

LOMA THEATRE FIRE WAS BAD BLOW TO ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Bad Blaze Monday Morning Wiped Out One of Coloma's Most Prominent Business Places, Causing a Loss of \$40,000 to the Theatre and \$1,000 to the Loma Barber Shop--Fourth Bad Fire in City in Eighteen Months--Officers Are Investigating, Believing That a Firebug Was Responsible for Some of the Fires.

"WHO DONE IT?"

The above was the title of the show which was given at the Loma Theatre last Sunday afternoon and evening, and "Who Done It?" is the question that is uppermost in the minds of hundreds of people following the destruction of the Loma Theatre early Monday morning, April 26, 1943.

Coloma suffered another heavy loss by fire early Monday morning of this week when the Loma Theatre building and its entire contents and the Loma barber shop and its equipment were completely wiped out by the fourth mysterious fire that occurred in the City of Coloma within the past eighteen months. The cause of none of these fires had not yet been ascertained but there are suspicions of sabotage in each case.

The first of the fires which aroused suspicion was the destruction of the foundry in Coloma on October 23, 1941, with a loss estimated at \$8,000. The second bad fire was that at the Coloma Fruit Exchange, which occurred on March 15, 1942, with a loss of about \$10,000. On April 22, 1942, a mysterious fire caused a loss of about \$25,000 to the Michigan Shore Lumber and Supply Co. On the morning of January 15, 1943, another fire destroyed a big barn and a score of head of fine cattle and hogs on the farm of Dr. F. C. Tiedebohl in North Coloma, the cause of which has not yet been ascertained. Then on the morning of April 26, 1943, the Loma Theatre and the Loma barber shop were wiped out by a fire of unknown origin.

LOMA THEATRE FIRE LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$40,000

Loss of Barber Shop Owned by Ben Zielke Estimated at \$1,000.

To the majority of the people of the community, the destruction of the Loma Theatre is taken as the most serious loss, for the theatre was the chief place of amusement for the residents of the vicinity, as well as from many surrounding towns.

The fire which destroyed the Loma Theatre was discovered shortly after 3:00 a. m. on Monday morning, April 26th, by Mrs. Louise Wheat, who was on duty as an operator for the Michigan Bell Telephone company in the State Bank of Coloma, who turned in the alarm. At about the same time the fire was also discovered by Herbert Winkler, night watchman, who has just returned from a tour of the business district.

Both Mrs. Wheat and Mr. Winkler report that just before the fire was discovered they heard a peculiar noise as that of the starting of an automobile, which was followed by an explosion which was heard for some distance. At first there appeared to be a light flame from the rear of the building where the stage was located, but the blaze spread rapidly to the front of the structure. Two other explosions followed.

The fire started in the rear end of the theatre near a side entrance which was used only in case of an emergency. The force of the explosion was so great that a heavy drape was hurled more than fifty feet from the rear of the building and a light reflector was found on Logan street about 75 feet from the rear entrance.

The theatre building was of brick,

steel and concrete construction, as near fireproof as could be made at the time of its construction, with a cement floor and insulated walls. Only about a week before the fire an inspection of the property had been made by insurance men who pronounced the building as safe. Mrs. Ethel Kilmark, manager of the theatre, reports that before she left the theatre Sunday night she and the motion picture operator, R. Crawford, made sure that the electrical equipment and the oil burning furnace were in good condition. They explained that there was nothing of an inflammable nature in the building aside from the oil furnace, which was in the opposite end of the building from which the fire started, and that the oil had been turned off the furnace.

Loma Barber Shop a Total Loss

The equipment in the Loma barber shop which was located in the theatre building and which was owned and operated by Ben Zielke as a total loss. Mr. Zielke managed to save several of his razors and scissors, but the barber chairs and other equipment were damaged beyond repair. Also in the barber shop was a quantity of laundry and men's and women's garments which had been left for cleaning and which had been returned to the barber shop but had not been called for by the owners. The loss is estimated at \$1,000, partly covered by insurance.

Firemen Did Fine Work

The Coloma firemen and the volunteer firemen deserve much credit for the very efficient manner in which they handled this fire and prevented its spread to adjacent buildings. At times sparks from the theatre were blown across the street, and the heat from the fire threatened other buildings. The postoffice building, which is just south of the theatre building, escaped with but slight damage, and the Kolberg grocery building on the north suffered little loss. The windows on the north side of the State Bank of Coloma building, where the telephone office is located, were cracked by the severe heat. Buildings across the street became real hot and occupants kept a close watch that the fire did not reach them. The Watervliet fire department, which is always ready to cooperate with the Coloma boys, was on hand to give assistance, but the local department handled the situation without their assistance by laying four lines of hose to be played on the fire.

The Coloma firemen worked until late in the morning to supervise the work of guarding the ruins and clearing the street of the debris which had fallen on Paw Paw street, and later in the day they returned and took charge of the removal of some of the dangerous walls which had been left standing, in order that nobody might be injured.

Postoffice Moved Out

Postmaster Neva J. DuVall and her assistants, Miss Mildred Sparks and Dee Halstead, took no chances on the loss of the government property. They were on the scene shortly after the fire started and took the precaution to remove all of the contents of the postoffice to a place of safety until the fire in the theatre was subdued. It was a big job for the postal employees but they did not complain. Of course this extra work caused a slight delay in the handling of the mail on Monday morning, but the patrons were very considerate and little complaint was made.

Theatre Loss Heavy; Plans Made to Re-open

Mrs. Ethel Kilmark, manager of the Loma Theatre, informed this paper that it is hoped that arrangements can be made so that the theatre can be rebuilt as soon as possible and that in the meantime a temporary place may be found so that the business may be continued. The loss on the theatre building and its contents is estimated at about \$40,000, most of which is covered by insurance.

