

The River Falls State Teachers STUDENT VOICE

VOLUME XXVIII

RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1944

NUMBER 14

MAY 5 CHOSEN FOR VISITOR'S DAY AT RFSTC

STRONKS LEADS PLANNING

Our mothers and kid sisters back in high school are coming to visit us. The date is May 5. Plans being made by Miss Hathorn and Virginia Stronks, general chairman for Visitors' Day, promise that this occasion will be a big success.

Events of the day begin at eleven o'clock with a Sight Seeing Tour of the Campus. Luncheon will be served in the college cafeteria at noon. After time for chatting and getting acquainted with our set-up, our guests will be shown. "A Day in the Life of a Coed at RFSTC." Coffee will be served at four o'clock to close this interesting day.

Those chairmanning committees are Pat Ryan, Carol Finstad, Deloise Trindie, Geraldine Wenzel, Marilyn Mercord, Marion Lynch and Betty Aasterud.

THREE ACE OFFICERS RE-ELECTED FOR NEXT YEAR

The ACE has elected its officers for next year. Because of the decrease in the size of the group, three of this year's officers were re-elected. Jean Larson will continue as president, Virginia Stronks as treasurer, and Anna Mae Hosied will serve as secretary instead of publicity chairman. Madolyn Anderson will act as next year's publicity chairman.

The Midguardians invited the ACE girls to be present at their meeting Wednesday April 19, in the Social Room. Mr. Johnston will speak to the group.

Miss Margaret Pepper and Mr. Albert Timmerman were married at the local Methodist church on Easter Sunday. Peg—as we all called her—graduated with the class of 43 and has been teaching at Lancaster, Wis. the past year.

NOTICE

Remember, if you are between 18-21 years old, to have your blood bank release signed by your parents so that you're all set to give a pint of blood on April 27. Don't forget, the life of some serviceman may depend on the blood you give!

CYRANO FACINATES LANGUAGE CLUB

Language Club members found *Cyrano de Bergerac*, as read by Miss Elsie Hoffmann, a most facinating story. *Cyrano*, a real character of the 1,600's, is well known to second year French students who read the play by Rastand during the year. His life is one full of daring adventure bravery self-denial and pathos. No one who reads *Cyrano* can forget him.

During the business meeting, officer's were elected for the coming year. Later, a lunch and social hour was enjoyed.

Buy more war bonds!!!

Prof. Arthur Johnson Appointed to State Board

TEACHER SHORTAGE IS CRITICAL, SAYS STATE SUPERINTENDENT

In a recent release to the principals and superintendents of the public schools, John Callahan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, calls attention to the crisis facing schools because of a shortage of teachers and calls upon high school principals to do their utmost to encourage young women to take up teaching as a patriotic profession now.

Callahan calls attention that this June an all-time low will be reached in the number of graduates from the teacher training institutions, that selective service will take dozens of men teachers, and that few replacements can be expected from former teachers who are now married. A comparison of the supply of beginning teachers in 1943 and 1944 is given:

Graduating	1943	1944
Rural	788	193
Kindergarten	220	79
Elementary	207	173
Junior High	13	18
TOTAL Jr. High, Elem, and Rural	1,228	463
Academic Majors (History English, Soc. Studies etc.)	293	133
Commercial	87	14
Agriculture	38	4
Science	89	18
Mathematics	27	12
Language	24	8
Industrial Arts	35	9
Others	351	188
TOTAL High School Teachers	944	369
Grand Total of Teachers Trained in Wisconsin	2,172	849

Commenting on this disparity the State Superintendent calls attention to the fact that in order to keep the schools running in 1943-44, the department has had to issue emergency permits to 2900 former teachers, or to 15 per cent of the total teaching force in Wisconsin. What may lie ahead can be seen in the fact that since last year's supply of teachers was inadequate this year the schools will have run with a supply of new teachers that is 40 per cent below that of last year.

The effect upon salaries has been good. The release calls attention to the probability that the beginning salaries of rural teachers will be from \$1,100 to \$1,400, of teachers of high school academic subjects from \$1,500 to \$1,700, and of teachers of of special fields over \$2,000.

Mr. Callahan urges administrators to try to interest high school graduates to take up teaching. He states that high schools have permitted every other occupation to recruit from the graduating classes, and now it is time to appeal to the superior graduates to give careful consideration to the teaching profession.

