

FREE

THE RATTLER

Rattlesnake Bomber Base

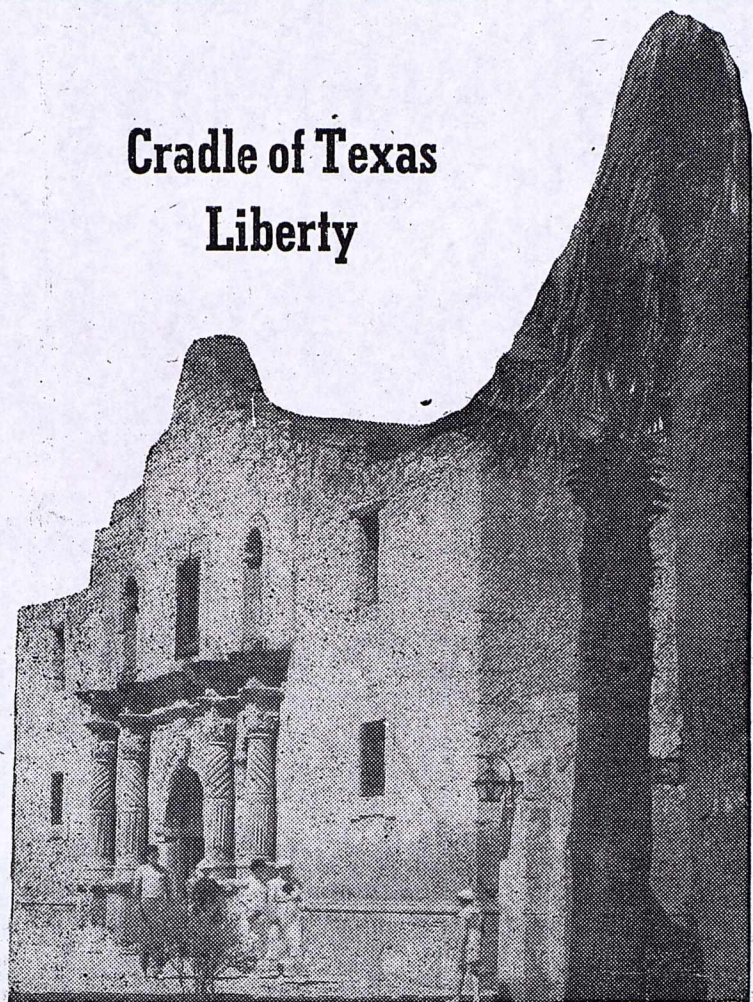
VOL. 1, NO. 34 PHOTO TEXAS DEC. 15, 1948

Rattler Strikes At Criticism Of Texas

Pages 6-10

WITH THIS ISSUE "THE RATTLER" INCREASES ITS CIRCULATION BY HALF AGAIN THE NUMBER OF COPIES PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED. READER DEMAND FORCED THE MOVE, TAXING AVAILABLE FACILITIES TO THE LIMIT. IT IS STILL NOT POSSIBLE FOR EVERY SOLDIER WHO WANTS ONE TO HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL COPY. PLEASE READ THE ONE YOU GET AND PASS IT ON. IF YOU WANT TO MAIL A COPY HOME, WAIT UNTIL SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO READ IT.

Cradle of Texas Liberty



In old San Antonio, most colorful city of Texas—where the two Americas blend—now one of the Nation's greatest military training centers, the Alamo is preserved as the "Cradle of Texas Liberty". In the old mission, hardly 200 men stood for 14 days against 4,000 besiegers under the "Napoleon of the West", Gen. Santa Anna. They all battled to the death, and their sacrifice united the scattered Texans, cementing their determination for independence. Standing quietly on a plaza in busy downtown, the Alamo receives thousands of visitors, including an annual patriotic pilgrimage by Texans.

Blocks Long Parade Hails New USO Club

Here is part of the parade of floats, cowboys, WACs and jeeps, marching Medics and MPs, and bands that welcomed the opening of the New Monahans USO Club. Leading here is the chuckwagon of the Odessa Gang. Accepted formally for Rattlesnake Bomber Base soldiers (see additional pictures on page 11), the Club now is in full daily operation. The first dance overflowed the large ballroom, a forecast of good times to come.



LEARN TO KILL OR BE KILLED

46th Wing Meet Here Discusses New Organization

A one-day conference of the 46th Wing Officers and commanding officers and their staffs of 46th Wing bases was held here Monday. Purpose of this meeting was further explanation of the Group-Base consolidation plan which is now in effect throughout the Second Air Force.