There is no question in the mind of Fire Chief William Martin and Mayor Chester W. Hocker that the fire was on incendiary origin and of a chemical nature. Members of the state police and the fire marshal's department have been in Coloma this week checking up on the fire, but as yet they have made no announcement as to their conclusions.

Mrs. Louise Algure, mother of Mrs. Kilmark and owner of the theatre, has been spending the winter at St. Petersburg, Florida, and was advised of the loss on Monday, which, of course, was a great shock to her.

Second Theatre to Burn

The loss of the Loma Theatre was the second loss that Coloma has sustained in a theatre fire. In the year 1913, a small theatre which was operated by Eddie Burgan and located in the old Baker building north of the Pere Marquette tracks was destroyed by a fire which also destroyed the Wm. Grant shoe store and building. The Baker building was later rebuilt and was the first home of the Coloma Theatre, and the William Grant building was also rebuilt and is now occupied by the Town Tavern.

The Loma Theatre building was one of the most modern and fireproof buildings in the City of Coloma. It was erected for the Ford garage by P. B. Friday, was of brick construction, and had a frontage of 46 feet on Paw Paw street and was 100 feet long.

The building was purchased by Mrs. Louise Algure and was completely remodeled into one of the finest theatre buildings to be found in a town many times larger than Coloma. The auditorium of the theatre was 40 x 65 feet with a stage with a 26-foot opening. The theatre had a capacity for seating about 400 people. In front of the building was a lobby 20 x 16 feet and a room 12 x 16 feet which was occupied by the Loma barber shop operated by Ben Zielke. There was also an office room on the front which was 8 x 12 feet, and a canopy in front of the building which was 11 x 22 feet.

Fine Picture Equipment

The new Loma Theatre was opened on November 7th and 8th, 1935, with the very latest equipment that could be secured at that time. Since the opening there have been many changes in the interior of the building and in the entire picture equipment. New seats were installed; the interior was completely redecorated and other equipment added to make the Loma Theatre one of the most attractive motion picture houses in the Southwestern Michigan, which drew many people from the twin cities, from Watervliet, Hartford and many other points because of the many fine attractions that had been booked by the management.

History of Theatre

Much might be written of the history of the Loma Theatre, but let us be brief in stating that the Coloma Theatre was established in the year 1913 by Clinton and Claude Algure in the Baker building north of the Pere Marquette railway; in the year 1917, the management of the theatre was taken over by Mrs. Louise Algure and Mrs. Leona Vogt. Following the death of Mrs. Vogt, the business was taken over by Mrs. Kilmark and has since been operated by her and her daughter, Mrs. Ethel Kilmark, who have made a marked success of the business. The theatre in the Baker building proved such a success that the crowded quarters were outgrown and larger quarters were needed. It was then that the Ford garage building was purchased and remodeled into the Loma Theatre building which was destroyed last Monday morning.

Edward Velek in Navy

Edward J. Velek of Coloma was recently inducted into the navy and has reported to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., for twelve weeks of "boot" training.

Big Loss to the City

The burning of the Loma Theatre was a distinct loss to Coloma and vicinity, aside from the financial loss, as it supplied the people of the community with wholesome entertainment when there was nothing else to attract the people to Coloma. The management of the theatre was always among the first to contribute to any community enterprise and had been very active since the war started in the sale of War Savings Bonds and Stamps.

Recreation Center Gets Off to a Good Start

The proposed Youth Center movement in Coloma was given the hearty endorsement of the Coloma Civic Association at its monthly meeting at the Hub restaurant on Monday evening, when Hon. Malcolm Hatfield, Berrien county's judge of probate was the guest speaker.

In the absence of W. L. Alwood, president of the Civic Association, Charles Kelley presided. Rev. H. B. Loomis, pastor of the Congregational church, who is deeply interested in the youth movement, was the first speaker. He outlined the plans that have already been made, stating that the Coloma Hotel building would be made available for the Youth Center when the plans are completed. He stated that volunteers have agreed to place the lower floor of the hotel building in shape for the use of the young people and that it was estimated that the sum of about \$500 would be necessary to carry the project through the first year. It is proposed to raise this money by volunteer subscriptions, several of which were made Monday evening. It is planned to have the Student Council of the schools in charge of the programs at the center when it is under way.

Judge Hatfield complimented the people of Coloma in the action they have taken in the youth movement, declaring that the supervision of children is of the utmost importance in the youth movement, and the high chair is far more important than the electric chair. He also cited the decrease in juvenile crime in Berrien county over a period of years. At one time Berrien county stood third in child delinquency in the state and now it is in the twelfth place. He stated that now that so many parents are engaged in war work it is more necessary than ever that some organized program be made for their children after school and evenings. Judge Hatfield also spoke on a number of other timely matters that interested those who were present.

Anyone who is interested in making contribution for the Youth Center movement may do so by calling Rev. Loomis or Kenneth Miller.

YOUNG PORKERS NEED CARE

Seventy-five per cent of all pig losses occur within the first week after farrowing, according to hog specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Kay Smith, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Smith, is able to be out again after being seriously ill with intestinal flu.

Labor Placement Center Established in Coloma

Coloma Civic Association Will Cooperate With Farmers in Securing of Needed Help.

Under the auspices of the Coloma Civic Association a farm labor placement office has been established. The work of this office will be to help coordinate the demands from the grower for help and the supply of labor from the migrant groups and from the community itself. The Coloma placement office will work in close cooperation with the existing movement which has its central office in the county agents department.

Each grower in the vicinity received recently a questionnaire from the state college requesting them to state their needs for future labor. The directions for the use of this form were that each grower would bring the form to the nearest placement center to be filled out. Their needs would be then filed and as the labor was available would be met thru this agency. To date there has been little response on the part of the farmer and this information is vital to a satisfactory solution to the labor shortage. The grower is urged to bring his blank form to the office of the placement center as soon as possible or come in to the office and get another if necessary. This service is without cost to the farmer and should prove to be of the utmost help in securing proper labor.

