

THEY'RE FIGHTING IRISH CLAN, THE SULLIVAN FAMILY

Inspired to Enlist as Group by Death of "Buddy" at Pearl Harbor.

By KENNETH MURPHY, Courier Staff Writer

They were a fighting Irish clan—the Sullivans—and if by one of the miracles that still do happen in this world, they do come back, they can say they kept up the tradition.

If one talks to the members of the five boys' family and to their friends and former teachers, one realizes that it was the most natural thing in the world for them to want to go into the service together.

For they had always been a family strongly united in its bonds and a family with remarkably similar traits and attributes.

The boys had had no spectacular careers as school youngsters or as grown-up men.

They had been fond of the same things—things that most American lads in the middlewest are fond of.

Hunters, Fishermen.

They were enthusiastic hunters and fishermen and H. D. Taylor, principal of East Junior High school, which all five attended, pays tribute to their hunting and shooting ability.

Taylor, himself quite a hunter, says of the boys:

"You know, they never made us any trouble here in school, but they looked like they could fight. They were regular in their attendance at school."

R. G. Gormley, principal at Washington school, where three of the boys attended, thinks they might have been good athletes if they had been more interested in competitive sports.

Took Mother Dancing.

After the boys had left school and gone to work, they became enthusiastic dancers, their friends report, and on their infrequent leaves, they found opportunity to go dancing. And almost always their mother and their sister, Genevieve, went along.

They had the navy in their blood, it seems, right along, for George and Frank had served one four-year hitch, from 1937-41, and even before the fateful Dec. 7, 1941, they had discussed joining the navy.

It was what happened to Bill Ball that clinched it. Fred Bill, whose home was in Fred-



BILL BALL His death inspired them.

A United Family Before the Sullivans Went to Sea



The five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, navy men reported missing Tuesday following the sinking of their ship, the light cruiser Juneau, Nov. 14 in the battle of the Solomons, are shown here in a family picture taken shortly before their enlistment a year ago. Back row, left to right, are Albert, 20; George, 29; the boys' maternal grandmother, Mrs. George Abel; Madison, 22; Joseph Eugene, 23, and Francis, 26. Seated on the davenport are Albert's wife; then the boys' mother, Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan; the father, Thomas F. Sullivan holding Albert's son James; and Genevieve, 25, sister of the five boys. The picture was taken in the family home at 98 Adams street.

ericksburg, Ia. had been a great friend of all the Sullivans, and when it was learned that he had been killed at Pearl Harbor in the sneak attack by the Japanese, the Sullivans' mind was made up right there.

"Our Minds Made Up." The family, Mrs. Sullivan says, was sitting around listening to the radio tell that story of infamy, when the boys came home.

"I was crying a little," she says. "Then George said, 'Well, I guess our minds are made up, aren't they, fellows? And when we go in we want to go in together. And if the worst comes to the worst, why will we have all gone down together.'"

That was when they decided to write to Washington and find out if it was possible. It was, and they enlisted in the navy thru the Waterloo recruiting station.

Not many of their schoolmates are left around Waterloo. The service has taken almost all of their close friends, and not surprisingly, the navy beckoned to most.

Joseph's Fiancee 'Phones.

While Albert was the only married son, having wed Katherine Roof in Waterloo May 11, 1940, another one, Joseph Eugene (that's Red), had become engaged to Miss Margaret Jaros of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Miss Jaros, grief-stricken, called Mrs. Sullivan by long distance Tuesday morning.

"I wish you were here, honey," the mother told the fiancee.

It was one of the widely-published pictures of the Sullivans, which appeared in newspapers throughout the country, which brought "Red" and Miss Jaros together.

A friend had dared her to write to one of the Sullivans, and she picked "Red" at random.

Paper Romance Turns Real.

At the time when the Juneau had returned to this country in May, and the boys were on furlough, "Red," who hadn't had time to come to Waterloo because of the brief nature of the leave, stopped in Pittsburgh and a shipmate intro-



This picture of Albert Sullivan and his wife, the former Katherine Roof, was taken in July, 1940, shortly after their marriage. They were married in Waterloo on May 11, 1940. Albert and his four brothers, members of the United States navy, are missing in action.



Jimmie Sullivan (above), who will be 2 years old on next Feb. 13, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sullivan, is shown above in his sailor suit and cap. Jimmie's father and his four uncles, all members of the United States navy, are reported missing in action.

duced him to Miss Jaros. The paper romance became real.

If there had been anything "Red" had loved more than his family and Miss Jaros, it was his motorcycle, a constant companion for six years before he went to the navy. He had been a member of the Waterloo Motorcycle club, most of whose members followed the Sullivans into the service.

"For Their Country."

But Mrs. Sullivan probably expressed it best when she said: "It's hard, of course, terribly hard. It's hard when you lose even one boy. But I know that they went in of their own free will and they did it together and for their country."

And then, with "chin up," always the tag line admonition of the boys' letters:

"But we got 28 Jap ships, didn't we? And aren't the Russians doing swell?"

Sullivan Post May Be Name of Vets' Chapter

In the event of organization of a local chapter of veterans of the second world war, a leading possibility as a name for the group will be Sullivan post, in honor of the five boys who wrote a remarkable chapter in Waterloo's military history.

The Sullivan saga had made Waterloo known throughout the country by the brothers' mass enlistment in the navy.

Listing of the five boys as missing in action brought the total for Waterloo in this war to 17, on the basis of reports from the army and navy departments.

Naming of posts after war heroes has been customary. Becker-Chapman post was named after two Waterloo boys who were among those killed in action in France in the last war.

