

The True Northerner

ALL HOME PRINT--ALL HOME NEWS

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PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1917.

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Local News

Paw Paw and Vicinity

Everybody join the Red Cross.

Join the Red Cross and help your own boys.

H. M. Ayars is confined to his bed with an attack of the Grippe.

H. M. Ayars and Earl Bangs have each purchased a new span of horses.

Harold Glessup of Kalamazoo was a guest of his Paw Paw friends on Wednesday.

Harvey Sherman was home over Sunday, returning to Cassopolis Monday morning.

Attorney T. J. Cavanaugh is engaged in the trial of several cases in the Cass County Circuit Court this week.

Murray Boess visited his mother east of town before reporting for training at an Aviation camp in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Green of Hillsdale were recent guests at the homes of Roy Mosier and A. T. Foote east of town.

Mrs. Lucia Crane Andrews of Oakland, California was a guest at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Rose Smith last week.

Mrs. Byron Lee who recently underwent a serious operation at a hospital in Kalamazoo is reported to be improving rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pugsley will entertain on Christmas, a sister Mrs. L. H. Weldin and family of Battle Creek, and his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pugsley.

Mrs. John Bailey, Laban Mentor, Mrs. Belle Filley, Mrs. B. L. Breed, Mrs. M. D. Buskirk, Mrs. Charles Lake and Mrs. H. P. Waters were among those who spent Monday last in Kalamazoo.

Miss Hattie Breed was the guest of honor at a Miscellaneous shower given by Mrs. Paul Smith at her home Wednesday evening. It was a delightful function, and Miss Breed received many beautiful gifts.

Russell Hindenach leaves next week for Annapolis where he will take a short course at the Naval Academy. He will take the examination in February for admission to the Naval Academy, and the course will be preliminary to the Exam.

A. W. Showerman returned Monday evening from Sturgis where he spent Sunday with his wife who is there taking care of her grand children while their mother is in Detroit. Bert Showerman who is taking treatment at a hospital in Detroit is reported much better.

Parent-Patron Day at the schools last Friday was a great success. Many visitors were in attendance throughout the day, and all went home better satisfied than ever with the efforts of the individual teachers. The exhibits in the various grade rooms were exceptionally fine, and a revelation to those who have not known what the schools are doing.

Mrs. M. P. Allen recently went to the Sanitarium at Battle Creek for treatment. It was found that she was suffering with a cancer, which was removed at a hospital in that city. A message to Paw Paw friends states that the operation was successful and that the patient is recovering as rapidly as could be expected. She is past eighty-two years of age, and her vitality and recuperative powers are wonderful for one of her advanced years. Her daughter Mrs. Minnie Prior of Minneapolis is with her at the hospital.

J. F. Jennings of Lawrence was in Paw Paw on Tuesday. His son, Rex Jennings who enlisted as a private in Troop "A" of South Haven has been promoted to Lieutenant. He is now stationed at Camp McArthur, Waco Texas, and a recent letter from him intimates that his battalion will probably leave for France some time the latter part of this month. Major E. W. Thompson of the same battalion who is a former Lawrence boy, is taking six weeks of advanced training at Camp Sill Oklahoma, and expects to be sent to France at the close of the training period.

The first installment (5 per cent) of the Questionnaires were mailed out to the Registrants on Saturday, the 15th, and five per cent will be mailed each succeeding day until the entire number are sent out. This makes approximately 107 each day for this County. In the big drawing at Washington, No. 258 was the first number drawn from the box. In this county, this happened to be Charles C. German. He holds the distinction of being first in all proceedings,—he being the first man drawn by the Local Board—the first man to report and be examined—the first to be exempted, being under weight—and now holds the record of being first to respond with the Questionnaire,—his Questionnaire being the first one received by the Local Board. We might explain, that while he is German in name,—he is not German in sentiment.

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Mr and Mrs. C. F. Snow were Kalamazoo visitors on Monday last.

