morning, dark with big catches resulting. John Oldenburg, Bill Roesler, Roy Matteson, and Frank Grover were among the enthusiasts. At the fresh water spring (back of Fred Allen's) emptying into Blue Lake, carp foraged on the game fish. Game warden asked the men to scoop them out. Result---lots of smoked carp in town.

Due to lack of traveling facilities the D. C. Websters are spending the winter in La Crescent. D. C. will miss the card games at St. Petersburg.

On the 20th Geraldine Gittens left for Santa Ana, California to visit her uncle, Ambrose Horian. Speaking of trips, Joe Gittens went up to see Doc at Mountain Iron...A long way to go with a tooth ache; must be nice to have a dentist in the family.

John Scanlon got his allotment of turkeys last month so he will be able to furnish you boys again for your special meals. They say John has raised turkeys so long that he talks turkey himself sometimes.

While some of you boys are where it is warm, and others not so fortunate with the temperatures, we have one business man here who seldom smiles anymore due to our local coal shortage. It has been rumored that Ernie has started praying for summer to come soon.

Large families are mostly of the past, but this is one time of the year when wage earners with a fair salary envy Skinny Randall. On looking over Uncle Sam's form 1040 they think of Skinny with all those little exemptions.

February welcomed two charming young misses into our midst. They were Lorraine and Wilbert Vollenweider's Rita Lorraine, and Miss Vicki Vidani who brought joy to the Hurley household. May we congratulate each and everyone of you!

Tune in next month, same time, same station, for another broadcast. Signing off for L C C C.

Well--

"Let's talk about the weather and other things together"-----

After all we've said about the weather, cold, snow, ice, the climax came on March 5, in a really beautiful decoration of "feathery whiteness" on every branch and bush, and we wished for a kodak that would give you an idea of the loveliness. Then the weather man thought to show us something real in weather. We had gorgeous spring days, and I mean Spring! Not too warm, but the snow disappeared like magic, even in the hills among the woods, most of it into the ground. Root River went on its usual rampage. Saturday evening, March 17, it boiled along with every overt intention of crossing the Highway at some points. By Sunday afternoon the fields had been submerged and lay glistening in the sun. Olo Man River, however, just kept rollin' along--and up! The Coast Guard evacuated South Pettibone residents. Jim Farroll should have moved all the houses down there onto our village bench. We could use them; like the man power shortage, the housing shortage is with us. The demand far exceeds the supply. And--those Pettibone houses lie low in the water, much to their detriment, we should think. Lillian Vetch Richmond wrote of the high water down Kentucky way--she will know something of what we have here. As the water came up over the bottom lands in the Mississippi opposite Dakota and Dresbach, deer wintering there attempted to cross the ice to the mainland, but too late. One handsome buck was soon to float down, like a statue, on a cake of ice, drawing the admiring and worried attention of the villagers. Eventually he plunged for a swim to shore which was more than he could take. He lay exhausted on the bank.

The La Croissant Clan gathered on the 18th. We had a grand bunch of fine letters from our widely scattered boy and girl friends: Claudia Albrecht described her work at A.A.F., Harlingen, Texas and told of the flowers that bloom in the spring, tra la, roses and citrus blooms that laden the air with their perfume. We told you of Lillian's letter. La Vern Case wrote from the Hawaiians of being fed variously of pineapple this and that. We've been wondering what had become of the pineapple, and while we're on the subject of food--ack Robert J. Gavin of Marine Barracks, Spokane, Wash., boasts that his cooking has gotten so good that the fellows don't even get sick anymore. Betty and Ruth thought it was plenty okay when he was home after being overseas. Bob likes our news letters! Thanks, Bob. You will enjoy this one more than usual when we tell you that Mrs. "Chap" Gavin and Mrs. Jack Gavin are the sponsors. They were to be given the privilege of composing it too, but Virginia had to get quarantined with a Scarlet Fever case--Jack, while home on furlough--one way for a man to get an extension. Art Janson S 2/c wrote from South Pacific areas where he is afloat on the U.S.S. Sumter, F.P.O. San Francisco. Art and his friends will be interested to learn that his sister addressed a set of envelopes and typed the dictated draft of your last letter. Art would like a few addresses of the boys and girls in service. There may be others who would like them too. We suggest that you make special requests and we will personally give you the latest available addresses. You have the Honor Roll snapshot for reference. Which brings us to a story in a recent Tribune--a letter written by a brother whose ship received wigwag messages from another ship in passing, informing him his kid brother would like to see him. The reunion was a grand experience, almost too much for the kid, Jimmy Gilmeister. You will find that lad's name on your honor roll, placed there when his home was on Shorocres. The reunion was just off Loyte.

La Vern Case seemed disappointed; he misses people who pass his way. The army is full of disappointments La Vern. For instance, as you wrote Danny Webster was gone from the island and was basking in the admiring attention of relatives at home.

We had four letters from the "European Theatre". Dandies too. Elmer Lottes mentioned the destruction of R.R. yards. That is his work and interest. He likes Belgium; says the people are most friendly. Bob McLaughlin was also somewhere in Belgium on December 20th when he wrote. Bob said he was writing by the feeble light of a kerosene lantern.

It is interesting to hear the reaction to the letters as they are read. That lantern business struck us as being pretty tough. We've outgrown the days when we milked the cows by the light of a kerosene lantern!

Dallas Ames wrote a fine letter from France. He mentioned the damage to French towns from bombs. He sent a souvenir to the club--three francs each worth four cents of our money, he says. Nice of Dallas to send them.

Bob Stoehr wrote from England. Bob had been up to London on a sight-seeing trip, and we really must hand it to Bob. He got to see much of the interest in that great city.

From the other side of the world came a letter from Ed Ames. Ed says he has been able to take weather and jungle experience and still stay in excellent health, a matter of first importance; and that the second thing is to keep occupied in some way at all times. Points well made, we thought.

Last, but not least, was a letter from a local man whom few of us know. Lt. Kenneth McClave wrote a graphic and descriptive letter from the Philippines. Lt. McClave is a pilot and has done considerable island hopping since the fall of '43 when he went to the South Seas. He says that while he would rather get a leave to come home than win an advancement in rank, he thinks his chances are good for further island hops instead because their forces are under strength.

The evening's entertainment told us also about some of our home activities. How Child Welfare, Old Age Assistance, Public Health, and Red Cross Home Service function. Ann Hurley sang some of her Irish songs; we all helped on the chorus, and then we had cake and coffee and a gabfest in the "Rumpus Room" downstairs.

Rudy Newhouse has gone back to his hospital; Jim Carson has completed his leave and gone to Frisco for further assignment; Lorraine Stoehr has come for an extended visit from Varco, Wash. where she has been working in a shipyard. We hear that Lorraine Stelliek is married--now Mrs. Arthur Tofto. Ralph Broxing is home for fifteen days. Capt. Lawrence Mysocky called on local friends. He is battling with a stubborn foot infection which keeps him on crutches. George Davies returned for reassignment after a few short days at home. Bill Richardson made one of his hard-earned visits home, while his ship was being serviced. Bill has also earned an E.I. 1/c rating, and with it, we think, a life vocation. He seems to like the electrician work and delighted in putting all the fixtures at home in apple pie order. It would be something to be desired if each of our people who have given so many moons of their young lives to the armed forces, could be fortunate enough to learn a vocation which suited so well. Jim Richardson has been alerted for flight training and realizes an ambition.

Robert Boehm has been moved to a convalescent hospital at Camp Carson Colorado. Elbert Reider is now at San Diego taking further training in code dispatch. Mary, Windy's "hausfrau" has been with his folks in Minneapolis for three weeks, while Windy, like Chap Gavin and Hugh Fay have gone "out" to points unknown, each on an A.P.A. boat. Roy and Ambrose Munkel are in Manila and Art now has a New York A.P.O.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldow went to Sioux Falls for a week end visit with John and family. They seem to have fallen, lock, stock, and barrel for John's wife and son. Now if each of you chaps quits the family as well in your choice, that will be O.K. too. We will say, however, that someone is missing an A-1 bet if a certain fine looking, brown-eyed young lady in town is passed up. While we have quite a few in the younger set, we have very few mature young women. Further information is being held for interested inquirers.

The Klotzke garage hums with activity, as Felix Froy has taken over the auto repair work. More attention is paid to keeping the old models serviced and in action, since we do not buy a new car every year anymore. E. L. Bacon sold his big Buick for more than he paid for it, ceiling price at that, and now drives a small Chevrolet. Dan Young went and "did" likewise.

The Houston County Farm Service has taken over the former Smith Grubber building opposite the depot, with Henry Leidel as manager. It is a local depository for spray materials, berry boxes, apple baskets, etc.

The Pine Creek Telephone Co. has changed its name, and will be known as the La Crescent Telephone Company.

Insulation companies have been doing great business in the village this month. The W. McCaffery, V. E. Ames, Ray Jennings, Paul Broring, and Henry Abnot Jr. homes have been serviced.

