

NEWS LETTER TO DAVID BRADLEY SERVICEMEN & WOMEN

DECEMBER 1, 1944

HELLO GANG:

This is a first of a series of news letters which we expect to send to you every month here after. The next issue will be mailed January 1, 1945, etc. We will strive for a gradual improvement of quality as we go along.

Please let us know of any kinds of items you would like included and we will see that they appear in the next issue. Address all letters to the personnel office, David Bradley Mfg. Works, Bradley, Illinois.

Attached is a list of David Bradley employees who are now in the various services. Maybe you will spot the name of one of your former buddies at David Bradley and decide you would like to drop him a line. If so, let us know and in the next issue following receipt of your letter, we will print the most recent addresses we have.

Since this is a newsletter designed especially for you, we are anxious to hear from each of you as to how the idea appeals to you. Also, write to us about any of your experiences which you would like to share with us and with fellow service people, and we will print them and send them all over the world to David Bradley employees who are serving the cause of freedom at the distant fronts.

VISITORS

In the past few days, we have been surprised and delighted to see Sgt. Tom Travis, a welder from Dept. 25 and was now stationed at Fort Worth, Texas and Cpl. Tony Kaplinski, a core maker from dept. 12. Tom was sporting a good conduct bar and sharpshooters medal and surely looked fit. Tony dropped in on his first furlough after over two years of overseas duty looking as though he had been living in the great outdoors -- very tanned and healthy. He brought his son, whom he has never seen, with him to the plant to see us. The boy was born a few days after Tony entered the army and is now two years old and very cute.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Birth Date	Former Dept.
Sgt. Cecil Allen	12/26/06	Timekeeping
Pfc. Maynard Bissonnette	12/15/24	Timekeeping
Pfc. William Bowker	12/29/23	Inspection
Cpl. Clarence E. Cook	12/21/16	Warehouse
Sgt. Lawrence Cote	12/03/20	Foundry
Pvt. Jos. Dement Jr.	12/14/19	Inspection
F 1/c Wayne Diercouff	12/03/20	Machine Shop
Pvt. Kenneth Freise	12/11/22	Wood Shop
Lt. Edw. Marczak	12/14/13	Experimental
Pvt. Melvin Menard	12/16/19	Maintenance
Pvt. Roland Raguse	12/25/23	Shipping Extras
Cpl. Walter Steinke	12/18/14	Recv. & Stores
M. M. 2/c Floyd Swatz	12/27/16	Machine Shop
Pvt. John Wells	12/21/21	Polishing & Grinding
Pvt. Zygmunt J. Zasada	12/18/13	Shell Area

Here's wishing a Happy Birthday to all these men. May their next be celebrated here at home!

LETTERS

We've received letters in September from Pvt. Jim Corcoran, at Fort Knox, Ky. and from O. C. Merle Cote at Fort Benning, Ga. GM to send greetings to all of his friends at the plant and said he was working hard. Merle sent us his address and those of his two brothers, Sgt. Lawrence Cote, and Kenneth Cote, M.M. 3/c. In November, we received a letter from Pvt. Rowland Raguse who writes in care of the Fleet Post Office at San Francisco Calif. Roland tells us that a recent mail brought him the Christmas box send him from David Bradley, and that he was able to use the articles contained therein too good advantage.

RETURNED TO DAVID BRADLEY

Herbert Summers	Dept. 42	Harry Morrison	Forge Shop
Leo Richa	Forge Shop	Henry ("Whitey") Nehls	Shell Area
Edw. Normandin	Shell Area	George Stark	Shell Area
John Dades	Inspection	Albert LeCocq	Machine Shop
John Piggush	Shell Area	Elmer Gilliatt	Tool & Die
Louis Lustig	Maintenance		

We were glad to see all those fellows returned to us. They are again hard at work producing weapons for the war they have seen first hand.

GOSSIP COLUMN

We thought Roy Erickson, President of local 1212, had been neglecting his face washing, and closer examination seemed to bear out the thought, but Roy insists that's not dirt, but a mustache. Time will tell.

Katherine Chappel of Timekeeping was married to Tuesday, Nov. 28th, to a sailor from Grant Park. Congratulations Katherine, but what's the matter with sailors from Kankakee?

Lea Todd, the Personnel Dept. siren, says she is leaving us the last week in December to get hitched. We can't understand how she can bear to leave us, but some people have no feelings.

PLANT HAPPENINGS

The 6th War Bond drive is in full swing at David Bradley. We are already showing good promise of knocking the quota for a loop. We'll bring the final tabulation in the January issue.

We are planning two Christmas parties this year for the employees of David Bradley and for their families. The wives and children of David Bradley servicemen are also being invited to the children's party which will come off the December 23rd, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Bradley High School gymnasium. Gifts are planned for each of the more than 900 children who are invited. There will be a Santa Claus to pass the gifts around and a magician and a movie to entertain the kids. We expect all to have a hilariously good time.

The adults party is to be held Dec. 21st, starting with the highly competitive basketball game between shop men and supervisors at 7:30 PM, continuing with entertainment furnished by employees or their children and winding up with a dance, music by Ross Milk and his orchestra. This affair is to be held at the Bradley school gymnasium. We will be able to report that details and the fact that everyone had a swell time in our next issue.