Opening remarks at the meeting were made by Brigadier General Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., commanding general of the 46th Wing. Presiding at the meeting was Lt. Col. James R. Luper, Chief of Staff of the 46th Wing.

Among those who were scheduled to address the gathering were Major Max Weaver who covered Officers' promotion policy within the Wing; military correspondence, Message Center procedure and administration of the Combat Crew Training School. Major Weaver is A-1 in the Wing.

Major Carl Runge addressed the meeting on the administration of Military Justice while Major James V. Bolton spoke on future Wing missions and Internal Security.

Others who were slated to address this gathering were Lt. Col. James W. Wilson, Lt. Col. Rudolph E. Flack and Capt. Joseph H. Van Sweringen.

Inspector Rates Base Mess Halls Good, Excellent

Mess Hall No. 1 was rated the best among the monthly standings for November 8 to December 6, with all other messes ranking either in the "excellent" or "good" class, according to Capt. James K. Taylor, Base Medical Inspector.

While no mess achieved the top class of "superior" that month, averages were satisfactorily high. Listed as "excellent" were Mess No. 1, Hospital, Bomb Range, Aviation Squadron, Mess No. 3, W-AC and Guard Squadron messes. Judged as "good" were the EM Club, Mess No. 4, PX Cafeteria, Mess No. 2, and Officers mess.

DOES BLOW, DOESN'T IT?

"Do you ever have cyclones up here?" a visitor in West Texas asked.

"No, sir-e-e," he was informed. "We did have one once but it ran into a sandstorm about three miles out of town and was ripped to pieces."

—Boyce House

Base Library Card Gives Deep Insight Into Reading Habits

Strange are the facts uncovered in the Base Library. Latest bit of news unearthed gives a deep insight into the reading habits of some of the men on the Base.

This is one example and should not be presumed to be typical.

A young second lieutenant, fresh out of school, arrived at the Base, went to the Library and being eager, etc., borrowed a book entitled "Air Navigator".

Four days later, he returned, having thoroughly digested "Air Navigator" and, ignoring the technical books entirely, reached for an opus called "Prodigal Parents".

He evidently enjoyed it and returned three days later, this time to walk back to his B. O. Q. with "Crime and Punishment".

Last recorded entry on his card, which came three days later, shows this once-ambitious airman, reading "Love and the Lieutenant".

Miss Shirley Ross, Movie Song-Bird, At Friday's Dance

Miss Shirley Ross, raven-haired song-bird of Paramount Pictures, will be the guest of honor at the Enlisted Men's Service Club dance Friday night. In addition to her appearance at the Service Club, Miss Ross will give with the vocals at the hospital Recreation Hall the same day.

During her career with Paramount, the eyes and ears of world, Miss Ross caroled one song which will go down in history. "Thanks for the Memory" was the title of the little ditty and each Tuesday night one Bob Hope gives out with the jokes and his weekly version of "Thanks for the Memory".

Miss Ross is making a nationwide tour of isolated bases and the Paramount chieftans in cooperation with the U. S. O. determined that Pyote comes under the heading of "isolated bases".

This Friday night is the date and Miss Ross promises to give forth in the best Hollywood manner.

EM WIVES TO MEET

The wives of the enlisted men will have their monthly business meeting at the Service Club at 5:15 p.m., Thursday. There will be no noon luncheon this week.

GARBAGE GIRLS

CHICAGO (CNS)—This city now employs women garbage collectors—equipped with deodorizing spray guns.

No Discharges For Useful Men With Disabilities

(CNS)—Every man in the job that suits him best—that's the gist of the order which will reassign to other duties many soldiers not physically suited for combat action.

By rescinding previous orders and by establishing a new one in Circular 293, the WD has provided the assignment of all men to positions where they can render the maximum amount of services to their country.

Some assignments, the WD found, require enlisted men of unusual strength, stamina and all around physical ability but even in combat units there are many positions which may be filled by men of lesser physical attainments. Many men who are below current physical standards for induction are nevertheless extremely valuable to the Army because of their training experience, ability and demonstrated capacity to give service in some special assignments. These will be retained in the service and reassigned to jobs within their capacities.

Although the term "limited service" is discontinued, this doesn't mean that men formerly classified as limited service will be discharged from the Army. Nobody will be discharged for physical disability if he can be placed in a position where his talents and experience make his work valuable to the Army.

