

Following is a copy of the 'Community News Items' sent to area servicemen during World War II. This copy was donated by Pat Hopper Vail, of Pine Village. Pat's Dad, Larry, is a PV Graduate.

Because today (June 6<sup>th</sup> 2009) is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, we felt it was an appropriate time to share it with all of you.

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Dear Friends in Uniform,

It has been some time since our last letter, and many changes have taken place in that time. Many of you have had promotions, changes in addresses and some of you have had well deserved furloughs.

Old man 1944 is in the past and the youngster 1945 has started his duties. It is a hollow mockery to wish you a "Happy New Year," but we sincerely hope 1945 will bring all of you more happiness than 1944 did. You may be sure that we here at home are following you with our prayers and good wishes.

And now some news about you from here, there, and everywhere. Those who have had from ten to thirty day furloughs in November and December were: Hubert Gephart, Charles Cartmill, Cleo Delaney, Morris Foster, Arthur Hopper, Winfield Steele, Eugene Ransom, Charles, Toopa, Cash Clawson, Joe Stingle, Arnold Ferguson, Quincy Hartlep, John Benson, Robert Weigle, John Jones, Earl Taylor and Dunie Williams. Dunie has been gone over three years and most of that time was spent on Pacific Islands. He looks fine and said it was wonderful to be back in old PV again. He left for Camp Atterbury on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Cleo came to see his new daughter, Honey. His wife and daughter accompanied him back to Maine. All the boys were glad to be home, but said the work they were doing was OK with them.

Robert Gray, V12 at Purdue, is quarantined at Cary Hall because of an Infantile Paralysis outbreak at Purdue. There were no Christmas leaves. Max Brown is now in England. Max is driving a truck and says it is very different from driving in the states. You can't tell a truck from a bicycle at night as they have the same size headlights.

Cpl. and Mrs. Robert Haniford are the parents of a son, born December 3, 1944.

George Allen who has been overseas nearly three years wrote his father that he is now in Italy. Many friends of Cecil Hewitt have received letters lately stating he is now in Italy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Cline were present at the Kansas Base when their son received his wings. Maurice is now somewhere overseas.

Wilmer Brown has been transferred from North Africa to France. Harrison Neal is now stationed in Puerto Rico. Leslie Haij was head of a group ferrying planes from Columbus, Ohio to the west coast. His route was directly over Indianapolis and he said it was a beautiful sight and it was easy to pick out the memorials and buildings there. Although his route lay south of Lafayette he was able to pick out the Court House and Purdue buildings. He was not able to fly over the home place but said he could see it in his "minds eye". Leaving St. Louis he ran into the early storms of the mountain area and the trip which ordinarily would have been three days took twelve. Leslie spent Christmas vacation in sick bay, but is OK now.

Leroy Ogborn Jr. wrote he was standing in water and mud in a foxhole somewhere in France. Richard Reynolds (Dick Cox) is battling the Japs somewhere in the South Pacific. Billy Ogborn Jr. who has been wounded in France is back in action. Lee Bowman, who is in France writes he is moving towards the front lines. Jack Sikes, who has been wounded twice, is still battling the Germans in Italy.

On one of the islands in the Pacific is a base of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Corp, a base of the Air Force and a cove where a supply ship lies at anchor. At these places are three PV boys—Cpl. Charles (Buddy) Foster, Sgt. John Hail and Lewis (Pete) Eberly. These boys have been there since the island was taken, but it was only about 2 months ago that they got together. Buddy and John have spent many hours together, and Buddy spent a Sunday with Pete. To say these were happy meetings is putting it mildly. Buddy was slightly wounded in action, and John spent some time in the hospital with an injured leg, but both boys are OK. Buddy's parents received the Purple Heart given to Buddy.

Gerald Foster returned to Norfolk in time to spend Christmas day with his sister Mary Ruth Hill who is there with her husband Devon.

Sheldon Kiger is now at Guadalcanal. Glen J. Brutus, Jack Jones and Sheldon Bowmand are in the section of Belgium where the Germans are making their drive. Nothing has been heard from the boys. Gladys Frasch and Floyd Christenberry are still in Italy. Johnny Eberle received word that his son Georgie has been wounded in France.

Robert Davis received the Purple Heart presented his son Chester for wounds received in France. Chester has not been doing well as infections set in and he had to return to the English hospital. Melvin Christenberry is now in uniform.