We seem to have done many things that we should not have done, and left undone those things that we should have done. Our village clerk tells us that bicycles must not use the sidewalks for traffic lanes. The sidewalks are hardly fit, even for bicycles. Frost, ice, the wear of time, and neglect have had a deteriorating effect. Also came the announcement that dog licenses would be required again. These would not be necessary if some would not let their dogs run loose. The dog catcher had a busy time last year and expects to be busy again if--etc. Mrs. Rudy Newhouse thinks he'd better be at it. On her way home from Community Club March 18 she met something. A dog?--with two white stripes down its back? She didn't wait to see if he was wearing a licence tag!

You will recall in our last letter, Ernie Waldow was making application for spring. He got it, you see. And with it came two carloads of coal! He says "After all his praying--John L. Lewis is no friend of his."

But it must be spring; Matt Beardman went through the village with two fish poles over his shoulder, headed for Rainbow Slough.

We thought Pat Griffin would never get home, but we hear that he has arrived and we are glad that our weather is not too trying for a man who has spent thirty-six months near the equator.

The Henry Vollenweiders and Hollis Papefus' brought additions to the population from La Crosse hospitals this month--Suzanne and Glenn, by name.

Margaret Cameron Zobe went to Denver to attend funeral services for her brother, Donald J. Cameron III, a former La Crescent boy, and a U.S. Marine football star. He was 39. Leaves a fine family of eight boys and their mother.

Mrs Lucille Kinley Vidani also attended services at Freeburg - Wed. morning - Mar 27 for her maternal grandmother, Mrs Johanna Welch, who lived to be 91.

This is the Easter season, and our greetings go to you with this letter. We wish you could take the early morning trek across the causeway into the city.

Mud here drift across the limpid waters of the game preserve. The reflection of the trees is so vivid, it is hard to know which is real. A soft mist hangs low over the water, and all is bathed in a soft purple light. An Easter scene!

Accept our love and thanks for all you are giving, and the wish that much good may come to each of you from these crucifying times.

Your Home Folks.

P.S. Don't you forget!

We look forward to your letters.

Greetings!

From letters received from various of you, we gather that most of all you are glad to know where the other fellows are and how about 'em. So that's our first effort. Others have expressed their pleasure in home-town news. Plan # 2! Then we like to call your attention to things here at home we think worth while and worthy your consideration

From the number of letters this month of April, we quote Jim Richardson's, who is doing work at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; "I've been receiving the paper you have all been sending out to the fellows. It is very much appreciated by myself and all the fellows, I'm sure. There are so many things we learn from it, especially where the other guys are. I am in college here doing a refresher course in Math., English, Physics, and History before we enter Pre-flight. The course here is six months—the whole flight training is around 18 months long. It was very hard to settle down to study at first, but it is coming easier all the time. I see by the paper that "H. P." is out in the Pacific. They are truly doing a grand job out there. It shouldn't be too long before we are all on our way back to becoming civilians again. The weather here is quite a change from our South Pacific climate, or even that of the West Coast. Well, it should warm up soon. Time for ohw so had better close. I want to thank you again for the paper. You are doing a swell job."

Bob Stoehr wrote a personal letter from Germany in reply to one he had from Ed Hurley. He expresses what we find most of our boys feel — the desire to get into the thick of it. Bob seems to have accomplished it. He mentions Aachen, Cologne, Reneagen. And speaks of the scenery! We don't doubt there is "scenery". He still thinks anywhere in America is "O.K." by him.

Mrs. Flentie writes from Valley Falls, Kansas to express for Capt. Flentie his pleasure in receiving the Community letter, and to ask for a copy for herself. She tells us Capt. Flentie has changed from balloon observation to engineering corp — with Patch's army. He may be exploring Munich at this writing. Mr. Flentie has been through the Italian campaign — following up the west coast — and has seen much action — especially at Anzio. Mrs. Flentie is at her father's home farm — helping the war effort with many hours on the Allis-Chalmers!

Winston Reider, FC 3/C USS Karnes (APA, 175 1st. Div. San Francisco P. o. Wrote on the 29th of March at "2200". Said he had been made a member of the "Golden Dragons." Also that he makes for the Minnesota address books at U.S.O. places he encounters and has found names of boys he knows. "Ships that pass in the Night." Windy says sleeping on deck where it is cool has an advantage after one has learned to stay in a hammock, and if it doesn't rain. Knowing their folks are not living in La Crescent, the Volk boys facilitate the receipt of our letters by always sending us any change of address. "Micky" wrote from a Signal Base Depot Co. in the Hawaiians. He had been in Honolulu enjoying the Y.M.C.A. and U.S.O. Had visited the old "Queen Lil" palace with its fine paintings, etc. He spoke of the flowers on the islands, and of his visit to the Dole pineapply fields. Told us a most interesting fact — that it takes 18 months to grow and ripen a pineapple.

The war has broadened our sphere of interest and acquaintance, and it is a pleasure to discover the culture and intelligence revealed in the charming letters from our local service people.

The kids of our local school are sponsoring this letter — They listen with keen interest to the letters that go out to the service people, and the replies received, and are happy in having a part in the project. The finishing group — the eighth grade, are planning to entertain their parents at the Commodore for a finishing off treat. There are 15 people in the class. Except for the primary teacher, Miss Viola Engaas, the faculty is the same for next year. Alvin Grob is from Alma, lives in the Flentie house, has 3 boys, is the principal. Miss Carol Moe has the 5 and 6 grades for several years past. The third and fourth grade teacher is Mrs. Hilgahl

from Caledonia. She has a son and daughter with her and lives at the Eyer Cabin Court.

You people "out there" realize more fully now the advantage of education, and no doubt value it more highly. We here at home are directly responsible for the character and quality of our schools. No pains should be spared to maintain them at a high level. There are quite a number of young families at present who should be looking forward toward the time when their children will enter the schools, and should now be taking an active interest in all civic affairs. Homes, churches, and schools are the institutions for successful living - and, we might add, that the Community Club is another valuable institution, which merits the whole-hearted support of everyone. It has for years had the entiring services of one man as chairman, who has done much to maintain its upkeep. Ed is efficient in whatever he undertakes. He has presided with tact, has backed projects for the welfare of school and community - has given unstintedly of time, means and thought, and we hereby acknowledge same. Mr. and Mrs. Hurley are now on track to Ed's favorite resort - the Hot Springs in Arkansas.

The April meeting of the Community Club was exceptionally good. The La Crosse County Junior Red Cross chairwoman, Mrs. J. R. Jenkins, and two young people from La Crosse schools, Miss Pat McLeod and Jack Londea gave interesting talks on the history, accomplishments and purposes of Junior Red Cross.

Mr. Hurley interviewed Jim Griffen on his army experiences. Jim's campaign was in Italy with the Signal Corp. He suffers the consequences of wet, cold exposure, and is home on leave from Foster General Hospital, Jackson, Miss., released to be here while "Fat" was at home. Any number of lads have been at home on furlough when there was to be a Community meeting. But all have had attacks of G. I. jitters - when it came to talking about their experiences. Jim talked freely and we appreciated his doing so. In speaking of the army food - Jim demonstrated and explained a package of "K" dinner rations which had been given the club by Mrs. Mark Smith. Jim's furlough is up on May 5th. "Fat" will go on April 30 to Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Two men discharged from the service have been with us. Paul Broring's brother, Fritz, who has been hospitalized for some time because of a "brush" with the "Krauts" and Joe Doyle, now of Washington, D. C. who has been in the Navy. Lads home on furlough, beside the Griffens, were Jim Hofer who had finished boot training for the Navy and John Spangler from Marine "boot" at Farris Island, S. C. Bob Bacon was home from Ft. Pierce, Fla. Ralph Broring was being transferred to New York and the Cruiser SS Houston, now in dry dock. He left April 9, Miss Joan Eleda Graf accompanying. They were married in Brooklyn and are now living at 301 Sterling Place, that city. Ralph enjoys his work in the Navy, talked interestingly of his work, and spoke of the indispensable use of radar in the Navy. A radar man, Don Fay, was among the furlough men. Don is doing air-borne radar at Robins Field, Ga. His wife returned with him. She has been at home in Milwaukee since their marriage in November. "Smokey Joe" made a first-rate recovery from his attack of scarlet fever and had time to enjoy his stay before reporting at Langley Field, Va. May 3. Lorraine Stellick Tofte spent her first furlough here at home and in Illinois with her husbands people. Friend husband had been shipped to the So. Seas.

Art Oldenburg has been moved up to Okinawa. Frank Voight is on Luzon, we learn. Donald Yolton is still in the Dutch East Indies doing transport with anything from Jeeps, mail, and army personell. Don made a trip to the Philippines and had to cross a river in a native canoe which capsized, so that Donald had to swim for it - along with the crocodiles. Francis Walter is to be sent back into action. He had been aboard ship since his 30 day furlough, but marines are much in demand. William and Harvey Miller are in Germany with Patton. William in the 3d Army and Harvey with the 1st. Jo Hodge has been transferred to the infantry in Germany - Howard Pendleton who inlisted in the Navy - has been transferred to the Sea Bees. Bob McLaughlin is now in a rest camp in France and the two Horton boys met in France and had two days

together. They had not seen each other in two and one-half years. An enviable experience!