However, soldiers will not be shipped overseas if they have any of the following defects:

Pronounced psychiatric disorders, hernia, class one dental deficiencies (with certain exceptions), enucleation of an eye, tropical diseases that may be aggravated if reinfected and other physical defects which place the men below the minimum physical standard for induction.

These men will stay behind when their outfits ship overseas but no one will be discharged for physical disability if he meets the standards for inductees for limited service currently described in MR 1-9.

GI IN TROPICS GETS CHRISTMAS SWEATER

PANAMA (CNS)—PFC Nick Elsensohn has been stationed in this tropical city for six months but he never told his parents about it. Recently he received a Christmas present from home—a nice wooly sweater.

"I wish they'd send the sweater to Lana Turner," commented Nick. "Me—I'd prefer an electric fan."

Island GIs Choose Life First, Yank Second In Poll

NEW YORK—Soldiers voted Yank a close second to Life Magazine in a recent survey conducted by Special Service in Hawaii.

Answering the question "What are your three favorite publications?", 28% of all servicemen interviewed placed Yank at the top of the list, with Life receiving only 4% more votes. The "big three" publications, as far as men in the Islands are concerned, are rated as follows: 32%, Life, 28%, Yank, 23%, Reader's Digest.

Other publications regarded as soldier-favorites were listed in this order: Time, fourth; Liberty, fifth. After these came Colliers, Saturday Evening Post, Esquire, Cosmopolitan. Scattered votes registered for various comic books and pulp detective and westerns.

Lutheran Service In Monahans Set Sunday, Dec. 19

A Lutheran Service will be conducted in the Presbyterian Church in Monahans December 19, 1943, at 3 p.m., especially for the benefit of the Lutheran men and women stationed at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

That announcement comes from Rev. O. H. Horn, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Mo. Synod), Big Spring, Texas. He adds:

"Holy Communion will be celebrated in connection with this service. This communion service is for all the Lutheran men and women who are members of the Synodical Conference. Please announce to the pastor before the service. Please bring your communion card so the pastor can sign it for you."

5 MARINES MEET 75 JAPS—ONE NIP GETS AWAY

BOUGAINVILLE (CNS) — Five American Marines and 75 Jap soldiers met at a river here and for two and a half hours fired lead at each other. When quiet was restored there were 74 dead Japs piled on one bank of the river and five very live Marines were still shooting from the other. The 75th Jap escaped somehow.

The five Marines are Sgt. Bernard Brown, 30, a former policeman of Saranac Lake, N. Y.; Cpl. Ozer Logan 22, of Remlapa, La.; Cpl. Lewis Trott 22, of Hyattsville Md.; PFC J. E. Barlo, 19, of Trenton, N. J.; and PFC Joseph Les of Roselle, N. J.

To Him, A Fiddle Is A Fiddle



PFC BERNARD TIPPLE, Concert Violinist

MEET YOUR BUDDIES:

Former Concert Meister Of Illinois Now Toots Peck-Horn In Base Band

A midwestern musician who doesn't mind calling it "fiddling" though he was rated concert meister in the Illinois Downstate symphony is the Rattlesnake Bomber Base Band's PFC Bernard Tipple.

A likeable guy, who readily admits that politics with the conductor has a lot to do with which orchestra and thus how much dough you get, Tipple plays alto ("peck-horn") in the band. He took up a brass instrument after getting into the service, for the Army doesn't march to violin music—though a rather attractive idea.

At six, Bernard began studying the piano, but his father was a violinist and an expert craftsman that made the delicate instruments for other musicians. His son switched to violin at ten, and studied with such masters as Sebald, Sanatini and Herbert Butler, to mention a few of the near dozen, in Chicago. He attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Ill. (his father's hometown.)

Playing beautifully the "Russian Gypsy style", Tipple had his own string ensemble on St. Louis' KMOX when he decided to enlist in the Navy. The Navy hesitated at a slight touch of color-blindness, and while he was having that treated so he would be accepted, the draft picked him up and plopped him in the Medical Corps—where he served for a year entertaining in an Alabama hospital center until he was transferred six months ago to the band here.

