Edison Plunkett Awarded Combat Infantry Badge

Pfc. Edison Plunkett, of 118 East Road, Torrance, has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for participation with the 90th Infantry Division in the German campaign.

Plunkett, whose wife, Ruth Plunkett, resides here, is a rifleman.

The reality and individuality of man are good and God-made, and they are here to be seen and demonstrated; it is only the evil belief that renders them obscure.

— Mary Baker Eddy.

Alvarez Given Bronze Star Medal by Army

Andres F. Alvarez, Jr., technician, grade four, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for participation in the Battle of the Ardennes Forest, campaign of Germany, according to word received from the European Theatre of Operations.

Sgt. Alvarez is a trouble crew chief and field lineman.

His wife, Catherine Alvarez, resides at 27 203rd st.

The interests of childhood and youth are the interests of mankind.

— James.

Allen Sees Plant Which Aided in Saving His Life

Jean A. Allen, S-1/c, U.S.N., grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Bush, 1303 Cota ave., visited the Hendy plant in Torrance, recently. Bush is employed at the plant, and Allen said that he wanted to see the factory that built the small submersible pumps, one of which saved his life and the lives of those on his ship, recently.

While on board the ship, it ran into two mines in Leyte Gulf in the Philippine waters.

Two huge holes were ripped in the hull by the mines. The ship listed dangerously; two watertight compartments and one engine room barely kept the deck awash. Any ship with two such holes should have sunk—but several other compartments in the hold were closed off—even though full of water — and that's where the Hendy pump came in. The water was pumped out of these compartments — and the ship took on new life—the dangerous list was gone. The ship was still too badly crippled to move—so lay there at anchor—fair game for the Jap aircraft — which strafed and tried to bomb the ship almost daily. None of the bombs actually hit the ship—but many were too close for comfort.

Finally one of the sea-going drydocks was brought to the scene together with one of the repair ships. It wasn't long before emergency repairs were effected—so that the USS Neversink could be towed home.

During his months of overseas duty Seaman Allen has seen action in Saipan, Guam, Palau, Ulithe, Yap and the Philippines. His job was with reconnaissance of the various islands to be invaded. He had been to Leyte and Samar three days before D-Day. He tells us, "You sneak in, look over the situation and beat it! And, brother, I mean 'SCRAM!'"

A brother, who is an Ensign in the Navy Intelligence Division, is also overseas. The two brothers have met overseas in three different places—the Manus Islands, Philippine Islands, and in Hollandia, New Guinea.

Many times Jean thought of his grand-dad and his fellow Iron Men of Hendy that turn out those fine pumps that saved his ship, his life and the lives of his shipmates.

Allen to Build Structure for New Cafe Here

Herbert C. Allen, local restaurant man, has been awarded WPB priorities to build a new building here to house a cafe.

The new structure will be located at 1413 Cravens ave., and will be of brick construction. It will represent an investment of nearly $10,000, being 30 by 70 feet in size.

Shortage of eating places in Torrance, with its 50 war industries, was responsible for award of the priority.

The property on which Allen's new restaurant will be build recently was rezoned by the city from previous classification of residential.

Victory Gardens

Let there be no relaxation in your efforts toward home food production. As time passes, the program of stringent price limitation to the farmer is affecting the food supply. Great effort is being made to use food price as a means of preventing inflation. The latest is cucumbers — a minor item to be sure — but with present seasonal prices, less than cost of production in many cases, one of two things will happen — either cucumbers will disappear from the market or go on black market.

This price pressure, forcing development of black market, plus current difficulties facing commercial producers can well result in less food for you and me. Adequate insecticides are not available to control pests and diseases on farm crops. Aphids are developing in this kind of weather alarmingly and may eat your food for you.

So get busy and plant that Victory garden. If you don't know how or can use help in varieties, kinds, irrigation, fertilization, pest control — write your Agricultural Extension Service 808 N. Spring st., Los Angeles 12, for special Victory garden circulars on these subjects.

