

Rotarians Hear Plea for Natural Gas in Wisconsin

Speaking on behalf of the introduction of natural gas into the state of Wisconsin, Philip L. Ash, secretary of the Wisconsin Consumers' committee, Milwaukee, asked members of the Wisconsin Rapids Rotary club at their weekly luncheon Wednesday at the Witter hotel to contact representatives of this area at Madison—Senator Melvin Laird and Assemblyman W. W. Clark—

Purely Personal

William H. Schacht, petty officer first class, arrived last night from the west coast to spend a 30-day furlough with his wife and daughter, Patricia Lou, at 630 Tenth avenue south and with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schacht. Petty Officer Schacht has been serving on motor torpedo boats in the South Pacific and has had 21 months of sea duty.

Charles E. Sullivan, electrician's mate third class, and Warren G. Sullivan, Jr., motor machinist's mate second class, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Warren G. Sullivan, 671 1/2 West Grand avenue, spent the week-end together at home after not having seen each other for two years.

Cpl. Russell E. Miller left last night to return to Camp Blanding, Fla., after a week-end visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller. Carl F. Hille, R. D. M. 2/c, arrived last Monday evening on leave from the Philippines and is visiting his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Hille, Sr., 1350 Baker street, and other relatives and friends. He will report back at San Francisco on May 4.

Pfc. Howard L. Olson will leave Thursday for Tucson, Ariz., after spending a two week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Olson. He recently graduated from a B-29 specialist's school at Chanute, Kan.

Sgt. Ruth E. Nelson who arrived last Thursday to spend a furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Nelson will leave Monday for Newport, R. I., where she is stationed with a WAC detachment. Robert E. Lee, gunner's mate second class was a guest at the Nelson home from Thursday until Sunday, at which time he left for Newport, R. I.

Herbert J. Ruder, seaman second class, left Monday evening for New York City after a seven-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruder. Second Lt. and Mrs. James C. Prebanow came Tuesday from Monroe, La., and are spending a week here at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Prebanow, 1921 Baker Drive. Lieutenant Prebanow, who was commissioned at Selman Field on Saturday, will return there before going to Lincoln, Neb. On the return trip they plan to spend a couple of days in Milwaukee at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Eswain.

Pvt. Joseph E. Fritsche, Jr., who has been in training at Fort Warren, Wyo., and Camp Carson, Col. the past six months, is here on a 20-day furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fritsche, Sr., and other relatives and friends. He will report at Camp Beal, Calif., on May 5.

Signalman and Mrs. James Casey left Thursday evening for New Orleans, La., where he is to report for duty April 23. He expects to be stationed there a month and then will receive a new assignment. En route they visited his brother, Gene Casey, who is in boot training at Great Lakes after spending his leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Casey and other relatives.

Pvt. Arthur Krey, who has been stationed at Camp Robinson, Ark., is spending a 10-day delay en route with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Krey before reporting May 2 at Fort George G. Meade, Md. Cpl. and Mrs. Russell Grambsch arrived in the city Tuesday evening to spend his two weeks' furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Minor, 580 Seventeenth avenue south, and with his relatives at Lyell and Marshallfield. Corporal Grambsch is stationed at Cambridge, Mass., at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Radiation laboratory. Before entering the army in September 1942, he owned and operated a radio shop in Marshallfield. Mrs. Grambsch is the former Pauline Minor, a Wood county teacher.

Pfc. William Dillman left Thursday afternoon for Fort Sheridan, Ill., after spending a three-day pass with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dillman. Sgt. Gilbert Severson, S 1/c, of the armed guard, left Wednesday to report at his post at Boston, Mass., after spending a seven-day leave with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Severson at Dexterville.

Lawrence Literski, 44, Route 1, at a preliminary hearing this morning pleaded guilty to four separate charges of petty larceny in justice court of Marjorie Jacobson. He was sentenced to serve five days on each count in county jail, a total of 20 days and also was ordered to pay for the merchandise. Literski was arrested by city police when they found the stolen merchandise, valued at \$30, in his possession, which had been taken from four stores in Wisconsin Rapids, the Coast-to-Coast store, Reiland's market, Link's market and the Daly Drug and Jewelry company. Because the merchandise had been taken from four separate places, and in each case totalled less than \$20, an original charge of grand larceny was dismissed.

George Frchette, general manager of WFHR, spoke to members of the Stevens Point Kiwanis club Tuesday on the development of radio. Mr. Frchette recalled that this year marks the 25th anniversary of radio broadcasting, the first broadcast having been in 1920 of the Harding-Cox presidential election. Tracing step by step the milestones in radio progress, he concluded by discussing television and FM (frequency modulation).



