

WATERLOO, IOWA, SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1944

ASSEMBLY RACE INTERESTS VOTERS OF COUNTY

Prophetic Note in Letter From Hendrik Van Loon to John Miller



Nieuw Veece
Old Greenwich, Conn.
Tel. Old Greenwich 7-1868

8 April 1944.

My dear Mr. Miller:
I wish that I could come to Waterloo for that second year that I covered leaves and my knowledge days--I am afraid--are men. I have worked too hard for too many years and I have done the best I have and all I can do is to have been in it right here about desk and first letter words out a small bottle of ink. Not a cent in my happy prospect but a bit of pencil for a man like

In one of his last writings before his death at his home in old Greenwich, Conn., Mar. 10, the internationally famous author, Hendrik Willem Van Loon commented in a letter to John G. Miller, 505 Frederick avenue, dated Mar. 8, "... my traveling days--I am afraid--are over. I have worked too hard for too many years and in the end the old (drawing of a pump) gave out." A facsimile of part of the letter is shown above.

A picture of a pump was drawn in typical Van Loon fashion to illustrate his heart. Miller received the letter Monday--two days after Van Loon's sudden death--in answer to a letter he had written Van Loon requesting him to appear here before the Rotary club and speak on an international topic.

Explaining that he could not make the trip, the noted historian wrote, "All I can do from here on is sit right here at my desk and fish little words out of a small bottle of ink."

In the letter which is in nearly illegible handwriting, Van Loon mentioned the book which was working on at the time of his death--an autobiography entitled, "A Report to Saint Peter."

Arriving at the same time as the letter were two pictures of Van Loon taken informally at his home in old Greenwich.

Both Van Loon and Miller emigrated to America from western Europe. Van Loon being a native of Rotterdam and Miller coming from Schleisweiler in south Germany.

Both had relatives who were members of the Herndon society, a religious organization of western Europe.

"Helpful" Man Steals Car and Gets in Wreck

Mrs. Florence Netzer, Spencer, Ia., made two mistakes Friday night, and found proof that some people can't be trusted. She stopped her car in front of Fire Station No. 2, 715 Commercial street, thinking it was a garage where she could store her car for the night.

A very helpful pedestrian, a man about 30 years old, wearing overalls and jacket, told her of her mistake and said the garage was across the street. She asked him to store her car, after which she went to the Russell-Lamson hotel.

Upon checking with the garage, she found her car was not there, so reported the matter to police. About half an hour later, Glen Charlton, 712 Home Acres, reported his car was struck by a hit-and-run car bearing the license number of the stolen vehicle at the corner of East Fourth and Seymour streets.

The abandoned stolen car was recovered in the 600 block of Franklin street early Saturday morning.

Six Navy Recruits Reported Accepted

Six new navy recruits are accepted and await call to active service. It was disclosed by officers in the recruiting office in the Federal building here yesterday. They include Joseph R. Powers, 218 East Eighth street, Russell L. Lumsden, 1732 Burton avenue, Richard H. Crawford and William G. MacNamee of Traer, Ia., Charles Hochberger and Wayne Dallenbach, Sumner, Ia.



HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON.

Higher Wages to 'Phone Workers

Contract to Benefit 145 in Waterloo Offices.

Although no official word had been received in Waterloo Saturday by A. J. Weigle, manager of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. concerning the completed negotiations for a new wage contract between officials of the company and the Northwestern Union of Telephone Workers, he said the new wage increases would be effective for workers in Waterloo.

Switchboard operators, maintenance crew workers, and business office employees, a total of 145 persons, in the Waterloo company will be affected by the increase.

Announcement of the completed negotiations was made Saturday by Ray L. Rogers of Des Moines, president of the union, who reported that the annual increase would amount to more than \$1,400,000.

Rogers said a general wage increase was negotiated for almost all of the 12,000 employees covered in the contract, with increases of \$2 per week for female and \$1.50 per week for male employees.

More Night Pay. In addition the new contract provides for improved night differential payments for operators and upward wage reclassification of several towns.

Parents of Girl. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Divency, 112 Greenwood avenue, are the parents of a girl born Saturday evening at St. Francis hospital.

Food Store Price Reports Acclaimed

Reports brought in by more than 60 price panel representatives surveying food stores here through the local war price and rationing board, were "more than satisfactory," Horace Van Metre, board chairman, said of initial results as the educational and protective price control program ended its first week of action.

Van Metre mentioned one section where 14 violations were found. "With a very few exceptions, these violations were cases where merchants were unaware of their errors," he said.

Typical cases were instances where storekeepers failed to display their community price lists, the dollar-and-cents ceiling prices for meats, groceries and soaps, or where the OPA price group classification was not in evidence.