This report, while it shows a crisis ahead in the teaching profession, nevertheless shows the beginning of a fighting spirit that can go far to prevent education being left behind in the total effort of a nation at war, and consequently is welcomed by members of the profession.

Prof. Arthur Johnson of the River Falls State Teachers college recently was appointed by Governor Goodland to be a member of the advisory board on agriculture to the State Rehabilitation Board. The Rehabilitation Board has under its supervision the rehabilitation of veterans of this war, and was created recently by act of legislature. Dr. C. A. Dawson of this city is a member of the board.

The advisory board to which Prof. Johnson has been appointed will act in an advisory capacity to the Rehabilitation Board on matters pertaining to agriculture. The appointment is in recognition of the ability of Prof. Johnson as a student and instructor of vocation as well as practical agriculture.—RF Journal

RFSTC IS HOST TO TRI-COUNTY PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday of this week the college was host to the principals and teachers of history from the high schools of this area. This is a continuation of the conferences held by the college in former years, this year being officially a meeting of the Tri-County Principals' Association here on the campus.

The meeting was opened by Professor Wyman, the chairman of the meeting, centered about graduates available as teachers this June, the probable number who will be available next year, and the recommendations of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction about ways and means of recruiting teachers.

Dinner was served to the guests and faculty in the cafeteria at 6 P. M., after which the group was addressed by Professor Edgar Wesley, College of Education, University of Minnesota. His subject was "Teaching History in Schools and Colleges."

Professor Wesley was chairman of the committee appointed by the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, American Historical Association, and the National Council of Social Studies to investigate the knowledge of American history possessed by students and adults in America. This study was made in answer to the criticism made of American history teaching by the New York Times last year.

A full report of the conference will appear in the next issue of the *Student Voice*.

SERVICEMEN and WOMEN EARN PROMOTIONS

John Elmer Henke has been promoted to a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He is in the Pacific combat area.

Paul Prucha has received his commission as second lieutenant in the A. A. F.

Mary Louise Branstad was promoted to a lieutenant (jg) in the SPARS on April 5.

Glen Crowley has been promoted from the rank of Ensign to Lieutenant (jg) according to information received here. He is serving on a naval supply ship in the Southwest Pacific.

Born to Mrs. Ruth Robinson, class of 1934, a son, her second child, in December 1943.

BITS FROM BUDDIES

The *Voice* staff received some interesting letters lately. One came from Cpl Ray Gillis at Ephrata, Washington. He writes "I will give you my most recent address again so that I will get the paper sooner. I have had quite a change in location from within 15 minutes of Hollywood to the sage brush country of western Washington. They say the mail goes by jackrabbit express to Spokane 120 miles away. I hope he hurdles all large sage brush so that the mail pouch doesn't get lost.

"They were very good to service men in Hollywood, making it convenient and easy to get in on the best entertainment including George Carrolls Blackouts of 1944, Florentine Gardens and NBC and CBS. Broadcasts. I saw Bob Hope, Jack Carson, Dennis Morgan, Edgar Bergen, Lum and Abner, Bud Abbott and several others at the canteen.

"After two years in the AAF something new and novel has been added—Wacs in the chow line."

From a hospital somewhere in Iran, the Editors received a letter from Pfc. Ward Stoddard. 'Dear Editor, Today I received the *Student Voice* of December 15. I guess it was slightly delayed somewhere due to an old address. I am enclosing my most recent address as I enjoy the paper very much especially while I am in the hospital entertaining a broken leg.

"It's wonderful to be able to read about all the River Falls boys in service and also about what is going on around the campus. Yes, we have not forgotten about RFSTC, and how I'd like to be back there.

There isn't much to say, but I surely enjoy getting the *Student Voice*. Keep up the good work back home and we will be seeing you soon, I hope! My regards to all my friends."

Lawrence Klug S 2-c is now at the Naval training station at Newport, Rhode Island. He writes, "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me the *Voice*. I truly enjoy reading it. It has been catching up to me every time, but always a little late. This has been due to my

changing address. I have moved four times since I entered the service. I will remain here until May 13th so keep sending it here for the remainder of the term."

This letter which Dr. Wyman received from Lt. Stanley Atkinson needs no explanation or introduction. Perhaps it will give you a different picture of England.