The Civic Association committee in charge of this work is composed of Kenneth Miller, John Walters, Fred Lombard and Matt Steffen. The committee has secured the office of Eric Kerlikowski which is situated on Highway 12 just west of the stop light. After a short period of organization this office will be open to receive calls for needed labor. The management of the placement center will in the next few weeks contact all of the farmers possible in order to speed up the registration before the press of work begins. The office wishes to help every farmer and the only way that can be done is to have the information for which we ask. Don't wait till you need help to bring in the form. Get it in now. Take or send it to Kenneth Miller, Coloma Fruit Exchange or H. B. Loomis, manager of the Placement Center.

Welding School Has Place for More Trainees

If You Are Interested in This Course Consult Supt. W. L. Alwood or Dorl Sawatzki.

Free training in acetylene welding is still available for men and women of this area. The Sawatzki Welding Shop in Coloma, with classes three nights weekly for a period of twelve weeks. Many already have availed themselves of this opportunity for training in war work and have been placed in essential industries by the United States Employment Service or by the trainee's own initiative. A few vacancies in the classes make it possible for more trainees to enroll at once, and other openings occur almost every week as those who have been in training complete their courses. The training classes run continuously and trainees may enter and complete their work as rapidly as vacancies occur. It is not necessary to wait a single day to enroll.

Women especially are needed for war work and immediate employment is practically sure for those who are trained. The instruction is individual in nature and the trainee makes advance as rapidly as his capabilities permit, under the skilled guidance of the instructors and the use of modern welding equipment. All courses are state approved and there is no tuition fee, the only requirements being a willingness to learn and faithfulness in attendance.

The welding courses are sponsored by the Coloma Public Schools, approved by the State Board of Control for Vocational Education, Lansing, and by the United States Employment Service. William L. Alwood, Superintendent of Schools, is the local director; Dorl Sawatzki and Tom Hambree, skilled welders at the Sawatzki Welding Shop, are the instructors. One class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and the other meets Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, each week, from 7:00 p. m. to 11:00 p. m.

If interest in securing this training by men and women of this area continues, the courses will run indefinitely. Prospective trainees should contact Superintendent W. L. Alwood at the Coloma school offices, Dorl Sawatzki at the Sawatzki Welding Shop, or the United States Employment Service in Benton Harbor. This should be done immediately, as trained workers are essential to the successful prosecution of the war.

KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL

Notice is hereby given to all dog owners that they must not permit their dogs to run at large as much damage is being done to Victory Gardens. The owners will be held responsible for any damage done to gardens by dogs.

Notice is also hereby given to boys that the firing of air rifles is prohibited, and that boys found damaging property with their rifles will be arrested and turned over to the courts.

CHESTER HOCKER, Mayor of City of Coloma

You do not have to go to the front to fight for your country. You can serve just as well by investing your money in War Savings bonds.

BERRIEN COUNTY O. E. S. TO HOLD "VICTORY" SESSION IN COLOMA

Fine Program Prepared for 34th Annual Meeting at High School on Friday Afternoon and Evening, April 30th.

Coloma Chapter No. 307 O. E. S. will have the pleasure of entertaining the Berrien County Association Order of Eastern Star at the "Victory" or 34th annual session at the Coloma high school auditorium on Friday of this week. There will be an afternoon and an evening session, fine programs having been arranged for each meeting.

Local Chapter Officers

The officers of Coloma Chapter are—Emma Clark, worthy matron; William Wood, worthy patron; Florence Watts, associate matron; Orrin Schaus, associate patron; Gertrude B. Stratton, secretary; Emma Mast, treasurer; Elsie Paul, conductress; Evelyn Butzbach, associate conductress; Mattie Newton, chaplain; Marian Davidson, organist; Beatrice Wood, Marshall; Harriet Whitney, Adah; Irene Stoltz, Ruth; Florence Davis, Esther; Alice L. Arant, Martha; Bertha Carter, Electa; Mabel L. Wolff, warder; Peter Clark, sentinel.

The following were the committees named at arrangement for the "Victory" session: Arrangements—Emma Mast, Marian Davidson, Violet Hanson, Adelaide Brown, Mabel Wolff, Evelyn Butzbach; decorations—Edna Morlock, Emma Clark, Elsie Paul, Florence Davis; reception committee—Past matrons of Coloma Chapter, Nancy Tiedebohl, chairman; properties committee—William Wood, Beatrice Wood, Orrin Schaus, Bertha Carter, Peter Clark; program committee—Elsie Randall and Adelaide Brown.

County Officers—1942-43

The following were the county officers for the year 1942-43: President, Gertrude Stratton, Coloma; 1st vice president, Wilma Boone, Buchanan; 2d vice president, John Klipp, Watervliet; 3d vice president, Emma Clark, Coloma; secretary, treasurer, Helen Adams, Three Oaks; chaplain, Wahnetta Lindt, Berrien Springs; marshal, Adele Wasson, Niles; organist, Margaret Crampton, Benton Harbor; sentinel, John McDowell, St. Joseph.

Afternoon Program

Call to order by President Ger-

trude B. Stratton; "America," Flag Service by Adele Wasson, assisted by Beatrice Wood and Elsie Paul; Bible ceremony by Mattie Newton; invocation by Wahnetta Lindt; reception of distinguished guests; address of welcome by Adele Cripeau; response by Rev. H. B. Loomis; introduction of past presidents; reading of minutes; roll call of chapters; chapter reports; miscellaneous business; election of officers; musical selection by Marian Davidson, accompanied by Marjorie Furman; quartette, Coloma high school students; address by Frances Reed Clover, worthy grand matron; memorial service by Niles chapter; announcements; adjournment for supper.