"Early this week we should have a pretty conclusive picture of exactly how price control is working in Waterloo and adjacent territory," Van Metre said.

"The next step will be for board officials to prepare the second survey schedule."

Dr. J. H. Butts Promoted to Commander

Lt. Commander James H. Butts, former Waterloo physician, has been promoted to commander at the naval section base, Galveston, Tex., according to word received here.

Commander Butts was called to active duty with the U. S. naval reserve medical corps in March, 1942, and was first assigned to the Great Lakes, Ill., and later to the naval training school for electricians at Iowa State college, Ames.

He was later transferred to the naval air base hospital at Memphis, Tenn., and has since been assigned at Galveston, Tex.

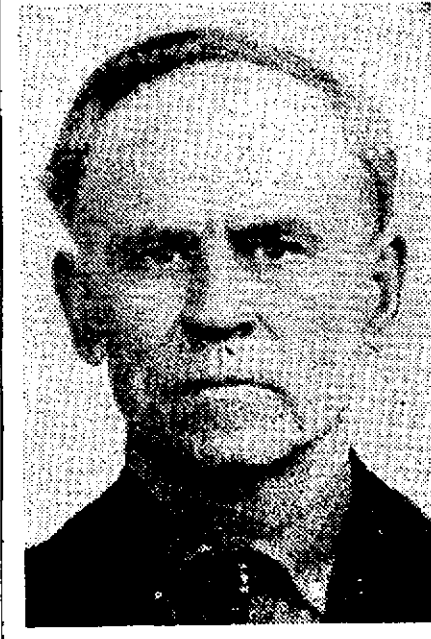
His wife and family are with him there.

Estel Elected by Livestock Council. E. S. Estel, Waterloo, was elected vice president of the Iowa Livestock Council at its annual meeting in the statehouse at Des Moines Saturday.

I. C. SECTION MAN CRUSHED UNDER WHEELS

Yard Accident Fatal to Nick Mortis, 57; Caught by Box Car.

Nick George Mortis, 57, a section worker for the Illinois Central railroad, died enroute to a hospital of injuries he suffered at 3:40 p. m. Friday when one of two box cars between which he was standing was struck



NICK MORTIS.

by another box car as a train was being prepared in the switchyards here.

The wheels of one of the cars crushed his left side from his foot through his shoulder. Drugged Under Wheels. Railroad officials said Mortis was working in the yard and had stepped between two stationary box cars just as a third car was "kicked" onto the siding by a switch engine.

The impact of the moving car moved the other cars and dragged Mortis under the wheels.

The mishap occurred near the center of the yards at a location corresponding to a continuation of High street. Born in Greece. Nick George Mortis was born in Karovasi, Greece, in 1886, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mortis. He had been in this country the last 35 years and was a veteran of World War I. He roomed at the home of Mrs. Cassandra Falaris, 805 Washington street.

Survivors include a cousin, Mrs. Demetria Genis, San Francisco, Cal. The body was removed to Peterson Bros. funeral home. Funeral services will be conducted at 4 p. m. Sunday at St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox church by Rev. John Palas, of Cedar Rapids. The body will remain at Peterson Brothers funeral home until time for services. Burial will be in Fairview cemetery.

Two Black Hawk Folk Graduated From Iowa State

Two Black Hawk county residents were included among 125 persons to whom degrees or certificates were presented Saturday morning at winter graduation exercises of Iowa State college, Ames.

They were: Paul A. Mongerson, jr., now an ensign on duty in the navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Mongerson, 397 Sheridan road, Waterloo; bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

Miss Violet Thierman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thierman, residing three and one-half miles south of Cedar Falls; B. S. in dietetics.

Dr. Charles E. Friley, president. Others from northeast Iowa counties who were members of the class were: Renon--Donald C. Winger, Waldorf, B. S. in aeronautical engineering; Marie G. Klein, Belle Plaine, B. S. in home economics education; Marilyn A. Kinney, Charles City, B. S. in mechanical engineering.

Franklin--William V. Record, Geneva, B. S. in electrical engineering; Marjorie--Rosemary C. Strobbeln, Reinbeck, B. S. in home economics education; Hardin--John L. Geary, Iowa Falls, B. S. in chemical engineering; Yama--Wayne C. Keith, Dysart, B. S. in mechanical engineering.

IN ORGAN CONCERT. Prof. George W. Sanson of the music faculty of Iowa State Teachers college will present an organ concert in the auditorium of the First Congregational church at special Lenten services at 7:30 p. m. Thursday. A social hour in the church parlors will precede the concert.

Two of the Fighting Heers Back in Waterloo and Hold Brief Reunion



Pfc. Earl Heer, of the fighting Heer family, is shown above at a reunion with his daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Slaughter (left), his granddaughter, Caryl Ann Slaughter, 3, and his wife, Pvt. Bessie Heer, who is a member of the W.A.C. The above photograph was taken at the Slaughter home, 133 Falls avenue, during a visit to Waterloo by Private and Mrs. Heer.