Richard Werner left December 26 for Great Lakes for training. Richard was a senior at PVHS and member of the first five basket ball team. His high school credits were given to him so he could have his diploma.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Harmon received word their son, John, was missing in action on December 5. However, they later received three letters from John, each one dated after he went missing. Thru the Red Cross they had the message investigated and December 31 they received word that the message was a mistake. That surely was a wonderful New Year's gift to John's parents and friends.

Clair (Billy) Roberts who is known to many of you, and who had been reported killed in France, was only wounded and after several days wandering returned to his old outfit. Marion (Bob) Stingle and wife are the parents of a baby girl, born Nov. 17, at Astoria, Oregon.

'IN MEMORY': Mr. and Mrs. Harry Little received word the crew of a B29 that their son was on was missing. The Bomber had made a training trip to Cuba and about forty miles off the coast of the US the plane developed engine trouble. The crew was ordered to bail out. The did this and the pilot stayed with the plane and finally landed at Biloxi, Miss. This was Nov. 27-no word whether Richard was dead or alive, was received until Dec. 16 when the Little's received word that Dick's body had been found washed up on an island a short distance from Biloxi, Miss. The body arrived home Sunday night Dec.

17<sup>th</sup> and the funeral was held in the Methodist Church Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Words cannot express how shocked and hurt everyone was to hear this tragic news. Dick was a fine clean young man, a boy who gave his best to every thing he undertook. He will be missed by his many friends and our sympathy is extended to his parents. *Whene'er we meet, we will miss him, there will be a vacant chair, but we know he will be waiting, to welcome us over there.*

Mr. and Mrs. Arty Hurst received word that their son Denzil had been killed in the invasion of Leyte. Denzil graduated from Rainsville Grade School and went one year at PVHS. He worked on farms around Rainsville and could always be depended on to do his best. He was well liked by all who knew him. Our sympathy goes to his parents.

We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beason, who received word their son Glen was killed in France. William Dalton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter Dalton was killed in Belgium in November. Mrs. Dalton is a sister of Mrs. James Hooker. Mr. and Mrs. John Reeves of Boswell received word their son Merle had been killed in action the first of December. One month earlier their son Keith was killed.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster Clawson received word from their son William that he was back in the states and expected furlough soon. He has been gone 22 months and has never seen his son.

Cpl. Arba Clawson and Patricia Johnson, of Norwich, NY were married at the Armstrong Church, December 1. They have gone to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where Arba is stationed at the Northington General Hospital.

The Warren County Women's Service Club held a meeting in January at the Federated Church in West Lebanon. Mr. Fred Longvell was in charge of a memorial service held for Richard Haptonsmall, Leo Kennedy, Richard Little, Curtis Martin, Denzil Hurst, Hector Sensebaugh, and William Dalton.

Richard Bisner is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bisner.

Do you boys who fly wonder what it would be like to fly over the old home town? Here is what Mac Steele says:

Dear Friends and Staff of The Pine Board: Just received my copy of the Pine Board and am always happy to get it. I imagine it is one of the most widely distributed publications in the country. Our town is not so very large but it certainly sent its men and women all over the world. I would like to tell you of a most interesting experience I recently had. That is one that perhaps few from home have had the opportunity of realizing but one that will become a common everyday occurrence to many in the future. I flew over Pine Village at about 1500 feet and got to look the town over from a perpendicular point of view. You would be surprised at the difference it makes. Prominent landmarks are not the same. The elevator, the school grounds-regardless of the change made by the fire, the buildings on main street and main street itself, the flag pole and flag, and the highway bridge crossing Pine Creek, north of town, present a very familiar scene, which gave me a mixed emotional closeness and a pang of homesickness so acute I wanted to open the bomb bay doors, bail out and parachute down into the midst of a collection of memories since childhood. However, the most prominent feature that came to my

immediate attention was one which I imagine most of us have forgotten—that is till we start reminiscing. It is no doubt hallowed by those of us who preferred a quiet afternoon of fishing to a hot study hall. And that is one more reason I say “keep the CA&S operating” Just what are our boys to have for a sun shade on some hot autumn afternoon when hookey seems the only way to evade Latin’s Ceaser or Physics’ Newton. Since Red Bridge is such a part of our town, it’s a shame to let some profiteer take it away from us and our only railroad too. The bridge makes a beautiful scene, from the air amidst all the vegetation surrounding it and if you ever fly over Pine Village, you, too, will see Red Bridge’s prominence. I hope you all can some day, for flying is a lot of fun and a more convenient method of travel. Incidentally, it took 26 minutes to take off from Chicago’s airport, climb to 8000 feet and reach Pine Village. That was in a B24 which is a heavy bomber, so you can get some idea how much faster our fighter planes can move thru the sky when their air speed is at least twice that of a bomber. My family is fine. They seem to be doing very well on Army rations. We hope to get home soon.

