

THE "YPSI-DOODLER"

PUBLISHED THE FIRST FRIDAY IN EVERY MONTH BY AND FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE YPSILANTI REED FURNITURE COMPANY

VOLUME 2

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NUMBER 4

★ RANGERS VISIT YPSI-REED ★

Liberation Story

Inspires Workers

Two enlisted soldiers of the 6th Ranger Bn. toured the plant recently, telling a thrilling story of the daring raid on Cabanatuan, the Jap prison camp on the island of Luzon from which 513 American prisoners were freed.

Lyle Ball, President of Local 420, UFWA-CIO, introduced Lt. Francis Thompson of the Labor Relations Branch of Detroit Ordnance District. Lt. Thompson remarked that because of the enviable achievement of this plant, the soldiers were making their first showing in the United States in Ionia. He also stated that ours was the finest labor and management relations set up they had found in Michigan.

Capt. T. E. Bogardus was a member of the famous Merrill's Marauders and saw action in Burma and India. He was the Captain of a team of the Marauders in the North Burma campaign in the early months of 1944, during which time his unit was surrounded by Japs for 14 days. His unit was released on Easter Sunday.

After two years in the Pacific, 1st Sgt. Robert Anderson was here to tell war workers of how quickly they ran out of supplies, and that if they had had more equipment they could have finished with the Japs much faster. Sgt. Anderson's job was to start getting the prisoners out of the camp. Several walked for the first time in two years. For his part in the rescue, Sgt. Anderson was awarded the Bronze Star.

Pfc. Charles Swain was the only Ranger in General MacArthur's forces to land on an isle of the Leyte Island before the invasion of the Philippines, where he helped wipe out a Jap garrison. During the raid on the prison camp, Pfc. Swain's job was to assault the Main Gate, to kill any and all Japs he could find, and to see that all prisoners got out. A Jap officer

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Left to right: Capt. Bogardus, 1st Sgt. Robert Anderson, and Pfc. Chas. S. Swain, shown after they spoke to the workers.



Left to right: May Waltersdorf, 1st Sgt. Anderson, and Ivan Clark, folding tent Rife.



Left to right: 1st Sgt. Anderson, Orley King, and Ora Tingley, Jr., making Ambulance Compartment Covers.



Left to right: Albert Metz, and Pfc. Chas. S. Swain, assembling cargo body bows.

THE "YPSI-DOODLER"

Published on the first Friday of each month by the employees of Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company, Ionia, Michigan

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Another Award

As we go to press, we are informed that Ypsilanti Reed is in receipt of a national award for efficient operation of our ride-sharing program. The citation, signed by Chester Bowles, OPA Administrator, is scheduled for presentation by officials of the District Office of Price Administration here at the plant, Tuesday, April 3rd, at 3:45 P. M.

It should be pointed out that this is the third award of its kind made thus far in the nation as a whole, and Ypsilanti Reed, management and labor alike, are genuinely proud of this signal honor, the second to be bestowed upon our personnel by national authorities within a period of six months.

We are only sorry that we cannot present the entire story in this issue of the "Ypsi Doodler", but we do promise complete coverage in our May number, along with pictures of the presentation ceremonies.

The "Ypsi Doodler", going to Ypsi-Reeders serving in the Armed Forces in every theatre of war, will record again that, back here at home, we're carrying on for them in a spirit that's proudly acclaimed by those far removed from this little community.

RED CROSS FUND OVER TOP



Shown in the accompanying photograph above are: Back row, left to right, Grace Bathburn, Mary Klinessmith, Mabel Rowley, Navene Hatinger, Margaret Rocky, Bessie LaDue. Second row, left to right, Elthea Haag, Florence Moorhead, Edna Ingvarsten, Fern Nash, Minnie Bennett, Ethel Hogan. First row, left to right, Merle McCoy, Inez Misner, Tress O'Donnell, Anita Richardson, and Emma Bensinger. These mothers of boys in the service collected the money in the factory.



Right—These women were caught turning over their money to Ray Crowner, Chief Steward, and are, left to right: Mary Klinessmith, Mr. Crowner, Mabel Rowley, and Fern Nash.

Again Ypsilanti Reed has gone over the top in the Annual Red Cross Roll Call, breaking all records in the drive for membership.