Evening Program

Musical program by Coloma high school band; formal opening of Coloma Chapter No. 307; introduction of distinguished guests; address of Worthy Grand Matron Frances Reed Clover of Midland; exemplification of ritualistic work by the following officers—Worthy Matron, Emma Clark of Coloma, assisted by worthy grand matron; worthy patron, Claude Yates, Watervliet, assisted by William Wood of Coloma; associate matron, Sarah Smart, Benton Harbor; associate patron, Arthur Saathoff, Niles; conductress, Alberta Krager, St. Joseph; associate conductress, Genevieve Bixby, Berrien Springs; secretary, Eva T. Leonard, Benton Harbor; treasurer, Helen Adams, Three Oaks; chaplain, Hattie Haskell, Watervliet; Marshall, Nettie Meyer, Niles; organist, Maria Davidson, Coloma; Adah, Eleanor Merrihew, Benton Harbor; Ruth, Mabel Knapp, Buchanan; Esther, Leona Ludwig, St. Joseph; Martha, Orpha Andrews, Buchanan; Electa, Helen Seeley, Three Oaks; warder, Mary Hoopergarner, Berrien Springs; sentinel, Peter Clark, Coloma; soloist, Bertha Woodward, Coloma; floral degree, Welcome F. Mason Chapter 286; closing of Coloma Chapter No. 307; reports of committees; installation of association officers; "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again."

Supper for those attending the convention and having wish will be served at the Coloma school promptly at 6:00 p. m. Reservations must be made with Mrs. George Stratton or Mr. W. L. Alwood.

Name Local Stations For Rationing Board Much to Local Resorts

Places Have Been Named at Coloma, Watervliet, Millburg and Riverside.

The establishment on May 1st of ten sub-stations in the north end of Berrien county to relieve crowded conditions at the rationing headquarters in St. Joseph and to better serve the public, was announced by Leslie Speese, coordinator for the Berrien County rationing board and the civilian defense council. Volunteer workers from civilian defense units were given instructions at a meeting at the city hall in St. Joseph this week and they will be assigned to the ten sub-stations. Persons in each of the ten designated districts will be able to secure their gasoline and kerosene rationing books.

Rationing board officials are anxious to serve the public but at the same time they would like to warn applicants to be more careful in making of their applications. Many times the applications are made out wrong and the time required to make the corrections causes much delay. The new system to be started in May is expected to relieve the crowded conditions at the St. Joseph office and also will be a great convenience to residents of the rural areas of the northern part of the county.

New Sub-Stations Named

The new sub-rationing boards will be as follows:

- 1—Riverside—Rosenberg & Forbes.
- 2—Watervliet—Watervliet Hardware store.
- 3—Eau Claire—Eau Claire Fruit Exchange.
- 4—Sodus—Sodus Fruit Exchange.
- 5—Coloma—Coloma Fruit Exchange.
- 6—Millburg—Millburg Fruit Exchange.
- 7—Stevensville—Berrien County Fruit Exchange.
- 8—Baroda—Priebe Fruit Package company.
- 9—Bridgman—Bridgman Farmers Exchange.
- 10—Arden—George Stover's store.

WILL COLLECT TIN CANS

IN COLOMA ON MAY 5

Announcement is made by Mayor Chester Hocker that the collection of tin cans which have been saved by housewives will be made in the City of Coloma on Wednesday, May 5th. Collections will be made by the city truck. It is important that all tin cans to be picked up must be clean from rust, that the labels must be removed and the cans set out in front of the homes where they can be picked up without delay.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our appreciation to our friends and neighbors for the floral offerings, kindness and sympathy during the sickness and death of our wife and mother and also wish to thank Rev. Loomis for his comforting words and kindness.

OSCAR ERICKSON AND FAMILY

Boat Service Will Mean Much to Local Resorts

The Cleveland & Buffalo Transit Company, which owns and operates the S. S. City of Grand Rapids between Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Chicago, has received formal authorization to operate the steamship this season by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The I. C. C. authorization was granted to the company which satisfied the federal commission that there is "immediate and urgent need" for the Twin City-Chicago boat service.

The entire resort district of Southwestern Michigan, and especially Coloma, Watervliet, Paw Paw Lake and other resorts will be particularly fortunate in having boat service, as it will give war workers and vacationists throughout the Chicago area an opportunity for excursions and to reach nearby resorts quickly and easily. Resort owners in Michigan report an unprecedented number of inquiries for summer cottages and resort reservations and all indications point to the greatest season in history in spite of the curtailed use of automobiles.

Last season the City of Grand Rapids left Chicago every forenoon, arriving here at 1 p. m. Returning to Chicago, the ship left at 5:30 p. m. making moonlight excursion trips out of Chicago. Daylight excursions from here were featured Saturdays and Sundays and were particularly popular with organizations and clubs. The same schedule is understood to be contemplated this season.

The City of Grand Rapids is moored at the Central docks, and work of outfitting the ship for resumption of service is expected to begin shortly.

Buy Defense Bonds

RITZ THEATRE WATERVLIET

SOL WINOKUR, Manager Shows Daily 7:15, 9:30—Sun. con. from 4 Admission: Adults 30c; Children 15c, Tax Included. Comfortably Cool.

Friday - Saturday April 30 - May 1

See the first Chapter of "Gang Busters"

Double Feature

Roy Rogers No. 1 Cowboy in "Ridin Down The Canyon" plus "Just Off Broadway"

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. May 2-3-4

2 First Run Attractions "Reveille With Beverly" Plus

"At The Front"

March of Time Mr. and Mrs. America

Wed.-Thurs. May 5-6

Double Feature "Between Us Girls" Plus

"Manilla Calling"

Friday - Saturday May 7-8

K. Grayson and Van Heflin "Seven Sweethearts" And

"Enemy Agents Meet Ellery Queen"

2nd Chapter of "Gang Busters"

LOMA THEATRE

COLOMA, MICHIGAN

We Thank You All!