MORNING CALLS—This is a typical scene at the Wood County Telephone company at about 10 o'clock any morning. Boards in foreground are for long distance, the remainder for local calls. Gertrude Jackson, supervisor, is standing beside the desk.

'Number, Please?' Is Obscure But Vital Part of Local Life

This piece, might well be called, "The Story Behind the Switchboard." It is going to be a glimpse of what goes on in the building where, day and night, operators are on duty completing telephone calls. Down at the Wood County Telephone company office, in a room overlooking the river, there is a long board of black material which is filled with numerous small holes set in rows. Below this board, on what corresponds to a narrow counter, is an endless array of plugs which can be snapped out from their respective positions. On this counter, too, are buttons of varied colors. This equipment, combined with many many lights flashing beneath the holes in the board make up only a part of the working mechanism necessary to complete those calls put in so casually and so often.

In this same room, 12 girls equipped with headphones are seated before the long switchboard. There are four sections, each "manned" by three operators. Nine of these are for local calls, three for toll. Numbers are in groups of 100—there are seven lines to Nekoosa, five to Port Edwards—red lights indicate trunk cords—black, blue and red buttons each have a special meaning and confounds the visitor. Upshot of the whole thing is that the job of a telephone operator is not one which can be taken over immediately. It demands careful training, concentration and an ability to grasp the technic necessary to becoming a part of this vital work.

Miss Fanny Barrette, chief operator at the local office, relates that a beginner at the switchboard is given three weeks of training under an experienced operator. She is then allowed to try out on one of the least busy sections of the board. Accuracy is stressed first and speed comes later in making the necessary connections. Miss Barrette considers that it takes all of a year to make a really good operator. The girls must have worked on local calls for one year before they are allowed to handle the toll boards. The chief operator stated that there has been a terrific turnover in the switchboard personnel during these years and thus it has been as difficult here as in other industries to maintain the proper number of experienced employees. At the

Carl Klandrud Named President of Local Teachers' Association

Carl Klandrud was elected president of the Wisconsin Rapids Teachers' association at a meeting held Tuesday afternoon. Hugh Sargent is vice president, and Miss Elva Vruwink, secretary-treasurer. The Misses Lucy Keeler and Irma Jewell were elected to the executive committee.

Speaker at this meeting was Charles E. Weirauch, a representative of the social security board, who spoke on the old-age and survivor's insurance phase of social security. Several weeks ago, the teachers heard a talk by J. R. Wedlake, assistant attorney general and department director of the state attorney and investment board, who spoke on "The Teacher Retirement Pension System." These talks pertained to the study of pension systems that the teachers have carried on this spring.

Two Whooping Cough Clinics Here Friday

Two whooping cough vaccination clinics will be held in the gymnasium of the Wood County Normal school from 9 to 10 o'clock Friday morning and in the city hall from 1:30 to 2:30 in the afternoon. The clinic is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and will be open to infants over six months of age and pre-school children living in and near the city of Wisconsin Rapids. Older children who need booster doses should come also. Three doses of vaccine are required to give the protection and a charge of 25 cents is made for each dose. Funds are available to take care of costs for anyone unable to pay, Miss Leona Norton, county nurse, said.

Up The Street—And Back

Seaman Douglas W. Becker of Vesper, a former employe of a Wisconsin Rapids clothing store, hitchhiked from New York to the Rapids in just 36 hours. Even more startling than the good time he made is the fact that he started for home with just 25 cents in his pocket and arrived here with 15 cents still left! He is spending a 10-day leave with his parents in Vesper.

The mattresses, springs, chairs and divanets out on the lawns of Tri-City residents gives ample proof that spring is with us, even though the weatherman has been a bit reluctant to admit it. Special condolences and a prize should go to the woman bowler in the recent city tournament, who got 20 splits in six consecutive games. Those who know bowling will tell you that one or two per game is bad enough but 20 in six lines is high onto a record!

Faculty Members of Rapids, Nekoosa Will Attend Dinner

Members of the Lincoln and Alexander high school faculties and representatives of the Wood county school system will travel to Antigo Wednesday for the spring banquet of the Central Wisconsin Schoolmasters' club to be held in the Hotel Ogilvie. City Superintendent J. P. Mann of Appleton will speak on "Federal Support for Education." Those attending from Wisconsin Rapids are Edgar Bird, Frank Howell, H. C. Jacobson, Joseph Liska, Jr., Lloyd Nell, John Plenke, J. A. Torresani, City Superintendent, and A. W. Zellmer, principal of the Wood County Normal school.