March 31, 1944
Somewhere in North Ireland
Dear Dr. Wyman,

This is one way to pass the time while I am on duty. It is always a good way to start a letter by telling the recipient that you have nothing else to do. I think that I should also explain a few things about my typing and the typewriter that I am using. After you have finished this letter you will be a master at decoding. I am using a small portable machine, which I am sure has been through a bombing and suffered a direct hit. There are three letters which must be struck twice in order to have them appear in print once. The carriage has a personality of its own. At any time it has a desire to space, it does so. These things, but you see they do, may not happen, but I thought that it was only fair to warn you. There is also the matter of composition. I am truly sorry that I can't express myself readily and eloquently on the printed page. Now that the preface is complete, I will start with the main body of the letter. If you will bear with me for just one moment, I will add this bit of explanatory material. The ideas expressed here are my own and not those of either the American Government or the British Government. Shaw would be proud of me if he could see the length of this introduction. Perhaps I should write a play, one page play and one hundred preface.

I thought perhaps you might be interested in the views of a soldier in a foreign land before he has become so accustomed to things that they no longer strike him as being of interest. All of this is very new

to me, and I have my eyes open also ears, for anything which I have not already seen or heard.

The British Isles differ more from the United States than I had expected. The first thing which I came in contact with was the people. They are sectionalized to the nth degree. As one Englishman put it, "There is a friendly rivalry existing between sections at all time." There are occasions when this feeling runs high and the friendly part is non-existent. The only people that we have to compare with them are the Texans and Bostonians. (God bless each group and be especially helpful to Texas.) The average Englishman which I have met seems to be very slow and deliberate in his thought process and in his actions. Each thing which he does or says is carefully planned. Perhaps, too carefully, as I think was exemplified by our British friend with the umbrella. Perhaps I can best make clear some of the outstanding things about the British people if I cite some of the conversations I have had with them.

While I was in England, I learned to ride a bicycle. Which I can assure you was no small task for the person in question. My leg still bears witness to the ordeal. (Please excuse me while I take out time to do a little work. I must remember that the government is paying me.) (I have finished my work and my soul is at ease.) As I was saying, I learned to ride a bicycle. After some practice I decided to venture out on the highway alone. In route I met an English girl who was a member of the British Navy. We began to talk without an introduction. She told me that before the war such a thing was unheard of. Girls from nice families just didn't speak to men unless they had been properly introduced. Well, you know the Americans, I asked what she thought of the Americans and what the British resented about them if anything. In her answer she stated three things. The Yanks are so sure of themselves. Now that they

(Continued on page three)

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News From Other Schools

According to *The Pointer*, Elaine Johnson of Iola, 1941 graduate of the two year rural course at Stevens Point recently won a \$225 prize for a radio play which she wrote. The play was broadcast over Columbia Broadcasting stations and was part of the "Dr. Christian" program. The script was called "My Brother's Keeper"; Jean Hersholt acted the leading role.

The *Stoutonia* say's, "Mrs. Edith Wilkie, wife of Wendell Wilkie, former candidate for nomination to the presidency, addressed a note of thanks to President B. E. Nelson in appreciation of the roses presented to her at the public meeting held in the Stout Auditorium, March 29. The flowers an arm bouquet of American Beauty roses were presented to Mrs. Wilkie by Mary in place of Joan Quilling, SSA president, on behalf of Stout students."

The campaign is on at Whitewater! The sororities on the campus are nominating candidates for the election of "Miss Whitewater State Teachers College." The girl chosen will be crowned queen of a party to be held April 28.

Chicago Teachers College has put their war bond quota at fifteen thousand dollars. They hope to sell enough war bonds to finance a training plane. They have also had a Red Cross Drive; they are striving to reach a quota of \$600.

A special assembly was held at Milwaukee Teachers College to raise funds for the World Student Service fund.

Juniors Plan All-School Reception

On the evening of Friday, April 29, the Junior class will hold a reception in the Social Room. The entire school and faculty are cordially invited to attend this function which is being held this spring in lieu of the customary prom.

The evening's entertainment will include musical numbers, dances, and individual presentations of campus talent—both faculty and student. Light refreshments will be served during the evening.

The following committees have been appointed for the reception:

Margaret Davis, Betty Aasterud, Jean Erlandson, Louis Beer, Alfred Hartung; Invitations—Virginia Stronks, Chairman, Deloise Trindle, Lorraine Erickson, Edna Briesmeister; Decorations—Merle Hunter, chairman, Reuben Johnson, Anna Henriksen, Ed Tusderau, Wilbur Larson; Refreshments—Carol Finstad, Chairman, Norine Weldon, Doris Landberg.

