

Fairview News

The final day of school last Friday was quite a success. Because of the rain the picnic was held in the school lunch room and there was surely an abundance of all good things to eat, even to cakes and ice cream.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Isaacson and Mrs. R. M. Noah were callers in Ten Mile one day last week. L. A. Ryan and Tom Benham moved home Saturday night after six months employment at Elkton.

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Arago News Items

Ladies Aid met last Wednesday at the church for an all day's meeting with the following attending: Mesdames O. H. Aasen, Albert Lillie, Ward Evans and Bernice Gulstrom.

A bridal shower was given Saturday afternoon for Miss Lillaverie Myers at the home of her mother, Mrs. Wm. Tilghman in Coquille. The following persons were present: Mesdames Albert Lillie and Glenda, O. H. Aasen, Ward Evans, Pamela and Maureen, Stanley Halter, Lawrence Barklow, Ida Myers, Wayne Woodward, Tyrrell Woodward, S. C. McAllister, Bernice Gulstrom, and Misses Nola Crawford and Chloe Willson.

The Arago ladies chorus furnished the special music for the Myrtle Point Baccalaureate services at the Methodist church in Myrtle Point last Sunday evening, with the following ladies singing: Mesdames Werner Plaep, Albert Lillie, Stanley Halter, Wayne Woodward and S. C. McAllister with Mrs. O. H. Aasen as pianist.

Mrs. Daisy Doyle and Mrs. Earl Edgmon and Kenneth of Bandon were week end visitors in Arago. Miss Chloe Willson spent several days last week at the Nursery in the Myrtle Point high school.

Mrs. Nila Miller visited at the home of Mrs. Jessie Sumerlin last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Carl and Mr. and Mrs. Melden Carl and Douglas were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schroeder in Myrtle Point.

Herbert Carl took the following group of 4-H club boys up to the summer camp at the old C. C. C. camp on the Lawhorn place at McKinley last Sunday: Darwin Gulstrom, Bill Butler, Albert and Ralph Herker, Willis Wilcox, Alan and Ronnie Halter, John Leeper and Kerwin Roe.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Myers of Myrtle Point, were Saturday evening guests of Mrs. Ida Myers and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Woodward.

Mr. and Mrs. Nila Miller visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Sumerlin last Sunday.

Lee Kellison came in from Sutherlin Saturday evening and spent the week end at his home in Arago, returning to Sutherlin again Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dority and Kenneth and Mr. and Mrs. Gail Shriver, Douglas and Gary, of North Bend, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Mason and family. Douglas Shriver remained at the Mason home for a few days visit.

Rev. E. C. Brittain of Myrtle Point, conducted the regular Sunday morning church service. Sunday School followed with an attendance of 35.

There will be services again next Sunday, preaching at 10 a. m. and Sunday School at 11 a. m.

Miss Maureen Evans spent Sunday at the home of Miss Maxine Willson. The regular monthly W. C. T. U. meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Widmark last Tuesday afternoon. Devotional services were followed with prayer by Mrs. Nila Miller. The secretary-treasurer's reports were given, the latter showing a balance of \$26.36.

Writes Of Action In The Pacific

The first trip Marc Shelley, Sr., and C. Grant Hartwell made to two Jims will ever remain clear and vivid in their memories for Marcus, Jr., was there on that Jap-held island, where there was bitter fighting. Boys were dying there!

Marc is a ship's carpenter aboard a huge troop and amphibian transport—the "Rockbridge," A.P.A. 238—and Grant operates loading and unloading devices on her forward deck. They left a California embarkation point the day after Christmas, a small part of a huge fleet, headed for their home base at Pearl Harbor.

On the way into the battle or invasion front, besides a score and more of invasion barges and mosquitos and the ship's crew of some five hundred men, this mighty ship carried over two thousand young Marines, boys who sang, ate, slept and made laughter on their way in.

Just off shore the great transport anchored, the smaller craft and troops were lowered to the water, where they moved silently and quickly to the shores of Iwo. Then the ship went through a process of transformation, emerging therefrom looking like a hospital, in preparation for the return of wounded and injured Marine. Time marched on. Crippled small craft returned to the mother ship for repairs. Yes, boys came, too!

After a time this huge floating hospital was filled to capacity. During that long time this "mother" stood by awaiting the return of her precious boys, a father—Marc Shelley—scanned each face as the boys were brought on board, praying desperately that his Marcus was safe. Well, Marcus was never brought aboard, so God did watch over him. (Since then Marcus has received a promotion in rank).

On the return to Pearl Harbor, with her precious load of our boys—the wounded Marines—the Rockbridge put in at Guam, which Grant writes is certainly a beautiful and rugged island. They also made another stop at Eniwetok. Before reaching Pearl Harbor on April 4—four months after leaving our own shores—boxing matches and other sports were entered into evenings between the Marines who were able to take part and the ship's crew for the entertainment of the Marines, to help erase from their minds some of the horror of things they had gone through.

Sidney Carroll, Pacific war correspondent for the Coronet Magazine, likens these great ships to a tenement house, a freight car, a moving van, a fighting ship—a hospital—and even more. The Rockbridge is a flagship in the Admiral's fleet. All of its crew members have been awarded a star for gallant action at Iwo Jima.