We wish to express our very sincere thanks to the members of the Coloma and Watervliet fire departments and the volunteer firemen, the Coloma telephone exchange operators and all others who volunteered their services in the fire which destroyed our theatre.

We wish to give voice to our appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy by our friends and to thank all of our patrons for their loyal support.

We hope, as soon as possible, to be able to secure quarters for the reopening of our theatre.

Sincerely,

MRS. LOUISE ALGURE,
MRS. ETHEL KILMARK

AMERICAN HEROES

Maj. John L. Smith of the U. S. Marines has 19 Jap planes to his credit—Have you as many War Bonds?

Show all our American boys that you're doing your part on the home front to win the war. You've done your bit; now do your best—Buy more War Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Dept.

Fido Is Under Fire

Owners Held Responsible

Home Gardens Are Essential

By Don F. Cochran

Fido Is Under Fire

The Victory Garden craze has put the family pet "on the spot" along with the canine tramp.

They are both "dogs" in the eyes of neighbors who have reacted to the patriotic urge to grow their own "garden sass."

City and village fathers are ringing curfews for Fidos. They are reviving their municipal pounds and setting stiff redemption fees for unlucky canines caught straying. County sheriffs are sounding solemn warnings that an open season on roaming quadrupeds will extend through the garden season. These things are well enough. Dogs and even cats can cause much havoc among growing things and the neighbor who plants is entitled to reap. It is part of the general plan to refill the nation's emptying breadbasket.

Solos Take Sensible View

But hall Berrien county's supervisors for assuming the sanest attitude toward the whipping up of anti-dog sentiment. They observed that dogs are rendering invaluable service in fighting for America on the battlefronts, and refused to order a crusade against their kind on the home front.

Instead, they would hold owners responsible for the conduct of their dogs, which is going directly to the root of whatever dog evil exists. The owner who does not make himself responsible for his pet does not deserve the loyalty and companionship of his best friend.

Every owner should enter into the spirit of the times by restricting the liberties of his dog during the garden season. If the dog has been permitted to roam the neighborhood in the past he is less to blame than his owner. Well disciplined dogs can be confined to the home premises without even the restraint of a leash.

An obedient well maned dog is a contented creature and a family joy. Whether a pet becomes that or a nuisance is entirely up to its owner.

Stray dogs are underprivileged creatures. A good home and proper training during puppyhood did not fall to their lot. In pursuit of their unguided lives they become deprecatory and must, of course, be restrained or destroyed.

But to classify all dogs as deprecatory and wage indiscriminate war against them is eminently unfair. The right of a dog to live is largely determinable by the human benefactor who owns or harbors it.

The reader may, by now, have suspected that the writer is an admirer of dogs, of well maned and properly educated dogs, a conclusion which you are entirely correct. Many eloquent eulogies to the dog have been written. We should like to write another, could we approach the masterpieces already in print.

Priority Goes to Gardeners

Having given the dog his partial due, we would accord Victory gardeners their full due. They have priority to the out-of-doors, and their labors there will be a distinct service to the country, not the mere indulgence of a summer hobby or the gratification of esthetic tastes. Food is one of America's gravest war problems and federal crop authorities are already revising their estimates downward. The season thus far has been cold, dry and generally unfavorable. Crops prospects are dwindling from the bumper proportions envisaged a few weeks ago. Farmers have been handicapped by shortages of everything from manpower to tools and gas and tires, and lastly by a shortage of time. Weather conditions have diminished planting days and shortened their season.

Gardens must pinch-hit in filling family larders, and judging from the multiplicity of freshly plowed plots there will be no shortage of pinch-hitters. Some of them will strike out, others will score nothing but fouls. But many will play the game with skill and tally home runs. A majority will at least ease the strain on the nation's food stores.

In that laudable undertaking gardeners are entitled to the co-operation of everybody, including the dog owner. Berrien dog fanciers in particular should justify the confidence reposed in them by their board of supervisors by keeping Fido at home, out of the gardens and out of the dog catcher's cage.

In the Divorce Courts

Charges of cruelty are made by Mrs. Frances Griffen Pompey of Niles in a suit for divorce from Max Pompey; they were married in South Bend in 1939.

Mrs. Phoebe Pappas Thompson of Coloma was granted a divorce from Louis Thompson on a charge of cruelty; they were married in Goshen, Ind., in 1939 and have one child.

Non-support was the charge upon which Mrs. Magda Jacobsen of Benton township was granted a divorce from Daniel Gustav Jacobson; they were married in Chicago in 1928 and have one child.

Mrs. Blanche Hunt Manley of Benton Harbor has filed suit for divorce from Charles Manley, charging cruelty; they were married in 1936. Cruelty is charged by Andrew Mead of Bridgman in a suit for divorce from Mrs. Grace Olson Mead; they were married in Chicago in 1935.

Mrs. Pauline Von Rentzell Moats of Paw Paw Lake charges cruelty in a suit for divorce from Robert Moats. They were married in 1938 and have two children.

Increasing Road Width

A project is under way to increase the width of roads in Quebec province to at least 66 feet.

Live Longer

Women of England and Wales live longer than women of America, statistics show.

Berrien County Deaths

The death of Mrs. Mary Nimczak occurred on April 24, 1943, at her farm home in North Coloma where the family has resided for the past year. Mrs. Nimczak was apparently in good health until stricken by a heart attack. She was born in Poland on December 15, 1896, and moved here with her husband, Nicholas, and one son, Walter, about a year ago when they purchased the John Peck farm north of Paw Paw Lake. The remains were taken by Paul Davidson to Chicago for the funeral and interment.