Young Girl's Fancy Turns

These women! They used to say that a pretty dress was the second best way to a man's heart, but even with the man shortage this spring the co-ed's have blossomed out in new outfits.

Most of the wardrobe additions made their debut at the last YWCA meeting, where those lucky enough to compete for the "best dressed woman" title modeled their new dresses. Outstanding perhaps were the two "sister acts"—Jorstad and Stronks in striped chambray with fulls, and Christanson and Leadholm in two-piece Joan Miller's—rose and blue, respectively. The mysterious dark number was Max Huppert, tall and willowy in a navy crepe dress, and Grace Churchill modeled a two-piece light blue dress trimmed with silver studs. The only suits shown was plaid one worn by Millicent Skone. Three coats were modeled, a tan-box styles by Gerry Wenzel, a light colored box type by Carol Finstad, and Audrey Luberg in her new "purple" number. Perhaps the most outstanding ensemble was Mer-cord in her Hawaiian kimono, a beautiful gown, furnished by the Marines.

If I've missed anyone it's because I was dazzled by the glow of such finery. Anyway—it shows we're keeping up that "home front."

What Kind of Hands Do You Have?

Have you ever stopped to think of the story a hand may have behind it? There are so many types of hands—let us look around us and see what there really is in a hand. The character of a person can be partially found in a hand. What kind work he does, how he lives—yes, and sometimes even how he thinks.

A baby's hand is soft and pink and chubby—very tiny too. It shows no manual labor—it does show however the sweet innocence of a small child.

The hand of a typical young boy is large and awkward in its movement. It is generally pretty well nicked up from tinkering around with Mom's washing machine, the ancient family clock, his bicycle or car, his favorite fishing rod and reel, or that important gun for hunting (be it a new deer rifle or an old 22). His finger nails may be rather dirty and jagged (until the best gal reminds him that they would look much better cleaned and filed.)

A musician's or artist's hands are thought of as being very graceful with long tapering fingers. These hands are creative, bringing visual and sensual joy to the whole world.

The working man has a strong hand—the hand feeds and clothes the world. These hands may be calloused and rough because they are used in doing so many things, whether it be driving a large transport truck, driving horses, pitch-

Who's Who?

Who's who this week? Well friends, I'll tell you it's this way: This is one of those articles which appear without any foremention to said subject. Little did the charming, innocent, unsuspecting victim know that today her life history would be cruelly spread across the revealing pages of the *Voice*.

Ah, but shall we to the kill to see whom the squirming victim is? Well, it's none other than that vivacious blonde, Gladys Leadholm,—or as she is better known, "Leddie."

As far as we can gather, she hails from the famed town of Amerý, she is one of a large family (another sample to hit RFSTC was her brother Turk now in custody of the Navy and a Hudson brunette), and that she is taking the three-year course in elementary

Two years she has battled profs and books and the inmates of the House of Jenson! Off the record, but she is on amiable terms with all of them. But you should see the room which she shares—looks as if the Fleet had dropped anchor and left a few mementos. Dave keeps her well informed about the welfare of the Navy and even drops a few souvenirs her way.

"Leddie" is Finance Chairman in YWCA, Secretary-Treasurer of WAA, and a member of ACE and Sigma Chi Sigma. In addition she is the fastest "pusher-of-dishes" on the dish washing machine that the cafeteria boasts. The sparks fairly fly when "Leddie" turns on the steam.

Dead-lines must be met, so let's ease the victim down on this slab and ship out the back way.

Note: Hm-m-m, wasn't bad-looking either.

A young girl's hand is generally soft and white—the nails being covered with a lustrous hue of rose or reds, depending on her taste—be she conservative or dramatic.

ing hay, digging ditches, peeling pulp wood, working on the production line, or any other work that is being done.

The hands of the surgeon has in it a delicate precise strength. Strength to preform delicate operations, make countless incisions, and to tie complicated knots that you and I know nothing about.

Hands of a woman, according to "Hind's" are either the hands a man loves" or "dishwasher hands." Quite an attraction—good psychology for woman's ever present vanity. If I were a man I'd like a woman's hand that showed she could work—one that could work and was still well groomed. Work is the foundation of a stable nation and lack of work makes it soft and weak.

