The Alumni Magazine
(and Supplement)
WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
Kalamazoo, Michigan

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Charles H. Churchill, A. B. 1941, Writes Kalamazoo Gazette from Hawaii

Some people say that Hawaii has had its first and last taste of this war. Maybe so. Maybe no. But you can bet your last spare tire that the army, navy, and civilians here will put up a stiff struggle before they swallow another dose.

It has been four months now since the blitz. The reality of the nightmare that Sunday morning still haunts the islands and keeps the people from dreaming again. That task, in itself, should be a hard one. But it’s being done!

Black-out Makes Ghost Town

Typical example of their effort is the 100 per cent black-out. Take a look at Honolulu about 4:20 in the afternoon, when stores are closing their doors. Between 4 and 5 o’clock crowds jam the buses like they do the “L” in Chicago. By 6 o’clock, the streets are nearly empty and downtown Honolulu resembles a ghost town. After 9, ghosts themselves would need a pass to walk on the streets because it’s “kapau” (keep out) until the next morning.

Few places in this warring world have applied their black-out so religiously as Hawaii. Only the bright moon and an occasional beam of dark blue light from an official car or flashlight betrays a city tucked away in blackedout rooms. The black-out is far-reaching in its effect on daily life. Consequently, it is the hardest thing for the people to take. But they’re taking it like a sugar-coated pill because it’s in the prescription.

Tales “Exaggerated”

There are other things in the war prescription that are being taken just as readily: Rations on gas, shortages on certain food products and other goods, gas masks to carry wherever you go.

As evacuees reach the mainland, many tales are told about the frontier life we must lead now. Most of them are exaggerated. Some articles have covered our situation accurately. And while we mention it, magazines are one of our shortages, being as scarce here as ice cream on the Sahara—almost.

You might be surprised to know that we are not grumbling when we pay one cent for a slab of oleo in a cafeteria, five cents for a second slab of butter. Instead, we grin at

(Continued on Page 3)

WMC Alumnae Glee Club
Presented Program May 10

Sunday, May 10, the Western Michigan College Alumnae Glee Club presented a program in the new Western Theatre at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. The organization, consisting of Western women in and around Kalamazoo, has been holding weekly rehearsals under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Sage Snyder, Marian Working Bushouse, mezzo-soprano; Lois Eilers Field, harpist; Mildred Worting Ford, soprano; Beatrice Filion Van Der Roest, pianist, were the soloists.


SONS AND DAUGHTERS
of WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE!

UNCLE SAM IS CALLING

(Like one big family we, the people, of these United States of America WILL preserve the right to strive for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We can all make our strength register its influence by purchasing DEFENSE SAVINGS STAMPS.)

Cordially but urgently,
YOUR Alma Mater
WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Editor’s Note, Page 2
What Alumni Say about Defense Albums

"Cheerful service and a voluntary sharing of choice possessions must be emphasized in childhood," says one of Western's graduates commenting on the Defense Albums. Another alumnus, able to send a check for $18.75 without taking time to accumulate stamps says, "Kind favors extended to me while I was on the campus, plus the opportunity of selling myself to a superintendent upon graduation, have always stuck with me."

Another citation says, "My heart must be in it when I give. No amount of persuasion, cajoling, coercion, or other high-pressured tactics are at all necessary then." This same alumnus writes, "My stamp book is over half full."

Among suggested readings called to the attention of the editor in recent mail on the subject have been, "The Essay on Habit" by William James; "The Human Mind" by Curtis of Harvard; "Code of Modern Living" by R. Casper Harvey; "How to be Happy Though Human" by W. Beran Wolfe, and "The Rediscovery of Man" by Henry C. Link.

A fine time for a check-up on progress made with Defense Stamp booklets will be on Saturday, June 13. Come to the Alumni Luncheon if possible, and if not, a letter will be most welcome.

1942 Senior Class Programs and Commencement Activities

9:00 Tuesday, May 19—Senior Swing-Out
9:00 Tuesday May 26—Honors Assembly
9:00 Tuesday, June 2—Senior Class Day
3:00 Sunday, June 7—Baccalaureate Services, High School Auditorium
4:00 Sunday, June 7—Lawn Tea, Faculty Reception to Seniors and Their Guests
10:00 Saturday, June 13—Alumni Association Meeting
12:00 Saturday, June 13—Commencement Luncheon
4:00 Commencement Exercises (Out-of-doors arrangements planned in Baseball Grandstand)

Grand Rapids Alumnae Send Roster to Campus

Mrs. Connie Storm, corresponding secretary of the Gamma chapter, Alpha Beta Epsilon, Grand Rapids, sent an alphabetized roster of the Grand Rapids sorority to the Alumni Office recently. It includes residence address, telephone number and Grand Rapids school where employed.