Locally there is activity among the various organizations - The Fire Department - The Gopher Club - The Bowling Teams - all of which are planning festivities during May. The baseball bug is beginning to nip the younger group. Our junior Hi lost to Lincoln Junior Hi on a 16 - 18 score - first game. Myron Anderson - pitcher - Donald Spangler - catcher. Fires on the bluffs were numerous this spring tho not as bad as here-to-for. A female volunteer force took care of the flare on Eagle Bluff. Three of our young ladies scorched eye brows - blistered hands, smudged their faces, had blood-shot eyeballs - but did a finished job. Credit goes to Beverly, Marion, and Betty. Frost later threatened the orchards and small fruits.

Some changes took place during April. Just as the Hasselbush house had been put into attractive repair - Hode Morrison was moved to Chicago with a likely permanent job with the Army. He has been at Camp McCoy continuously. Lorraine and her grandfather took over the Knapp house north of town - and then on April 30th Irene and Billy tred the aisle to the altar in a very pretty wedding, supported by Lorraine and Clarence Vetsch. The newly weds went into Northern Minnesota for a jaunt, and will reside in the house vacated by the Morrison's.

Mrs. Loechler and Rosemary paid Donnie aweek-end visit at Great Lakes.

The Ladies of the Roman Catholic Church served 600 people a spare rib and sauerkraut supper at the Commodore early in the month.

Vic Leidel and Neal Feuerhelm went to Minneapolis April 10th, purchased a new plane - a P. T. - 19 - over which they are quite enthusiastic. Work on the runways at French Island Port progresses - material going from the two La Crescent lime stone quarries, hauled by a large fleet of trucks. Minnesota Highway vehicles are carrying material from a recently purchased shalopit on the Cameron farm to the Brownsville road where some changes are being made.

Cheerio and Happy Days!

The Community

"A Five-minute furlough^d-granted by your General Community

As I was walking down the street
A pretty girl I chanced to meet.
Says she to me with a smile so sweet,
"I want to be in on the G.I. treat."

So a bank check neat
Signed "cashier", tout suite,
And K. McCaffery to make it complete
Puts Uncle Sam's stamps on this news sheet .
A poem

Our January news letter told you of Donald Frappier, gunner on the S. S. Yorktown, giant flattop known as the "Flying Lady" in the movie version. Frappier drove gas truck for the Standard with Howard Paponfuss before going into the service. His family, wife and four children, live in the E. E. Harris house near Lottes'. He again has written a most interesting letter from "somewhere in the Pacific." He says he has been in the naval battles of the Philippine Islands, Formosa, in the first carrier fleet in the China Sea and coast of Indo-China, HongKank and Iwo Jima, covered the invasion of several small islands and was first to strike Tokyo. He suggests to anyone craving excitement that they join him and he guarantees plenty of it.

Another letter came from Pacific waters. This in the Philippine area and written by Irwin Vetsch. Irwin ways many names in these letters are strange to him.. That's not surprising, Irwin. We, right here in the village, can't keep track of the new people. Some of them come for awhile and are gone; other new ones come to stay but do not become a part of the village as quickly as in times past. And we are sure sorry about the woman situation in your life. How about a pin-up girl to keep in your mind's eye--lovely brown hair and eyes, splendid teeth and a good smile, generous, thoughtful, frank, a good cook, a girl who can laugh?? give you something to look forward to!

Thank-you-letters were received from Bob Gavin, Robert Boehm,--Boehm was being reconditioned in a Colorado camp; Boeber Gavin was at Bromorton, assigned to the U. S. Battleship New Jersey, one of three sister 45000-ton babies being detailed to annihilate Japan. Robert says while they are the largest ships afloat, they are still awfully small when they got in the middle of the Pacific ocean. Jerry Schwarz wrote to Community Club from Emory, Va. where he is doing a V-12 program.

Some of our lads don't write as often as we could wish. We know they are more than busy, weary too, undoubtedly. We can only hope they are also safe. Windy Reider came into port with casualties from Okinawa, but, of course, did not get home. Rolly Stellick did get home for a few days before shipping out for service. Donald Leechler had a boat furlough and was then transferred to the Sea Bees. While he was at home, the Commodore closed for a week, giving all the helpers a vacation at one time. Some of the boys have asked how the new addition there was arranged. It is 30' x 60', to the north, can be used for dining and, or, dancing. The former dining room and the bar have exchanged places; the kitchen has been extended south making a large sunny room. It is connected with the new dining room by an additional serving room back of the barroom.

Art Janson spent most of May at home. Art had been with the Navy in the South Seas almost a year, and has had some battle action. Gerald (Fat) Griffin is now guarding German prisoners near Milwaukee. Mrs. Howard Papenfuss' brother, Marvin Greenwood, stopped here on his way to his home in Pickwick. He had been released from a German prison camp. He said he had been on a forced 53-day march from one prison to another. Nice going--!

John Spangler has been sent to LeJeune S. Car. Stellick, Loochler, Spangler and our 18-year-oldsters. Junior Anderson has distinguished himself and La Crescent by a special test at Central to win the military scholarship for college training with expense-free tuition, text books, uniforms, food, and lodging and transportation.

Susie Q. says, "Ah! Spring! when a young man's fancy turns to love-- of baseBall! Go down any street of your town and drive carefully to avoid an inprentu game of ball among neighborhood small fry. The Bill Lathrops are building up a fine team, the latest being Kenneth who joined the group early this month. If Bill finds himself short handed right now, he may be able to muster Doris and Duane Horton's Mark Elliot, who came into the field a few days later. Our school principal, Alvin Grob, is a busy manager for the Rinky-Dinks who have played five games each with Lincoln Junior High and Blessed Sacrament, losing to each and winning 50% of their games. While the new generation of local Cardinals are in the same resplendent white wool suits (they are more like felt now) worn of old, Mgr. Grob is more than proud of them. Their first game was rained out but their second, with Onalaska, a ten inning game, held up well for the first half, for unseasoned players. The line-up is as follows: Mgr. Grob, pitcher; D. Anderson, pitcher; L. Harlos, First Base; C. Bona, second; E. Harlos, third; J. Lettos, short stop; L. Gavin, left field; Justin, center; R. Shepardsen, Right field; D. Kathan.

League Bowlers wound up their season this month with another big tournament.

The Fire Department gave their annual dance at the Hokah Community Hall. They had a fine crowd and cleared a couple hundred for the dept. There are only 33 volunteers now. Art Gittens is still chief, Chris Ambuhl, President; Ed Hasselbush, vice president; Carl Mittenberg, sec-treasurer.

The Gopher Sportsman's Club functions regularly. A committee; Nate Randall, Pres, Bill Lathrop and Frank Grover met in conference with the State Conservation in St. Paul May 10. The following week the Gophers were hosts to a Boy Scout Rally with B. J. Ingh as speaker. Films were shown, also considerable interest. About 18 lads recruited for organization of a troop, the Gophers sponsoring it. Later a cub rally was stampeded by 65 applicants! Now! Mr. Grover is chairman of the committee and we wish him every success in the undertaking. Older lads, those over 16, "working on the railroad all the livelong day" are: Larry Gavin, Roland Shepardsen, two Bona boys, Neal Gittens, Donald Anderson, Wayne Lettos.

Hunters say ducks and geese are nesting here and many more than usual. Pintail, teal and mallard ducks are to be seen, among them grey ducks, gadwalls, bluebills, blackheads. The heavy rains brought on a toe early "June rish", doing damage to the nesting, and eggs are to be seen floating in the water. Our "La Crescent Lake" is full and high, good to look at.

Spring-fed Rainbow and upper Blue Lake are all-season cold and make for good fish. The La Crosse-La Crescent pike has been lined both sides with fishermen, but with poor returns. Too cold and wet. They say the coldest May on record, and the latest killing frost. At that the crop prospect is not too bad, tho some have lost 60 % or more of the apple harvest. Corn is suffering from yellow jaundice. Grain is slow, but so far hay and new seeding is good. Gardens are backward. Local people were fortunate to have Art Beach and his team for preparation of the soil. Lawns and boulevards have had better-than-ever care and are really attractive. The effect is more apparent when the grass is kept down to the paving, is a help in eliminating weeds, and more people are doing that. As the restrictions on building are relaxed we may expect an up-surge in village growth, as there are constant inquiries by purchasers, and some exchange of properties.

The Community Club met May 16 to retain the old officers for another year, to plan the annual Community picnic, and to enjoy a short comedy skit under the direction of Lucille Hurley Vidani. It was the only dramatic work done this year and deserves honorable mention. Five High School youngsters participated and we congratulate them on their performance, and the privilege of receiving such fine directing. Since then, Mrs. Vidani and daughter, Victoria May, have taken an apartment in La Crosse for the duration.