Have you ever noticed the hands of an old man deep with wrinkles shaky with age and proud with past achievement.

"What kind of hands do you ha-

DROOP SNOOPS!

Outside of Delores Warwick wearing a diamond last week, which really "perks up" all with Spring Fever, there isn't much to "dig up" this week. I haven't been able to get many of the particulars of this deal, but its on the level I hear.

Miss Davis has shed her mourning clothes I see Bill Crummet helps her pass the lonely hours. Now don't use the excuse they are transacting business.

Fran Berger has an addition to her jewelry collection—Butch's property of course. It is worn around her neck on a chain. They are really doing well. No break-up as yet, We are surprised Butch!! This is the fourth affair of the year isn't it.

Edna Briesmeister and Mr. Sanvey spent most of Easter vacation walking home together and back again. Course they do live near each other, but do you suppose that has anything to do with it? What about that mail you rate every day from that "M. P.?"

Roger Olson and Velmo Nelson "went" this past week. You people don't know them but you know their dates—Jean Ann Morgan and Delores Hanson. They must have something to get the only available men around here. That's not counting the college men, but we need dynamite to get some of these guys dating.

Two members of the faculty planned a little trip to Milwaukee this past week. However, only Mr. Manion made it! Dr. Wyman's turn is coming up though I'm afraid.

Cal Hophan breezed up here last week-end. No real reason to tell you why—you all know anyway.

Guess I'd better get my gremlins working to get more dirt. Cheerio.

Falls Theatre

FRIDAY and SATURDAY
 Mat. Sat. 2:00—
 Double Feature
 Johnny Mack Tex
 BROWN and RITTER
 —in— "Cheyenne Roundup"
 —plus—
 DEAD END KIDS and
 LITTLE TOUGH GUYS
 —in— "MUG TOWN"
 Also— SERIAL

SUN. MON. and TUE.
 Matinee Sun. 2:00
 THE YEAR'S BIG MUSICAL
 TECHNICOLOR HIT.
 'THOUSANDS CHEER'
 30 Stars! 3 Great Bands M-G-M
 Important talent passes on pa-
 rade in the final sequences.
 Late News.

WED. THURS. and FRI.
 A drama of the Sea.
 LIFEBOAT —Starring—
 Tallulah Bankhead with
 William Bendix.
 Late News.

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SERVICEMEN VISIT ON CAMPUS

Several new names have been added to the signatures in Mr. Stratton's guest book during the past two weeks. P. F. C. George R. Webb was on the campus several days ago. He was supposed to have been married on April 8. He is stationed at Camp Roberts, Col.

Ensign Earl S. Sumner of Tuscon, Arizona was also here recently. He is working in soil conservation for Texas and Oklahoma.

Another visitor was Sgt. John E. Symes of Fort Dix, N. J.

Cpl. Q. J. O'Brien of Camp Crowder, Mo. was a visitor on the campus last week. He is an instructor in military cryptography at Camp Crowder.

Lt. F. Paul Prucha of the Army Air Corp returned to Colorado Springs, Colorado after a furlough spent at his home here. He received his commission on April 1.

AND OUT OF THE POT CAME SPELLING

How's your spelling? The members of the Honor Society found out about theirs at their party Thursday night. Glen Teasdale and Rebecca Rees "Cooked up" some games; in one of them the members really had to use their spelling ability(?).

After an evening of games the lunch committee, Lorraine Erickson, Millicent Skone and Lois Landberg, served lunch.

A picnic has been planned to "wind up" the year in May.

"OVER THE TOP" ON WSS DRIVE

Yes, we more than made the \$150 goal set for the World Student Service fund. The students and faculty did a very fine job, for they had a feeling that in making their contribution, they would feel a certain responsibility for fellow students. This fund provides for the future by means of relief, in addition to education and reconstruction. Every contribution made will give comfort and aid to some needy person. We are happy to send in this money which represents the combined interest of our students and faculty.

Fifteen students collected from the individual students. It was gratifying that almost every person generously contributed to this worthwhile fund. Kay Sneesby and Bob Haile worked as co-chairmen.

SIX ELIGIBLE FOR ALPHA OMEGA

At Masquers' last meeting, April 13, six people were acknowledged in ceremony as eligible Alpha Omega members. They are: Alice Boardman, Marilyn Mercord, Lois Bernd, Elaine Ball, Jean Erlandson, Nona McCollow. They will, after passing certain requirements besides those met in order to make them eligible for membership, become actual members at some date soon.