Neil Chappell made a business trip to Chicago the first of the week.

Levi Hadsell was shaking hands with Paw Paw friends on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Barber expect to spend Christmas with friends in Chicago.

The members of the Klatter Klub were entertained at the home of Mrs. Frank Avery last Tuesday afternoon.

Leonard Morton is expected to arrive from Flint Saturday to spend a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morton.

Mr and Mrs. George Ernsberger have returned from a two weeks sojourn in Sunny California. They report a delightful trip.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bale have moved to Paw Paw for the winter. Their son and bride will look after things at the home east of town.

Warner Stoughton of South Haven was in Paw Paw Wednesday looking after business at the County Treasurer's office during the absence of Treasurer Duncombe.

A letter from Roy Hess to his father states that he has passed all examinations at Columbus and that he soon will be with some regiment in the South Land.

The Royal Neighbors were recent guests of Mrs. Will Taylor for a Chicken Dinner. "Some spread" was the verdict and Mrs. Taylor was voted an ideal entertainer.

Dr. F. A. Racette and family will leave for Muskegon the day before Christmas to spend the holidays with relatives. His office will be closed from that day until after New Years day.

Mrs. Will Long died suddenly at her home near Lawton last Tuesday evening. She has not been in robust health for some time, but was able to be about the house attending to her housework up to within a few hours of her death.

The Christmas morning services in St. Mary's church will be as follows: First Mass at 7:30 A. M., when the hour for second Mass will be announced. Last Mass and sermon at 10:30 A. M. followed by the Most Holy Sacrament.

The Community Christmas tree will be stationed on Main street this week and will be decorated appropriately for Christmas. Exercises will be held Christmas eve. A substantial gift will be made to the starving people of Western Asia.

Following is the list of officers elected at the annual meeting of Paw Paw Lodge No. 25 F. and A. M. last Tuesday evening: Leon Douglas, W. M.; Paul Smith, S. W.; Lloyd Held, J. W.; Carl Buskirk, S. D.; Roy L. Tuttle, J. D.; E. F. Parks, Treas.; Wm. Killefer, Sec.; C. W. Reynolds, Tiler. The officers will be installed on Thursday evening, December 27th.

Following is the new list of officers elected and installed in Paw Paw chapter No. 34 R. A. M. last Monday evening. M. H. Young, E. H. P.; Dr. George Jackson, K.; G. W. Lee, S.; E. F. Parks, Treas.; Wm. Killefer, Sec.; Willard Warner, C. of H.; Paul Smith, P. S.; H. C. Waters, R. A. C.; George Ernsberger, M. 3rd, V.; Leon Douglas, M. 2nd V.; R. M. Bangs, M. 1st, V.; C. W. Reynolds, Sen.

The ladies of the Coterie enjoyed a fine program at the club rooms on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Abbie E. Dills of Dewitt, Michigan gave a very interesting and instructive talk about her trip to Alaska and Mrs. Rachel Bailey gave a splendid address. Mrs. W. F. Hoyt gave a report of the Red Cross meeting in Detroit, and among other fine numbers were several readings by Miss England, an original Christmas story by Mrs. Arthur Miller, Vocal solo by Irene Gibbs and recitation by Dorothy Charles.

Mrs. Nellie Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Pike of Paw Paw died at her home in Lawton last Saturday night. She has been a sufferer from tuberculosis for the past two years, and gradually wasted away. She was born in Cheshire Allegan county twenty-eight years ago, and was married to Leo W. Hill ten years ago. Besides the husband and parents, two children, Ruth aged nine and Howard aged seven are left to mourn the loss of a kind and loving mother. The funeral services were held from the M. E. church in Lawton on Tuesday, and interment was in Prospect cemetery, Paw Paw.