After traveling four seasons, 1934-38, with the Illinois Downstate Symphony, as concert meister—that's big chief of the violin section and assistant conductor—under Guy Woodard, he shifted to the St. Louis Symphony, where he played two seasons under Vladimir Goldsman. He also had a season with the Chicago Symphony under the late great Frederick Stock. Later his Russian Gypsies played over KMOX and for southside St. Louis' Black Forest. His reasons for preferring ensemble to symphony work are practical: more fun and more money.

Tipple also is a composer and arranger. He arranged the performance of Ferde Grofe's "On The Trail" you heard at the band's concert in the Service Club last week. His selection of some 30-odd original songs—including "Jungle Blues" and "Rain Dreams"—he is sending to song-detector Sigmund Speith for appraisal and possible publication. Also he has written a

Rattler Launches Drive To Grant Christmas Wish

In its own bashful manner The Rattler is now in the midst of organizing a campaign to provide each and every G. I. with the Christmas present he wants most. Requests have been pouring into the office lately, and the staff is expending every effort in order to fulfill all requests.

Anyone who has a particular Christmas present in mind and who wishes to secure the aid of The Rattler is invited to drop a note to the office, stating the request, and everything humanly possible will be done to see that your every wish is fulfilled.

To date most popular request is for a day off on Christmas. Through its various contacts, The Rattler is going to bat on this little item, and it is expected that December 22 issue will carry with it good news along this line.

Other requests, high on the popularity list, are furloughs, the end of the war, electric trains, beautiful girls, and a new set of uppers, the latter coming from the Gypsy 93rd's pin-up boy.

sonata and a concerto for violin.

He had as soon play Joe Venuti's "Wild Dog" as a classic concerto, and often refers to his father's products as fiddles. He has two old Italian instruments—one valued at \$3,000 and the other at \$5,000—but Pyote climate is not good for them so they stay home. He now uses two his father made.

Decatur, Ill., heard this now 30-year-old-violinist's first solo when he was 12, and he is still sold on a musician's future in the Midwest, (He has never so much as visited New York), and wants to go back to ensemble work after the war. He liked playing under Howard Hansen, Walter Damrosh, Gabrilovitch, Henry Hadley and others, but prefers his own organization.

A veteran at Army entertainment in previous stations, Tipple would like to organize a Russian Gypsy ensemble here, if he can find the personnel, and he would also like to do original songs for a local show. That would be a rare treat indeed for these parts.

AT THE THEATER

Weds. & Thurs.—"Old Acquaintance", with Bette Davis, Gig Young, Miriam Hopkins. Also, Paramount News.

Fri. & Sat.—"There's Something About A Soldier", with Douglas Drake, Evelyn Keyes. Also, Army and Navy Screen Magazine, Community Sing.

Sun. & Mon.—"Whistling In Brooklyn", with Red Skelton, Ann Rutherford, Rags Ragland. Also, Paramount News.

Tuesday—Double Feature: "The Falcon And The Co-eds", with Tom Conway, Jean Brooks, George Givot; "Smart Guy", with Rick Vallin, Wanda McKay.

SHOW TIME:

STARTS	ENDS
1:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
10:15 p.m.	12:15 a.m.

SOLDIERS: REQUEST BALLOTS FOR LOUISIANA PRIMARIES

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Primary elections for the State of Louisiana will be held Jan. 18 and Feb. 29. All service men whose voting residence is in Louisiana and who wish to vote should request absentee ballot application post cards from orderly rooms. If unavailable these ballots may be secured by request from the Secretary of State, Baton Rouge, La. Free mail privilege may be used. See War Department Circular No. 304 dated Nov. 22 for further details.

Monahans USO

EDWARD A. PALANGE

Wednesday—12:30 p.m., Service Men's Wives Club luncheon; 8 p.m., movie in recreation room, "The Spoilers"; 9 p.m. play, "Everything Happens To Us".

Thursday—8 p.m., Discussion group in quiet room, Clifton Hodges—current events; 8 p.m., amateur night in recreation room.

Friday—8 p.m., Game night in recreation room; 8:25 p.m., bus leaves for post dance; quiet room, interpretive reading of poetry.

Saturday—8-12 p.m., Dance, recreation room, Base Dance Band; refreshments.

Sunday—10:30 till 12 noon, coffee and donuts. Sunday papers; 9 p.m., carol singing around Christmas tree. Junior hostesses to help with Christmas shopping and card addressing.

Monday—8:30 p.m., concentration bingo, recreation room. 9 p.m., quiet room, classical program.

Tuesday—Snow shuffle, informal. Film recording—juke box.