To stretch your limited supply of red points, how about a half dozen chickens and a couple rabbits in the backyard. From the same address you can obtain literature covering housing, feeding, and care of the backyard, "Hennery and Rabbitry."

It's Irrigation Time

Shallow-rooted vegetable crops will now be in need of irrigation. Rainwater supplies will have been used. Let's discusss some tricks of irrigation.

First, let's hope you made those irrigation furrows level from one end to the other. Even wetting of beds is important.

Find out how long the water needs to be in a furrow in your garden soil to wet the ground to different depths. Learn how fast the water will soak sideways from the furrow and also how far. This information is necessary in order that you properly time the application of irrigation water. How to do it?

Irrigate a furrow in an unplanted spot. Let the water run for an hour on part of it, maybe half an hour in another part, and two hours in a third part. After two or three days, during which the water will have settled and moved as far as it will go, dig a trench from the middle of the furrow to one side. You will be able to see the boundary between fully wet soil and the dry soil.

In general, you'll find the wetted area will be heart-shaped, with the point directly under the furrow. For every soil there is a definite limit to sideways wetting. To reach this maximum may take 24 hours, longer than you'll need. In sandy soils this maximum will be 12 to 15 inches, in sandy loams 18 to 24, in heavy loams perhaps as much as 27 inches, and in adobes 30 to 36 inches.

Downward Penetration

While the lateral spread is increasing, water is going downward. By the time it has spread to its maximum, soil will be wet at least 4 to 5 feet deep under the furrow, perhaps deeper on most soils.

Save money on water. Excessive applications leach out fertilizer and plant nutrients. Water that once goes beyond the reach of the root never comes back. It's wasted.

Frequency of Irrigation

You have to learn this for your own soil and irrigate differently for different crops. There is no sense applying water until the ground has somewhat dried to the depth the plant roots go. Rate of drying will depend on the amount of water held in the soil and on the rate of extraction. In turn, this latter will depend upon the size of the plant and how hot and dry the atmosphere is. With a given soil and a given plant the rate of water use can vary 1200 per cent between a cool, humid, cloudy day and a hot, windy, dry day.

Some garden crops are deep rooted, some only go to moderate depths, and others are shallow rooted. Cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onion, Irish potatoes, radishes, broccoli, and sweet corn only use water from about two feet deep. They need irrigations frequently enough to keep that depth of soil moist. Beans, beets, carrots, chard, eggplant, peppers, squash, turnips, peas, and cucumbers will root four feet deep in a medium loam soil; while asparagus, cantaloupe, parsnips, winter squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelon will go down at least six feet. So irrigate according to rooting depths and know the behavior of water in your soil.

Vegetables

If you gardened last year you learned something about the individual peculiarities of your family — what they like and what they don't like — what they'll eat and what they will not eat, and how much. No sense in growing spinach if no one will eat it. Make out your list of plants for the 1945 garden on the basis of past experience. Only plant those things which you know the family will like and will eat, and, therefore, will give you the reward for your labors.

If you haven't gardened before, discuss your plans with all family members present so that they can express their likes and dislikes at the time. Keep the number of vegetables down. It is better to have fewer kinds well grown and planted on the right schedule so as to maintain the supply than to have a wide variety, too much of everything, and miss the boat on repeat plantings.

It's surprising how little of some vegetables you will need and what a short footage of row will supply all you can possibly consume. The special "Victory Garden Guide" prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service of Los Angeles county for local conditions will tell you how many plants or feet of row of each kind of vegetable to plant for a family of four people. Send for your free copy—808 N. Spring st., Los Angeles 12.

The greatest works are done by the ones — The hundreds do not often do much — the companies never; it is the units — the single individuals, that are the power and the might.

— Spurgeon.

Too much cannot be done towards guarding and guiding well the germinating and inclining thought of childhood.

— Mary Baker Eddy.