Many people do not yet understand the provisions of the new act increasing the rate of letter postage. The act raised the postage from two cents to three cents, except on letters mailed for delivery at the office of mailing. A letter mailed for delivery in the jurisdiction of the office where mailed requires but two cents. For illustration a letter mailed at the Paw Paw office for delivery at the office by city carrier or rural carrier from the Paw Paw office requires but two cents. Letters outside the jurisdiction of the office of mailing requires three cents. Some patrons of the local office have been using three cent stamps when a two cent stamp is sufficient.

VAN BUREN BOY AT HALIFAX

Arthur Scott of Arlington, Injured by the Explosion which Wrecked the City, Writes Narrative of the Disaster.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Scott of Arlington township, have the proud distinction of having all their sons (3) in the service of their country. Leslie Jr. was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant at Camp Sheridan and is now at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois; Forest F. the second son is serving in Battery D. 122nd Field Artillery at Camp Logan, Houston, Texas; Arthur, the youngest is a corporal in the 3rd, Battery Overseas Draft Canadian Troops. When the United States declared war on Germany, Arthur who was not yet of age, in order to beat his older brothers to France, went to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Artillery. He was known by his parents and wife to have been in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the time of the recent catastrophe which snuffed out thousands of lives and wrecked the city. His fate was unknown until the first of this week, when a letter to his wife at Bangor apprised the anxious loved ones at home that he was injured, and had a miraculous escape from death.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Scott, The True Northerner is permitted to publish in full this interesting narrative of this terrible disaster. The telegram mentioned in the letter was never received, and the letter was five days in transit.

Following is the letter in full:—

My Dear Wife:

Well I just got my hand out of a sling and am able to write once more. My trigger finger got a nice smash and at present I am holding my pen between both fingers. I got a fellow to write my telegram for me and I thought for a while that I would have to get somebody to take down a letter for me. I have been waiting for this recovery, else you would have heard from me sooner.

No doubt you have become familiar with the extent and nature of the disaster here. As an eye witness and one of the lucky survivors I dare say that it is the most pitiful, terrifying sight I ever saw. The devastation of property, the loss of lives, the suffering of the injured and the hunger of the many homeless, all go hand in hand to make a soldier feel that even in time of war there are those who suffer fully as much if not more than the man who is physically sound and carries the rifle.

Halifax is situated on one of the many points that extend into the sea and help make up the ragged sea coast of Nova Scotia. The city is built on a canal like harbor, which connects the sea and the basin, a body of water the size of one of Michigan's many lakes, the depth of some allowing passage for the average boats. It serves as a waiting place for crafts that call in for coal and supplies.

The canal or strait narrows near the basin to a width not exceeding a hundred yards, making the passage of boats a matter of care. On this particular morning and on the narrowest point of all, two ships tried to pass, one the Mont Blanc, a Belgium Relief ship and the other the Imo, a French ship loaded to the top with high explosives. Through some blunder in the signals making it a costly one, the Mont Blanc rammed the munition ship and set her afire. Twenty minutes of fruitless fire fighting allowed the injured ships to part. The Imo bleached on the Halifax side just as the cargo of five thousand tons of Nitro glycerine and cordite exploded.

This occurred at 9:10 A. M. December 6th. I was in front of a window facing a shoe and heard the explosion I immediately decided it was my move. I took one pace backward, the window pane and all struck me backward, cutting my face a bit and smashing my finger, the roof came in and a rafter caught me on the shoulder and hurled me into an open bunk saving the Government transportation of a corpse from Halifax to Windsor. The fact that the roof caved in led me to believe that the "Zepps" were at last in Canada. I was not stunned at all nor much excited, only I just wondered where in the name of blazes I could get an eighteen pound gun. I ran out of the hut and saw one of the most beautiful sights of my life. A cloud of smoke from the exploded munitions. It rolled as beautifully as could be. Up, at first white, then yellow, brown and finally black.