Come in and have your Christmas packages wrapped!

WEST VIRGINIA GIs GET TRIBUTE BOOKLET

Conservation Commission of West Virginia has sent five copies of its December bulletin—this issue dedicated to West Virginians in the armed forces—to every camp in the continental United States.

The copies here are filed in The Rattler Office (Publicity, Headquarters), where that state's native sons are welcome to look the booklets over.

EDITORIAL:

Soldiers Do Think

Drew Middleton, writing in New York Times Magazine of his experience in North Africa, asserts:

"Soldiers do not yet realize the great part they can play in history. Their allies expect them to play the leading role in the postwar world, although at present our own apathy and, at times, downright ignorance of the rest of the world are not encouraging."

A cable from Frank Gervasi in Italy, published in Collier's, is particularly uncomplimentary regarding the American soldier's grasp of current issues. Americans fight well, but only to get it over with and go home; they have far less understanding than the British, for instance, of why the war is being fought and what kind of peace should be established and how to do it.

To the extent those gentlemen interpret the American soldier-mind accurately, it is a sad situation. However, the reflection is on our nation as a whole, for the armed forces contain all elements of our society—from Ph.D. to stumblebum—and in rather exact proportions as found in the total population. The military cross-section, in fact, is on a little higher level than the nation's, for the lowest mental elements were rejected as unfit for service.

Among facts overlooked by those reporters is that the average soldier is now too busy, even the static personnel in training camps, to read as extensively as previously. The Army succeeds in filling a soldier's day fully. Furthermore, many scholarly civilians on becoming soldiers enjoyed a relief from former taxing mental pursuits, to which they will return after the war, benefitted by human contacts and other non-book learning generally.

Here at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base is not the complete indifference that the magazine writers claimed to observe. Special Service activities, including a growing and used library; Intelligence's war rooms, situation maps, and the like; the base newspaper, daily war bulletin, and individual purchasing of reading matter show a keen—if perhaps not a large majority—interest in what is going on and what may be expected of victory in the field.

Of course it can hardly be argued that a satisfactory percentage of soldiers have an effective working knowledge of economics, politics, democratic philosophy, international relations, kinetic history and so on. Nor have the American people generally. For one thing, our educational system must yet catch up with the apparent national shift from isolationist to international thinking; consider the inadequacy of language teaching throughout the system.

Understandably soldiers in mud, fire and strange environs want to get it over with and come home. But it is difficult to believe that once home they will want to bury their heads in the covers and let the rest of the world go to hell, to ignore the responsibility this country must take in world affairs if future wars are to be minimized if not prevented.

THE RATTLER

Published Each Wednesday at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base
NINETEENTH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL
Pyote, Texas

COLONEL LOUIE P. TURNER
Station Commandant

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The Rattler receives Camp Newspaper Service material.

The Wolf

by Sansone

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"Your new orderly, Sir. His CO says he—er—needs overseas duty."

THOUGHTS OF OTHERS

Begged, Borrowed Or Stolen

The important thing in a soldier's life, outside the physical essentials is comradeship. It is something that is in many ways new to him. In the old days Americans pulled together to break open the new continent. They were individuals, but they often found it necessary to submerge themselves for the common good, or else they perished by the wayside.

This process changed as an established pattern was formed and each fitted himself one way or another into it. A man came to live pretty much to himself. He worked intimately with others in office or factory, but when the day was over he went home and forgot about them. His friends might be very close, but ordinarily he had no real opportunity to test them under pressure.

When men step out of their footholds of civilian life into the Armed Forces they are on unfamiliar and slippery ground and they must reach out to one another for help. There is constant pressure, starting at the induction center and intensifying through training to the battlefield and into the hospitals and the prison camps.

The spirit of cooperation is seen in small things . . . The soldier readily grants any sensible favor asked by another, whether he is a friend or not even an acquaintance . . . There may have been

some animosity between the branches of the service in peacetime, probably to create an occasional diversion, but nowadays none is apparent . . .

It is possible to see newcomers change from day to day. The supercilious learn to respect others whom, owing to external appearances, they had at first put down for ignoramuses. A few do not, and in the end that is their misfortune.

Moral determination may have already been present in men when they entered the Army, and the greater fitness of body and knowledge of arms gained in training are important; but it is this comradeship, or esprit de corps—call it whatever you want—that has more than anything else to do with making the civilian over into a soldier.