The Seventh War Loan Bond Drive has been a May Feature. The local quota was \$19,000. The village is zoned with 14 men on the working committee. Pledges are redeemed at either the Post Office or the Bank and some large loans have been taken. By actual count there are 102 people living here who come under the payroll deduction plan in La Crosse also.

The old Civilian Defense organization again engineered the Poppy sale, disposing of 200 poppies in record time and remitting \$30 to the Veteran's Hospital Fund.

On the 13th, Mildred Schlabach became Mrs. Jack Delaney at Amarilla, Texas. Mr. Delaney is a commercial photographer.

Molly McClave has returned from Washington City to be at home during the summer months.

Dorothy Brown completed her training at the Minneapolis Secretarial School and is working in the La Crosse office of the New York Life Ins. Co.

Geraldine Gittens has a civil service position with an Army aircraft factory at Santa Anan, Calif.

Memorial Day had no planned observance here. Volunteer workers had put Prospect Hill Cemetery in order, families remembered their own plots of grant there and, as for many years, J. A. Lilly again placed a flag at the resting place of each veteran.

All this in the merry month of May!
Give us the "lowdown" on yourselves as you can—We will pass it on.

More anon—From your old Home Town.

ANOTHER FIVE-MINUTE FURLOUGH

Written 'long about "knee-deep in June" and "it's June June June"! The Community picnic started off this month at Myrick Park under the efficient generalship of Mrs. Paul Broring and her C. C. committee. All of 200 werethere though it was cold and rainy. The food was good and generous, Orvie Wetzel's coffee was superlative. The youngsters chanted "No more lessons, no more books, no more teacher's cross-eyed looks", put on slacks and reveled in Dixie cups and orange crush.

Since then it has been more "June June June", strawberries, some hot days, need for rain, and then relief. The Strawberry crop is short this year due to late frosts, butthe price is good-- Orvie Bob Wetzel is again Ed Hurley's truck driver. Strawberries are not raised as extensively anymore.

Much speculation among us as to who will get home,--who will have points for discharge, etc., the same expectancy as among you service people. Robert Boehm and Rudy Newhouse are at home discharged. Gerald Griffin will be mustered out at Ft. Sheridan shortly. Gerald Schwarz was seen here for 10 days before transfer to the U. of Virginia. WAC Claudia Albrecht has furlough time here until July 10. WAC Mildred Smith Shanley week-ends here with her mother, Mrs. Mart Smith, semi-occasionally. Both girlslook fine. We are all for military training if it puts people into such fine physical condition as the examples we have among our local militaire. (Only no more combat performance in ours, please.) We heard General "IKE" over the radio with the distinct feeling of his sincerity and his affection for "all you boys". All of us at home feel the same affection variously expressed but

"When you come home and settle down in ca'm content

And Cuss the towns where you have went"-----We may not be so volub. However president Truman says one of your jobs will be to assume responsibility for the functions of the country. More power to you and we are expecting large things from you right here too.

The letters from people who receive our news letter continue to come. We wish it were possible to give some of them back to you, but we must satisfy ourselves with quotations. Billy Carroll wrote from Midway where he champs the bit for more action, preferring to be with an active rather than a maintainance corps of engineers. He still loves sports and was thrilled by making the acquaintance of Great Lakes basketball coach, Rale Williams, with whom he hopes to be associated after the war. Dallas Ames wrote from Austria where his section of the 3rd Army is rounding up S S Gestapo men with most competent help of Russian soldiers. Dallas sympathized with our three girl-fire-fighters' loss of eyebrows, says he hasn't had any for some time because of the stoves that baa'w up when lighted. Hope that you have managed to keep the "new crop", Dallas. We read that the 3rd was to remain in Germany and wonder if that includes you. If so, too bad to blast your expressed hopes of UBC'n us. Your folks don't sing "Don't fence me in"--A nice picket fence surrounds the new home.

From Kentucky we had a nice letter from Lillian Vetsch Richmond. Lillian had been home on a furlough butshe didn't show up at C Club so we missed knowing who'd been here. Our account of field conditions had appealed to her farmer heart, as we hope it interested others. The middle of June and she said tobacco was just being planted there. An in most parts of the country. Season was late!

Our APA boats got into the states recently. The Golden Gate Bridge means as much to them as the Lady of Liberty in New York Harbor means to those coming home from the east. Hugh Fay had been gone 6 months and

had been subjected to some of the fearful suicide plane and bombs. The Amphibian forces came in for their baptism of fire at Lingyon gulf, and the later Okinawa fiasco. There is no doubt combat passes the imagination of those who have not experienced it. Chap Gavin's boat is laid up for reconditioning and he will be home for a bit. Windy and "H P" went out again. They will confirm B. Carroll's surmise that they have been where it is hot. Donald Fay has gone to the Bell Aircraft Corp. at Atlanta to inspect radar units being installed in B-29's which roll off the assembly line at the rate of two a day, which doesn't, he says, seem so many until you see the size of the plane and the "stuff" that goes into them. Don writes, Atlanta is a very beautiful city-- a forest of trees, beautiful lawns and homes. For you who recall "Gone With the Wind", and Peachtree Street!

Erne Waldow has had word from Byron who is on a tanker in the Phillipian area, that his new rank is now Lieut. (j.g.). John Waldow is at Truax Field, Wis. His wife and son are here. Eddie Gittens spent 3 days at home. Doc and family were also here at the same time. Eddie is playing ball again this season, meeting army teams throughout the middle west.

Some of the young lads, anticipating their 18th birthdays, are signing up for the Navy. Meanwhile, Irvin Harlos, Wayne Lottes, the two Anderson boys, Halmer and Donald, are busy for the summer at Allie Chalmers. Paul Broring, Harold Holthous, Einer Gran, Bill Kampschroer are regularly employed there. We understand Mr. Kampschroer has recently purchased seven lots in the village, which looks like permanency. George Marschal bought two lots and has excavated for the basement of a new home. Adolph Justin who owns the Frank Smith place, recently purchased three lots facing his property, and Mr. W. J. Godtl has acquired all of the "Oak Terrace" east of the old Smith house just mentioned. George Stellick's acre to the west begins to look like a farm. It's hard work as does it. Two more lots have been sold opposite and along side the ball diamond to an Amundson family from La Crosse. Bob Panke has begun his new home and "Cap" Roth, La Crosse grocer, is erecting a house on the point east of the Junior Pioneer picnic ground. Irvin Husman sold his house to Rupert Boma and has bought three acres off the Cameron farm, adjoining Clarence Welch's orchard, is putting down a well, has an new berry patch growing. The new Roman Catholic Cemetery at the "Forks" opposite the new Husman property is taking shape through the devoted attention of Rev. Britz and his faithful male congregation. On June 24, they celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fr. Britz priest hood with a chicken dinner at the Commodore where the ladies served 600 people.

The Boy Scout troupe got going this month with Melvin Hickenbotham leader, and Burton Mach, assistant (more new names for you to conjure with). The movement is sponsored by the Sopher Sportsmen's Club. The Scout committee is Frank Grover, Nathan Randall, Wm. Lathrop. Mrs. Lathrop has a group of 21 girls in her Scout Troop, unsponsored.

We rivalled "Life's" pictures of Guam last week the tremendous machinery used to crush rock at the Lautz quarry moved through town, having finished the contract with the French Island Airport. The South Ridge quarry is still operating until July 1, but will continue for some time, to pulverize line for use by the A.A.A. for farm fertilizer. Photos of the quarry appeared in last Saturday's La Crosse Tribune.

Village telephone lines are receiving extensive repairs under Mgr. E. F. Fowler. Mr. Fowler is trouble man for electric signals along C.P. & St. P. Ry. At the annual school meeting on June 26, he was re-elected chairman of the school board, which has Bill Olson as clerk and Wilbert (Shorty) Vollenweider, treasurer. The meeting had a full house. A new school house site had been called for--now don't get excited, don't be

nished--the meeting was a great success. The majority had even decided what the site should be and \$1500.00 was voted toward a purchase, and an option indicated if possible on the vacant property south and east of the Jeffrey Lilly Homes, one part of the A. Lilly estate. We are getting our feet on the forward path.

Another indication of the progress is that for the first time in forty-five years, La Crosse has Sunday passenger train service. The train, on the Dubuque Division between La Crosse and Savannah, is due here at 10.05 A.M. going to La Crosse and returning at 3.45 P.M. Freight service is very heavy due to war materials moving to Seattle for the Pacific War. A large Navy tanker, built at a Savage, Minn plant passed down the river the middle of the month. These boats are finished on the interior as they progress toward the sea. A new daily bus service has begun between La Crosse and Lanesboro, stopping at the Gittens store here, while the local bus service continues to function with Clarence Vetsch and Harold Chose, chaffeurs.

Our young population had an addition during June in Miss Kathleen Ann Leidel, and Miss Donna Rae McLees. Congratulations are due Lts. Vic and Gladys Leidel, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam McLees.

