

"YE NEWINGTON TOWN CRIER"

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Autumn in all its glory of color and bracing air! And with the coming of mid-October came the rains. With only a couple of inches of rain since July, the ground was powder dry. In digging up my potatoes (marble size) I found them resting in the original fertilizer put below the seed last May. Wells had dried up, lawns were nothing but brown patches, and dairy farmers were experiencing a shortage of milk which they partially blamed on the shortage of water. But now the rains have come, the lawns are green again, and my cellar has had water in it twice. Guess the drought has been broken.

The usual family quarrels flair up every so often with occasional calls in the heat of battle for the constable. Of course, when he gets there the aggravated party never swears out a warrant so he retreats and lets them fight another day.

Schools are running smoothly despite a considerable turnover in faculty in the high school. Five new, inexperienced faculty members and a sixth one due on December 6th. Marian Geer, Social Studies teacher is leaving for Washington on that date to do hospital recreational work with the American Red Cross. She is going to keep her eyes peeled for any Newingtonites who land in the hospitals she may become attached to. Hope she doesn't run across many of you boys as I prefer having you fellows staying out of those institutions.

The annual town election was a mild affair. Less than a thousand votes cast, no contests except on Tax Collector, and that went to the Republican party as did all the other major positions. The Democratic Party endorsed Ed Heleher as everyone is of the opinion that he is doing a grand job as first selectman.

The Lions Club, sponsor of this paper, are off to a busy year. In order to raise money for their budget they raffled off war bonds at a theater party in the movie house in October. \$325 was raised by this project. The results showed that out-of-towners won all the bonds, but a good time was enjoyed by all.

The scrap drive is the next community service they are undertaking. Such a good job was done last year that pickings are scarce, about 20 tons being collected to date.

Writing the paper has now become my unassisted task. The last of my star reporters has gone into the Marines. None other than that talented young writer, Joe Condron, he who used to write so Esquirely about the hot and wet spots around Hartford and New York. Joe took an autographed one dollar bill from me as I bet that amount that the service wouldn't take him because at times he stuttered. One of Joe's rooters evidently decided to rub it in as I received the following message on a postal card:

Dear Sir: Well, for a person who said in the "Town Crier" that you never saw a person who stutters get in the service Joe Condron certainly made you look like the sap that you are. He is a Marine; you are a 4-F. Sincerely, A Fellow "Lion"

A unique meeting was held in the parish house of the Congregational Church. All parents of servicemen of the Congregational parish were invited to attend the program which consisted of a service of worship, followed by a social hour in the parish house with refreshments. Recordings were made of Christmas greetings by parents to be sent to men in overseas service. These records got out just before the government ban on such shipments.

In Maple Hill the Womans Club are participating with the Connecticut Federation of Womens Clubs of Connecticut in the purchase of a bomber. A bond booth has been set up in the Newington post office and sales are solicited daily. The club is celebrating its 35th birthday, on November 3rd, with the purchase of an American flag as an anniversary gift to be displayed at their monthly meetings. Another activity in which a number of the members are engaging in is working with the New Britain branch of the Needlework Guild of America. To be a member they must give two or more new garments or a sum of money. This money or garments are turned over to the visiting nurse in Newington who distributes them to the needy as they are needed. At present a surplus is being built up for any hard times that may come.

The second Tuesday in November the Newington Grange is having a pot luck supper and election of officers. The local chapter has collected \$26 towards the erection of a dorm at Storrs. Each member is pledging 10¢ a year for 10 years. The Newington Grange has the distinction of being the first grange in the state to fill its first year's quota.

Theodore Blodgett, President of the Business and Civic Association has been invited to represent the organization in a conference group of representative business and civic organizations being formed by the Post-war Development Council for Metropolitan Hartford.

Co. 1 Volunteer Fire Department elected Carl Twichell Captain, Fred Stamm 1st Lieutenant, and Arthur Bailey 2nd Lieutenant at the annual election of officers.

Newington's Halloween party, held at the high school Saturday evening was a great success with 250 children attending. Rain early in the evening prevented the parade and the program opened with a grand march in the school gymnasium and the judging of costumes. Contributions by Newington organizations were so generous that two first prizes were awarded for each class of costumes. Of course the hoodlum minority element was out that night and despite what the American Legion did for the kids in sponsoring the party, eleven windows in the school were broken by stones and SHIT was written in three-foot letters of lime both on the high school lawn and at Churchill Park. A number of electric street-light bulbs were also broken.