Sincerely, Mac Steele

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Steele went to Chicago to meet Mac when he arrived.

Breeze Rhode sure made some hearts flutter when he was here. He proceeded to demonstrate what he had learned about flying. I wonder what would happen if Breeze, Mac, Les Hail, and John Benson all flew over PV at the same time. More power to all of you.

‘Community News’: The Warren County Saddle Club is going strong. Officers were elected as follows: President, RH Cullopp, V President, Robert Bartlett, Sec/Treas, Helen Yohe. They held a dance at the recreation hall Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Music was furnished by the Allen Orchestra.

Virginia Anne Fuller and Lt. LN Carmichael of Freetown were married in Grace UB parish house in Lafayette Nov. 24. After spending a few days with their parents, they went to Camp Bowie, Texas where Lt. Carmichael is stationed. Virginia was a member of the PV graduating class of 1941. Congratulations.

The Lions are really roaring in Pine Village. Early in November, sponsored jointly by the Attica and Williamsport Lions Clubs, a club was organized in PV. Officers are: Pres, HW Cooper, V. Pres, OP Harmon, V. Pres, John Hess, V. Pres, Elmer Perry, Sec., DP Stewart, Treas., Dr. Dewey, Lion Tamer, Cecil Copas, Tail Twister, George Ginther. We will tell you more of this club in future letters.

We are happy to tell you boys that the War Fund and 6<sup>th</sup> Bond Drive went way over the top in our county.

Sheriff Fred McBroom and Mrs. Helen Mc Broom of West Lebanon were married June 20.

Two of our citizens have passed on to their rewards. Mrs. Emma Ogborn passed away November 22. She was 83. On Dec 18, Charley Begle passed away. He had been in poor health for a long time and when he contracted pneumonia he was too weak to throw it off.

Ella Williams is selling out and moving to Lafayette. Cecil Gray had a sale Dec. 12. He has sold his farm and bought the Clint Eberly property in PV. He moves in March.

'Rainsville Roundup': Art Hillyer, returning from a fishing trip down the crick, reports that Old Pine Crick is frozen over from coast to coast.

Jim Wilson has returned to Pine Village to spend the winter in spite of Kid Hoffman and Walt Claypool.

A team of stray mules have been roaming around the neighboring fields for a week or so. Zack Strickler said they are Republican mules migrating from Missouri to Indiana.

Red Mountz has caught 15 red foxes this winter. Lester Boswell got a fine mink. The ice fishing was fair. Lots of gar in the crick. Rabbits and quail are scarce. A big conservation club has been organized to protect the game and fish in this territory and tonight they are having a big shindig at Pine Village. They are going to have fried fish and all the stuff that goes with it. But wait til you get home, we'll really take our hair down won't we? So long fellows; down the hatch.

'Barber Shop Gossip' (by Pig Gady): Louise Thurman, Ruth Fry, and Margarite Booth have wanted me to write a column for this servicemens' paper. So with the help of Dick Cartmill and Bud Booth we'll try to get the latest gossip to you each issue.

Walt Claypool has been gone for a few days visiting his daughter in Chicago. Let Crane is still around. He is the main sub in the delivery of coal from the elevator. Everybody enjoys seeing his truck full of coal pulling up to their coal bins.

The Howarths have sold the loan agency to a Kokomo company. Mrs. Etta Akers is working at the PV office. Mrs. Hubert Gephart is now a clerk in Ogborn's store.

Geraldine Bisel and Ray Haddock were married in the Christian parsonage, by Rev. Dunn on November 16. Hilda Hooker and Joe Shafer were married by Rev. Dunn at the Christian parsonage on November 25.

'News from the churches': The Free Methodists just closed a very inspiring revival. Many prayers were offered for you in the service.

Church services at the Christian Church are gaining in attendance.

The Methodist attendance is about the same, except that the young people's class is broken up by the WAR. Another one of our blue bars has turned to gold. Reverend Morris preaches every Sunday night at PV and every other Sunday morning at Rainsville.

The Union Christmas Program of the Christian and Methodist Churches was enjoyed by all. Helen Booth led the Junior Choir. They were dressed in white robes. The Senior Choir was led by Mary Louise Copas. Robert and Doris Akers were Joseph and Mary. Lindy Booth, Keith Eberly and Richard Brutus were shepherds. Don Akers, Junior Vaughn, and Frances Greenwood were the Wise Men. Rev. Dunn was the Herald Angel and Mrs. Glen Jones and Mrs. Gerald McBroom were managers of the pageant. Mrs. Gerald McBroom made the costumes.