Riverton Boy Tells Of German Horrors

Following are extracts from a letter written by Sgt. Warren B. Smith, from somewhere in Germany two days after V-E Day, to his father, Warren Smith, Sr., at Riverton:

"You know, Dad, I wish you could see what has actually happened here, so you could understand the true things we have been fighting. It wasn't just a people who wanted what anyone else had, but a people who had been kept from the outside world and who had been bred on a corrupt line of ignorance and lies, with the filth of the world leading them.

"Just the other day I had the chance to visit one of their former concentration camps. As records go, it was the best of any and, yet, it was more than enough to let a person see just how ruthless the men of the elite (?) S.S. troops were. To see how human beings were treated—tortured, maimed and slaughtered like vermin—make a man fully know why the Russians have such an undying hatred for all of Germany. About the camp we saw many of its former prisoners who are living a clean, free life now. Many are maimed and deformed hideously and one can see in their eyes a faint story of the things they have seen and been through in the past.

"The camp was taken on the 14th of April. When the first Yanks entered its walls, there was still smoke coming from the incinerator, or rather crematory, where, in the period of four years, over 51,000 were killed in one way or another and burned. The guards at the camp were given an added incentive to kill, by a bonus of 150 marks and a week at home for each one of the laboring prisoners

Griffith, Melden Carl, Albert Lillie, Werner Plaep, Richard and Robert, Avon Wilcox, Nila Miller, Harold Fish, Bernice Gulstrom, John Widmark and Julene and Beverly Hemstreet.

Mrs. Melden Carl and Douglas and Mrs. Tyrrell Woodward were Friday guests of Mrs. Ward Evans.

Jay killed. "The crematory was quite like a modern slaughter house and humans were hung on hooks, not unlike the way we would handle beef. The camp hospital was something, too. It was merely a long barn, like a frame building that had only single walls. Instead of beds, there were shelves built six feet deep and about two feet apart the full length of the building in six tiers. There was only one blanket given to every two prisoners and it was not uncommon for 20 to 30 to die each night.

"Sanitary conditions had been completely forgotten and, although, the whole place had been cleaned and disinfected quite thoroughly, one could still smell an odor all over the entire camp that no words can ever describe.

"Well, all I can say is that it made a fellow fully know what we have been saving the world for, and to the results . . ."

Tom Newton Writes From England

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Newton, of Newton's Grocery, received a letter from their son, S/Sgt. Thomas F. Newton, stationed at a bomber base somewhere in England, where he is aerial engineer and top turret gunner of an Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress in the 385th Bombardment Group, telling of some very interesting missions he was on and that he liked very much.

The letter in part says: "We are having regular Coos county weather at present, rains and more rains. We have been doing mercy missions over Holland, taking food to the Dutch; have been on several now and I thought they were highly interesting. We flew in at a very low altitude and could see just about everything on the ground.

"Of course, a lot of their country is underwater, due to the dikes being blasted and bombed, but even so some areas are O.K. Windmills, canals and barges, fields of beautiful tulips, but to my sorrow, couldn't tell if the girls had on their wooden shoes or not, we were hardly that low. It gave one a good feeling to have people come out and wave at us over enemy territory, instead of shooting at us. At one of their cities, they had a large sign out that said, 'Thanks Boys.'

"I have enjoyed this much more than the bombing. Flying is a lot of fun but wouldn't like it as a steady position and will be glad to be home again in God's country and hope it can be soon.

"I went skeet shooting yesterday and made a new record for myself. I hit 20 out of 25 birds, not bad for me, huh? May be some day I'll get them all; some of the fellows can, so I still have hopes.

"This afternoon our squadron gave out air medals and I'll send mine home later. Finally made staff sergeant. All this schooling as lead plane delayed my missions and I thought for a while it was school for the rest of my life but I could stand it, as that is all I've done all my life."

Tommy graduated from Coquille High in May, 1943, before entering the Army Air Force in July. He attended aircraft mechanics school at Amarillo Field, Texas, and aerial gunnery school at Las Vegas Field, Nevada, receiving his wings in July, 1944.

Lawrence Gulseth Tells of New Training

Writing to give a change of address for his copy of The Sentinel, Tech. Sgt. Lawrence O. Gulseth says:

"I'll be going through three months of school and training. This is an infantry regiment and we learn everything from the 45 cal. pistol through the 155 mm. guns and also the fire-thrower.

"I'm in charge of a platoon of men, which at present consists of two thirteen-men squads. It's all new to me and I think I'll like it quite well. We start out with ten days (no liberty) of combat surveying and map-reading and overnight hikes.

Have been enjoying the Sentinel and have missed it for the last three weeks on account of my transfer.

John W. Burg Has Seen Much Action In The Pacific

John W. Burg, motor machinist's mate, first class, whose father, Axel W. Burg, lives in Coquille, has been serving on the fast and tough destroyer Healy in the western Pacific, since January, 1944, and has taken part in every major action in the Pacific since that time.

The Healy, while operating with carrier task forces during these 15 months, has traveled more than 135,000 miles in Pacific waters. She and other destroyers in her task force accounted for 45 enemy planes, sank one destroyer and six picket boats. They have picked up a total of 140 American and 29 Jap pilots.

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