

TO REPORT  
FIRE  
Dial 478-3100

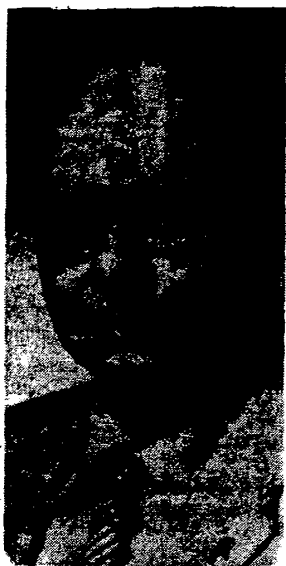
# ANDOVER NEWS

Police 478-3114  
Ambulance  
Dial 478-3100

VOL. 104, NO. 47 Andover, N. Y., Thursday, Nov. 23, 1967 Published Weekly by The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y. \$3.50 year, 10c copy

## Claire C. Backus

1894-1967



CLAIRE C. BACKUS

Claire Coleman Backus, 72, former editor and publisher of the "Andover News" and charter member of the Allegany County Draft Board, was pronounced dead on arrival Thursday night in a St. Petersburg, Fla., hospital. He was stricken in Pinellas Park, Fla., where he had been staying for the past several days.

Mr. Backus entered into partnership in 1916 with his father, J. Harvey Backus, operating the Andover weekly newspaper which has been in the family since 1899. The younger Mr. Backus purchased the business in December 1934, serving as editor and publisher until his retirement in 1961. He was listed in the 1959-60 edition of "Who's Who in Allegany County."

The newspaper was sold in 1961 to his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A. (Jeanne) Allen of Andover, who currently operate the business.

A native of Little Genesee, Mr. Backus was born Dec. 23, 1894, son of J. Harvey and Fannie V. Coleman Backus. He was graduated from Andover High School and attended Alfred University.

A veteran of World War I, he served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1918 to 1919, when he was honorably discharged. He was a past commander of Lynch-Burgett Post No. 397, American Legion, in which he had held membership for 49

years, and a member of Allegany County Voiture No. 1006, 40 et 8.

Mr. Backus had been a member of the county draft board since 1940. He had served as chairman of Local Board No. 71, Selective Service headquarters in Belmont, for the past several years.

He was a member of the 100% Lodge No. 786 of Andover, now disbanded, and a past district deputy of the organization. He was also a member of Andover Lodge No. 558, F&AM, and served for many years as secretary of the Valley Brook Cemetery Association. He attended the Andover Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his widow, Genevieve Loughhead Backus, and his daughter in Andover, he is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Laura Scozzari of Pinellas Park; a son, James H. of Alexandria, Va.; six grandchildren and a great-grandson, born today (Nov. 17); and an uncle, the Rev. Alfred H. Backus of Indianapolis, Ind.

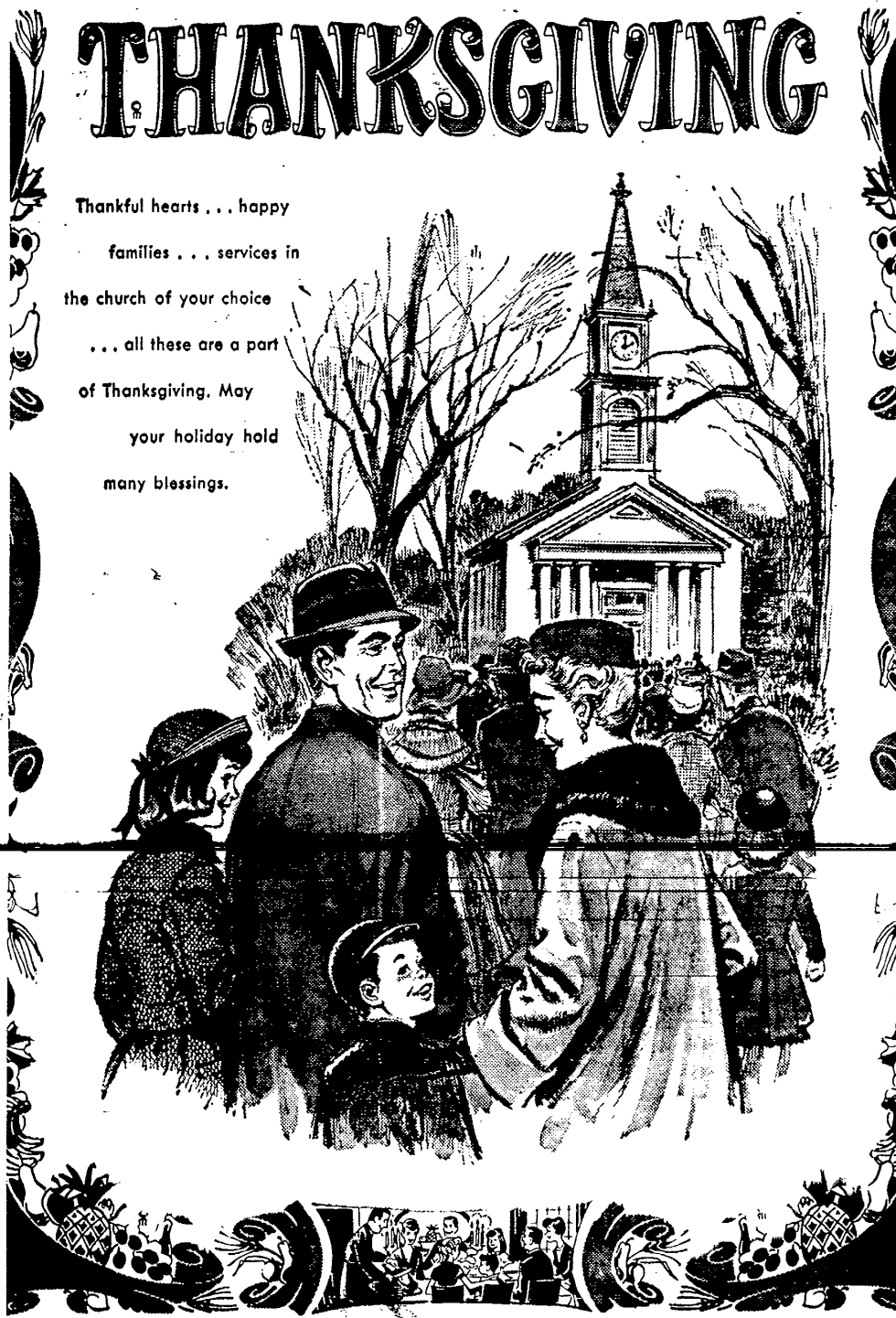
Masonic Services were conducted by Andover Lodge No. 558 F. & A. M., Sunday evening at the James B. Mulholland Funeral Home.

Funeral Services were held Monday afternoon at the Mulholland Funeral Home with Rev. Floyd Aldrich, pastor of the Andover Baptist Church, officiating.

Military Services were conducted by the Lynch-Burgett Post No. 397, American Legion at the graveside in Valley Brook Cemetery, Andover, N. Y.

## THANKSGIVING

Thankful hearts . . . happy  
families . . . services in  
the church of your choice  
. . . all these are a part  
of Thanksgiving. May  
your holiday hold  
many blessings.



### In Memoriam

The Andover News  
Will Be Closed  
Until November 30th

Anyone having News Items for the Issue of November 30th  
Please Dial: 478-4845 or 478-4215