The Social Wanderer

Dear Roamer

While the older members of society spend much of their scarce leisure time in going to weddings or in preparation for such events, the younger set are in preparation for a lighter vein of entertainment, namely dances. Last week the Junior-Senior prom of the High School was held on Friday evening attracting a large number of the teen age and this Friday night the Freshman-Sophomore Prom of the High School is certainly causing no small ado. But the acme of all excitement is the forthcoming "formal" to be given for the younger crowd on Saturday evening by Mary Ann Skaggs, at Harley Manor, the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Skaggs. This occasion will mark the first adornment of an evening gown for most of these pretty maids, so I need emphasize no further the flurry and flutter astir with in the next day or two.

But even for those, not yet in their teens, Saturday will be a big day. A party for 24 will be given by Page Wilmer to celebrate her 11th birthday. "Dessert" will be served at the home of Page's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Satm at 6:30 which will be followed by a movie party at the local theatre. All in all, youth will hold a holiday.

Mrs. J. B. Whitworth who for the past week has been visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Lieut and Mrs. Jack Whitworth in Boston, Mass., was joined by Mr. Whitworth on Thursday in New York where they will remain over the week-end before returning to their home, Radcliffe Hall in Quaker Neck.

Mrs. Melamet Cash of Charlottesville, Va., was a guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Karl Melamet, several days this week.

Miss Isabel Beck, of Baltimore, came this week to nurse her sister, Mrs. Allan A. Harris, who was taken ill last Saturday. Mrs. Harris, who has been spending the winter months at the Sophie Fisher Inn, recently returned to her home on Front St.

Mrs. Carlton Kelsey, has been recuperating at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ringgold Strong, following her operation, recently, at the Kent and Queen Anne Hospital.

Mrs. Tevis Baker, of Aberdeen, Md. and Mr. T. Ridgely Baker of Baltimore were guests last week-end of Mrs. Fred Westcott. Miss Helen Westcott is recuperating at the home of her mother this week, before returning to her position in Baltimore.

Among the parties given for Miss Frances Kreeger whose marriage to Dr. Basil Tully, of Maplewood, N. J. will take place on Saturday, May 22 was a dessert-bridge given by Mrs. Emerson Russell on Thursday evening.

To-night, Friday, Miss Ellen Bordley will entertain at a picnic supper and kitchen shower in honor of Miss Kreeger.

Mrs. J. Brown Metcalfe and her daughter, Miss Peggy Metcalfe, spent several days in Washington this week as guests of the former's sister, Mrs. Olin Smith. Mrs. Smith's son, Petty Officer 3-C William G. Smith, is home on a leave after a year's service with the Navy.

Lieut. James Chapman, who has just completed his course in the Naval Reserve at Princeton University, accompanied Mrs. Chapman home, where he will remain at the home of Mrs. Frank Simpers until June 1. Mrs. Chapman visited in Princeton for a few days prior to Lieut. Chapman's graduation.

Miss Julia Power, of Baltimore was a guest last week-end of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Julian Power.

Lieut. and Mrs. Philip Hickman are spending this week in Baltimore visiting relatives and friends. Lieut. Hickman is on a 23 day leave awaiting further orders.

Mrs. Walter Pippin, of Severna Park, Md., was a guest of her daughter, Miss Ann Pippin last week-end.

Miss Katherine Smith, of Baltimore was a week-end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Smith.

Last week, we made an announcement of an engagement, followed by "no date has been set, etc." To-day, however, we follow with the statement that the marriage of Miss Dorothy Cheezum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cheezum, will become the bride of Mr. Robert E. Cronshaw on Saturday, May 15th in Easton. Mr. Cronshaw is well known here, having been stationed in Chestertown as a member of the Maryland State Police for more than a year.

This week we are a bit on the short side of last week. Many are planning to attend the Dixon-Purnell wedding in Baltimore, Saturday, but of it and them, we'll have more anon.

Yours still at home,

The Wanderer

Surgical Dressings' Workers Task

It is difficult to comprehend the magnitude of the task undertaken by surgical dressings' workers in this war. One tries to visualize the thousands of workrooms where they gather every day in the year and finds it a thrilling and inspiring picture. These workers represent many types and ages. Most of them are women in the prime of life, busy women with many obligations toward their children and their homes. Others have regular jobs in offices and factories but give their scant leisure to making dressings in the evenings. There are groups in prisons and reformatories and among the deaf and infirm. There are men who have become experts in this art and also groups representing foreign countries, young girls of high school age and some very aged women, a few of whom "rolled bandages" in the Civil War.