Last year we made a fine showing with a total of \$2,275.32, but bettered last year's total by more than \$100.00. The sum total collected in 1945 was \$2,388.05, which is the largest amount ever given at Ypsilanti Reed.

Of the total mentioned above, Ypsilanti Reed employees contributed \$1,438.05. This is the total of office and factory. Local 420 voted to contribute \$200.00, and the management gave \$750.00.

Much of the credit for this enthusiastic reception must be given to the Blue Star mothers who toured the factory one morning and accepted the contributions from employees in all departments.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1939 Chevrolet Car Radio. A-1 condition.
 Frances Young, Jeep Dept.

WANTED TO BUY: Tricycle for two-year-old child.
 Leslie Johnson, Engineering Dept.

CARD OF THANKS: I wish to express my sincere thanks to the CIO for the flowers and the Tent Dept. for the fruit sent me during my illness.
 Bertha Letts, Tent Dept.

CARDS OF THANKS: We wish to thank the employees of the Bus Dept., Jeep Dept., Tarp Dept., and also the CIO for the donation of money when our home was destroyed by fire.
 Mr. and Mrs. William Hoople, Jr., and Family

CARD OF THANKS: We wish to thank the CIO for the beautiful flowers sent us.
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ferguson

UNION ELECTS DELEGATES

At a regular meeting of Local 420, UFWA-CIO delegates were elected to the District Convention to be held Sunday, April 8th, in Grand Rapids at the new Union hall. Those elected were Lyle Ball, President of the local chapter Ray Crowner, Chief Steward; Lawrence Kane, Financial Secretary; Bernard Griffin, Trustee; Maxwell Smith, and James Poole.

Ray Crowner and Lyle Ball were elected to represent the local union at the International Convention June 4th to 9th, which is to be held in Grand Rapids.

They also voted to contribute the sum of \$200.00 to the annual Red Cross Roll Call.

