



THE WEATHER
V-E week has been a cold one in Wisconsin Rapids. We actually had a lot of snow during one afternoon when the thermometer tumbled down to 25 degrees. High winds also made it uncomfortable for the citizenry.

Vol. 1—No. 15

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., May 16, 1945

50 Cents a Month

Prisoners of War To Work as Field Hands in This Area

Branch Camp Is Established at Tri-City Airport

A branch prisoner of war camp was opened here Sunday at the Tri-City Airport to provide agricultural and food processing labor and to meet the extreme shortage in seasonal field workers in this immediate area. The announcement was authorized by Colonel George H. Cushman, post commander of Fort Sheridan, Ill. The prisoners started on their jobs today with the first work details going to a number of cranberry marshes in the Central Wisconsin area. There are about 150 in the contingent according to Lt. Col. E. R. Schuelke, commander of the base prisoner of war camp at Fort Sheridan.

Captain Thomas R. Ryan of Detroit, Mich., is the commanding officer of the local camp.

Revamp Airport As Camp

The Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers association, of which Wm. F. Thiele is president and Vernon C. Goldsworthy is secretary, is acting as the contracting agent in the assignment of the prisoner of war labor to the various cranberry growers belonging to the association and to other employers such as the canning companies and forestry projects to which the prisoners will be assigned on a rotation basis with the cranberry growers.

In order to house and handle the prisoners and the officers and guards, the airport has been facilitated by the association. It required the installation of sanitary conveniences, water, electricity and other facilities required by the Geneva conventions.

Need Was Certified

To obtain the prisoner of war branch camp here a survey of local labor conditions was made by governmental agencies. Agricultural extension service was the certifying agency for the cranberry growers and the war manpower commission attested to the requirements of the canners and food processors. In the latter group will be the Sampson

Prepare New Map of City

At the suggestion of state planning board work has begun on preparation of an up-to-date city map to be used in connection with the study of a long-proposed zoning ordinance in Wisconsin Rapids, according to City Engineer Carl Cassius. The planning board officials stated that they now are in position to assist in an advisory capacity and said that the first step to be taken was the preparation of such a map.

As far back as 1927, exhaustive studies were made toward the establishment of a comprehensive zoning ordinance but it failed of approval. At a meeting of the city council last November, Alderman Fred Blanchard suggested the ordinance be given consideration and, finally, at the February meeting, a petition sponsored by the Carpenters' local and signed by a number of businessmen was read. It was referred to the general business committee and planning commission. A meeting of the two bodies was held with Mayor W. T. Nobles and representatives of the state planning board where the preparation of a new city map was proposed.

Nekoosa Lieutenant Wounded in Action

Second Lt. George I. Dresdow, Nekoosa, was listed today by the war department as having been wounded in action recently in the European theater of operations. Lieutenant Dresdow's wife, Marion, resides at 106 Second street, Nekoosa.

Hold Everything



"I'm calling for a couple of volunteers for patrol duty!"

'Red' Blanchard Makes Hit In 'Stars and Gripes' Show



"RED" BLANCHARD
A Pittsville G. I., Cpl. Donald F. "Red" Blanchard, who formerly was a radio musician and entertainer with WFHR, is sharing the plaudits of hundreds of thousands of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces in the Pacific as a member of the all-army show, "Stars and Gripes."

teenth month in the Pacific war theater. The corporal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Williams Blanchard, who reside six miles northwest of Pittsville, had 14 years of experience as a professional musician and comedian behind him before his induction into the infantry at Camp Grant in March, 1942.

Previous to his joining the army, Blanchard was a staff artist at Station WLS in Chicago for several years. Donald, his guitar and his barnyard humor have been featured at the Aragon and Trianon ballrooms, the Chicago theater and the Hotel Stevens in Chicago, and in a short feature produced by Monogram Pictures in Hollywood.

When WFHR opened in November, 1940, "Red" became a member of the staff as a musician and comedian. The former Pittsville High school student built up a large following of fans while with WFHR. He remained with WFHR until his entrance into the army.

He is a natural for "Stars and Gripes." Like the other 36 members of the cast, he has combined his professional talents with a knowledge of soldier likes and dislikes, and the resultant production has never been matched by civilian performers on the Pacific circuit, according to the army press releases from that zone.

Radio Comedian Jack Benny, who saw Blanchard's act in New Guinea last year, called the Pittsville G. I.

Maj. Ruth Briggs at Signing of Surrender

Maj. Ruth Briggs of Port Edwards, a member of the woman's army corps (WAC), was present at the historic signing of the surrender documents by Germany at Reims, France early Monday morning.



MAJ. RUTH BRIGGS

Major Briggs, daughter of Mrs. F. H. Rosebush, Port Edwards, served as secretary to Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, chief of staff for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, according to an Associated Press dispatch today.

The Port Edwards officer has had the faculty of being present at exciting and famous events throughout World war II.

Miss Briggs was one of the contingent of five WAC's who supervised the torpedoing of the ship on which they were being taken from England to Africa early in the war. Those five were the first WAC's to enter the North African theater of operations.