'School Notes': PV School has a hot lunch program sponsored by the school and assisted by the Government. Students pay twenty cents and the government nine cents a day for the lunch which consists of meat, three side dishes, bread, butter, and milk. Three ladies were hired to assist in the preparation of the food. Miss Brinson, the Home Ec teacher, with the aid of her students purchases the food, makes the menu and supervises the project.

Glynalee Jones, Dewanna Milligan and Doris Shoaf were elected yell leaders so we are sure to have a real yell section to back our team.

The bond and stamp drive ended in a wave of glory, for our sales amounted to a grand total of \$36,404.25. The sale was sponsored by the seniors but every student participated. Now, "Pine Village School, Pine Village, Ind." will be placed on the following equipment: Landing Craft Personnel, \$12000, Liaison Plane, \$3000, Duck Amphibian \$8275, Jeep ¼ ton truck, \$1165. This leaves \$12000 and we hope to get our name on some other equipment.

'Basketball News': One of the feature attractions of the basket ball season occurred December 2. This game was an off schedule game with the Crispus Attucks High School team of Indianapolis. The Crispus Attucks is a colored team. Green Hill and Pine Village played a curtain raiser and Green Hill won 27-10. The Indianapolis team had not arrived when the first game was finished, however, word was received that they were downtown and soon they came in. The concrete bleachers in our new gym are very solid and sometimes they feel pretty hard, but one good look at the Attucks boys and we would have liked to have sunk right thru that concrete. And could they hit that basket—from any angle, but they were weak on foul shots. At the half, the score was 19-19, but the second half the Attucks forged ahead and the final score was: Attucks 49, PV 34. We hope we will have some better news in the new year.

Here is some more news of you fellows and gals and the community folks: Clifford Huffman, brother of Kid passed away January 7<sup>th</sup> 1945. We extend our sympathy to Kid and the daughters of Clifford.

Benny Sturgeon writes he enjoys this letter very much, for it is the only way he has of knowing anything about you, and he wonders a lot just where you are. Cary Barton calls this the Home Letter. Many thanks Cary; we are happy we are making this letter the kind that means "home" to you.

Thelma Jones has received word from Jack, and he was all right at least on Christmas when he wrote the letter. Joe Lee Ogborn was lucky enough to get to talk to his brother, John J. for a few minutes while they were on Saipan Island.

Glen J. Brutus has been missing in action in Germany since December 21, according to word received by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Arba Brutus. He was with the 106<sup>th</sup> Division. This unit bore the brunt of the great German counter offensive. A number of prisoners were taken at the time and we are all hoping that he might be a prisoner. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ogborn received word January 9<sup>th</sup> that their son John J was missing. John J was on a destroyer. We hope we will receive more news and that it will be like the news the Harmon's received.

A school for making Christian Leaders held its first session at the Pine Village Christian Church, Sunday evening January 7<sup>th</sup>. There are three classes and Rev. Hotckiss of Williamsport, Marie Stingle and Zora Hail are the teachers. There will be five sessions and church workers all over the county are attending.

Word has been received that Dick Rowe arrived safely in South America.

We haven't said any thing about the weather for we know you have enough of it where ever you may be, but it is cold here and you could have gone sleighing almost every day for over a month, and the ice has been pretty good for skating. They have been having such good times at Columbian Park, Lafayette doing both. The caretaker secured an old bob sled and a team of horses, a harness with bells and gave the children who came to the Park an old fashioned sleigh ride. Some of the children had never seen such a vehicle before, and were very thrilled over the rides. We would enjoy an old fashioned sleigh ride ourselves.

Well, girls and boys I hope you have not been too bored with this rambling letter, but that we have given you a bird's eye view of people and things around home. I know we all agree on one thing and that is: *There is just one flag-the great flag-the flag for me and you. Glorified above all else-The red, white and blue, And may this flag, that has never dropped its head in shame, lead the oppressed to freedom and fly forever over the free and the brave.*

That is what you boys are fighting for on the battle fronts and we here on the home front. May this year-1945-be a year of successes and may you again be home to see all the things we write to you about.

Those who were responsible for this letter were Ruth Fry, Kid Huffman, Phosia Ogborn, Pig Gady, Thelma Fry, Joseph Rhode, Daisy Hosterman, Willard Brier, Wilma Jean Brutus, Louise Thurman and yours truly, Zora B. Hail.

This letter was typed and dittoed by the following girls: Betty Morgan, Doris Ann Akers, Doris Shoaf, and Doris Adams.