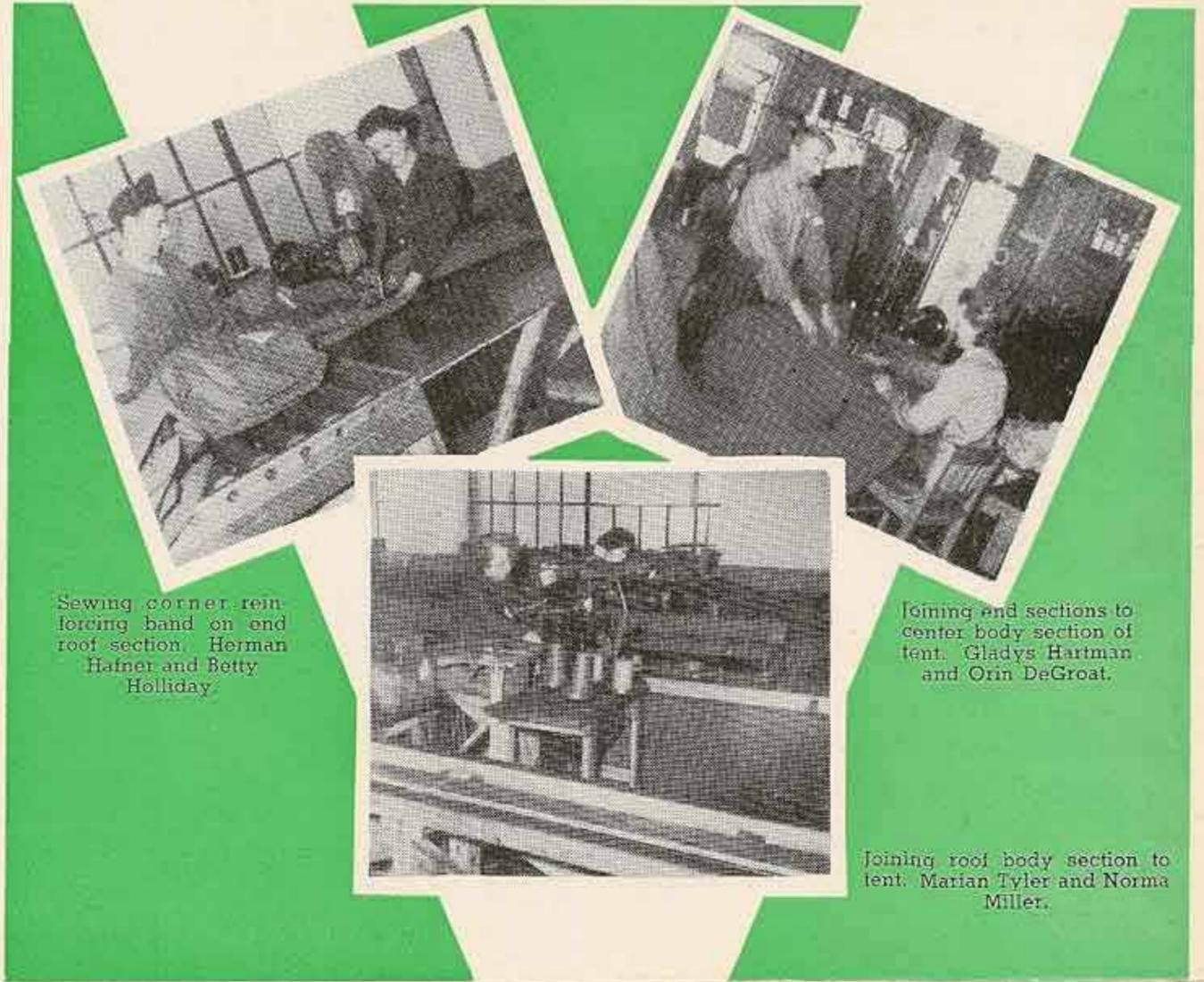


TOOL CHEST

During his ten minute rest periods, for the past year and a half, Orange Fish of the Framing Dept., worked at making a tool chest. It is a fine piece of workmanship and he can be justly proud of the finished product. The boys from the finishing dept. took the chest when it was completed and gave it a fine mahogany finish—returning it on Orange's birthday, February 14th. Orange said he got more relaxation building the tool chest during his rest periods than if he just sat around doing nothing.

Shown in the accompanying photograph are (left to right) Sylvester Dutcher, steward in the framing dept., and Orange Fish.

TENTS ARE VITAL TO VICTORY



Sewing corner reinforcing band on end roof section. Herman Hafner and Betty Holliday.

Joining end sections to center body section of tent. Gladys Hartman and Orin DeGroat.

Joining roof body section to tent. Marian Tyler and Norma Miller.

"To get inside a tent like this is like stepping inside a good house." These were the words of a soldier who recently visited here.

The Army is urgently in need of these tents and within the next few months will require many thousands of them. No matter how minor your job may seem to you, it is an important part in the production of a tent. If you are not on the job every day schedules can't possibly be maintained and consequently somewhere out there on the front is a battle weary fighting man yearning for shelter from wind or sun or rain. It could be your son! Our boys can't possibly have homes to go after the hard fighting but let's not be guilty of not giving them plenty of good, well built squad tents which for a fighting man takes the place of a home.

Put an end to ABSENTEEISM—be on the job today and every day until Victory is ours.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

On Monday, April 9th, in the afternoon and evening and all day Tuesday, April 10th, Arnold J. Linden, X-Ray Technician of Lansing, will take X-Rays of those who were positive reactors to the patch tests for tuberculosis. Mr. Linden will be assisted by Mrs. Tower of the Michigan T. B. Association, and Mrs. Maren Brock, plant nurse. At the present time there are approximately 300 employees who will have X-Rays taken. If you were a positive reactor, and you have not already made arrangements to have your X-Rays taken, will you please do so at once. This Clinic is being conducted in your interest.

LIONS AID CUB SCOUTS

One of the worthiest projects in Ionia at the present time is the Cub Scouting program. This organization offers to all boys between 8 and 12 years of age a diversified junior scouting program, developing their minds through study and experience, and their bodies through participation in sports and outdoor life. A large number of men and women of the community are giving freely of their time for this purpose, and you of the community can help, too, by putting that extra small change in the Cub Scout bottles which are placed around town—the one in the shop being on the writing desk in the lobby. This organization is worthy of, and needs, your support.

