

Weeping Water

Sgt. Sterling C. Marshall, son of Mrs. Emmor Marshall, is here from Hendricks Field, Sebring, Fla. Sgt. Marshall, a former pipe organist and music director in Philadelphia, has assisted the chaplain with the music at the camp. Sunday he played the organ at the Congregational church. This was a great treat to his many friends here, who wish we might hear him more often. On account of Sunday's blizzard, few could attend the service.

Alvin Holt, hospital apprentice 1c, arrived here Friday for a 20-day leave to assist in corn picking at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Holt. Alvin has been in the Navy for ten months, and he will enjoy this visit home.

Wayne Penner, S 2c, is with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Penner, on a 15-day furlough. With him came his buddy, at Farragut, Idaho camp, Jack Edwards, S 2c, of Council Bluffs, who will visit at the Penner home for two days before going on to his home at Council Bluffs.

Mrs. Virgil Pryne of St. Louis, arrived here Friday for a short visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed VanHorn. Mrs. Pryne informs us that she operates a lunch stand across the street from one of the St. Louis schools, and owing to the fact that they were having a two days vacation she decided to spend those two days with her parents and a brother.

Mrs. Lowther informs us that her son, Pvt. Seward Lowther, is with the army in New Guinea and that her son, Dorsey Lowther is a pharmacist's assistant in the Navy, and is located at Farragut, Idaho.

Mrs. Frances L. Hebard is the new Junior clerk in the Cass Soil Conservation district office.

Mrs. J. H. Frans, who makes her home at Rest Haven annex, returned home Saturday after a three week visit with the daughters at Union, and at Forrest City, Mo., and with a sister at St. Joe, Mo.,

Sunday's storm brought no end of grief to motorists who were traveling highway No. 34, going westward toward Lincoln. Between 45 and 50 people sought shelter at Ft. George filling station Sunday, for the night. As there are only two small cabins connected with the station, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Partridge had quite a problem caring for so many unexpected guests. We are told that even all floor space was filled with tired sleepers Sunday night. The host and hostess provided the guests with hot coffee until the coffee became exhausted, then made hot tea and served others with milk. Sandwiches were hurriedly made and pie served as far as possible. Bacon, ham and eggs helped to feed the hungry guests also.

As most of the guests could not get away until the highway was opened at four o'clock Monday afternoon, the food problem became acute, as they borrowed from the farm homes nearest to Ft. George. Mrs. Partridge reports that everyone made the best of the situation and they proved to be a fine group of guests to serve. Two young ladies were on their way from a point in Kansas to the state of Oregon. They came to Weeping Water Monday afternoon to spend another night here. Three from Pennsylvania, en route also to Oregon, remained at Ft. George over Monday night. There was one family of seven children, five from Plattsmouth, several from Beatrice and some from Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Miller and daughter Patty, of Bellevue, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall. Mr. Miller expects to leave for induction into the Navy, Friday. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Marshall are sisters.

Bert Philpot is improved in health sufficiently that he left Tuesday for a months rest and vacation on the western coast. He is accompanying his son Charles to Los Angeles, where he will visit his daughter, Mrs. L. B. Kay, the former Gladys Philpot. Mrs. Charles Philpot will return to Onawa, Iowa, where she is employed. Charles will resume his work with a government construction company.

Miss Doris Marshall, who is a senior at the University of Nebraska, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall.

This sudden blizzard caught many of our people unprepared for cold weather. Many report that the storm

windows and doors were still in storage and many found their coal bins empty. Coal is a mighty scarce article these days. Wood is scarcer. So far, those who are fortunate enough to be heating with gas, are the lucky people, and the oil heaters are being lauded to the skies, for their beneficent heat giving qualities, (while the supply of oil lasts.) Cobs are free, cost of hauling to town is three dollars per truck load. We may have to place seats in front of our furnaces and spend this winter feeding cobs into its yawning cavity.

Mrs. William Molden tells us that their son, Howard, is a sergeant in North Africa, and that Tom has recently been made sergeant, at his camp in California.

Mrs. Edna Spencer left Tuesday for Imperial to visit her brother, Orville Ogden, before returning to her home at Moscow, Idaho. Mrs. Spencer was the former Miss Edna Ogden, and she came to visit her son, who is in training at Sioux Falls, S. D., then came on here to renew old acquaintances, as she was born on a farm in the Sunny Hill district, and then moved to Avoca with her parents during her youth. She was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wiseman while in Weeping Water.