Plans are under way for the club's formal banquet which will be, as plans now stand, on Tuesday, May 9. At this time the officers for the coming year will be elected.

WHAT'S WRONG?

What's the matter with us? Have we forgotten there's a war going on? Or have we decided we can win better by sitting and listening to Sammy Kaye? There are 45,000 surgical dressings waiting to be made. Let's get busy. Now! We'll see you next week in the Red Cross room.

WAA HAVE HAMBURGER FRY IN CITY PARK

Monday evening found a group of laughing girls ambitiously frying hamburgers in the city park. The event was the annual picnic of the WAA, and it proved to be a great success. This girls hiked explored, played games and had a fine picnic lunch. It was one of the swell times the WAA members have had this year.

JOHN NESBITT'S PASSING PARADE
 Will Get You If You Don't Watch
 Out But You'll Listen
 and Like It.

That's Why Chesterfield Has Picked
 This Master Storyteller For
 Harry James' Radio Spot
 All CBS Stations Every Tuesday
 Wednesday and Thursday Night

Harry James has had to lay that red-hot trumpet down and shoulder a gun, but Swingville gets a break in having John Nesbitt's *PASSING PARADE* step right up and take over. John is no trumpeteer, at least, he wasn't at the time we went to press (you never can tell about that guy) but the marvelous voice of his has more stops than a console organ... and he uses them all.

Chesterfield figures that Fred Waring and his gang, with *Pleasure Time* and *Victory Tunes*, will take care of the music on NBC in time for the fans to switch over to CBS and catch the *PASSING PARADE* program, which follows immediately. As you may have heard, Fred Waring's Chesterfield program has just been voted the most popular fifteen minutes on the air for the fifth consecutive year.

John Nesbitt with his *PASSING PARADE* has made himself a reputation, too... in the movies. Remember that short subject you applauded and remembered long after the feature picture? Chances are it was the work of John Nesbitt.

John Nesbitt is an amazing man who had an amazing career. He is only 33 but he's been all over the map... worked as a bellhop... worked in a cannery... covered a police beat for a Frisco newspaper... dabbled in art in Paris... became an instructor in college... has been the guest in the palace of a maharaja... thumbed his way from California to New York and dined at the Captain's table on the liner Normandie. He has served hot dogs in a Hollywood drive-in and has won three of Movietown's coveted 'Oscars.'

John has the background to keep the *PASSING PARADE* on the march and that, coupled with a lively imagination and a marvelous speaking

voice, make him an ideal storyteller. Just as his shorts are the bright spots on the movie program, his *PASSING PARADE*, Chesterfield believes, will sparkle on the air.

FOR MOTHER'S DAY

She would appreciate
 Strutwear Pajamas or Slip
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 Scarf, Hankie or Picture.
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Brown and White, Green and White

Blue and White

\$1.00

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Fairway Groceries and Meats—

FAIRWAY MARKET

We Deliver—Call 12

O. B. Gilbertson

BITS FROM BUDDIES

(Continued from page one)

are here there is no question about winning the war. They did it the last time. The American has plenty of money and is boisterous about it, as he is about everything in his home land." She went on to say. "The British people walk down their streets and meet hundreds of American soldiers, but very few of their own boys. Where are they? Why, they are in Africa, Italy, India and Australia where the fighting is going on. However, some of us understand that it is necessary to have a place for the Yanks to train in the ETO for combat duty and we know that England is that place. Many of our people unfortunately, do not think about it to this extent." She told me that the people really believe that the Americans are all rich. We seem to have good camps, food and plenty of petrol for our cars. We then turned the subject to education. She was a high school graduate. This fact alone placed her in the upper middle class. Education here is something for those who can pay for it. State education is not to be had. She told me that children who are very young go into the mines or some other industry. As you no doubt know, the British government is now working on education. They can't see how it would be possible at the present time to have state education. Where in the world would they get enough teachers. Where would they hold the classes, as there are not enough schools. Strange questions aren't they? Especially to we who have known national education since the beginning of our country.

Another day is here, and with it another afternoon. With the lull in the days occupation I will continue what I started yesterday.