By BURTON T. BURRITT
Courier Managing Editor

Wearing the green, red and white shoulder shield of the Persian Gulf command, Pfc. Earl Heer, head man of the fighting Heers of Waterloo, was having a reunion here Saturday with his wife, Pvt. Bessie Heer, and their daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Slaughter.

The reunion was at 133 Falls avenue, the old home place, where Mrs. Slaughter, mother of Caryl Ann, 3, and only one of the six members of the Heer family who is not in the armed services, now resides. Earl has been around the world since he left here Dec. 22, 1942, to help fight his country's war. As a truck driver in Iran, he helped speed the military might of lend-lease across the burning lowland and the high plateau of Iran to Russia, where it was thrown against the Nazi foe.

Stricken by malaria while on duty in Persia, Heer was flown to this country by way of the Atlantic. He has been at a hospital on Staten Island, but at conclusion of his furlough Wednesday will go to Schick army hospital at Clinton, Ia.

The trouble with malaria is that it keeps recurring, but Earl believes progress is being made in his case and he has asked for re-assignment to active service.

His wife will leave tonight for Indiantown Gap, Pa., where she is a Wac in the industrial quartermaster's department. She has been in the service for seven months.

Saw Daughter, Evelyn. In New York recently Heer saw his other daughter, Cpl. Evelyn Heer, who is a Wac radio operator at Mitchell field, Long Island.

The Heers' youngest son, James, who enlisted in the navy the same day his mother joined the army, is now in active service in the south Pacific as a seaman second class.

The other member of the family is the older son, Pvt. Robert Heer of the air corps; and he has been fighting the war longer than any of the others. It was his capture in the Philippines that set the Heer enlistments rolling.

The last word from him was a card last summer from the Japanese camp at Taiwan, and at mention of him an angry, brooding look comes into the father's eyes.

"As long as the job had to be done, we thought we'd better get at it," said Earl yesterday.

Explains the Shield. The green field of the shoulder shield is for agriculture, the red sword for valor and the white star for purity. Heer explained about the emblem of the Persian Gulf command.

Told that Waterloo was proud of him and the other members of his family, Heer said: "And we are proud of Waterloo. Everywhere I have gone I have tried to be a good representative of Waterloo and of the United States, and to show some of the people of the world what we are fighting for."

Davenport Boy Wins Oratorical Contest

Sheldon Strick, 16, Davenport high school, was first place winner in the state American Legion oratorical contest in Marshalltown, Thursday night, Arthur W. Hyke, Waterloo, Iowa department Americanism chairman, announced yesterday.

Other winners were Edward Strause, 16, Burlington high school, second place; and Richard Podol, 15, Okaloosa high school, third place. Lou Ann Shanks, West high school, represented the Third district in the contest.

Judges were Major Frank Miles, editor of the Iowa Legionnaire; Des Moines, B. R. Miller, Marshalltown high school principal, and Dave Denton, editorial writer, Waterloo Daily Courier. Dr. Charles R. Logan, Keokuk, department commander, announced the awards.

Waterloo War Supply Totals \$7,793,000

Waterloo received supply contracts totaling \$7,793,000 between June 1, 1940, and Jan. 1, 1944, thus ranking 14th in the industrial areas of the Chicago region, according to announcement made yesterday by the war production board.

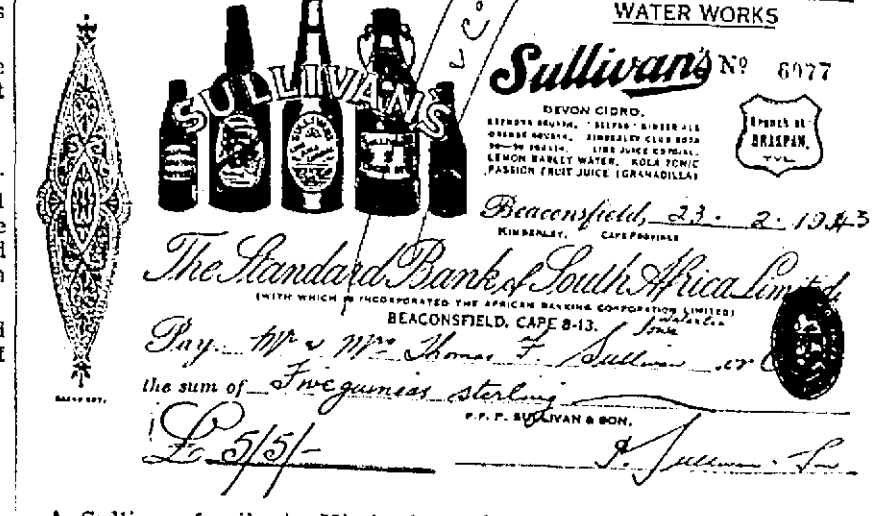
The figures do not include contracts for aircraft, ships, ordnance, food, food processing and contracts under \$50,000.