Later, Major Briggs was one of five WAC's who took care of the telephone and stenographic work at the dramatic meeting in Casablanca, North Africa, of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill and their military staffs. Continuing her adventurous career, Miss Briggs

and her companions worked with the conferees throughout their 10-day meeting. Major Briggs formerly was a secretarial employe of the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company.

Prentiss Wabers Wins Production Award 4th Time

Prentiss Wabers Products company has won the Army-Navy Production award for the fourth time, according to an announcement made today by R. S. Wiltrout, general manager. Word of the award was contained in the following letter from Robert B. Patterson, under-secretary of war:

"To the men and women of Prentiss-Wabers Products company: I am pleased to inform you that you have won for the fourth time the Army-Navy Production award for outstanding achievement in producing materials essential to the war effort by maintaining a distinguished record which previously brought you distinction. You are once again proving your leadership on the production front.

"This third white star added to your Army-Navy Production award flag carries with it the thanks and congratulations of our armed forces."

Earl Breese Is Missing

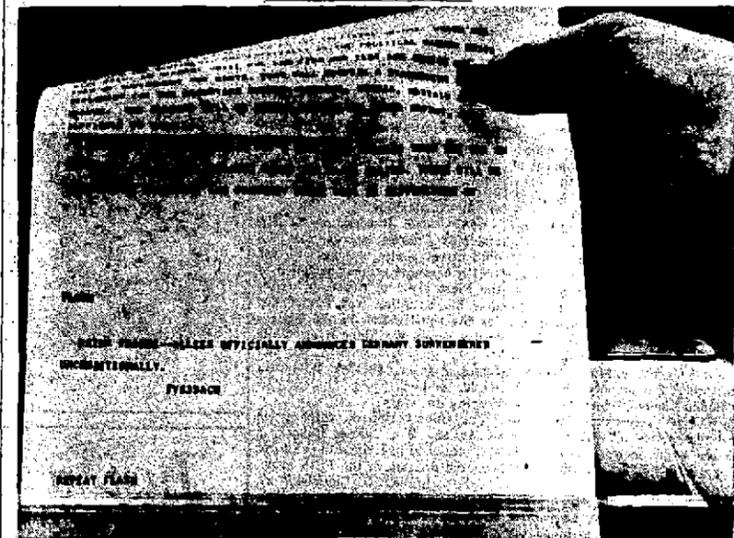
Sgt. Earl W. Breese, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Breese, Port Edwards, has been missing in action in Italy since April 14, according to a war department telegram received by the parents Tuesday evening.

The last time Mr. and Mrs. Breese had received word from their son was in a letter dated April 13. Sergeant Breese was attached to the 10th mountain division in Italy.

He entered service three years ago and has been overseas eight months. He has two brothers in service, Pvt. Jerome Breese, with the infantry in the South Pacific, and Cpl. Russell Breese, stationed at Camp Blending, Ala. Russell has also served for some time in Alaska.

The three brothers were all employed at Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company prior to entering military service.

Tri-Cities Take News Of Surrender Quietly



SURRENDER FLASH—Pictured above is the FLASH received by the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune and the Associated Press teletype announcing the unconditional surrender of all German forces. The entire Tribune staff immediately swung into action to produce a complimentary 32-page "Surrender Extra" which was distributed to its subscribers within a few hours and which preceded the regular edition.

Calm Reaction Greet News of European Peace

"Well, she's over now!" "Two down and one to go!" "This is it!" With such exclamations did the people of the Tri-Cities welcome the world-shaking news this morning that Germany had surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia.

Perhaps it was the fact that the long awaited news of surrender had been delayed so long; more probably it was because any joy at this time is tempered by the grim fact that we still must fight a deadly foe to the finish in the Pacific. But anyway, Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards and Nekoosa took the news quite calmly.

The flash announcing the surrender came from the Associated Press at 8:35 this morning. Not until a full hour later did the siren in Wisconsin Rapids begin to send out its blasts. Then whistles began to blow and church bells to ring.

As the first sounds of the siren floated up and down the streets in Wisconsin Rapids, faces began to appear in windows and scores of employes stood in the doorways of their places of employment to watch the reaction of other people.

Two fathers of youths who have been serving in the European theater for many months shouted their approval and congratulations at each other across West Grand avenue. The girls in Normington's Laundry hugged each other and shouted with joy.

Two city employes, working on a sewer project in front of the Flatiron building, paused at the whistles, then continued their task. A serviceman and his girl halted in front of the Serviceman's board along the river and glanced over the names. A mechanic at a filling station pulled his head out from under the hood of a car on which he was working and exchanged big grins with his manager.

George W. Mead of Consolidated Water Power and Paper company summed up the reaction of the industrial concerns in the Tri-City area when he issued the following statement:

"I join with all of our people in a feeling of great relief and deep gratitude.

"When the important news arrived some of our employes waved their arms and shouted. It seemed to be a shout of solemn gratitude and appreciation. Many of our men and women have been crushed and saddened by the loss of their own boys. Therefore they stand together in a spirit of thanks for today's peace in Europe.