The Leidel girls, Elizabeth and Evelyn, came from Portland to spend the summer at home and to help with the berry harvest.

Miss Carol Moe, who has taught the 5th and 6th grades here for several years, was married June 23rd, at Holy Trinity Church, La Crosse to Cpl. Emanuel Woda, a Jackson, Minn. man. Our Mrs. Ed. Hurley was soloist for the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Harris have vacationed for a week north of Minneapolis. Stanley, Beverly, Raymond Stoehr and Bill Vetsch take care of the store.

Mrs. August Schwarz was in Chicago the fore part of the month in connection with her work in the National Daughters of G. A. R. Mrs. Schwarz is the generous sponsor of this letter.

Though the Community Club has suspended its meetings for the summer months, local sponsors among your friends assure a monthly news letter. Let us know if you receive them. Ed Hurley looks for your letters and the news in them is passed on to others in the service.

Best wishes of

Your Community

Friends:

Socially we are quite gay. Started June off with a picnic and a wedding, --Betty Gavin, you know, and Ray Dickson. On July 1st a ball game between our Cardinals and Brownsville. Our recent mention in these letters of the baseball activity here seems to have started something. Like Will Rogers, I see by the papers, that Dubuque, Iowa, Spokane, Wash., and one other big town claim to have more baseball per square boy than any other place in the country. The lads play about every Sunday if they are not rained out. FAVOR, however, among the lesser fry, leans slightly toward quoits or horseshoes or barnyard golf, as you prefer.

Well, Eddie Ames is home for 30 days. The folks have a swell picket fence, gates and all, but it don't keep Eddie in. He painted up the old family bus to look like the one Ford is going to make after the war and stepped out, right and left, with the gals. Charles Gavin realized the promised furlough. Jack got home same time, discharged from the service. The boys with their wives have enjoyed the entertainment round-about for a really good time. Major James Peed has been here with his people for the in-between 30 days. Jim's father is Mr. Harry Peed, train dispatcher for the Milwaukee Ry. The sister, Helen, from San Francisco and brother Billy, connected with the shipyards at Evansville, Indiana, came to complete the family circle. Major Peed has had 34 months in the European theater. Ralph Timm was home for 11 days en route to Camp Adair, Ore.

Not too many furlough at home. Services are too busy cleaning up the European mess or sweating it out on the Pacific job. Of the 60 letters we mail each month, only 18 go to points inside the states. Orvie Bob Wetzol's name was added to our mailing list this month. He is at Great Lakes.

B. Carroll got his wish and is now on Okinawa, where, "I see by the papers", air-engineer of U.S. Army Forces, Colonel Geo. Mayo, says the greatest military effort in world history is taking place. "Never before anywhere have so many men with so much equipment been working toward the same goal as on Okinawa." Our Arte Oldenburg is a busy guy on Okinawa now.

Our discharged men are back in the groove.. Rudy Newhouse will take over the local Standard station, his old job, the 1st of Aug. Meanwhile, he and Howard Peart are painting Standard oil stations throughout southern Minnesota and into So. Dakota. Robert Boehm is working at Allis-Chalmers and G. Griffin is at Gateway doing mechanics.

Last month's letter gave the summer activities of the boys of the village. This month we'll tell you about the girls. The girl scouts had a big scrap paper drive. Charles and Ruth Gavin's garage is their warehouse. Myrtle Whitfield and her daughter, Jeanette Wuest, have gone to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to be with her husband's people and near the camp where Joe is stationed since his return from Europe. Charlotte Kletzke has gone to San Francisco. Says she hopes to see some of La Crescent's servicemen on the streets. Among the younger ladies are business women Patty Knapp, clerk in a jeweler's establishment, Eileen Lottes, Marion Zumbach, Alpha Beach, "beauty doctors", working in different "shoppes". Betty Broring is in the office of the Service Transfer, Helen Ann Gattens, Alice Scanlon, and "Tolly" McClave at Kresge's, and Dorothy Beckman in the office at Trane's. Patty Scanlon on being interviewed said, "Just a Victory Garden girl!"

The "old girls" (schoolmates) have been gathering each summer for a picnic and visit. This year they branched out to gather in more of, shall we say? the Junior Pioneer Girls? about 25 went to the Caven cottage on Shore Acres on the 7th inst. Fern and Elma Worthingham, teachers in the public schools of Helena, Mont., are the usual reason for these gatherings. This year, Elsie Luther Yohe of Clayton, Iowa, was here and shared honors. Each year the old photos of LaCrescent school kids of bygone days are brought out, and the girls laugh till the tears come and their sides ache over the stories they recall and the to-them-now funny appearance they then made. For instance, can you feature this? Lloyd Wilsy in curls! Then Joe Stevenson appears with Dan Luther and Jim Worthingham. Jim was one of our earlier rural mail carriers. His sermons during the noon hour at school, usin' the alphabet exclusively, were moving and inspiring. In one group is little Zelpha Camp in plaid dress, years later the mother of Bud and Kenneth Yeiter. Our local postmistress about "knee-high to a grasshopper" and sitting on the lower front steps, serious, barefooted, hands tightly clasped, little Orvie Wetsel.

Another party honored John Lemke when 95 nieces and nephews helped celebrate his birthday.

July is the busy season for raspberry harvest. "Hi" Rosenblum, the Milwaukee buyer, is again in our midst. He and Ed Hurley do a sort of combined business. It is said that Aloys Schwarz is to take over management of the Kohler fruits at Donehower, where he will occupy a new house. Now where would any finer fruits be produced than right here when it comes to the red raspberries? We hear Arne Ender told some tall ones on Tinian that they found hard to swallow. Well, just try them on one of our berries swallowed whole! Ralph Kathan tried to swap yarns with Arne, having been granted leave to cross a few miles of water from naval hospital to look him up. We hope he succeeded.

Replies from our servicemen deserve acknowledgement. We were more than gratified when LaVane Boehm, writing from the Philippines, expressed his hearty approval of the city park idea for our growing metropolis. LaVane does not like the Philippines as he knows them. He advised our duck hunters it is an ideal region for that sport. We suspect LaVane longs for the hills of home.

You know we've another project on hand now and solicit your vote suggestions, or what have you. It's this new school business we wrote you of. We are agreed something should be done--now what do you think? One of our servicemen has said, "a gym", another, plenty of room for outdoor activities, --and do we need an auditorium?

Here is a letter recently received, given as written.
 June 24th, Dear Friends: Rec'd the community letter this morning and want to thank all who are responsible for editing the paper. I'll try to retaliate with news of myself here in Europe. Have been returned to France after spending three and one-half months in Germany. I found Germany a very beautiful country with the German people having the best in Europe. Too bad the Germans are war mongers and aggressive. My career in Germany started in Aachen, then to Bohn, Hanef-on-the-Rhine (beautiful place), Harburg, Kassel, Herschfield, and at the last we were at the mining village of Ibu. Was able to visit two of Germany's worst concentration camps, also saw some other places where

atrocities were committed. Would like to tour Europe after the war when everything has been settled. Have been visiting Paris, Rheims, and many other places in France. Swimming has been our greatest recreation here plus baseball. Thanking you again for the news, Sincerely, Bob Stoehr.

Tragedy came to our village the evening of the 22d. "The Ship" had been rebuilt and was having an opening. Saturday night and the highway was alive with transport trucks. Three trucks were passing "The Ship" at 40 mph. August Schwarz had gathered a group of friends to extend felicitations. Turning in from the highway, his car was struck amidships by one of the heavily loaded transports, carrying the car a hundred feet before the truck overturned. Two people were killed, Mrs. George Garner, popularly known as "Bobby". She is the daughter of Morley and Sybil Webster of Carrolls. The other was everybody's friend, August Schwarz. "Hi" Rosenblum was badly smashed and will be hospitalized for sometime. Walter Hargraves, Mr. Schwarz's son-in-law, escaped serious injury. August has been a generous citizen, engagin; himself in anything he felt was for the upcoming of the village. His place will be difficult to fill.

Our genial bank cashier, Jerry and Mrs. Lilly, are sponsoring this letter of July news items. Jerry has signified his willingness to relinquish the property which the District thinks would be the logical place for a school building. Jerry is a public spirited and minded citizen. A fine building on his property would be a credit to the community and a memorial to the Lilly name. Visiting former residents remark the inadequacy of our present school building.

We are experiencing a delightfully cool summer, an unusual amount of rain. The countryside is beautiful, and our village is lush and green. With best wishes to each of you.

Your Community.

Friends:

One more community letter to our friends in service: perhaps not the last, however.

This is your month-of-August review. We can't tell you the news until it has happened and as these are once-a-month letters, you must project your minds into the foregoing month as you read.

We understand some of the boys have to do their projecting back several months--that the letters sent out each month from the Community Club are not always received on time, some not at all. Please be assured that no one has been overlooked and seldom have we incorrect addresses. One of our servicemen received a whole batch of our letters after he had come home on furlough. They must have done a heap of traveling at that.