Des Moines contracts were valued at \$25,597,000.

No Jury Trial for Zahn Damage Suit

Judge R. W. Hasner has ruled that the demand for a jury trial in the damage suit for \$10,000 brought by Adam Zahn, Hasbrouck Heights, N. J., against Samuel P. Reister, Clinton, Ia., and George Essex, 1519 Franklin street, municipal court, was not filed within the time prescribed during the court rules and that the right of trial by jury is adjudged to have been waived. The demand for the jury trial had been made by counsel for Zahn. Defenses attorneys had asked that the case be tried by the court.

Sullivans of South Africa Share With Waterloo's Own



A Sullivan family in Kimberley, South Africa, sharing the grief and pride of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sullivan, 98 Adams street, has sent a check for five guineas sterling (approximately \$21 at current exchange rates) to the parents of the five fighting Sullivans in memory of the boys.

The check is shown above. "It was with very deepest and sincerest of regrets that we read in our local South African daily papers of your terrible and painful loss and feel that you both will be rewarded in this life for the great sacrifice you both have made--towards peace--perfect peace in this upset world of ours and may God grant you his grace and blessings," the letter said.

"We think after such a sacrifice the 'Solomon Islands' apart from the 'ship' should be renamed the 'Sullivan Islands'.

"My family and I enclose five guineas in memory of your five brave sons."

"We have two sons in north Af-

FOUR SEEKING TWO POSTS IN GOP PRIMARY

Republicans Meet, Hear New Deal Blasted by B. F. Swisher.

With the deadline for filing for state and congressional offices past, chief interest of Black Hawk county voters in the June primaries centered about the race for state representative, with four Waterloo Republicans contending for the county's two posts in the assembly.

Filing of papers Friday by Theodore L. Tollefson, 410 Clay street, a retired Illinois Central railroad engineer, and Raymond Fairholm, 100 Ricker street, manager of the Mobile Street grocery, assured the race.

Arch McFarlane, dean of Iowa's assemblymen, had already filed for re-election and Floyd Davis, deputy in the county treasurer's office was a fourth candidate.

Dewey Butterfield, incumbent representative, is not a candidate for re-election.

Congressman John W. Gwynne was assured of battling his Democratic foe of 1942, William D. Kearney, Marshalltown attorney, in the fall election when nominations closed without opposition to either in their own party.

Waterloo had a senatorial candidate, Ernest J. Seemann, who was opposing Senator Guy M. Gillette for the Democratic nomination.

Constitution Said Threatened

"If Mr. Roosevelt has the check book of the United States for another four years and continues to have any constitution in this country left when we come to another election," Ben F. Swisher declared Saturday in a keynote address at the Black Hawk county Republican convention in the large courtroom at the courthouse.

Denouncing the New Deal as "unconstitutional" and pointing to the next eight months "as the most important in the history of the United States and probably the whole world," the speaker sounded the keynote of the forthcoming election thus:

"The main issue of the Republican party is whether we will have constitutional government or whether we will have to continue to operate under one man and the New Deal Santa Claus philosophy of spending ourselves to death."

"It's about time, we the people of the United States woke up to the fact that we can't continue to operate and live an American life unless we have our constitution to live it under," he warned his audience.

Evans Confident. Reiterating Swisher's demands for constitutionalism, W. T. Evans, declared "I have the supreme confidence and thoroughly believe that the next election will return this country to the people by Jan. 1."

E. H. Smith of La Porte City, in a brief talk, pointed to the need "to elect a congress that will stand on its own feet and a president willing to accept leadership of congress."

Joseph B. Clay of Cedar Falls presided at the session, called to order by Ralph W. Travis, county chairman.

It was voted to make the temporary organization of this convention a permanent one with Clay as chairman and Mrs. Mary F. Lizer of La Porte City, county central committee secretary, as secretary.

Craig R. Kennedy was appointed chairman of the committee on credentials and E. W. Watson was named on the nominating committee.

Following are the 59 delegates named to represent Black Hawk county at the Republican state convention to be held Mar. 31 at Des Moines:

Ralph W. Travis, Ruth Draper, Pressey H. Frank, Rachel Sogger, Mary F. Lizer, Mrs. Glen A. Tibbitts, Earl W. Watson, Roland F. Merner, Leo J. Covert, Joe Sogger, M. F. Fields, W. T. Evans, J. A. Robinson, Glenn E. Beers, Whitney Gilliland, and John W. Coverdale.