We also discussed the class distinction that exists here. The people are divided into three main classes. The upper, middle, and lower. Each of these is sub-divided into upper and lower. Your blood, namely, family and your wealth determine to which group you belong. It is long struggle to get from one to the other. The way down is quite easy. I understand. The loyalty to the Royal Family is the most outstanding thing I have seen. This helps more than anything to maintain this social organization. The poor class look up to those who have. To see the King and Queen is worth life itself. This class order makes itself apparent in the army. There is a great deal of difference between the common soldier and the officer. They do not fraternize with their men as we do. It is unheard of in the British Army for a private to speak to an officer unless directly addressed. Officers ride first class on the trains. Enlisted men, ride third. We were told not to carry on a discussion with an enlisted man in the presence of a British officer. I think that the younger officer, however, is not quite like this. Many of them whom I have met are very fine and interesting people. A British sergeant is powerful. His word is as good as any officers. Their non-commissioned officers eat in separate mess halls. The sergeants have one, as do the corporals. Ratings and rank are not wide spread in the British Army. Our talk ended here, as my pass was about to expire.

A few days ago, I met an Englishman and was very surprised to hear him make this statement. "The Americans had to come here to show the British how to organize." "I think that it is time that the United States took the lead in world affairs. The British Empire hasn't done so well and should take a back seat." I re-

alize that this is the opinion of only one man, but it is interesting for what it is worth I only hope that the United States does take a lead, and try to do something to prevent this happening again in another twenty years. I have no desire to have to come again in my present capacity, nor to have children come. (Optimistic aren't I.)

If the people of the United States could just look in on the people here, they would understand what war is. Rationing is the key note in every home. It makes no difference what store you go into, clothing, Woolworths, bookstores, chemists, etc, you will find garden seeds. In every book store you will find books on gardening. I might add that they take the front place on the shelves, along with the book, "Britain at War". It seems strange to walk along the country roads and see only trucks. There are practically no private automobiles being driven here. The taxis in town have large gas bags on the roofs and burn coal gas. The old horse carriage has also come back into use. The streets of Belfast are filled with them. (That is a slight overstatement, so please minimize it.)

Almost anything which you want to mention is rationed. Clothing, petrol, food stuffs, and sweets all appear on the list. The only thing that I have been able to buy in the realm of food without stamps are meat pies. They are made of two crusts, between which some potatoes have been placed. Where the name from I don't know. Children often come up to you and say, "Yank, have you got a piece of gum or a bit of candy." I had children beg from me in such a fashion on the mainstreet of a city of two hundred thousand. Dairy products are very scarce. The people here really know there is a war. They have felt it in bombs and in personal sacrifices.

England, to me, is about one hundred years behind the times. I was listening to the BBC a few nights ago. (This was one of the nights we were listening to a British station rather than a German one. Our radio seems to have an affinity for German broadcasts. I still can't figure where they get all of the American music which is sent over the air. They are playing our new tunes, before the British have them.) The program to which I refer was very much like our "Town Hall." The discussion was the subject, "Standardization." "Should the British Government draw up a group of standards for various products? One woman spoke up and said, "I don't think that I would like the standardization of womens clothing. Fancy (Loud "a") meeting your counterpart on the street." A gentleman replied, "The Americans have been doing this for years and the women in their country are the best dressed in the world" I heard no more from her the rest of the evening. The talk centered around the building of new houses after the war to replace those which were lost during the raids. One small example, the electric plug, exemplifies the need for standardization. They have at least ten different kinds of outlets and plugs. You never know which it is you have at home when you want to buy one to fit the other. It seems that the country didn't grow and advance after the Industrial Revolution as ours did. Many of the things which were developed here have never gone beyond the stage of their original state. We were told not to drink milk from farms while here, as it was unpure. The cattle had T. B. and Bang's disease. Yet it was in this country that it was discovered how to test cattle for T. B.

I was struck with the smallness of everything. However, after some thought, I can see that it is perfectly logical. The country so small as this could not accomodate large trains, autos, farms, etc., such as ours. I mentioned in the first part of my

letter, that the British think we are all rich. They have a right to believe as they do. I was shocked to find out that a Master Sergeant in the United States Army gets more than a British Captain. I, as a second Lt., get more than a British Major. The

workers wage scale is the same. This has turned out to be quite long. I hope that I haven't bored you. If you have time, I would like to hear from you.

Your sincere friend
Stan. Atkinson



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