If this August letter is a jumbled affair, it was a jumbled month. Here most of us were geared to sit tight and endure to the bitter end, no matter how long it might be in coming; geared to meet the inevitable; to take it if it came home to us; geared to anxiety. Maybe all of you didn't take it that way but that's roughly what we felt. Suddenly Japan decided to capitulate. Some of us had "high" stories, some of us couldn't change gears so quickly, some of us just sighed a deep thankfulness.

But it was the harvest month. Grain to be cut, threshed, hay to be cured--busy times and shorthanded. The old harvest moon rode out of the east as per usual, constant, contained, calm, and serene. You know that old song: "Shine on, Shine on Harvest moon, up in the sky." Well she does and she did and she will continue to do so. The thought came to us that through all the turmoil she does "shine on", the world does endure. A good thought--something to cling to.

Gordon Fay was home for the first time in a year. His brother Don and wife came on an unexpected furlough same time and it was a great homecoming--only and if "Hugh could just be here." H.P. was in the Hawaiians meeting up for the first time with a home town acquaintance. Hugh had made a run in his little landcraft boat and saw a number on a ship--recognized it for Winston Reider's and lost no time in contacting him. They had liberty together and thought to do a number of things. I'll bet there isn't a G.I. with a similar experience who doesn't know what they did do. Talked about La Crescent!! Then Boober Gavin's ship hove in. Hugh boat it over to tell Windy--they got off early in the morning, but Boober's ship had gone out during the night. However, Albert Reider was in the islands on his way to Saipan and the brothers met for the first time in four years. By the way, Albert, Arno Ender is in the 24th Bomb Sqd, 6th Bomb Gr. A.A.F.--you know where. Ralph Kathan is on your island in the Navy Hospital #202, an H.A. Queer how some who have done stretches as you have, should be sent out again. There's no accounting for some of the things that happen in this man's war, and perhaps we just have to stand and take it as the old poem had it, "Their's not to question why" etc. You all seem to appreciate home. It did Gord a lot of good to get home after so long a time. Don has been lucky about furloughs, but he gets home always to find plenty of field and tractor work waiting for him, so that time never hangs heavy on his hands. He told of the Red Cross canteen in Evansville, Ind. On your travels across country you might look for it if you come that way. For us who see so little of what the Red Cross does, it was a revelation. The building itself stands white and clean among the smoke-grimed surroundings. Girls meet the trains--a blonde team--a brunette team, urging the boys to lunch at the Red Cross. Police, train men, all show the way. The food is

wonderful, plenty and varied. Souvenirs from everywhere line the walls, even the silver dollar a grateful doughboy tossed them as the train pulled out, mounted with the caption, "That you may never be broke." Everything is absolutely free, all service is donated, and the wonder is that they match their teams of girls so well.

Ralph Broring and wife were home on furlough V-J day. They live in Brooklyn, and we asked Ralph about the tree that grows there and he says it grows right in front of his house, in fact, there are two of them.

Jim Griffin had a 30-day furlough from Foster General Hospital at Jackson, Mississippi.

Robert Umberger, who hasn't been home for a long time, visited La Crescent while on furlough in Minneapolis.

Joe Hodge got back from Europe late in the month, and Art Munkel who has been in Germany is now at Camp McCoy.

A new name has been added to our list. Jr. Anderson is now in uniform at the University of Wyoming.

John Waldow was sent to the west coast; his wife had received an LPO address and then John phoned he wouldn't be sent out of the states--terms of service, age, marital status, etc. to the fore. Right here it would seem appropriate to confess an error. Lt. Myron Waldow is on a sea-plane tender, now in the Tokyo area. Whatever we said he was on was a mistake. We stand corrected.

Donnie Loochler may have gone out. While he was at Shoemaker, his mother went out to visit him.

A good many of our men will have letters held here for them as their mail is either being returned or there has been notice not to send any. Capt. Lee Flenty, Bob Stoehr, Robert McLaughlin, Lt. McClave, Bill Carroll, "Hut" Broring, (Hollis Orr's awaits a new address as his people think he has "Gone out").

The Waldow boys, we understand, have made some investments in local real estate, buying plots of several acres each from Glenovis, abutting Pine Creek highway and adjoining Irvin Hummer's purchase we told you of in our last. Irvin's house is progressing. An Onalaska operator has a caterpillar and bulldozer with which he moves mountains, builds roadways, digs basements etc. He is now excavating for Kampshroer on his recent purchase of lots from D.G. Webster.

Dr. Archie Skemp has bought "Fruit Acres", the August Schwarz farm, and we hear Horton Frauenkron will manage it. Mrs. Schwarz is harvesting the fall apple crop, however.

A recent hail storm damaged apples some. Apples are at a premium too, as crops were shorted by the spring frosts.

Kenneth Shepherdson has offered his home for sale and plans to go to Texas.

When Ed Gitten bought the Leo Bowman home, his own place at the north end of the village was sold to A.J. King, a brother-in-law of Leo Loochler. Mr. King had a plateau leveled off near the highway opposite the Shell station,

and has erected a Laboratory Refrigeration factory where he builds a device of his own developing for treating oils for use at various temperatures. His distribution field is through practically all oil companies of the U.S. and he has units in India and Venezuela. He is just now completing an order for Russia's use, going there through the U.S. Treasury.

Chris Ambuhl has just opened a little tavern on his property facing the Standard Station, and across the highway.

Pete Krog and Elaine's fruit stands are open for business, and the eiler cabins are being taken care of, since Mrs. Eiler's death, by Carl Eiler, a son, and his wife. Makes the north end of town quite a business section.

Virgil Schultz was on his way to the west coast and a defence job to which he was being transferred, when V-J day arrived and the job blew up. He backtracked with his family and has purchased the Holtz property in Dresbach. He is at his old job at Allis-Chalmers.

Mr. Frank Grover has a charming backyard; a st one fireplace adds to the interest. This year's annual woiner roast party for the neighborhood kids was attended by twenty-seven guests.

Our ball team rounded out the month with a game at the Houston County Fair on Friday, August 31. The lads lost their game. They have not been too fortunate this season on scores, playing many teams of older, more experienced men. Those who know will say our team gives good promise, with more years and experience, and will be able to acquit themselves handsomely.

The La Crosse Tribune, early in the month carried the following announcement: Geraldine Mittons, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Earl Gittons of La Crescent, and Marion Pappenfus 3 1/C, son of Mrs. Bernice Pappenfus, Dakota, Minn. were married July 25, in Santa Ana, Calif.

We will break over into the edge of September to give you a bit of news. On the second day of the month Jim Richardson rushed home to be married at a 6 o'clock Sunday evening church wedding in Ocon Valley, Wisc., to Evangeline Olson, a high school classmate. Jim's school had been closed and he was being shipped to the west coast.

And here is something else over into the edge of September. Rolland Stellick was home. Winston Reider had asked for Rolly's ship, thinking he might run across him. But Rolly's ship, The Neal A. Scott, had been doing sea duty to Bill Richardson's flattop, U.S.S. Mission Bay, all during the summer manouever in the upper Atlantic and neither had any knowledge of the other.

We report two letters from our servicemen. Don Yelton writes and we quote, "On the 16th day of July, I was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant and since that time I have been operating with an outfit of my own!(flight leader). Good for you, Don. We are located in the back woods of the Philippines and live very close to Nature, too close. We had anticipated the final news of peace several days. Now the foremost thought in everyone's mind is how long it will be before we are at home again. If we wait until winter, I'm afraid the cold and snow will be quite a shock after living in this climate. I hope to see you all before very long."

Dallas Ames wrote from Nurenburg Germany, "Hello, Community Club! Received the news letter yesterday and enjoyed it very much. Am just back from 8 days at rest camp in Franco, 20 miles from Luxemburg. Toured the cities which we had fired into. They are really a mess. It is raining today and we don't over need rain. Have been playing both base and soft ball. We have a pretty fair team and really play some close games. Our division team is playing for the E.T. O. championship next week, having already won the 3rd Army title." Dallas' is the D Division. One of their pitchers did a no hit no run game. Dallas says his name is Blackwell and that Joe Gittens might know him as he used to pitch for the Reds. "Thanking you for the news until next time, Dallas." Our letters seem to inspire Dallas to write!

A mother of one of the G.I.'s stopped today to say that although her son had certainly appreciated the letters, "You know how it is, He's an awfully poor hand at writing letters." No apologies are necessary, really. We only hope you get some enjoyment from them. We at home here do a lot of peeing with good intentions, in the matter of letter writing, and at no time have we had to labor under the handicaps of "wars desolations".

Our genial president, Ed Hurley stands good for this letter and joins us in paraphrasing Johnnie of Phillip Morris, "Come and see us some time. We'll be waiting for you. Call for your

Community Club

September:

Days are great for quiet enjoyment. The river and bluffs are wonderful. The St. Louis Star-Times waxes poetic. We quote in part:

"Mellow, warm, sunshiny days
 Shaggy, white, overstuffed rag bags of clouds detouring
 about a blue sky,
 Red banners of sumac, clumps of goldenrod and wild asters,
 zinnias of gold, red and yellow.
 Bob Whites calling, blue-jays screaming, cock pheasants
 challenging.