Company F Is Host to Battalion Conference

Company F of the Wisconsin State Guard will be host to all officers and non-commissioned officers of Stevens Point, Marshfield and Rhinelander state guard companies Saturday and Sunday at a battalion officer's conference. About 125 men are expected to participate in this school. Regular army officers will be present to act as instructors during the two-day period.

130 Present As Foresters Observe 50th Anniversary

About 130 people attended the celebration and banquet in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul Court 496, Catholic Order of Foresters Sunday at the school gymnasium. Principal speakers were Ralph De Porter, Moline, Ill., high court trustee, and A. X. Umhoefer, Colby, Wis., state vice-chief ranger. Mr. Porter, after congratulating the court on the progress made in the past 50 years, presented eight members with gold emblem pins in honor of their 50 years service as a Forester. Three of these were charter members and are still active today, the court started with 22 members 50 years ago and increased to 241 adult and 82 juvenile members. The three charter members are John Flanagan, Frank Collier and Matthew Ermer. Others who joined that same year and received 50-year pins are Joseph Hullmuller, Frank Rillemyer, John E. Schabel, Frank L. Steib and Thomas Slattery, Ladysmith, Wis. Mr. Umhoefer said: "We live by three principles, faith, hope and charity. If organizations all over the world had subscribed to these principles in the past, there probably wouldn't be curmold and strife in the world today. Now the world

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PLAQUES GIVEN BY VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Twenty-seven families received plaques from Department Commander George H. Johnson in a special ceremony at the joint installation of officers for the John Buckley Post No. 2534, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and its Auxiliary unit at Wood County Realty hall Saturday evening. This was the third such presentation to parents having three or more sons or daughters in the service. Louis Baldwin assisted Commander Johnson in giving out the plaques. Speakers were Commander Johnson and Capt. William J. McGrogan.

Officers installed by the post were George B. Harper, commander; Harry Rucinski, senior commander; Donald Mullenix, junior commander; the Rev. A. W. Triggs, chaplain; Edgar Worlund, quartermaster; Arthur Robbins, adjutant; James Gustafson, officer of the day; Dr. F. X. Pomainville, post surgeon; Arthur Crowns, post advocate; Elmer Winegard and Ernest Austin, color bearers; Ted Hilgard and Peter Engwall, color guards; Edward Krohn acted as installing officer.

Three of the new officers, Harry Rucinski, Donald Mullenix and James Gustafson are veterans of World war II.

Mrs. Fern Fowier installed the auxiliary officers, Mrs. Bertha Hilgard, president; Mrs. Nellie Palunick, senior vice president; Mrs. Ruby Skinner, junior vice president; Mrs. Laura Scholten, guard; Mrs. Blanche Mullenix, treasurer; Mrs. Florence Hultquist, banner bearer; Mrs. Ella Van Gorder, patriotic instructor; Mrs. Pauline Kersten, Mrs. Esther Worlund, Mrs. Rosemary McGrogan and Mrs. Eleanor Austin, color bearers; Mrs. Laura Fanning, secretary; Mrs. Effie Powell, musician; Mrs. Ella Van Gorder, trustee for three years.

A large delegation from the Marshfield Post and Auxiliary attended and there were many other guests, including the parents receiving the plaques. Lunch was served under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rose Krohn.

BAGGOT HEADS ADAMS BOARD

At an organization of the Adams county board of supervisors at the courthouse at Friendship, Leo S. Baggot was elected chairman for 1945 and standing committees were appointed.

A resolution signed by 11 members of the board, which constitutes a majority, was introduced requesting that consideration be given to the discontinuation of the Adams county soil conservation district due to the labor shortage and alleged lack of benefits to the people. The committee of resolutions to which it was referred recommended that the resolution be tabled until the next session, June 12, and the suggestion was adopted. The first agitation for the discontinuance of the soil conservation district came in the fall session in 1944, at which time no action was taken. The office was created by county board action in May, 1942, and was passed by unanimous vote.

Also under consideration was a resolution to sell the county home and its equipment to a private individual, who would operate it as a home for the aged. Leasing of the home also is being considered, so that pensioners who are homeless can stay there.

Mrs. Mary Burian was appointed relief director by the board and will begin duties May 1, replacing Edward Mahun.

An appropriation was made to purchase a movie projector and loudspeaker system for visual education in the county.