• • • SOCIAL NOTES • • •

The Jeep Dept. Birthday Club honored seven guests last month. They were Elsie Waidelick, Mary Peabody, Lila Martin, Dedie Hoople, Marjorie Sykes, Myrtle Krueger, and Margaret Helmer.

* *

A miscellaneous shower was given at the home of George Snyder of the Tarp Dept. for Sgt. and Mrs. Richard Lincoln who were recently married. Mrs. Lincoln is employed in the Jeep Dept.

* *

Be careful of Paul Warden's brand or you'll find yourself not being able to talk aloud. Just ask Ralph Blesing.

* *

Chris Belen, sweeper in the Finish Mill Room, is unable to work because of illness.

* *

Orange Fish was the lucky winner of the five dollar door prize given at the March Union meeting.

* *

Elinore Teichmann and Elthea Haag of the Tarp Dept. are back to work after many weeks of illness.

* *

Fern Nash of the Tent Dept. is being a proud grandmother these days, all because of the daughter, Carol Lee, born to her son, Cpl. Warner Nash and his wife.

* *

Gus Hoffman of the Framing Dept. says that the fox hunting was very good this past winter. Gus ought to know—as at the last report his group had killed 14 foxes.

* *

That man of versatile talents, Ray Gates, this spring completes 50 years of playing the violin in dance orchestras.

* *

If at any time you people of Ypsilanti Reed would like landscaping and lawn experts, call Extension 57, for Ralph Bennett or Harding DePotty—the best in Ionia County. The Electrical Dept. has the Reed front lawn well in hand.

* *

Tom Erridge of the Tent Dept. was in Grand Rapids recently for observation of a back injury. His wife, who is employed in the Tarp Dept., accompanied him.

* *

Larry Reister, Ypsilanti Reed's lone representative in the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., was seen ushering patrons of the concert to their seats the other Saturday night. The many people from the Reed who attended had hoped to hear Larry sing, but they were disappointed.



Ypsi-Reed Goes On Central War Time

On March 17th in compliance with the State Law, Ypsi-Reed clocks were turned back one hour to Central War Time. Shown in the accompanying photograph getting ready to set the Master Clock back one hour is "Gerry" Moore of the Time Office and C. E. McCaffery, Customer Engineer, with the International Business Machine Corporation.

* *

The Tent Dept. Fruit and Flowers Fund was used this month to send fruit to Clayton Monks, Hazel Larsen, Neita Roche, Bertha Letts, Marion Tyler, Hattie Stair, Olive Wizorek, Orno Lester, and Alma Hull. Gordon Anderson received five dollars when he left the department to return to college.

* *

To start a Model T Ford it takes at least four men, as Curly Haskins, Chris Schrauben, Hans Christensen, and Jim Banhagel can testify. Then you need a screw driver and a piece of 2 x 4—and everyone off the road—here we go. If you look behind the wheel you will see Leroy Godden, speed king.

* *

Martin Wilder, Henry Shalifoe, and Andy Repik of the Mill Dept. are among the few to admit that ice fishing is about over. The big ones got away!

* *

Addie Getts has been confined to her home with strep throat infection. The Curtain Dept. wishes a speedy recovery.

* *

Earl Morrison, a cutter, was presented a purse of money by fellow employees before joining our armed forces. Friends have just learned that he is at Fort Wheeler, Georgia, in the Infantry.

When you see Don Ferguson strutting around with his head up and shoulders back, you can realize that his pride is all due to that 11 lb. 2 oz. son, LeRoy Douglas, who was born on Feb. 16. Don says that the other day the baby wanted to know if he could help rake up the front lawn and fill the garden.

* *

At the present writing, Harry "Fix-'em" Lee, who was featured last month in the "Ypsi Reeders You Should Know" column, has returned from being fixed himself at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor. He wishes to thank the boys in his department for the gift of money and others at the plant for remembering him.

* *

The Ionia Civic Chorus gave concerts at Big Rapids, Ionia, and Belding on March 9th, 13th and 18th, respectively. Members of the chorus from here are Aileen Walsh, Maren Brock, and Gertrude Cottrell.

* *

Alma Hull stopped in the factory this week to thank the Union and Tent Dept. for the flowers sent to her while she was in Edmore Hospital for a throat operation. Alma expects to be back working shortly.