The sight that followed was anything but beautiful, women, children, and a few men were running about the streets with bloody hands and faces, hats were not to be seen on heads, but in the air. Soon the rush started, myself as well as other bleeding soldiers knew not that there was a scratch on ones own self, but started in at the rescue work which

is not completed yet. As far as we could see not a whole pane of glass existed, doors were as curtains before the average wind, literally blown off.

I took ten men and a bunch of first aid bandages, and started out. After visiting a hundred homes or more, sending the worst cases to the hospital, the lesser ones to field dressing stations and bandaging the bleeding. That work continued until noon, when I joined a party of a couple of hundred on their way to Richmond, the suburb of Halifax, directly opposite the explosion. Here the windows were not only broken but the houses were not there. Such a wrecked area I never saw, and by the time we got there it was all afire, acres of burning wreckage. We worked continuously until midnight, pulling over the wreckage and fighting fire. At the point of explosion on the Halifax side were located the freight yards. They occupied a strip some hundred yards wide, from here the national valley started. The side where we were was very steep and at least fifty feet above the waters edge.

It was very plain that the water was found to the top of the bank taking down with it the fences etc., piling it on the railroad, that is what little there was left of it. There are hundreds of scenes that I can call to mind if I should describe them would give you the jim-jams for months to come. All told there have been about two thousand bodies recovered and it is estimated that there are at least five hundred burned and as many yet to be rescued. Stories of all kinds have been told about men being blown half a mile, others about pulling out wreckage and finding clocks ticking and talking machines on the go but of course there would be peculiar things happen. The relief work is now the big item for there are thousands of people practically entirely upon the generous public for their existence. The timely assistance of the Dominion and the U. S. is a fortunate thing for this city. The loss of this city alone runs far into the millions.

Volumes could be written upon this one occasion, but I must call it off for now and as the visions become fainter it will take less to tell about it. We probably will not be going overseas for a while, due to this accident.

There are a good many things for which I am thankful, the chief one being that we were not rooming in Halifax. Secondly that I am perfectly alive. Thirdly, that I can say that I was present at the time of what will be known for years to come as the most disastrous explosion ever known in the history of explosions.

Too, I am thankful that I am a soldier, for you know a soldier is never homeless. All he needs is two kit bags and the starchy canopy of Heaven and you will always find him at home.

Now you need not worry, for I am well on the road to recovery and have not stopped once, even though my one hand has been tied up, for three hours is the longest period of sleep I have had yet. I am still in charge of the rations and each and every night I dish meals to guards, patrols, and civilians to the extent of about three hundred men. Each day I take on a few hours guard to help the boys out, for the weaker ones are giving out. I have a nice cold, and when I get to coughing I make the boards rattle. I woke up one morning to find my bunk full of water. I was that near all in that I knew nothing until I was soaked. One could drive a mule through the roof of the hut that my bunk is and if a cat was to be thrown out it would come down a hard mass of violent strings for tonight it is exactly two above.

Hoping that the supply of German ammunition depended upon the cargo of the Imo and that the war will be over before many months, I hope that the stray cargoes will be exploded at sea and not around women and children.

Bidding you farewell again I must close for the boys are beginning to string along for a cup o' tea.

Ever your loving husband

Art. P. S. Please pass the good word on to father and mother as I may not have a chance to write again for a few days.

Corporal A. M. Scott
73rd Battery Overseas Draft
Halifax
Nova Scotia, Canada.

[Note—The telegram referred to at the beginning of this letter was never received, and this letter was five days in arriving.]

Mrs. J. E. Gilkey was among the Kalamazoo visitors last Saturday.

Miss Josephine Van Auken is visiting among Hartford friends this week.

Charles Blackwood of Kalamazoo was in Paw Paw on his regular business trip Wednesday.

There must be fifteen million members of the Red Cross in the United States to cheer (?) up Kaiser Bill.

Dr. G. F. Young of South Haven spent Wednesday at the home of his brother M. H. Young and family.