It is the grasping of hands for the long, hard, and dreary effort. When invading forces of the United States lands on foreign shores, or a great battle is joined, a quick tenseness sweeps through the whole Army, and there is a strong desire to rush to the side of those in danger . . .

But the binding of the nation closer together by common agony is not enough. The experience will have to be translated into a feeling for the nation's future . . .

PVT. DALE KRAMER,
Harper's Magazine

THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



We are living in a time of change and uncertainty. We have seen empires fall and ways of living change. We have seen a somewhat peaceful world thrown into a seething mass of hatred and war. We are not certain from one day to the next as to what the morrow will bring. Because of this existing condition, many are pessimistic. The picture may be dark but, like a cloud, it has a bright side.

In this uncertain world there are some certainties and it does us good to occasionally think of those things. God is certain. In all of life's change He remains unchanged. It is not that we have found His ways unreliable, we have found them difficult and thrown them aside and refused to build our lives on his principles. He is still the same God yearning for His children to come to Him.

The Bible is certain. This old Book which unfolds the experiences of people long past still speaks to those who read its pages. It has a certain message for you if you will read it and will point to you the way of life.

Truth is certain. The quest of life should be for truth. Scientists are always thorough in their search for truth in the realm of science. If our search in the realm of the spiritual were as thorough, we would find those truths which would strengthen us. We would discover that in this uncertain world the truths about God are certain.

Love is certain. Here is an attribute which cannot be defined but can be recognized in action. We see it at work among our parents and friends. The love of God is as certain as is that of our loved ones. He does love us and nothing shall take that love from us.

The people's need of God is certain. Many try to live without Him. But without Him "we can do nothing." In this uncertain world we all need the certainty of God. It may be yours if you will accept His ways. He knows your need and will not cast you aside.

—Chaplain James T. Duvall

OF ALL THINGS!

BOSTON (CNS)—The average girl here carries from 40 to 50 articles in her handbag according to a recent survey. Among the items discovered in several bags were a defense map of America, pamphlets of the Quantitative Determination of Euphoria, a peanut butter sandwich and a Stilson wrench.

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday—0900, Aviation Squadron Service; 0900, 19th Group Service, 1030, Chapel Service; 1930, Chapel Service.

Wednesday—1930, Service Men's Christian League.

Thursday—1900, Chapel Chorus Rehearsal.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses—0600; 0800; and 1615.

Confessions—Saturday, 1500 to 1730; 1900 to 2100; Sunday, before the Masses.

Weekday Masses—1830, daily except Thursday.

Communion—1700 daily.

Hospital Mass—Thursday at 1430, in Red Cross auditorium.

Evening Devotions — Tuesday, 1930, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Friday, 2100, Novena to the Sacred Heart.

Study Club—Monday, 1930.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Thursday—2000, Base Chapel Services, Mrs. Mabel New Homes.

JEWISH SERVICES

Friday—1900, Base Chapel.

G. I. Q.

By Camp Newspaper Service

1. A general increase in arms production in October was highlighted by an all-time record in the manufacture of—

A—Planes B—Tanks

2. In the fighting on Bougainville island, U. S. Marines have had trouble locating Japs who hide in the thick underbrush to snipe and knife. To detect them the Marines have started using—

A—Portable Radar B—Dogs

3. A French ship which recently returned to the Mediterranean for action after it had been refitted in the Brooklyn Navy Yard is the—

A—Normandie B—Richelieu

Answers: 1-A; 2-B; 3-B.

SOLDIER SWITCHES SWEETIE; SNAFU SHOPPERS' SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS)—Regina Sherwood of the soldier's shopping bureau, National Catholic Community Service, received this letter from a soldier stationed overseas: "Dear Miss Sherwood, I am enclosing \$10 for a gold compact. Could you please have it inscribed "To Mary Jane with Love?"

A few days later Miss Sherwood received another note. "Dear Miss Sherwood," this one said. "Will you change that inscription from Mary Jane to Fifi?"



Q. Is there any limit to the number of letters a soldier may receive from his family while he is stationed overseas?

A. No, there is no limit to the number of letters which may be sent to a serviceman. However, the Government has asked the correspondents of soldiers to use V-mail whenever possible because it takes up so much less cargo space than ordinary letters.

Q. I am a warrant officer in the Coast Guard. Is my wife eligible to join the SPARS?

A. Yes. The qualifications for service with the SPARS have recently been relaxed so that women whose husbands are serving in the Coast Guard as enlisted men or warrant officers now are eligible to join.