Philip Musilek, 88 years old, died Friday, March 23, 1943, at his home in Coloma where they have resided for the past 23 years. He had been in poor health for some time, but seriously ill for only a few days. His wife died two months ago in Chicago. Survivors include three daughters and two sons. The remains were taken to Berwyn, Ill., where funeral services were held on Tuesday.

William Heubner, 80-year old resident of the Stevensville community, died April 20, 1943. He is survived by two sons and two daughters. Funeral services were held on Saturday; interment in the Stevensville cemetery.

Mrs. Nellie Stone, wife of Clifford Stone, former resident of Benton Harbor, died April 20, 1943, at the Stone home in Chicago. Besides her husband, she is survived by three sisters and a brother. Funeral services were held in Chicago and the remains were taken to Benton Harbor for interment in Crystal Springs cemetery.

Mrs. Ida M. Skinner, 70 years old, a former resident of Benton Harbor and the widow of Clarence Skinner, died April 24, 1943, at her home in Chicago. She was a daughter of the late Joseph and Susanna Edgecumbe of Benton Harbor and is survived by two daughters, a brother, George Edgecumbe of Benton Harbor, and a sister, Mrs. W. A. West of Chicago. Funeral services were held in Benton Harbor on Tuesday; interment in Crystal Springs cemetery.

Mrs. Harriet Ludlum, wife of James W. Ludlum of St. Joseph, died April 25, 1943, at the age of 83 years. She was born in a log cabin near Berrien Springs. She is survived by her husband, three sons and grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Wednesday; interment in the New Troy cemetery.

Mrs. Lillian Peebles Kohn, mother of Mrs. Beatrice Crawford, resident matron and hostess at the Eleanor Club in Benton Harbor, died April 25, 1943, after a long illness at the age of 93 years. Besides her daughter, she is survived by two granddaughters. The remains were sent to Anna, Ill., where funeral services were held on Tuesday.

Mrs. Margaret Puffall, 26 years old, wife of Reinhold Puffall of Bridgman, died April 20, 1943, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Gast of Bridgman, two children, two sisters and a brother. Funeral services were held on Friday; interment in the Greenwood cemetery.

Mrs. Emily Stitt, 86 years old, died April 21, 1943, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Roy Keefer of Bridgman. Besides Mrs. Keefer, she is survived by another daughter, two sons, three sisters and a brother. Funeral services were held at Midleton, Mich., on Saturday.

Mrs. Ellen A. Brewer, wife of Jesse Brewer of Buchanan, died April 21, 1943, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Newsom, at the age of 25 years. Besides her husband and parents, she is survived by several stepsons and stepdaughters, and five brothers.

James A. Gillentine, 52 years old, died April 21, 1943, at his home in Benton Harbor after an illness of more than a year. He is survived by his widow and four children.

Following a heart attack, Lawrence Zebell who resided near Three Oaks, died April 21, 1943, at Mercy hospital. He is survived by his widow, his father, William Zebell, a son and several brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held on Saturday; interment in Forest Lawn cemetery.

Charles E. Zindler, 54 years old, who has operated a shoe repair shop in Benton Harbor for the past ten years, died suddenly on April 22, 1943 following a heart attack. For over twenty years he was employed by the Baker-Vawter plant. He is survived by his widow three sons, three brothers, four sisters. Funeral services were held on Monday; interment in Crystal Springs cemetery.

Arthur Elvis Hunter, 30 years old, a resident of Benton Harbor, died April 22, 1943, at the Berrien county hospital after a four days illness with pneumonia. He is survived by his widow, two children, brothers and sisters. Funeral services were held on Monday; interment in Crystal Springs cemetery.

William J. Litke, who was employed by the Superior Steel Co. at Benton Harbor for eighteen years, died April 22, 1943, at the Pinecrest sanitarium after an illness of only a year. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Litke of Benton Harbor, a son, four brothers and three sisters. Funeral services were held on Saturday; interment in the Bridgman cemetery.

Stax Surpassed Only by Tunis The white, flat-roofed city of Stax is Tunisia's second-ranking seaport and second-largest city. It is thus surpassed only by Tunis. The population of Stax, however, is only about 45,000, while Tunis has nearly five times as many residents. Stax lies beside the Mediterranean about 145 miles south of Tunis where the Gulf of Gabes cuts into Tunisia's east coast.

France's N. African Naval Base Bizerte has been rated France's leading naval base in North Africa. Its population, before the war, was estimated at between 20 and 25 thousand, including a settlement of 6,000 naval workers and their families, and a military garrison.



His Pigs Go to War

Young Johnny Clay of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, is typical of farm children raising victory pigs and devoting profits to War Bonds.

Lake Michigan Beach

"Time and tide wait for no man." Neither does the postman. The days go so fast and there are so many things to squeeze into each hour that there is not time enough. Anyway, we are glad that you readers missed our little bit of news last week and we will try and not let it happen again. By the way, why do not you readers help to make our column bigger and better by phoning us whatever news you have? It is nice to know who comes and goes, who is making a garden, who is raising chickens, and the many other interesting things that happen in a neighborhood like ours.

We are adding to our permanent residents the Michael Leonard family on Cherry street; the Leonards have been coming out for many seasons, raised their family of boys and girls to grown-ups, and now the city furniture is coming out and they will be here to stay. We wish them all the happiness they merit wish for. A swell bunch of boys, a swell captain who knows his stuff, and from that we know that he is happy in having chosen the marines. He has been away for seven and one-half months.