Mrs. Elizabeth Clark left Thursday for Battle Creek where she will spend several weeks with Mrs. M. P. Allen in the hospital there.

George Longwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Longwell has resigned his position in Battle Creek and has enlisted in the Engineer Corps at Camp Custer.

Mrs. Zilpha Ferguson and children will leave this evening for Charleston, West Virginia to spend the holiday vacation at the home of her brother L. H. Harrison.

The ladies of the Maccabees will have a six o'clock pot luck supper for the members at Memorial Hall, Friday December 28th. All members are requested to attend.

Dr. A. E. Van Vleck left the first of the week for Macon, Missouri, where he will join his wife and spend the holidays with her at the home of her parents.

Miss Irene Cole left Wednesday for Niles where she will be the guest of relatives for a few days. Later she will go to Chicago to spend the holidays. She will return home some time in January.

One of the happiest men in the city of Paw Paw right this minute is "Grand Pa" George Weston. He received the joyful news Thursday morning that a baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Westor of Dowagiac on Wednesday evening. Congratulations, "Grand Dad."

The Christmas Grab Bag at the Emporium next Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock will be the sensation of the Paw Paw holiday shopping. A quarter page "ad" in this issue will give complete details. Be on hand at 3:00 o'clock though Monday, to get a Grab while the Grabbing is good.

Miss Hattie Breed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Breed will become the bride of Attorney Earl L. Burhans on Wednesday December 26th. Invitations are out for the wedding which will be solemnized at the Breed home. Miss Breed is one of Paw Paw's talented and highly esteemed young ladies, and Mr. Burhans is a prominent and prosperous member of the Van Buren county bar. The True Northerner joins the host of friends in pre-nuptial congratulations.

David Woodman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Woodman has accepted a position as County Farm Agent for Cass county. David has held a similar position in Alpena county for the past two years. Alpena was the first county in the state to employ a county agent, and David's work in that county has been eminently satisfactory. In fact he has received a substantial increase in salary there, but Cass county will bring him nearer "Home." Our neighboring county is to be congratulated in securing the services of so able and progressive a young man as David Woodman.

The True Northerner is in receipt of a letter from Claire McFarlin of Hdq. Co. M. 126 Inf. 63rd Brigade Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas. Claire and his brother Grant have just heard of the malicious and slanderous desertion gossip that circulated about Paw Paw several weeks ago, and feel it keenly. Grant, who was the victim of the slander, has been promoted to first class Private, and with his brother Claire was transferred to "Head Quarters Section." There they learn the various methods of signaling and telegraph, and are also "Runners" that is they are detailed to carry messages where-ever and when-ever the necessity may arise.

The Van Buren County Fuel Administration has been organized with Edward Finley of Hartford as chairman, H. P. Knudsen of South Haven and L. A. Packer of Lawton as assistants. Mr. Knudsen will look after the wants of the northern part of the county, while Mr. Packer will have charge of the southeastern portion, leaving the central part for Mr. Finley. All complaints of shortage of fuel should be reported to them by local dealers in their respective districts. The committee will use every effort to relieve the present stringency in their respective localities. The state administration will recognize no one but the county chairman.

At the annual meeting of the Farmers' Federation held at the Court House last Friday the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Waldo Phillips, Hamilton, President; Max Stafford, Lawrence, Vice President; Robert Anderson, Covert, Secretary; Paul Smith, Paw Paw, Treasurer. The foregoing officers together with Clifton Pierce, Genova; E. J. Kirby, Covert; E. A. Chase, Waverly; Leo Prater and Carl Buskirk, Paw Paw constitute the board of directors. On account of the increased County and Government appropriation, the annual membership fee could be reduced from \$2.50 to 25 cents per year.

Everybody join the Red Cross.

Join the Red Cross and help your own boys.

Edison Root Jr. is out of school this week entertaining a hard cold.

Be a Santa Claus to the Starving Armenians and Syrians. Buy a tag.