In June 1942 the War Department requested the Red Cross to make large numbers of surgical dressings because commercial manufacturers could produce only a small percentage of the vast number needed. Red Cross accepted the challenge and obligation, knowing their volunteers would welcome such an opportunity. In February the War Department asked for 180,000,000 additional dressings for delivery by March 31st. This seemed a staggering quota, but what happened? Actually 181,135,800 dressings were shipped by that date. During the month of March an average of more than four million dressings were turned out every day. This is a fine record.

Surgical dressings' workers constitute by far the greatest number of Red Cross volunteers. Week in and week out they carry on a work which is tiring and monotonous, but which requires skill, precision and great patience. This they do modestly, without fanfare or ostenation. These workers must exercise patience, not only in their daily task of making dressings, but in accepting and understanding the surgical dressings' program as a whole. This is not easy to do without an explanation too long and complicated to discuss here. Briefly, it means that at times the quotas will be very large with extra work and speeding up required and other times when the quotas will be reduced and work slowed down. This situation is unavoidable and many factors enter into it but it is accepted cheerfully.

This vital and necessary work is one of the most important of all the services rendered by the Red Cross. It is also one that attracts more volunteers than any other, probably because of its strong humanitarian appeal. It is given to few women, in war time, to administer directly to sick and wounded soldiers but the privilege of making dressings for them is given to all. The volume of work turned out is possible only because of their unflagging zeal and devotion. This is written for them as a special message of appreciation and high praise.

Washington Digest

U. S. Army Is 'On Alert' For Chemical Warfare

Many Developments in Gas Warfare Date From World War I; America Thought to Have Greatest Potential Gas Offensive.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

Some days ago the British short wave radio, beamed on Germany, was telling the German people, who dared to listen to the forbidden words, that if their armies used gas against the Russians, the British would retaliate and paralyze the German cities with gas bombs from the air. Just about that same hour, I was entering the Army and Navy club in Washington with a short, vigorous, bright-eyed general, whose mental agility makes up for his lack of length. It was no coincidence. I was there to learn something more about chemical warfare and I knew of no better way than to pump Brig. Gen. Alden H. Waitt of the chemical warfare service and whose book "Gas Warfare" has sold out twice in Washington book stores.

There was, however, a coincidence connected with that visit, for as we walked into the great, crowded din-

Soldiers stationed at Cmap San Luis Obispo, Calif., outfitted with new type training gas masks.

ing room of the club, Waitt paused to speak to a gray-haired man in civilian clothes with a ribbon in his buttonhole. I recognized a once-familiar figure—Amos Fries, first general of the chemical warfare service. He, of course, is retired now.

I recalled that shortly after the First World War, the activities of General Fries got under some people's skins. He was a hyper-enthusiast over his specialty, and in the reaction against all things military which comes after a war, the cynics used to joke about the stenographer who transcribed her symbols so that a letter was sent addressed to the "comical" warfare service.

New Emphasis

But Fries persisted and managed to preserve his unit in a tight little independent group instead of having its activities scattered all over the other services. As far as the public goes, very little attention has been paid to this arm of our military offense and defense. It may, however, become very prominent before the war is over and some people say that day is "imminent."

If gas comes, the United States will be prepared for it. From an organization with 94 officers in the thirties, the chemical warfare service has grown until its officer personnel numbers "many thousand" (I can't reveal the figure) and many of them are with combat troops today where they are responsible for the use of smoke screens and for incendiaries—the fire bombs and the flame throwers.

I have witnessed demonstrations at the Edgewood arsenal near Baltimore, and although I cannot report the details, I can say that some of the effects were remarkable. You ought to see a steel tank or a concrete pillbox go up in flames when it is "lighted" by a flame thrower. It is unbelieveable to watch.

There have been, of course, many developments in this little-discussed weapon of warfare since gas was first used in World War I by the Germans and used so successfully and yet so stupidly. The attack took the British and French colonial troops utterly by surprise and caused what amounted to a rout. If the Germans had had the sense to follow it up, they could have broken through the lines and reached Calais.

That was not the first use of gas in warfare—the first recorded use was some time earlier—in fact, just 2,445 years earlier—at the seige of Plataea, when the Spartans burned wood saturated with pitch and sulphur under the walls. It failed because a rain came up. Five years later a similar "gas attack" was a complete success at the seige of Delium where the fumes drove the defenders from the city's walls in a panic.