"Upon receipt of the first news of peace we posted an announcement on each bulletin board throughout the plant. Later we made transcripts of WPHR radio communications and these are being posted. We want every man and woman to know promptly just what is occurring."

Must Stay On Job
A spokesman for the Prentiss-Wabers Products company said that it is "tremendously good news but that it was no time for hip-hip-hurrahs, not time to leave vital war jobs because there is still a war in the Pacific to fight."

Ahdawngam Paper Products company employes first learned of the news about 9 o'clock this morning when one of the employes received a telephone call from home. Workers there quickly rejected, then turned back to their tasks with more determination than ever.

Mixed opinion greeted the news at the Nekoosa Edwards Paper company. "Any celebration at Nepco will be restrained and we'll hold on until Hirohito also throws in the sponge," remarked a company spokesman.

Bulletins Are Relayed
Lincoln High school students today heard history in the making, the news bulletins being carried to each room on the school's loud-speaker system as broadcast by radio. Classes followed the regular schedule.

Port Edwards pupils were comparatively calm as they heard the news of Germany's surrender.

Hectic Day
Today has been a hectic day for the telephone operators, according to a spokesman for the Wood County Telephone company. "Our operators have been busy continuously, ever since the flash of Germany's surrender was announced at 8:35 this morning," she stated. "As further reports concerning surrender were broadcast a rash of lights would light up on our boards," she said.

Local Labor Shortage Seen As Postwar Group is Set Up

Foreseeing a serious postwar shortage of skilled labor in Wisconsin Rapids which could impede local construction, a planning committee has been named to make a survey of the situation. W. A. Sprise, general chairman, announced today. "The problem in Wisconsin Rapids does not appear to be one of providing enough work for men to do but rather it is getting enough qualified men to do the work," Mr. Sprise stated. "We will endeavor to get an accurate picture of what the postwar labor supply and demand will be like and, later, from these figures, may develop a plan in an effort to coordinate the many proposed building activities," he added.

Zoning Benefits City, Rotary Club is Told

Stating that zoning is beneficial to any community, J. M. Albers, area engineer of the Wisconsin State Planning board, Madison, explained the principle of zoning to members of the Wisconsin Rapids Rotary club at their weekly noon luncheon Wednesday.

"Zoning means the adoption of a local ordinance which affects every piece of private property in your city," the speaker pointed out. "Therefore every citizen should be acquainted with what zoning is."

He said that the objectives and results of zoning are well known, because zoning began back during the first World War. Two main reasons were listed for the necessity of zoning by the Rotary guest: (1) surplus of population and (2) in order to maintain a tax base. In connection with the second point, Mr. Albers said that zoning would make sure that nothing would go into a residential or industrial area which would eventually prove detrimental.

"A primary requisite of zoning is that it be reasonable," he emphasized. "This means the application of regulations as they apply to a particular area."

Requires Much Work
"Zoning is not an automatic thing; it requires considerable work but it will solve ills insofar as you take an interest in it. Zoning gives you the opportunity to select, economically, school sites, parks and plan proper fire protection."

"In adopting a zoning plan, a community should first draw up a record of what it has," he continued. "A base map should be made, showing every lot, its area and width. It is also essential to know how far each building sets back from the street, its height and location, and the use or disuse of every single bit of property."

"I personally believe that administration is the most important part of zoning."

SKILLING GIVEN MILWAUKEE POST

Vince A. Skilling, conservation warden of Wood county for the last seven years announced today that he has been assigned as a conservation warden in Milwaukee county and that he will leave Wisconsin Rapids early next week to assume his new post. His wife and two children will remain in Wisconsin Rapids for the time being.

The Wood county warden position will be filled temporarily by two special wardens, Clarence Wilger, Milwaukee, and George Helzer, Phillips. Later a permanent appointment will be made by the state department. The two special wardens have already arrived in Wood county.

Warden Skilling came to Wood county in September, 1938, from Waupaca.

Central Labor Union to Install New Officers

New officers of the Central Labor Union will be installed at Union hall this evening. Joseph C. Rude succeeds John Krohn as president. He is secretary of Badger local 187 of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers and is a super calendar operator for the Consolidated Water Power and Paper company. Harry R. Klappa, president of the Office Employees International local, No. 95, is the new vice president. He is in the cost department at Consolidated. Irving J. Hofschild was re-elected recording secretary. He is secretary of Nepco Papermakers Local 59 and is a Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company shipping department employe. The first woman to hold an office in the Central Body is Hilda Abraham, financial secretary. She is representative of Fulp and Sulphite local 94 and is a sulphite mill laboratory clerk at Consolidated. Treasurer is William Scott, representative of Badger Local 187 of Papermakers and fourth hand on the No. 5 Consolidated machine.



JOSEPH C. RUDE
President



HARRY R. KLAPPA
Vice President



IRVING J. HOFSCILD
Recording Secretary



HILDA ABRAHAM
Financial Secretary



WILLIAM SCOTT
Treasurer