* *

Ralph Bowerman of the Tent Dept. is the proud papa of a son, Ralph Lester, Jr. Grandma Bowerman and Auntie Lillian Buxton also work in the Tent Dept.

Rangers Visit Ypsi-Reed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who spoke English and then made the fatal mistake of chattering in his native tongue, gave the young soldier reason to be thankful for superior American firepower, and to hope they would never be without that kind of superiority if that need again arose. He stated that 28 minutes after the opening signal all the prisoners were out of the camp. Of the 121 Rangers and 281 Filipino guerrilla fighters, there were only two men killed and three wounded.

After the talks, the employees were given the opportunity to ask questions. During this questioning, it was brought out that our Squad Tents are being used on the Philippine Islands, and that 155% more tents are needed. Capt. Bogardus said that in the early days of the war, they used the top bows of cargo bodies with tarps on them as pup tents. Weather conditions in the tropics make tents unusable after a couple of months, and for this reason it is absolutely essential that tent production be increased.

SPORTS

By MIKE WIZOREK

At all the noise and fuss, practically everyone stopped bowling, but it turned out to be Ray Crowner with his bouncing ball. Ray sure throws a mean ball, but figures sometimes tell a fib—Ray's average is 121—but his weight is 231.

Yes, you guessed it, our darling Arthur Randall, another hefty with 127 average, says he has the problem solved. It looks like it.

The lead-off man, better known as Wheezer Burrows, by the score 139. No wonder your team "Burrowed" in the cellar.

Gerard Perry says he has a very good hook ball. Sometimes he hooks one pin and again he hooks the gutter. Here is run-and-jump Phillips along with Clinton Kline and Leo Sweet, they all have a very nice curve ball, only the gutter stops them from striking on the next alley. Anyhow, that is what Clarence Jefferys thinks.

Here comes "How-am-I-doing?" Hoffman, great Alibi King.

Here comes Clark's gang, better known as the Bumper gang. Paul Warden always asking, "How many pins?" has an average of 150 himself, but he has the luck of bowling his weight, 195.

Yep, you are right, old lucky Clark. Whom was he trying to impress in Grand Rapids when he bowled 570 in three

BOWLERS NEAR END OF SEASON

Looking over the score sheet it seems to be a race for first place by two teams, the Moose and the Mairzy Doats. We will lean a little in favor of the Mairzy Doats.

Helen Cottrell claims first place by a comfortable margin with an average of 140, followed by Nellie Comer with 128. Nellie says, "Youth must have its fling."

Golden Hackett should concentrate on bowling a little more, and less on the giggles. Marie Coates has what is commonly known as a picket fence with an average of 111.

As for Virginia Zick with 109—well, it's getting along the time of year when a girl's fancy turns to thoughts of love—"With Joe overseas, how can I bowl?" Well, how about Kay Lincoln—"My mind is all aflutter about him."

games? Ivan, you should save some of that steam for Wednesday nights. More could be said of this, but Ivan has a way of a pep talk which Elmer McCloy calls "Injection" pep talk.

Anyhow Fred Font seems to do well after watching Claude Stowe do the so-called rumba.

I suppose Gerry Moore has a good alibi, has to do some spring housecleaning. —"Remember I am still young and 104 isn't too bad."

Marguerite Mason and Dorothy Glasson have a race all of their own—what is the bet?

Ardith Harris and Letha Candiff are running neck and neck with averages of 95 and 94. Ardith claims a high game of 171, but she doesn't bowl this on league night.

What's the matter with Lucile Wilson? Here is a time and place where a vacation sure raised hob, but here is hoping you do better next time. Evelyn Culp bowled a game of 116 this season. Let's have more games like that, Evelyn, to bring up the average.

BASEBALL CALL GOES OUT

With organized professional baseball whacking away at the horsehide in spring training quarters, and Dame Nature leaning over backwards to provide the proper atmosphere, the great American sport is all set to blossom forth in another wartime season.

From official Washington comes word that baseball is essential to home-front morale and the go-ahead signal is flashed, even if it happens to be a bit on the pale green side.

Ionia, being a typical American community, and Ypsi-Readers, being typical Americans, it is only natural that the baseball urge is being felt here, too. Just what will develop in the way of a team is still problematic, but the material is here.