Our good friends, the Galvins, have given their fourth and last son to Uncle Sam. Young Don, who is in the 18-year-old draft, left last Thursday for Camp Grant; he got a pass for the week-end and came back to the beach for just one more Sunday. He wears his uniform with pride and looks the straight and upright soldier we know he is going to be. The Galvin's four sons are Jack, Jay, Frank and Don. Frank is on his way overseas. Jack is in Texas, Jay is in Detroit, and Don, of course, does not know yet where he will be sent. But wherever he goes we want him to know that our best wishes are following him. He said, "Will you say a prayer for me." No need to ask, Don; every hour, every second, somewhere in this stricken world, I believe, a prayer goes up from the heart of a parent, no matter what task their hands and feet pursue at the moment, and so we say "Farewell to you and every mother's son; you travel not alone you fighting men. Our prayers and love go with you until this war is done. We'll keep the faith until you come home again."

The Charles Cooks and the Clebecks are out for the season. Mrs. Cook says she feels much better this spring and we know she will improve when the weather warms up.

Mrs. Helen Keller made a business trip to Chicago this week. Mary Livingston went in to spend Easter with her family.

Jane Alice Radbury has been quite ill all this week. Mrs. Brown and Florence Nelson also have been somewhat under the weather, but as Florence says, "You can't keep a good guy down," they are on the go again. But Marian Williams and Hale are both in bed. At this moment we do not know just how sick they are but we hope they will soon be well again.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Dalstrom and Billy, of Chicago, were at the Forde cottage over Sunday and Mrs. Cheat, we were just told, has come out for the season. It will be interesting to watch Mrs. Cheat's garden, for that is her hobby, you know.

The Municipality Club will have its next meeting on May 4th. It will be an important business meeting and we urge all members to be present. Anyone wishing information in the village proposition is welcome. Notices will be sent to members as to the place of the meeting. Others may call 7-1195 for the time and place.

Our newest Courier family member is Mrs. Louis Damon, who, by the way is one of the first residents of the Beach. In fact, her daughter Anne, whose engagement was announced two weeks ago, was the first Lake Michigan Beach baby.

Lake Michigan Beach people wish to extend their sympathy to the owners of the Loma Theatre and the City of Coloma in the dreadful disaster which occurred early last Monday. Coloma people will need to be very watchful and alert so as to prevent any further such happenings. We sincerely hope the culprit will be apprehended and soon.

Edna Brodine and daughter Lois and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Joyce are at the beach for the rest of the week. It is quite evident that the spring bug bites them sooner or later. It cannot bite too many to suit us; we are glad that you want to come.

Buy Defense Bonds

Farm Youth of U. S. Looks to Tomorrow

TOMORROW'S farmers and farm homemakers are second to no school group in their enthusiasm for investing in War Bonds and Stamps to make sure their future is secure. Through the Schools At War program they are investing what they save and earn in War Stamps and Bonds.

First evidence of this is the amount the 4-H Club boys and girls and the FFA boys invested in war savings in 1942 from "Victory Pig" and other projects. A million and a half of 4-H Club members put \$6,000,000 of their own savings in War Bonds and Stamps and sold \$2,500,000 worth of War Savings to their neighbors. Nearly a quarter million members of Future Farmers of America invested more than \$1,500,000.

Spurred by the realization that the financial welfare of farm families the next 20 years depends on how wisely they use today's higher incomes from increased food and other wartime production, both groups have set their goals still higher for 1943.

These farm youths are building financial reserves, and urging their parents to do the same, for after-the-war necessities, to meet financial emergencies and to help them get started in college.

They're building reserves today for tomorrow's farm buildings and for the other things they will need when they're tomorrow's farmers and homemakers.

SOUTH COVERT NEWS

In and Around The Elms

(Mrs. G. H. Kelly, Correspondent)

Wm. Crawford and grandson Emory had as Easter guests the former's son, Claude Crawford, and his wife, and the latter's mother, Mrs. Allen of Ashley, Ind.

Easter Sunday was Scott Derby's birthday and his sister, Mrs. Clyde Grant, with her husband and daughter Denice, and Jane Derby spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Pinyard in Coloma.

Mrs. Lemmon is spending a few days in Chicago.

A family by the name of Cunningham is occupying the J. R. Spellman farm.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Kelly visited a short time Sunday evening at the Lawrence Adams home. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Clinard of northwest Toquon.

The attendance at the Congregational church at Covert on Easter was 201.

Eleven new members were taken into the church, two by letters from Lansing and Kalamazoo; and two babies were baptized.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rendell's oldest son, who has been stationed with the armed forces in California, has been at home on a 15-day furlough which ended April 27th.

Numbered among those from this community who have been on the sick list the past week were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ream and G. H. Kelly. Clarence Joyner, who is employed in Chicago, is having a week's vacation and is trying to get some farm work done in that time.

Mrs. Kelly visited Mrs. Derby on Monday and was informed that the latter's grandson, Rex Grant, was among the number of boys who have been sent overseas to fight for our country.

Berrien County Weddings

At Trinity Lutheran church in St. Joseph on Easter Sunday, April 25, 1943, Miss Anita G. Weimann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Weimann of St. Joseph, and Corp. Arthur B. Wendt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Wendt of the same city, were united in wedlock by Rev. Louis Neuchterlein.

At the post chapel at Fort Sheridan, Ill., on April 25, 1943, Miss Elizabeth Jane Farmer, daughter of the J. T. Farmers of Highland Park, Ill., and Lieut. John Edward Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Richardson of Benton Harbor, were united in wedlock by Rev. Fr. John McDonald.

At an Easter eve wedding which was solemnized at Camp Siebert, Ala., Miss Helene Podjan and Pvt. Edward Stuppy were united in wedlock by Chaplain George N. Gilligan. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Podjan, and the groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Clem Stuppy, both of Benton Harbor.

Miss Georgette Welty, cashier at the dining room at the Hotel Whitcomb in St. Joseph, and Ronnet (Tiny) Lombardo, leader of the orchestra at that hotel, were united in marriage by Justice John W. Rody on April 24, 1943. On Sunday evening a reception was tendered the couple at the Tropical rooms at the hotel.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCHES

"Everlasting Punishment" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Christian Science Churches throughout the world on Sunday, May 2.