Dusk charging quickly to dark." September!

September - Signal for renewed activities.

September - Bowlers complaining of lame backs after the summer recess. The usual number of teams, here, we understand, much the same personnel.

September - School days, the kids call it d-a-z-e. One hundred and forty one enrolled in this man's town.

September - The hunter's morn begun - Sportsmen whetting their carbines for the promised open season for migratory fowl on the 20th.-- boy, how the guns did pop!

September - Theme song.--"When Johnny Comes Marching Home."
 Marching home! Better you had. We want and need you. Lots of things need doing around here. We've mentioned from time to time all the fine resources, scenery, soil, climate (lots of it sometimes, but never more than we can take) electricity, water facilities (not enough of that yet) room for growth, lots of it; proximity to a comfortably large town, and fine roads for travel. What more could one ask? So when you come marching in, taking those two or three weeks to loaf and adjust, keep a weather eye out for what you think is needed here, and, why not organize to put your home town on the map? You know, they say each community is a cross section of the whole country. E.C. Waldow recently voiced his appreciation of our surroundings. D. Kellicut, one-time resident, now in Onalaska, advertises a settlement project there. Austin, Minnesota is using Quonset huts to meet the housing shortage. Red Wing is bringing in buildings from the government project at Merrimac, now closed. People working in Eau Claire commute 25 miles. A Wisconsin woman remarked here that "La Crescent is a God-send to La Crosse." They should know that. So when Johnny comes marching home again we'll give him a hearty welcome and Hurrah!

A copy of our July letter addressed to Lea Flentie was returned this week. We wonder when he is coming here to take up the residence the war interrupted. We hear Ken McClave's mail is being sent back, so he is on his way. Maybe he will be able to settle. His wife has been teaching in the Minneapolis schools and has shared an apartment with a onetime La Crescent girl whom some of you know, Helen Vinter. Helen also teaches in the Minneapolis schools.

Some of our boys and girls have been at home. Janet McClave, Bob Bacon, Eddie Gittens on furlough. Bob Stoehr back from Europe for relocation later--Lloyd Kaston as well. Jim Richardson reports at Iowa Pre-flight, points notwithstanding. Jim has four years of Marine enlistment to round out. Billy Carroll is happy to be here for a time. Billy and his dog featured a picture write up in the Sunday Tribune. Joe Hodge reports back perhaps for discharge. Had time, while here to fix things up for a future for himself and someone else.

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A former resident who left here eight years ago, Archie Campbell, called to renew acquaintance and found the village much changed. His combat service was rendered in the South Pacific.

Jim Griffin has had his discharge, also Vernon Walters, and Bob McLaughlin is wearing the "little gold eagle". Myrtle and Joe Whitfield have come back to "God's Country" - a regular army man for many years, the European interlude rubbed off all the glamour for Whitfield. He has chosen civilian life.

A letter from Mrs. Arthur Nurenberg states her husband is now a captain. Mrs. N. is at Cheyenne, Wyo. and has our news letter sent each month as she remembers La Crescent with pleasure. Patricia Webster is also there. Her husband, S/Sgt. P.W. Mullins, is stationed at Ft. Warren. Letters from Winston Reider and Hugh Fay are now mailed in Japan. Donnie Loechler is in the Philippines, - Sumari, -mechanic with the Sea Bees. Artie Oldenburg is back in the Philippines. Johnny Waldow is at Kearns, Utah. Rev. Joe Davy is graduating from chaplain school at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Robert Umberger had his appreciation of our letters expressed in a note this month. Robert was to go to Great Lakes for relocation.

Our girls wrote us during September. WAC Lillian Vetsch Richmond, now a corporal, is always faithful to us and sends us interesting messages. Lillian's spouse is still in England. If and when discharged, we understand his wife is also automatically. Keep us posted Lillian. And Lorraine Stellick Tofte wrote us that early in October she would have been a WAVE a year. She is connected with the Fleet P.O., records department, says the N.Y. offices have been put under San Francisco jurisdiction. She has made petty officer 3/c rating. She keeps in touch with La Crescent through our letters and hopes to have her husband meet people here sometime. He is now in Okinawa.

The 26th was high-lighted by a meeting of parents of Cub Scout lads and Jerry Muir, a new assistant field executive. And the executive board of the C.C. met to plan for the season of monthly meetings. The usual third Monday was again appropriated, a date we hope you will keep in mind when furloughing here. We think the time well spent for pleasure and profit.

Property changes continue. Pete Krog has placed the lower bench of his farm land on the market. Two corner lots have gone to Al Overhouse who used to run the Standard station at Hokah. Two were bought by Irvin Reitz and another two by strangers. We understand D.C. Webster has disposed of ten lots adjoining the Kampshroer purchase on the south. Yet "westward the course of empire takes it way." Also the following clipping is from the La Crosse Tribune, "For Sale: Small plots of one acre or more. Ideal building location. One mile west of La Crescent on surfaced road." Refers to what is known as the Walter McArthur farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Loechler are sponsors of this letter. They say Donnie is doing things he likes now, is on Sumari, also going to school.

Till the end of time,
Your Community.

Fellow-Citizens:-

As usual, the past month has brought us fine letters from local people serving in the armed forces. Always a pleasure and satisfaction.

Now all of you are straining forward toward discharge and the wearing of the little gold pin which Dave Berger so aptly dubs the "Bird of Paradise." Recently, Fred Waring developed a lovely medley of the songs to home in the various parts of the U.S.A. with a splendid arrangement of "Home, Sweet Home" as a finale. Knowing, I'm sure, that your thoughts are of home. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before--you press toward the mark for the prize"---haven and release. Elbert Reider is scheduled to return. Has left the interior and come out to shore and the first troop ship he can manage to board.

One of the first boats to bring troops from Europe with a capacity for 2000 troops, brought 1900---but came into New York the other day with 5500 troops! How crowded they must have been! But they were coming home. Bob Bacon, B.M. 3/c is now on transport duty in the Atlantic, we understand. The A.P.A. boys are the ones who have to take it on the chin till the rest of you are safely returned. A fleet of seven ships, each with a capacity for 1500 men---but carrying 1000 or more extra-ply back and forth---with no furloughs and possibly not even shore leave, in order to facilitate faster delivery. Leaving say Saipan, it takes 14 days to come "state-side"--5 days to take on supplies---make preparations for a return trip---and then back for more high-point men. Our Winston Reider---Chas. Gavin---and Hugh Fay are of Pacific A.P.A. Say they would rather not come to U.S. shores at all, when they cannot come home. A number of our boys were in the recent typhoon, and say they really took a beating. A friend who was in amphib at Normandy told of the hundred of ships sunk in the English Channel to quiet the enormous waves that beat the shore, and facilitate the landings. There is nothing to quiet a typhoon till it blows itself out, they tell us, and the tail end is like a giant game of crack the whip. No troop ships participated in the October 27 Navy Day celebration. Locally our share of the observance was 3 or 4 coveys of various types navy planes, and an L.S.M. docked at Riverside Park for 3 days and open for inspection. On inquiry we were told an L.S.M. would look like a row boat along side an A.P.A. That while the A.P.A. landing craft are merry little boats that bob about with speed and versatility, they are hazardous, requiring skill to manipulate safely.

Our Community Club began its season of gatherings on the 15th. Two of our new county officers were with us, the county nurse Miss Hennessey and Miss Theas, social worker with the Child Welfare Board. The field executive for Cub Scouts, Jerry Muir, gave a spirited talk urging the organization of our local Cubs into "Packs" or "Dens." It seems a going organization of Scouts is necessary before the "Cubs"; a sort of understudy group, can begin to function. And the local Scouts, under the leadership of Mel Hickenbotham, seems to be really going to town. Recently, a cooking demonstration at the old historic spring on "Lake LaCrescent", was "hot business". Lt. D. Yolton, returned South Pacific pilot, was guest raconteur.

Den Mothers for the Cubs to volunteer to date, are Mrs. Henry Rhybold, Mrs. Wm. Lathrop, Mrs. Ernest Fowler, with Bill Lathrop as general chairman.

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At the Cub meeting, we heard read a letter from Lt. Myron (Mike) Waldow, giving the duties of the ship of which he is skipper. Ed Hurley read a letter written in the office of the Judge Advocate section of Headquarters of the 66th Inf. Div. at St. Martin de Grau, France, by Dwight O. Horton--acknowledging the receipt of our letters. Mr. Hurley gave it as one of the fine letters yet to be received, and it was indeed, a thoughtful expression of what most of you are no doubt thinking. Depressed by the petty wranglings thro-out the world, after having seen the wreckage from a vast wrangle, he quotes Rudyard Kiplings great poem--"When the tumult and the shouting dies--the captains and the kings depart--O Lord of Hosts be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget."