5 DOGS HONORED

STURBRIDGE, MASS. (CNS)—This town's honor roll of men and women in the service also bears the names of five dogs—members of the Wags.

CHARM WINS HUBBIES

NORTHAMPTON, MASS (CNS)—A "charmed room" at Smith College here has a waiting list a mile long. The last 12 occupants of the room have married. The latest occupants of the room to win husbands were two WAVES.

Hearts & Throbs

By 'Miss' Maplebottom

Dear Miss Maplebottom: My husband asked me if I wanted to make it three. I was delighted and said yes. He then brought home another woman when I thought he meant we were going to have a child. This woman does all the cooking and insists on frying eggs. My problem is shall I eat fried eggs when I hate them? T. J.

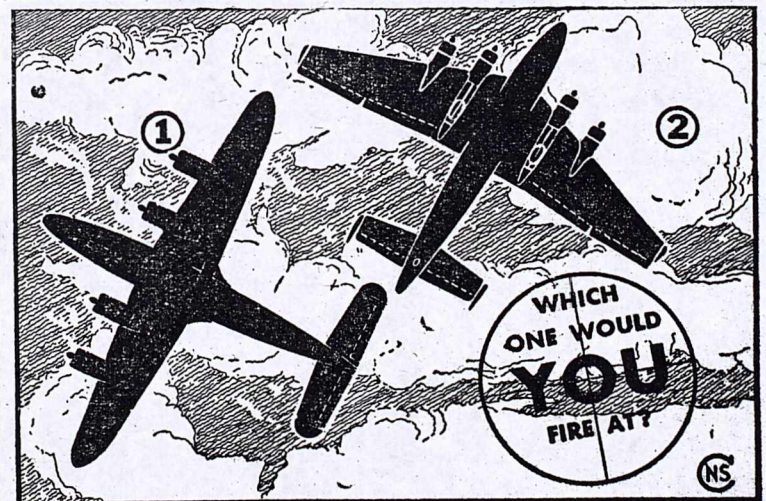
Dear T. J.: Eggs in any form are full of vitamins and bubbling over with health. Eat them for they'll do you good. Then obtain one hatchet and bash her skull in. Then after your trial is over, you can boil your own eggs.

Dear Miss Maplebottom: My wife travels continuously and whenever I complain about the poor meals I'm getting she says her travel is part of the war effort. Shall I divorce her or chain her to the stove? Joe T.

Dear Joe T.: Find a good restaurant and lawyer and all your problems will be solved. No ration points, no messy kitchens and no wife.

Dear Miss Maplebottom: Things are coming to a pretty pass in my love-life. Women just won't go near me. I haven't got B. O. and I don't eat onions. I dance like Astaire and make love like Boyer. Can you help me? Johnny from the 410th

Dear Johnnie: Forget that Boyer touch. Look what Errol Flynn is doing.



NOT AT NO. 1!—It's the U. S. C-69 "Constellation," a long-range transport plane, powered by four radial engines. Its fuselage is long and rounded. The low set wings are swept back on the leading edge and swept forward slightly on the trailing edge to pointed tips. The leading edge of the tailplane is swept back and the trailing edge tapers slightly to rounded tips. It has triple fins and rudders. Let it pass.

FIRE AT NO. 2! It's the Junkers Ju.90, a low-wing transport plane powered by four engines. This is one of the largest German land planes. Its fuselage is deep and slab-sided. The leading edges of the wings are swept back strongly to broad tips. Both edges of the tailplane are tapered slightly and it has twin fins and rudders. A bomber model, Ju. 89, is identical in shape with this plane. Get 'em.

Courtesy Dodd, Mead & Co., Aircraft Spotter by Lester Ott.