President Sangren Designates An Alumnus to Represent WMC

President Sangren recently designated Elmer S. Wise- man, State Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. of Kentucky and a graduate of Western Michigan College in the class of 1928 to represent his Alma Mater on the occasion of the inauguration of President Donovan at the University of Kentucky on May 6. Recently W. Harold Anderson of Tulsa, Oklahoma represented Western Michigan College in a similar capacity on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The Honorable Henry B. Vandercook's Death Is Announced

As this issue of the Alumni Magazine goes to press, word comes from Beverly Hills, California announcing the death of Henry B. Vandercook. Mr. Vandercook is known to us as the "Father of Western," and the men's dormitory on campus is named in his honor.

(Editor's Note: This cover copy on pages 1, 2, 3, 4 is being used on DEFENSE STAMP ALBUMS by many colleges and universities and Western Michigan College is one of them.)

The proposal is that the alumni of WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE purchase United States Defense Savings Stamps thereby demonstrating faith in the freedom and security of the United States, and

Secondly, because we believe the mission of education to be of paramount importance if the peoples of the earth are to be intelligently tolerant, we bestow our trust and confidence in our Alma Mater by giving the stamps to the Alumni Loyalty Fund thereby making it possible for UNCLE SAM to use our money now and finally return it to WMC to be spent for education in ways of lasting peace.
Churchill's Article (Continued)

these petty hardships, believing that all sacrifices will help us win the war. True, we could use more butter, meats, oranges, candy bars, and flashlight batteries, but we get along until the ship comes in. But we DO have sugar, and even a Burbank couldn't grow a substitute for that in your back yard.

Still Paradise Isle

Natives say that Honolulu has changed considerably since the war began. And it has. Bomb shelters in the parks, front yards, basements; trenches in front of public buildings to protect one from flying fragments; barb wire on the beaches; camouflaged buildings; sailors living in rooms at the Royal Hawaiian hotel, where notables used to live for $15 a day and up. Of course, it's different, but Hawaii is still a pleasant place to be, war or no war.

One can't enjoy the freedom they had here before the blitz, but one can breathe the fresh, exhilarating air from the ocean; still bask (if you have the time) in the sun, and still find pleasure in a city, deprived of artificial pleasures, busy with defense work, and yet displaying many signs of a holiday city in Paradise Isles.

Leaping Water

(Founder's Note: Dr. John T. Frederick, Professor of English, Northwestern University, addressing a faculty dinner meeting recently at the Union Building, on the subject "Reading and War Times" said, "There is a growing demand for historical fiction now. Literature that is particularly American is much in vogue at present and it is resulting in a renewed appreciation and understanding of America by Americans." Dr. Frederick commented on Henry Allsberg's American Guide Books and their contribution to present trends.

Professor Louis Foley's article, "Leaping Water," which follows, has many Michigan references in it.)

Professor Louis Foley

"From his footprints flowed a river, Leaped into the light of morning, O'er the precipice plunging downward Gleamed like Ishkoodah, the comet." —H. W. Longfellow, Hiawatha

Of the many places which were named by early French pioneers, none in Michigan seems more conspicuous than the rapids in Saint Mary's River known as Sault Sainte Marie. Yet that name involves some curious linguistic development to which nowadays most people give never a thought. The term "Sault," however, is not unique; there is Long Sault on Rainy River in Ontario, and a village on the St. Lawrence, a few miles west of Montreal, is called Sault Saint Louis.

Centuries ago, the French word sant, meaning "a leap," came into English, and it continued in use for a long time. Naturally enough the combination as, which in French is equivalent to "o," became anglicized into the "aw" sound, and in fact the word was frequently spelled "sawt" in English.

During the Renaissance, when scholars were greatly enamored of the ancient tongues, it became the fashion to remodel the spelling of words to make them look more like their remote ancestors—real or supposed. But it does not appear to have been particularly intended that the pronunciation should thereby be changed at all. The "etymological letters" which were added to the customary spelling merely reminded one of the word's historical background, and so gave it a slightly more "classical" appearance. In a fair proportion of such cases, these ornamental additions have made no change in the sound, even to the present day.

Old English det, from French dette, was recast into "debt" to resemble Latin debitum; doue, from French douce, was written "doubt" in memory of Latin dubitare; the French word saumon was altered to "salmon" in imitation of Latin salmo. Yet in each of these examples the pedantic touch of remodeling remains literally a dead letter. In other cases, where the pronunciation was finally affected, the modified spelling required centuries to make itself felt. Perhaps three hundred years after faut, from French faute, had been touched up as "fault" to suggest Latin fallere, English poets found it a perfectly natural rime with words like ought or thought, and in some dialects—Scottish, for instance—such spurious l's

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Western Michigan College

Kalamazoo, Michigan

It will be converted immediately into a Defense Savings Bond, registered in the name of the Alumni Loyalty Fund, which will be redeemable at Twenty-five Dollars ten years from the date of your gift.