We regret that we failed to tell about a dinner at the John Robinson home a week ago last Sunday, honoring the 93rd birthday of Mr. E. E. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Switzer of Fremont, were also present at the dinner. Mr. Day made his first visit to Nebraska in the year of 1876, when he came here to visit his brother, Eugene, who had bought a farm south of Weeping Water, the farm where Eugene Day lives. When telling us of his arrival he said that he crossed the river at Kenosha Landing, which was one mile north and straight east from Weeping Water, and his first glimpse of Weeping Water was from the top of Gospel Hill. From there he found his way down over the rocks, having difficulty keeping from falling. At that time the land west of Reed's store, which was on the corner where the brick building stands, which is now occupied by the Philip Seed and Feed Center, and to where the Knud Jensen house is, was mostly hazel brush, with a creek running through it. In the year of 1881 Mr. Day began operating a grain elevator in Weeping Water, although he still lived at South Bend, where he had moved some time before. He moved to Weeping Water in 1886 and opened a general merchandise store. His father-in-law, G. W. Norton, was in charge of his elevator here. When he came to Weeping Water the "main street" ran parallel with the creek, about where the railroad tracks now run.

Mr. Day was here when the Missouri Pacific built its road into town. He was one of the citizens who were instrumental in getting the Weeping Water Academy in our town. For a number of years this academy exerted a high moral influence over the youth of this and other communities.

He saw the spectacular opening of the Noble Sewing Machine company, which was moved here from Erie, Penn., also the opening of the Reed Quarries, which began a very lively enterprise, and led to the opening of all later quarries. He has seen the destruction of old landmarks, and the replacement by newer and more up to date buildings, but we believe that his greatest interest has been in the people of the community whom he has known throughout the years. His friends are many. Old settlers who come to Weeping Water always enjoy a visit with him, at his home, and he has kept track of the young people of the community, and watched their successes in whatever work they are employed, all over the United States, and now, although he is unable to get away from home very often, his heart is with the grandsons who are with the armed forces, in different parts of the country.

Relatives who came from out of town to attend the funeral of Mrs.

M. U. Thomas, were Mr. and Mrs. M. U. Switzer of Fremont, Mrs. Leona Swisher of Lincoln, Miss Daisy Johnson, Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Upton and daughter, Union.

Jack Hayes arrived here Wednesday of last week to visit his wife, the former LaVerne Gibson. Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Hays went to Guide Rock to visit his mother, Mrs. Ben Hays, returning here Saturday. He left Wednesday for Camp Pickett where he is one of the cooks.

Sunday there was a family dinner at the Charles Gibson home honoring Jack Hays, when the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hays, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Thurstlund and daughter, Marsha, of Bellevue and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Gibson and son, Richard.

Mrs. John Robinson returned home Friday, after a five-day visit with the Dan Switzer family at Fremont.

Mrs. M. U. Thomas Edna J. Upton was born on a farm in the Three Grove community, near the present town of Union, Cass County, Nebraska, on February 17, 1865.

She passed away at her home in Weeping Water, Nebraska, on November 3, 1943, after a long illness, at the age of 78 years, 8 months, 17 days.

Her parents, Joseph S. and Evelyn Brashear Upton, had gone as pioneers from Kentucky to Missouri. In December, 1864, they moved overland to Nebraska, locating on the farm near the old village of Factoryville.

Here she was born and spent her childhood and girlhood, a member of a large family. She taught in rural schools in Cass County a few years, one term in the present Sunny Hill district.

After her father's death, the family lived in Weeping Water for a time, to educate two younger brothers, and here she met Dr. Marion U. Thomas.

They were married on May 8, 1887, in the Methodist church in Weeping Water. To them was born one son, Dr. J. W. Thomas of Lincoln, Nebraska. They lived most of their life together in Nebraska.

The last of her immediate family, she is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, a sister-in-law, Mrs. John McGrady, and a number of nieces and nephews of the Upton, Switzer, and Johnson families, and countless friends wherever she has lived.

Her husband preceded her in death on Feb. 28, 1942.

Mrs. Thomas was a member of the

Congregational church in Weeping Water, the P.E. O., the Eastern Star, of which she was Worthy Matron in 1926, and had formerly belonged to the Woman's club, in which her excellent book reports are remembered. In her colorful personality was blended a love of gracious living, which her home exemplified, and the native humor and vitality of her pioneer ancestors.

She loved life and people. Only a year ago she said, "I have had a full life." That sums it up: a full life. She was essentially a homemaker, devoted to her husband and son, but the doors of their home always swung wide to friends.

Always young in heart, her special interest was young people of the teen-age. She loved to do things for her nieces and nephews. They are remembering gratefully. But best of all that she gave her own heart-warming personality—a full life.

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