A meeting was held March 26th. The men's team has been selected, and the first game will be with the Reformatory on Sunday, May 6th. The following issues will give further details of progress.

This team promises to be the best that Ypsilanti Reed has ever put into the field. Any team can function better with rousing cheers behind it, and we of Ypsilanti Reed should get out and really support our teams.

Time's a-fleetin', boys and girls—let's get going!



ONE WAY TO GET OUT OF THE CELLAR

Yep, here comes Arthur Randall. One would think that you are doing a swan-dive, rather than bowling. You have the right idea. Just put Ray Crowner on the other alley and beyond a doubt you will be out of the cellar.

Well, Art, just because Ivan Clark and Paul Warden threatened to fire you if you lost, don't let that bother you. We have heard the wind blow before. And Wilson Dalzell has some good ideas, so just as a suggestion, you had better stay in the cellar, or dig a little deeper.

Oh, yes, we are still looking for Darling Arthur.



Pfc. John Smejkal and Pvt. Edw. Smejkal, both home on furlough, recently visited at the plant. John worked in the Mill Room for seven years before entering the Army in April, 1941. He has been overseas in the Southwest Pacific for the past three and a half years. Eddie was in the European theatre of operations, where he received a leg wound in January, 1945. He is now at Percy Jones Hospital. The boys have two other brothers in the Armed Forces — Charles, U.S.C.G., and Anthony, U. S. Army, who worked in the Upholstery Room.

* *

S/Sgt. Edward Wiczorek has been transferred from the Marshall Islands to an unknown air base.



The photograph above shows Mrs. Minnie Bennett of the Jeep Dept. with her son, Sgt. Fred Bennett, who recently arrived in the United States after having spent 43 months in the Pacific Ocean Area as a Chief Communications Officer. Sgt. Bennett was drafted four years ago this month, and his brother, Cpl. Otis Bennett, is with the Army in Luxembourg.

* *

Frank Decker of the Welding Dept. is now among our fathers who have sons in the army, Dayton having left in the past month.

★ SERVICE NOTES ★

In a letter recently received by W. J. Dalzell, 1st Lt. Allen H. Morse of the Field Artillery, France, wrote: "I made a little side trip yesterday to one of the larger cities. On the way back (hitch-hiking my way) I caught a ride in a three-quarter ton truck. Imagine my surprise to look up and see Ypsilanti Reed Furn. Co., Ionia, written on the inside of the top—then remembered your telling me about your army contracts. I got a kick out of seeing it and thought I'd let your advertising dept. know they helped one soldier's morale."

* *

Pfc. Basil Linderman received the Purple Heart in February, 1945, for injuries received in the invasion of Saipan, June 16, 1944.

* *

Pfc. Jack Joslyn, formerly stationed in India, has been transferred to North Burma. Jack is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Joslyn, who work in the welding and curtain depts.

Touring the plant was Pfc. Jack Pomer-ville, home on furlough. His mother, Ida, works in the Blue Room.

* *

Word has been received that S/Sgt. "Red" Martin, formerly of the Tarp Dept., has arrived in France.

* *

Pvt. Vernon Miller, home on furlough from Camp Fannan, Texas, was a recent visitor at the plant. He formerly worked in the Gun Cover Dept. and is a brother to Arleen Miller, Tent Dept.

* *

The YPSI DOODLER recently received a letter from Pvt. Kenneth Warren, who asked that the boys in the Spring Room be told "Hello," and for them to drop a few lines and he would answer, but he had lost their addresses, and couldn't write first. Kenneth is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, and says "It is a nice place and swell climate here, but of course there's no place like home. Sure will be glad when I can be back there working again."

YPSI-READERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

"Moon" Franch

"Moon" was at one time sheriff of Ionia County (and quite the Dapper Dan). He also had a Detective Agency in Lansing. Since December 14, 1941, he has been Chief of the Plant Protection at Ypsi-Reed, protecting the interests of the Reed and the men and WOMEN.



"HIPS" FRANCH

I am the gay Ca-ballero, Senorita. Shall we dance? (Watch him swing those Hips, ta! ta!)



"HERE COMES THE CAVALRY"

Oh, yes! I rode with the Cavalry of the U. S. Army in the Philippines, but it looks like some one switched "horses" on me this time.