Justin Urban, Kurtz, and Chappie did a human Tarzan act the other day. Seems that a dog was stranded on a shelf on the face of a cliff located east of the Turnpike south of Nick's filling station. After a couple of days of barking, someone brought the plight of the dog to the attention of the Town Hall. Kurtz was lowered over the cliff by Justin and Chappie holding on to his ankles. With a hook, he snared the dog by the collar and hauled him up over the cliff. The dog got away before they had an opportunity to find out its owner.

This fall has seen a large group of service people visiting the school. Among those paying a visit were Al Klauda, Joe Depacki, Donald Rowland, Edmund Kelcher, Robert Boiri, Elgy Brown, Lucian Aubin, The "Great Pros," Billy Buell, Tony Stempien, Peter Autek, Casmer Levinski, Joe Solosky, Christie Burr, Robert Sjolander, Skippy Stamm, Paul Agogliati, Charles Carty, Joe Corbett, Paul Salstead, Herbie Johnson, George Hutchinson, Robert Kelcher, Everton Haines, Robert Beauregard, Howard Boplat, La Bonte, and most likely some more that I can't recall at the moment.

The mail bag has been full and I appreciate hearing from the boys. From the papers I see Herbie Welch is now a Lt. Col., the highest ranking boy from Newington. Heard a lot of swell things 'bout Herbie and his care of those under his command. Congratulations on the promotion.

Russell Alhgren is reported missing from the raid on the ball bearing factory in Germany. Here's hoping he landed safely.

And now for a summary of those letters from here and there.

Cpl. Louie Chalko is being reconditioned all over at Camp Berkeley, Texas. Thanks for all the kind words but somehow I don't think the powers that be think the way you do.

Frank Eddy is on maneuvers in that God-forsaken State of Louisiana.

A/C Francis Crossway is away out at Del Monte, California.

Donald Seagel when last heard of was APO 184, Los Angeles.

A/S Edwin Holden has been cub flying at Stevens Pt., Wisconsin. Sent a copy of the local school paper out that area.

Sam Ingham is getting ready for a boat ride.

Bob Skoglund's September Crier came back for re-direction. Guess we had the wrong APO.

Sgt. Rudy Bruzik is at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Tells me it is a swell camp.

Malcolm Carlson is now at Harvard taking specialized courses. Pretty good for a guy that I had to chase to school.

Salvatore Del Grosso writes from Northington General Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he is recovering from shrapnel wounds. A speedy recovery and hope to see you in Newington before long.

Al Nunnoun finally writes from Camp Lee, Virginia where they have been putting him through the paces.

Gordon Kolcher writes from the land of monkeys, bananas, cocoanuts. Thanks for the good wishes.

Peter Olisky, who has been in the army for three years is still in the South Pacific.

E. H. Burr is at Kellogg Air Base, Battle Creek, where he is feeding the boys in top style.

Joe Condon's address is Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S.C., Platoon 777-7th Rec. Bn. Drop my former assistant editor of the Crier a line if you have time.

Walter Slive has been discharged from the service and is back in Newington.

A/C Dan Casey is taking basic and advanced at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Last address from Chris Burr was Norfolk, Virginia.

Malcolm Anderson, a Wethersfield boy, writes that "The Crier has been read with interest, and why he can't say, for other than my name, all others are strange to him. And yet the paper is interesting. If it is to me, think what it must be to those whose name appears." The other boys expressed the same words Mac. Sort of half way makes up for my failure to pass the Marine physical.

Cpl. Jimmy White writes from Ft. Bragg and then drops in later in the month for a visit.

A long letter from Harry Whintlian. Harry washed out as an aviation cadet. I know how it feels to wash out Harry. No one goes through life without some failures. Other Newington boys are washing out and they receive the same emotional setback as you did Harry. But for you and the rest of those who go through this unfortunate experience, don't let it get you down. You're still all aces with me and every other person who can do reasoning. As long as you all do your best you still have a rooter in Ye Editor and don't ever forget it.

E. J. Comeau is out of the infirmary again and is heading towards placement work. He is 1st Lt. now.

Gerard Storoy is now flying twin-engine ships at Poco, Texas. Expects to be home in December.

Bob Kolcher finished boot training at Newport, but don't know his present whereabouts.

Rudolph Zerog is now at Seymour Johnson Field, N.C.

Bob Sjolander received his wings at Albany, Georgia, and after furlough reported back for more training. Army sure has made him into a finished officer. Would that I were young again, Bobby.

