

Local families of servicemen in Pacific worried, waited

Repercussions in Bloomington from the war situation today were manifest on a wide scale with residents going about business as usual but with a close attention to rapid developments on the international scene. — **Bloomington Telephone, Dec. 8, 1941.**

There was, of course, no panic in the streets of Bloomington, or the roads of Monroe County for that matter, when local citizens got the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In some homes, however, there was genuine fear because of absent family members in the new "war zone."

Revealed the *Telephone*, on Dec. 8, "Parents and brothers, sisters and friends of Bloomington young men who are on duty with the U.S. armed forces in the Pacific war zone Sunday and today remained in fearful suspense as they awaited of-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

ficial reports from the government on the identity of those killed by Japanese bombs which were rained on the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands Sunday."

Among those who were known to be in the areas of attack were Capt. William Summers, stationed near Honolulu; Joseph Boyd Rush, U.S. Signal Corps at Pearl Harbor; Darrell Houchin (former *Telephone* employee), working for a newspaper at Honolulu; James Hyndman, military police duty in the Hawaiian Islands; Carl R. Gross, stationed at

Hickam Field with the Air Corps; Bill Douglas, army private enroute to the Pacific theater; and Dr. And Mrs. R.A. Weeks, hospital corps at Schofield Barracks near Honolulu.

Also Hubert Waldron, gunner in the Air Corps stationed at Wheeler Field, Hawaii; John Bruce, stationed at Hickam Field, Oahu Island; Rufus Weinland, Army quartermaster attached to Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu; Robert A. Mitchell, member of the 77th Bombing Squadron of the Air Corps on Oahu Island; Robert Weatherwax, at the University of Honolulu; Frank Brummett, Army radio operator in Hawaii; Verlin Miller, U.S. Army on duty in the Pacific; Bob Adams and Dale Dwyer, in the Navy in the Pacific.

In the same article, the *Telephone* also revealed a local tie to the devastation in Hawaii. "Hickam Field, the U.S. air base near Honolulu

bombed Sunday, was named for the Hickam family of Spencer, Ind., a member of which family was killed in an air crash not far from the field."

Curiously enough, because of orders from Washington, D.C., the Monroe County airport had suddenly been shut down. But on Dec. 9, the newspaper reported that it was soon to re-open. "Inspector O'Connell, district flight supervisor, will be here Wednesday or Thursday to check birth certificates of the 20 C.P.T. students, and instructing personnel as well, and following this, it is believed that the Civilian Pilot Training program will be continued.

Major Joseph E. More, head of the Army Aviation Cadet examining board, told a *Telephone* reporter that "scores" of young men had reported to the board to apply. In fact,

"... a large crowd of applicants had been waiting in front of the board headquarters (in the Indiana Memorial Union Building) for an hour when the doors were opened at 8 a.m.

Though Congress had already taken note of hostilities existing between the U.S. and Japan, the habits of a local restaurant made it "official." The regular and long-standing *Telephone* column. Round-in' the Square, informed its readers, "Speaking of the present crisis, the Kelly 'coffee club' established loyal supreme as they officially declared war on Japan at 10:55 o'clock this morning."

On Dec. 10 the family of Carl Gross received a telegram which they happily shared with the local families of others stationed in Hawaii. It said, tersely, "All safe; Do not worry."