Total pipe-line mileage in the United States at the end of 1941 was estimated at 131,000 miles.



It was in this house at 98 Adams street that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan raised the five sons who enlisted in the navy and are now reported missing in action. Here Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan reside with their only remaining child, Genevieve, 25; their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Albert Sullivan, wife of one of the boys; Jimmie, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sullivan; and the boys' maternal grandmother, Mrs. George Abel. This was the home the five boys left to serve their country.

Advertisement for Buehler's Good Meat, featuring a portrait of a man and text about heart attack prevention and fat reduction.

Rescued Off Ship Hornet as It Sinks



The horoscope of Charles Haynes (above), 19-year-old storekeeper with the navy, must have had a lucky star for Oct. 26, for he was one of the rescued off the aircraft carrier Hornet, which sank to the bottom of the South Pacific.

Word of his safety has been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morley C. Haynes, 1805 West Third street, who revealed it Tuesday after the navy had announced the Hornet's sinking.

The 20,000-ton Hornet sank after a battle that inflicted heavy damage on two Japanese carriers and bomb and torpedo hits on an enemy battleship and five cruisers.

Explosions from Japanese planes which dive-bombed the Hornet decks, wrecked the superstructure and set the big ship aflame, but Haynes was lucky enough to escape safely when the order was given to abandon ship.

Both Wardens of Saint Mark's Church Renamed

N. A. Gasser, 1112 West Second street, was re-elected parish warden of St. Mark's Episcopal church Mon-

Tired Kidneys Often Bring Sleepless Nights

Doctors say your kidneys contain 15 miles of tiny tubes or filters which help to purify the blood and keep you healthy. When they get tired and don't work right in the daytime, many people have to get up nights. Frequent or early passages with smarting and burning sometimes show there is something wrong with your kidneys or bladder. Don't neglect this condition and lose valuable, restful sleep.

When disorder of kidney function permits poisonous matter to remain in your blood, it may also cause nagging backache, rheumatic pains, leg pains, loss of pep and energy, swelling, puffiness under the eyes, headaches and dizziness.

Don't wait! Ask your druggist for Doan's Pills, used successfully by millions for over 40 years. They give happy relief and will help the 15 miles of kidney tubes flush out poisonous waste from your blood. Get Doan's Pills.

Advertisement for Fresh Canadian Fish, listing various fish and prices.

Advertisement for Good Place to Buy Good Meat, featuring Buehler's.

Advertisement for Buehler's Good Meat, listing various meats and prices.

day night at the annual meeting in the parish hall. C. Vernon Brown was reappointed rector's warden by Rev. De Vere L. Shelmandine, rector; and James G. Dunne, treasurer, and L. M. Golan, clerk, were re-elected.

Vestrymen elected were Archie S. Dunham, Dwight F. Benjamin and Frank Krieg, all for three-year terms.

Other vestrymen are George D. Harris, Ernest A. Evans, C. G. Taylor, B. V. Hughes and Carl A. Gosline.

The church now has 301 communicants, including 38 who joined in 1942. Rev. Mr. Shelmandine reported; and the parish budget of approximately \$4,000 was balanced during the year.

The meeting was the first as rector for Rev. Mr. Shelmandine, who came here in July. He lives at 821 Bayard street.

Effective date suggested for the repeal by the society was the beginning of the first income tax year after Dec. 1, 1942.

Favors Repeal of Iowa Income Tax

Des Moines—(U.P.)—Passage of a resolution favoring repeal of the Iowa income tax was announced Tuesday by the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants.

John Bemis, chairman of the publicity committee of the society, said the vote of the society membership consisting of nearly every certified public accountant in Iowa, was unanimously in favor of the resolution.

The resolution named the federal income tax, the victory tax and the excellent financial condition of the

state as reasons for repeal of the Iowa income tax. "It appears from published statements that the state should be able to meet its obligations, including the homestead exemption, from revenues received from the sales tax, the state levy on real and personal property provided by statute and profits from the operations of the state liquor commission," the resolution read.

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PLAN 5-DAY WEEK. Boston, Mass.—(P)—Massachusetts and Rhode Island governors moved Tuesday to inaugurate a five-day week in non-war business activities to help conserve fuel.

Advertisement for Vicks VapoRub, describing its benefits for chest colds and misery.

DIAMOND BROS. 308-10 E. Fourth — 616 Sycamore 504 Commercial

Table listing various food items and prices, including sausage, beef, pork, and fish.

Table listing fresh fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, apples, and lemons.

Mrs. Sullivan Ranks With Mrs. Bixby, Whom Lincoln Consolated for 5 Sons' Loss

"How weak and fruitless must be any word of mine—" Thus wrote President Abraham Lincoln in his masterpiece of compassion to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, Boston, Mass., the mother of five sons who died gloriously on the field of battle in Civil war days, 1864.

Today, one of the most quoted letters in American history, this treasured part of America's heritage is brought close to mind on a similar occasion to a Waterloo mother whose five sons are reported missing in the field of service.

That mother, Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan, like Mrs. Bixby, is today a symbol, as a transfigured American mother deserving enshrinement for loyalty and heroic service.

Marked similarity in human war tragedy between the battle of 1864 and the present global strife is noted in Lincoln's consolatory letter, which follows:

"Executive Mansion, Washington, Nov. 21, 1864. "To Mrs. Bixby, Boston, Mass. "Dear Madam,

"I have been shown in the files of the war department a statement of the adjutant general of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming.

"But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save.

"I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

"Yours very sincerely and respectfully, "A. LINCOLN."