There must be fifteen million members of the Red Cross in the United States to cheer (?) up Kaiser Bill.

Mrs. W. J. Warner and daughter Miss Jean were in Kalamazoo last Saturday.

Mrs. Olivia J. C. Woodman has as her guest, Mrs. Abbie E. Dills of Dewitt, Michigan.

There must be fifteen million members of the Red Cross in the United States, to cheer (?) up Kaiser Bill.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Downing of Mattawan were the guests of Paw Paw relatives the first of the week.

L. B. Gorton delivered four fine violins to Benton Harbor and St. Joseph parties the first of the week.

Some change in the weather this week. Rain the first of the week, with rising temperature has lowered the snow and wrecked the roads.

Mrs. Ada G. Duncombe has been allowed a pension as widow of the late Stephen W. Duncombe. The pension was allowed through the O. W. Rowland agency.

Kirk Harrington came over from Ann Arbor for a few days visit with old friends this week. He will spend a short time in Kalamazoo before returning to the University.

The next regular meeting of the W. R. C. will be held on Saturday afternoon. There is special business to be transacted and every member is requested to be present at this meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Raymond and daughter Letta have arrived from Saskatchewan, Canada to spend the holidays with their parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Raymond, also Mr. and Mrs. Dan Church and other relatives here.

Miss Mary Howe is visiting Paw Paw relatives and friends. She is a teacher in the Grand Haven schools where a general vaccination of the pupils, together with a shortage of coal has necessitated an extended vacation.

An urgent call has been sent out from A. R. C. Headquarters for helmets for the soldiers. Ears and faces freeze in such bitter weather. Help protect them.

The monster sale at the Sellick store is on in full blast this week. Page three of this issue will give the readers of The True Northerner some idea of the sale and the bargains. A big stock of shoes arrived after page three was in type, and a quarter page is run on page seven to advise the public of this big shoe slaughter. This is really a "Worth your While Sale." Read both "ads" in this issue carefully and act accordingly.

Giaves, the Hypnotist held forth at the Opera House the first three nights of the week, and fair sized audiences turned out each night to see the usual hypnotic stunts. A member of the company lay in a hypnotic state in the Racket Store window from 5:30 Sunday night until 8:30 Monday evening when he was awakened on the stage of the Opera House. There is something uncanny and revolting about a hypnotic entertainment, and yet it is fascinating. We fail to see any good from such an entertainment however, and it is our opinion that public hypnotic entertainments should be prohibited by law.

The friends of Mrs. Ruth Harrington who went to San Antonio, Texas last Spring, will be glad to know that a letter has recently been received from her. She is not much improved in health, but is able to be about the house. She is living with her son, Lou and likes Texas, but has not forgotten her native state, Michigan her old home, and friends. She wishes to be remembered to them all. The True Northerner is her weekly visitor so she knows of the local happenings which is so welcome when one is away among strangers. Her address can be obtained of Mrs. Dollie Conner, should anyone desire it.

The fame and reputation of the O'Grady Bros. as "Live Wires" in the Gent's Furnishings business is not confined to the local trade. The holiday number of the Dry Goods Optimum, published by Burnham, Stoepel Co. of Detroit contains a fine half page cut of the store front, under which is the following boost for the boys, under the heading, "O'Grady Bros. Modern Store." "Few villages with a population of 1,800 can boast of an exclusive men's wear store such as is conducted by O'Grady Bros. Paw Paw, Michigan. Indeed the store would be a credit to any city, regardless of size. Edward and James O'Grady received their early mercantile training in Paw Paw; Edward, in a general dry goods store, and James in the store he is now part owner of, formerly known as E. Smith and Co. The brothers purchased the business about four years ago and immediately set about making general improvements, both in the stock and the store. They enjoy a trade that extends for a radius of fifty miles, which in these days of intensive competition speaks volumes for the ability of the firm."