APRIL, 1942
seem never to have had the slightest influence upon actual speech.

Since for some reason saut or sawt appears to have dropped out of use in our language, it is hard it tell now what effect if any may have been produced by recasting it into "sault" in honor of Latin saltus. We may well suspect, however, that the majority of people paid no more attention to this irrelevant "I" than they did to the similar one in fault and various other words thus fashionably ornamented.

There was also another word "sault" in the older English. It was nothing but a corrupted form of assault, which had come from French assaut and had had its spelling tampered with in exactly the same way. Back of their adoption in English the words were of course related; to make an assault upon someone was literally to jump at him. The connection was probably not particularly clear, however, in our language.

Yet it is not quite accurate to think of this "classical" revamping of words as a peculiarly English thing. It would no doubt be nearer the truth to think of this process as itself a temporary French fashion which the English adopted as they have done with so many others before and since. Where it was a matter of the extra "etymological letters" were generally dropped in French, they remained in English, as they still do. You will look in vain for sault in any French dictionary. Only in American place-names do we now see a continuance of that artificial spelling which in France was comparatively soon outgrown.

There might be said to be three ways of treating French words adopted into English, and they are severally illustrated by place-names of this region. First there is the "natural" method of simply pronouncing them according to what their spelling would seem to indicate in ordinary English. This is what happened to the great majority of our words from French, the vast number that entered our language before 1500. It appears in Detroit, Saint Ignace, or Duluth.

Another way of doing is characteristic in general of the pronunciation of French words introduced into English within the last several centuries. It represents a more or less successful attempt to give a word its French sound, though usually with vowels less distinct and with a stress on one syllable so that the effect is sometimes considerably altered. This method is fairly well represented by Michigan, Charlevoix, Chicago, and Kankakee, which in French was spelled Quinquiqui; in Presque Ile the attempt succeeds so well that a French person would easily understand it as the synonym for peninsula.

A third method is probably nothing but an unintelligent or very careless attempt to apply the second. To describe it simply, we may say that it consists in pronouncing a word in some queer way that resembles neither French nor English. The result appears in the "grab'd" treatment of garage, or the unearthly distortion which so many department-store salesmen make out of linger. Among Middle-Western place-names, the process could hardly be better exemplified than in what seems now to have become the accepted pronunciation of "Sault" in Sault Sainte Marie. The last two words are of course merely pronounced as so much English. But the first, which commonly stands for the whole name, is not pronounced "sault" or "sawt" as it not only logically would be but actually was, as a naturalized English word. Nor does it have its French value of "so," but in some mysterious manner has been metamorphosed into "sow.

Once any such distortion falls into the hands of organized publicity, the case seems well-nigh hopeless. Attempts to correct it are about as fruitful as trying to sweep back the tide. Witness what advertising has done to popularize the crudity of "aluminum" for alumnium, or "naptha" for naptha, or the ridiculous "catsup" for ketchup. Similarly such agencies as railroads and steamship lines have thoroughly inculcated the curious name "Soo," which the spelling of Sault could not reasonably stand for in any known language.

To be sure, from a historical point of view, this is phonetically the same thing that happened to many Anglo-Saxon words about the fifteenth century. Do and to, for instance, should have continued to rhyme with go. Good, book, goose, foot, and other words in "oo" originally had the sound of long "o," and the letter was doubly merely as a means of marking that very sound.

Apparently our race has long held a free-and-easy attitude toward pronunciation, and nowhere does it show more clearly than in geography. Certainly this is something well established in the English tradition, which we in America fall far short of equaling in that respect. An American traveling in England will often fail to guess the "real" name of a town from the irrelevant detail of its mere spelling. There is for example the testimony of a tourist who reported that Marjorie banks was pronounced "Chumly," and Cholmondeley was "Marchbanks." Frankly, we are inclined to suspect that this account was a little exaggerated. We may believe, however, that if our great Michigan waterfall had been in the British Isles, it might now be called something like "S-snt-Mry."

TO THE FUTURE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

This album, filled with United States Defense Stamps, is the gift of

of the Class of

and represents his faith in the values taught by Western Michigan College and his devotion to the permanence of democratic institutions.

Carl R. Cooper

Alumni Secretary

Western Michigan College

No. ........................................

WMC ALUMNI MAGAZINE