The Golden Text (Galatians 6:7) is: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Among the Bible citations is this passage (Galatians 6:12): "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Correlative passages to be read from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, include the following (p.518): "The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle, or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need, and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good."

Town's Nickname Best Known Caldervale, Scotland, has been called Fin' Me Oot for so many years that many residents don't know its correct name.



JUST BECAUSE

The sergeant was asking recruits why walnut is used for the butt of a rifle.

"Because it has more resistance," volunteered one man.

"Wrong!"

"Because it is more elastic."

"Wrong!"

"Perhaps it's because it looks nicer than any other kind," said another, timidly.

"Ridiculous," snapped the sergeant. "It's simply because it is laid down in the regulations."

Athletic

"May I ask you the secret of success?" an ambitious young man said to a great merchant.

"There is no easy secret," replied the merchant. "You must jump at your opportunity."

"But how can I tell when my opportunity comes?"

"You can't," snapped the merchant. "You have to keep jumping."

THREE'S A CROWD



Some Kicks
A baby kicks because of pain or joy,
A schoolboy kicks when school days have begun.
A lover kicks if his best girl is coy,
But football players kick for fame and fun.

And a Ride
"Oh! wilt thou take me, dear,
For better or for worse?"
She smiled the while a canny smile,
And took him for—his purse.

Veteran
The Visitor—How did your father acquire such skill with a golf club, Tommy?
Tommy—I think it was from practicing on me with a bed slat.

Going Up
Rover—I haven't seen a bone for a month. I wonder what's up?
Fido—Meat prices.

Escaped
"Tom had a narrow escape when his rooster hit a tree last night."
"Yes; and wasn't it lucky that he landed on his head?"

Foiled
Lady (after crash)—What's the matter with you? I put out my hand.
Man—I know—that's what foiled me.

Camel Care
Visitor: How are the dromedaries kept clean?
Keeper—A camel's hair brush, ma'am, is all we use.

Imaginative
Phil—I like to imagine myself in various places.
Bob—Travel round the world on a train of thought, so to speak.

Can't See
"The self-satisfied ought to be blind."

Cautious
Teacher—And what lesson do we learn from the busy bee?
Smart Boy—Not to be stung.

SUBSTITUTE

"How did you enjoy your vacation?"
"Had my teeth fixed. It didn't hurt any worse than mosquito bites and sunburn, and seemed more like the money's worth."

Troublesome
Doctor—Have you tried counting sheep to cure your insomnia?
Afflicted—Good, yes, Doc; and it only made it worse. The sheep reminded me of the price of meat.

Some Chase
"They tell me that Jenkins had to propose at least five times to Miss Moneybags before she accepted him."
"Well, she certainly gave him a run for her money."

Australian Farm Workers
Week-end working bees have proved a boon to Queensland, Australia, agriculturists. During the harvesting season upwards of 5,000 volunteers have been migrating to rural areas each week-end. One instance is reported of a group of 600 men bringing in 5,000 bags of potatoes, 300 bags of onions, and 40 bags of turnips over the holiday.

Coke for Fuel in England
England plans to use coke as a fuel in the post-war period.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Many Missed Fine Pageant

To those who failed to hear, for one reason or another, the fine pageant given at the vesper service last Sunday evening at the Methodist church by the young people of that denomination and their leaders, I am prompted to say that you missed an inspiring hour. The rendition of this pageant which portrayed the last hours of our Savior before His death and His subsequent resurrection; the objective and mission of His resurrection to the world of today, could not fail to leave a lasting impression upon the youth who gave it, and upon the audience who were fortunate enough to hear it.

In a world where mass murder is legalized, practiced generally and sanctioned by even many church people, the death of one lone man isn't significant today unless we fully recognize its objectives. The emphasis upon these objectives, given out in song and study by this fine group of youngsters, aided and led by Mrs. Lawrence's marvelous voice and her chorus, was greatly appreciated by all who heard the program and should bring a pang of regret to all who missed hearing it.

Methodists it should also prompt a resolution never to let another such an opportunity pass of hearing how one man died not in vain and of spending a delightful hour among Christian people.

ONE WHO HEARD THIS FINE PROGRAM

Chemicals Increase Flow of Resin
The labor shortage and the urgent need for production of more resin and turpentine for war uses focus attention on the discovery by the U. S. Forest service that 40 per cent sulphuric acid solution or a 25 per cent solution of caustic soda (lye) will greatly increase the gum flow of both longleaf and slash pines. Research shows that the 40 per cent sulphuric acid solution applied to fresh streaks or faces will increase the average annual flow of gum by 25 per cent. Furthermore, experiments in 1942 with a large number of other chemicals show that a 25 per cent solution of caustic soda will increase yields as much as 75 per cent. A suitable spraying device for use with both chemicals is being developed by government silviculturists in co-operation with several machinery manufacturers.

Have Coal Bins Now
Survey shows that 57 per cent of the fuel-oil consumers on the eastern coast still have coal bins.

Mountain Chickens
Frogs in Hawaii are called "mountain chickens" by the natives who have found frogs' legs a fine delicacy.

AUCTION!

Having sold my farm I will sell at Auction the following at the farm, 5 1/2 miles So. East of Benton Harbor, at the Pearl Granger Corners, beginning at 10:30 a. m.

Saturday, May 1st.

Horses, Hay, Corn, Oats, Tractor, Truck, Spray Rig, Mowing Machine, Peach Brusher and Sizer, Melon Grader, Hot Bed Sash, many other small tools.

LOTT SUTHERLAND, Prop.

BENTON HARBOR, MICH.

OSCAR BURCH, Auctioneer.

Springtime is
Clean-up Time
See Our Stock of
- Wall Paper -
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Several Patterns from which to make your selections

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