Nekoosa Parents of Musicians Sponsor Blood Donor Trip

Nekoosa Parents of School Musicians sponsored a blood donor bus to Milwaukee on Tuesday, 25 Tri-City people making the trip. Mrs. Louis Meyer of Port Edwards contributed her sixth pint of blood. Others making the trip were Mrs. Anna Kiedrowski, Mrs. Delores Karsten, Mrs. D. Derksen, Miss Marion Wagner, Mrs. Burt Meyer, Mrs. George Walker, Mrs. Henry Ashbeck, Mrs. Fred Piltz, Miss Laura Ponczoch, Mrs. Roman Klafka, Miss Margaret Weiler, Miss Alvina Piltz, Miss Betty Kester, Miss Alma Joosten, Miss Lorraine Worlund, Mrs. E. Stelmacher, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Miss Hattie Pagel and Miss Lora Johnson, all of Wisconsin Rapids; Mrs. Ralph Forbes, Mrs. Purl McKenzie, Miss Lucille Schroepfer, Bruce Falke and Melvin Shymanski of Nekoosa.

Donations of Nekoosa residents to the rummage and bake sale held by the organization financed the trip.

Local Woman Denies Charge of Forgery

Mrs. Annette Liggett, 211 Eighth avenue north, pleaded not guilty to a charge of forgery when arraigned Monday in justice court of Byron B. Conway. Preliminary hearing was set for 10 o'clock Monday morning and Mrs. Liggett was confined to county jail pending trial after failing to furnish bond of \$600. She was arrested by city police on complaint of William Worth.



ROYALTY FOR AN EVENING—King Dick Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Brooks of Nekoosa, has chosen as his queen, Miss Mary Anne Haessley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Haessley, also of Nekoosa. The royal couple will reign for an evening at the annual Junior Prom Saturday, April 28, at Alexander High school gymnasium, which will be especially decorated in the theme, "Down By The Old Mill Stream." The Castillians will play for the dance. The following committees were appointed by Dick Brooks, class president and prom king: Dolores Cibula and Mary Anne Haessley, orchestra; Doris Schroepfer, Lorraine Anderson, Jean Baker and Margaret Michaels, programs; Agnes Le May, Pat Millmore and Carol Buchanan, posters; Geraldine Misna and Maizie Harnish, ticket committee; publicity, Bill Shaw, John Schuren and Geraldine Misna. Faculty advisors are Miss Martha Blair, Mrs. Elsbeth Petzold and A. F. Kozlovsky.

Miss Dolores E. Anderson Is Bride of Donald J. Kessler

Sacred Heart Catholic church at Nekoosa was the scene of the marriage at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, April 17, of Miss Dolores Elaine Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Anderson, Route 5, Wisconsin Rapids, and Donald John Kessler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kessler, Wisconsin Rapids. The Rev. Alvin Daul read the ceremony, Sister Mary Albertine was at the organ and the church choir sang.

Attendant to the groom was his brother-in-law Stanley Kujawa. A wedding breakfast and dinner was served to 50 friends and relatives at the home of the bride's parents. A four-tiered wedding cake, topped by a miniature bride and groom, was the table centerpiece. A wedding dance was held at the Kellner club.

Mrs. Kessler is a graduate of Alexander High school at Nekoosa and was employed by Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company at Port Edwards. Mr. Kessler is a graduate of Lincoln High school and is employed as an inventory clerk at Port Edwards. The young couple are now at home at 1332 Chase street.

HOEFS-ERICKSON

At 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, April 7, in a double ring ceremony at the Immanuel Lutheran parsonage, Miss Loretta Hoefs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hoefs, 431 Eleventh street south, became the bride of Richard Erickson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Erickson, Route 2, Wisconsin Rapids. Vows were repeated after the Rev. E. G. Kuechle.

A six o'clock supper was served to the immediate relatives and friends with the three tiered wedding cake serving as a centerpiece. A reception for 50 guests followed the supper.

Both young people are graduates of Lincoln High school. Previous to her marriage, the bride was employed at Consolidated Water Power and Paper company. The groom is employed at Abbotswaggon Paper Products company.

Funeral Services for Harland Spry Friday

The body of Pvt. Harland Spry, who died April 16 at Letterman hospital, San Francisco, is expected to arrive in Nekoosa Thursday morning from the west coast and will rest at the George Larson residence at 111 Prospect avenue, where friends may call until time of services.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Congregational church in Nekoosa, following the saying of prayers at the house at 1:30. A picked group of soldiers from Camp McCoy will conduct military services with the Rev. C. A. O'Neill will conduct church services. The Voss Funeral home has charge of arrangements.

The deceased soldier is the son of Mrs. Bessie Spry, Nekoosa.

Private Bregor Abroad By Dave Bregor



"That's the last time he jumps with us till he learns to swim!"