A letter from T/Sgt. Luke Bradley, Foundry. Luke received the newsletter and liked it. He tells us he has spent three Christmas' in Africa with the Air Transport Command. We certainly share his hopes that he is home for the fourth Christmas of 1945

We omitted one name from last month's letter, so here it is with apologies, Lawrence Atwood Dept. 30. Welcome home, Lawrence!

GOSSIP COLUMN!!

Dept. 3 (Elmer Rantz reporting) Henry Grant, the jig & pattern man of Dept. 3, recently became ill while working. Henry was taken to the Veterans Hospital at Dwight where his condition is serious.

Henry's pal's at work collected \$40 among themselves and "Cy" Belcher and a workman presented the money to Mrs. Grant.

Here is our sincere hope that Henry, an old timer, whom all of you boys from the Machine Shop know well, recovers soon.

Foundry (Virgil Wolfe reporting) It looks like wedding bells for Irene Patnaude and Jimmie Bowden of the Foundry next June. Congratulation kids!

Dept 25 (Loretta Nimbler & Gen Dominick) Albert Prince, a welder from Dept. 25, is the proud papa of a new daughter, Judith Ann, born December 20th. Congratulations Mrs. Prince.

Personnel Dept. (nobody reporting) Rita Wambier excited considerable comment & suspicion the other morning when she appeared for work with one of her own and one of her mother's galoshes on. That isn't too unusual, but Rita didn't even notice that one of the galoshes had a zipper fastener, while the other was he equipped with snaps. Probably an obvious explanation for this, but we have our own ideas!!

Lea Todd actually did get married Dec. 31st. The entire personnel department was on hand to kiss the bride and generally aggravate the groom, Flight Officer Edward Hobby of Joliet, Illinois. Good luck, Lea!!

BITS

The Bradley high school basketball team is going to town this season. They have won 10 games and ranked fourth in the state.

The past few weeks have brought some real old fashion winter weather to Bradley, blizzards and sub-zero temperatures. By now most of the boys have developed profanely (?) affectionate names for their so-called automobiles, almost every driver has spent a few happy hours pushing or being pushed in an effort to make the danged things go as advertised.

PLANT HAPPENINGS

The David Bradley Christmas party for the children was presented at the Bradley gym and was an uproarious success. Nearly 900 children appeared to meet Santa Claus (Perry Chamness), to see a movie and a magician (Ed Reno) and to receive candy, mixed nuts and a present. The personnel department and some other cooperative gentlemen struggled and perspired happily for 5 hours dispensing the gifts to the happy and excited kids.

We at David Bradley received a letter from Under Secretary of War Patterson on 12/4/44, notifying us that we had qualified to receive the coveted Army-Navy award. The presentation was set for December 29 at 5:00 PM so the adult party was rescheduled to that date to coincide with and to be in celebration of the award. The award ceremony at the Armory was very impressive with Mr. E.F. Dobaon acting as master of ceremonies. Mr. Frank Kapple, General Manager, accepted the award for David Bradley from Lt. Col. Robert T. Norman. The "E" emblems or pins were presented by Lt. Commander C. R. Kiester to Martin Dooley for the Management and Pearl McCleary and Roy Erickson for the employees.

The basketball game started at 7:30 PM at the Bradley Gym between the Supervisory and Production teams. It was a hotly contested game, but youth finally one out and the Production team was victorious, 34-25. Following the game there was a short entertainment during which Bill Dressler played his harmonica -guitar combination, the Misses Rantz (Clarence's daughter's) played accordions, Miss Hasemeyer (Fritz's daughter) sang, and the Bisping boy and girl danced. The entertainment was well received and the dance followed immediately, lasting until midnight. Altogether, it was an extremely enjoyable evening and a fitting celebration of the months of effort which finally won for us the "E" award. Now you people have something for which to be proud of David Bradley, this is our answer to the ever increasing demands for munitions to win the war.

ROLL OF HONOR!!

The following article concerning Pvt. Fred Martin, formerly of the tool & die department, at David Bradley, appeared in the Chicago Tribune of 12/11/44.

"Pvt. Fred Martin, of Bradley, Illinois, had to be a three-gun man to hold a German counter attack near a little Alsatian village he had just helped liberate. The enemy struck at Martin's outpost and overran a machine gun position. He fired his carbine until he ran out of ammunition. Spying a German rifle some distance away, he ran across the open space, sized the weapon and emptied it at the enemy. There was just one available weapon in sight now, the armored machine gun which the Germans had raced past. Bullets streamed past him as Martin made a dash for that gun. He raised it, swung around, and kept it firing until reinforcements came up and aided him in disrupting the counter thrust."

We are at once proud and humble in the face of such heroic bravery in one of whom we recall as a fellow worker. Items such as these give point and meaning to our daily work and help us to realize

that the war is not merely the distant unheard thunder but a personal and a real thing that is touching, destroying, or sometimes glorifying the lives of men and women whom we know and love. In closing we hope and trust that you had a Merry Christmas as your individual circumstances permitted, you were much in the thoughts of us here at home during this holiday season. Somehow it was not quite the holiday with so many of you away. Our wish for you and for all of us in the New Year is for a victorious 1945, which will bring all of you back to us so that we can meet and conquer the problems of the coming peace together, secure in the knowledge that in our combined and happy efforts we cannot fail to fashion the world we are fighting for. Until next month then, good luck and God Bless You

Your Friends at David Bradley Mfg. Works