Recent Developments

The most recent developments in gas warfare has just been revealed. The Allies have known for some time that the Germans had a new powerful gas which it is almost impossible to detect by smell. It can now be stated that this gas is nitrogen-mustard, a relative of the deadly burning mustard gas of the last war but far more volatile and that much more effective, for it enters the lungs in greater quantities. It can also now be stated that the Americans are able to manufacture this gas rapidly and in quantity, if necessary. Our experts are thoroughly familiar with its characteristics.

The other development which will greatly increase the efficiency of the use of gas, if it is used today, is the new method of spraying if from low flying planes. This makes is possible to contaminate an area containing troops almost without warning.

However, it is believed that the United States is not only prepared with the best protection but probably has the most effective potential gas offensive weapons of any of the armies.

What are the arguments in favor of the use of this weapon which, so far, has not been used? Let me quote Brigadier General Waitt:

"Every sensible man is agreed that war should be resorted to only when all peaceful methods have failed. When, in order to sustain its policies, a nation has no other choice but to use force to gain its ends, it should do this with as little loss as possible. Not only should there be little loss to the nation itself but unnecessary loss to its enemy should be avoidied. Victory depends on the amount of loss. The smaller the loss to both sides, the greater the victory to the victor. This may be strange doctrine but it is sound."

Unusual Outlook

"War", Waitt believes, "is not carried on to kill or destroy but rather to enforce, a policy, and if possible, the enforcement should be accomplished without loss of life or property."

We can work toward this end by the use of gas. He points to these facts for his argument. There were 275,000 American casualties in the American ranks in the last war. More than one-fourth were caused by gas. Of the gas casualties, only about 2 per cent died. In other words, the men wounded by gas had about 12 times the chance to live as those wounded by other weapons.

To urge the use of gas sounds strange, indeed. I recall how surprised I was when a young Chinese captain, who had fought through most of the campaigns against Japan, said to me: "Gas is a kindly weapon." Of course, he had never met it himself but he had seen plenty of men blown apart by shrapnel and high explosive and he was very positive in his statement.

What about civilians if gas is used? In the first place, America, of course is in less danger than Britian because of distance but not out of danger. There has been much contradictory opinion expressed as to the possibility of gassing cities. One view is that it would be utterly ineffective, the other is that whole populations could be blotted out. Waitt says both extreme views are wrong. That there is a middle ground, that gas can be used against industrial and political centers of importance for its disorganizing and demoralizing effect but that the chief targets will be strategic points such as railway stations, power and light plants and the like. Gas will not wipe out populations, he believes, it will not entirely supplant explosives. But it will be an effective weapon. The most important defense, aside from material means of protection which Waitt describes in detail, is education and discipline.

Polish saboteurs killed or wounded 424 Nazis, damaged 17 German trains and destroyed seven oil wells within one month.

The famouse German military magazine, Militaerwochenblatt, has suspended after 127 years of publication, the London radio said in a broadcast recently reported by United States government monitors.

A farmer who sells butter, lard or any other food rationed under the meats and fats program to a retailer now must collect ration points for the sale.

If you are having trouble with the point rationing system, go to your Red Cross chapter. A nutrition expert will gladly explain point rationing to you.

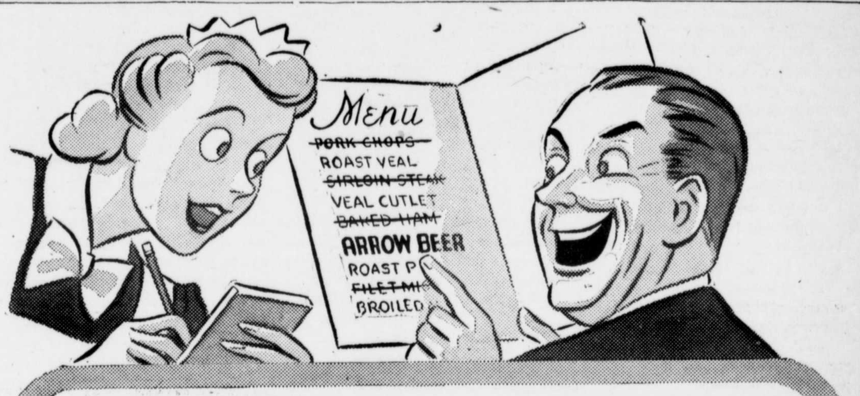
—V—

Carl M. LeCates, United States Army Ferry Command, now stationed at Morrison Field Florida, is spending a 15-day furlough with relatives and friends here.

—V—

For Boxes and Crates

More than six billion feet of lumber will be used this year for boxes and crates to ship munitions, food and other war needs.



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