George Davies was most gracious in appreciation of our letters. Said, if need be, to get home, would gladly do so on hands and knees--intimating, it wouldn't be the first time. That bank from the highway to the main bench of the village is steep. Kids love to slide down and crawl back. From his vantage point at the lumber yard, E.C. Waldow thinks it hazardous, and feels that the Highway should erect guards.

October brough Irv Vetsch a discharge--also Kenneth Yeiter. Frank Voight is home. Otto Larson is hurriedly building himself a house on a lot purchased before the war. Don Yolton has been helping him during his 45 day furlough. Donald expects his discharge. Ed Ames, after his home furlough, went to Santa Ana, Calif. to effect an anticipated discharge. Ed now plans to take advantage of G.I. schooling and attend Marquette at Milwaukee. Harold Broring, discharged, rushed off to a job in Chicago, after a short visit here. Donald Frappier has a reprieve from an arduous campaign, and is again on our streets. Bill Richardson has 30 days with home folks. Mr. & Mrs. John Davy were made happy by a visit from their chaplain son--Lt. Joseph Davy-- following his "boot" training. He has gone to Ft. Jackson, S. Car. for replacement. Gordon Fay had a delay-in-transit, spending the inside part of a week here and in Minneapolis. Gord saw Ohio State top Minnesota for U. of M.'s first defeat. Ole Minnesota hasn't yet got back into form. Gordon was being sent to Pensacola. Lorraine Stellick Tofte and husband are here, having been discharged. Orvie Bob Wetzel gets home every other week-end from Great Lakes, where he is stationed--perhaps till the new year.

While some come home, others go out. Larry Caven and Wayne Lotter are now at Great Lakes. We still send out about the usual number of service letters. Last month 57 letters were addressed and mailed. The "tumult and the shouting" may die --home may seem like paradise to "yous guys", but take it from us, it is heavenly to have you around--tho we too let the "shouting die". Some we would like to have interviewed to give you some items--others we have not heard from who are away. We can say that Jim Richardson has been sent to Cherry Point, N. Car. Don Fay transferred to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Tex. Don's old hobby, model airplanes, has come into play. He has coached a large U.S.O. group in model construction, judged a display at the Macon, Ga. Fair, and rated a flattering newspaper write-up which carried an excellent picture of the young man. Mrs. Harry Caven has also gone to San Antonio, Tex. to visit her daughter Dorothy Caven Roraff. Mrs. Wallace accompanied her to visit with her husband, Bob, who is stationed in Texas. Eleanor Hasselbusch Miltner has made us an extended visit from Wyoming, bringing with her a small replica of herself, Miss Suzanne Miltner. Local real-estate continues on the move.

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Mr. Tom McCaffrey has disposed of his garage to A. Christianson, and the property between Carroll's tavern and Freda Knutson Vetsch's place has been bought by Mr. Carroll who disposed of the two lots just north of the Vetsch place to Broring and Kletzke who are erecting a display building 40 x 80 feet, having taken on the local distribution of J. I. Case farm implements. We progress!

The County Chairman made Ed Hurley local head of the War Fund Drive. Mr. Hurley was called to Egerly, S. Dak. by the passing of his mother, and the one time "Civilian Defense" women, together with Ernie Fowler and Orvie Wetzel completed the work. The usual donated amount was the result of over 200 calls. That job--the beautiful October weather--and the monthly calendar wound up about the same time, as does this news note from

Yours faithfully,

The Community

Me Byes!

You know how it is--reporters are supposed to make only verified statements. Howsome--error crept into our letter last month.

Correction #1, Bob Wallace accompanied Mrs. Caven to Texas. Mrs. Bob remained in our fair village to look after Mrs Caven's family in her absence. Mrs. Caven went to San Antoine to greet a new grandson.

Correction #2, We've four boys in A.P.A.---Art Jensen's name was omitted.

Correction #3, The "Den Mothers"--Mrs. Wm. Oldenburg should have been in the place of Mrs. Wm. Lathrop. They've got a new one now again--to--Mrs. Ervin Reitz. Then we neglected to tell you Joe Hodge consummated that arrangement for a future with Elaine Oldenburg by a church wedding in October. They are now living here in the village. Mrs. Hodge, Joe's mother, lives in La Crosse--working for Borden's. Rents her home here to Florence and Marie Kintemann. Joe and Elaine live in the trailer house.

The government has cut down our mailing list amazingly. Those returnees we have not mentioned previously are the three Munkel boys, Wayne Horton, Eddie Gittens, Johnny Waldow, Lee Flentie has come back to the village and at long last,--la Vane Boehm. La Vane has given a protracted service in the Pacific campaign. Claudia Albrecht is "out". Vernon Walter, Ed Habner, Harvey Miller, George Williams and Lloyd Williams are back. All find changes, of course. John Waldow's family was evicted in the Henry Leidel apartment. That's the east half of the J. W. Welch house. Harvey Miller's brother George was married and living on St. Joe. Ridge. Maynard Williams married and living in La Crosse. Lloyd came to find himself the head of his home and family as his older brother, George Glenn had passed on and his mother and sister carrying on at the farm.---Not all the brave people went to the "front". George Davies is at his old stand.

An itching trigger finger still remains to tantalize some of our vets. "Fat" Griffen-Frank Voight-Billy Ferrell went north for deer. F. H. Grover--a seasoned fan--went up under the Canadian line. They encountered bad weather and hazardous driving. Roads have had several spells around here of slippery going. A good many mishaps.

O, yes,-- we neglected to tell you the Gopher Sportsmen Sponsored that last letter. The trapper contingent have been busy with their harvest. Furs generally bring tremendous prices--except fox--of little value and small bounty. They harvest chickens, rabbits and pheasant--doing a fair clean-up job. Their bark is easily distinguished on clear frosty nites. Turkeys met their timely finish during this month. Some people, having gotten a roasting chicken all ready for Thanksgiving, won a turkey at Scanlon's raffle and celebrated in the traditional manner consequently.

Your community club met on the Monday eve previous, where we feasted on meat sandwiches, cookies and coffee! We'd had a fine entertainment too. Mrs. Broring had some young friends from a dancing school over town, to do several fancy and charming numbers. W.K.B.H.' Lorraine Newman Fought sang and we had two reels of films--a comedy--to the audible delight of the village off-spring. The other film showed the pains-taking care of citrus fruits for our consumption. James Wofer, who is stationed on Honshu, some 400 miles north of Tokyo, writes the Japanese method of protecting apples from frost. Many apples are grown there. Paper bags are tied over each apple. James went into the island under full combat--but didn't find anyone to combat. Japs had grabbed their blankets and left for parts unknown. Already James counts points. Artie Oldenburg is practically a next door neighbor of Jim's. He's over on Korea. Elmer Lottes, having repaired all the railroads in Europe, frets to return to the states. That seems to be a general phobia. Page any of you. There are still fifty of you from this corporate on our mailing list. We added Francis Fogel this month. The Bond Drive, a November activity, went over almost at once. Joe Gittens and Ervin Reitz filed for aldermen at the village election which will take place Dec. 4th. Mr. Reitz is a newcomer--works in the office of Standard Oil in La Crosse--built a house some years ago next to the Earl Gittens home--has recently purchased two lots in the Pete Krog settlement project.

We've a bit of snow--mercury haunts in the twenties mostly--not bad if you are acclimated. Claudia found it hard to take after Texas.

Donnie Loechler's letter from the Philippines was read at the C.C. meeting. And a letter from Bob Gavin aboard the 45000 T battle ship New Jersey, acting as flag ship to the Fifth Fleet in Tokyo Bay, says he too has a four year enlistment to sweat out. That when it's over, he's hot-footing it back to the best place yet. We trust we are worthy the affectionate devotion of our service lads, to the old home town. Boober and Jim Rich enlisted in the marines at the same time--went through boot together, but have not met since. Unless we are mistaken, seven of our men have gone into the Marines---or do we stand corrected? Robert Gavin, James Richardson, Elbert Reider, Ed. Ames, Francis Walter, John Spangler, LeRoy Harlos. In fact every branch of the service has been well represented except, we believe, the Coast Guard. Letters have come from all parts of the globe and are all on file. Make interesting reading--fifty years from now. A valuable addition to La Crescentawa. and succeeding generations since 1852 have contributed to the background of our locale---none more efficiently nor honorably than the present. More power to you!

Your Community

Thank Dorothy Skelly Ender for the where-with-all for this letter.



ABOUT THE LACRESCENT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We provide community outreach through the History Center, Apple Museum, and activities that celebrate the area's history and heritage.



The History Center and Apple Museum
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OUR PURPOSE

To preserve and celebrate the area's history

- ❖ an active accession process, accepting, storing, and displaying documents, photographs, books, clothing, equipment, and other artifacts, which already account for over 12,000 items
- ❖ accessible two-building museum space for our collection
- ❖ assistance to individuals with La Crescent or family research
- ❖ community outreach that includes speaking to community groups, collaborating with other organizations and businesses, assisting with Applefest and other special events, and historical walking tours
- ❖ a 501(c)(3) organization