John McCarthy is now APO 4768, New York City.

Pfc Viola E. Somers, WAC, Box 3175, San Francisco, is one of the Newington gals in the service.

Bill Jerin is over in England. On trip over he was glad he took the Army for service rather than the Navy. Will get some addresses on the way one of these days, Bill.

Loigh Stevens writes from Fort Lewis, Washington, that my senior girl assistants are adding postscripts to the "Criers." Hopo tho postal people don't hold it up for first-class postage rates.

Joo Rapacho wants Lt. Comeau's address. It is Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, 13-Q-1.

Merrill Atwell writes from Memphis where he had graduated from radio school. Sorry John Stanton has moved on.

Scarlo Lansing-Jones when last heard of was in Quantico. Wonder if he ever was able to use his typing or musical ability.

Mrs. Ed J. Munnely, ex-publisher of the "Crier" and now of Fort Smith, Arkansas, writes and tells me she had letters from the service men. Quoting her, "the nice things they said more than offset the work she did on the paper." Lesson plans, plus two courses, etc., tough even getting the "Crier" out, let alone writing individual letters. So bear with me and accept the "Crier" as a substitute.

Paul Salstead has now gone to sea, and has experienced the usual upheaval of the stomach. See your old pal, the Lafayette is also ready to move out. At least it's left its old berth.

Robert F. Holden is now at Maxwell Field, Alabama.

The Great "Pros" tells me that knowing how much Hilary Grabowski hates writing letters, he sure must appreciate the "Crier" in that he sent me word from rainy England. Glad to hear where you are even if they have lousy beer.

Cpl. James Lumpkin, Co. A., 22nd Q.M. Rot., APO 782, New York City, writes that he would like to hear from Paul Agogliati. Has been trying to get together with Ulysses who is also in North Africa, but as yet he hasn't connected. Cheer up, James, the Skoglund brothers finally got together after months in that area.

Sgt. Arthur Nelson writes from the South Pacific that he is still with Rod Larson, Jimmy Watt, and Ed Kusnerczyk, after 19 months.

Robert Yuske writes from Australia that whiskey is still \$15 a quart if you are lucky to find it.

Julian Rudok is at the sub base and sold on the undersea craft. Julie suggests an easy way to get his mail up to date would be to borrow our duplicating machine and turn his letters out in volume. Not a bad idea Julie, if it wasn't for the "Crier" I never would be able to correspond with about 500 service people from Newington a month.

Charlie Ballotto writes from Sicily that he has charge of four cooks, the Italian gals are swell and all he wishes was that he could speak better Italian but isn't doing too badly at that.

Another card from Gerard Storey, now he is in La Janta, Colorado and is looking forward to graduating.

A long letter from Walter Smolak and a lot of pictures. Tony Stempion wondered how they got through. Has visited Cairo and Alexandria. To quote Walter, "while on pass I took in most of the sights, had my share with the girls and each time I got drunk as hell." Same old carefree Smolie.

George Keough, ex-faculty of the high school writes from England that he saw Joe Emerick's name in the London Red Cross Rainbow Corner. Thinks when I lost Alderman "the Great Pros" I lost a source of gossip. He was one of my star reporters, George.

Edmund Kelcher from Marsh Field, California, writes he thinks I would make a good army chaplain.

Earl Gronback is still down at Pensacola, Florida, where they are putting him through the paces previous to naval aviation.

Jacob Zapatka when last heard from was at Fort Dix. Guess it's boat riding for him.

Steven Blasek writes from the University of Cincinnati where he is enjoying the 8,000 co-eds. Dan Casey's last address is as follows: Av. Cadet Daniel A. Casey, 9 A-43C (C) U.S.N.T.C., Corpus Christie, Texas.

Boyd Hounchell was last listed as Fleet post office, San Francisco, California.

For November we will put out our anniversary copy of the "Crier." The paper was started in November of 1941. A complete listing of all service people that we know of from Newington will be printed.

Merril Stevens is at O.C.S. at Camp Hovel, Texas. And are they giving O.C.S. boys the business these days!

Boy scouting in Newington is getting off to a good start. The council is much more active; interest is more wide-spread, and taking in more adults. Of course, the youngsters are willing, all they need is the leadership.

Just a gentle reminder--notice of your change of address will keep our files up to date. A card will also let us know that you are receiving the "Crier," a subject we often wonder about.