FACTS BACK A TEXAN'S PRIDE

And His Boasts Are Less Conceit Than A Peculiar Sense Of Humor

No One Part Of Texas Is 'Typical'.
But Best Or Worst Place On Earth

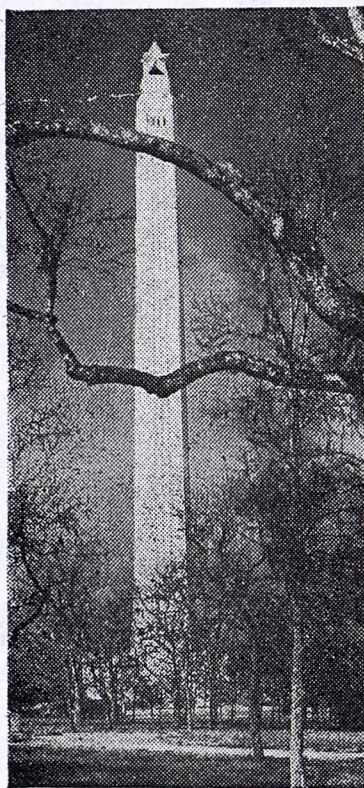
By SGT. TOMME CALL, Rattler Editor

In a venerable proverb four blind men each touch a part of an elephant's diverse anatomy and, in turn, exclaim: "It's like a snake . . . a fan . . . a tree trunk . . . a barrel."

Equally erroneous is the conclusion of the Pyote-stationed soldier that this Permian Basin—which geologists tell us some quarter billion years ago was a vast shallow sea—is typical Texas. For there is no typical Texas.

Texans usually do not care if you dislike their state provided you know it: "If you don't like the worst parts, you're a sissy; if you don't like the best parts, you're crazy." And Texas pride is such that they too revel in the opinion

Memorial



This concrete and limestone shaft, honoring the 800 Texans who defeated Santa Anna at San Jacinto to win Texas' independence, stands over 570 feet high. The top star is 35 feet high and equally wide. A five room museum is at the base. The monument is 22 miles from Houston, Texas' largest city (560,000 pop.) and biggest shipping and ship-building center—the nation's second port in deep sea tonnage.

that the worst aspects of the state have no equal anywhere in the world, just as the best are the best in the world.

And, don't be taken in by a Texan's boasting, for it is not pure conceit. It is a curiously persistent sense of humor peculiar to the people—the love of the tall tale, a tongue in the cheek exaggeration of the truth just for fun—as difficult for outsiders to appreciate as British humor in Punch. But Texans do not have to exaggerate the truth very much.

Take the half serious claim that 800 Texans acquired one-third the territory for the continental United States and made a neat profit in the bargain. The facts? Not too far from the claim:

At San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, Gen. Sam Houston's 800 ragged soldiers jumped some 1,300 better-equipped regulars of Gen. Santa Anna, the "Napoleon of the West", and by surprise whipped them in 18 minutes, taking less than half prisoner.

Termed world history's sixteenth most decisive conflict, making the boundary between two diverse New World civilizations, the victory more or less directly won nearly one-third of the land area of what is now the United States. After voting for annexation, Texans sold the Federal government a huge area including parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming for ten million bucks.

Texans are inordinately proud of their state's size—which is 260 times that of the smallest state, and five times that of the average state. It is larger than France or Spain, twice Italy's size, and one county (Brewster) is larger than Connecticut. And they are not size-happy only; their pride comes from knowledge of what they have done with the wilderness in an action-packed century since Moses and Stephen F. Austin

Editor's Note . . .

Irked into action by a steady flow of uninformed criticism of Texas—particularly by those who have seen only the utilitarian Rattlesnake Bomber Base and arid environs—The Rattler editor called upon fellow Texans to assist in a rebuttle. Various Texas Chambers of Commerce, historian Boyce House and Governor Coke Stevenson himself rallied to the cause. The Rattler thanks them.

This issue's purpose is not to emphasize hurtful sectionalism, but to attempt to encourage intelligent understanding among the soldiers of various states and the people who live in their training area. Tolerance and cooperation among Americans can stem only from such understanding, and the key in this case is the simple adage, "There's No Place Like Home." A Brooklynite may never like Texas, but he should understand why Texans do; a Texan may never like Brooklyn, but he should understand why Brooklynites do. This issue tells a little about why Texans like Texas.

brought in the first American settlers—and what they plan to do in the future. Many died in the half-dozen wars that have secured that future—including the current one.

Also it is the Texans' claim that within the state's borders can be found just about any type of terrain and climate your taste may desire. The smooth sand beaches and deep sea ports along the fish-full Gulf of Mexico merge into the fertile, flat coastal plains, skirt the private fenced empire of the King Ranch. Pine forests cover East Texas, where thousands of laborers produce billions of board feet of lumber annually. The lower Rio Grande Valley, studded with orange, lemon and grapefruit orchards and table-smooth vegetable fields, the Winter Garden, the Big Thicket (virtually impassable to man, spreading through 12 counties), the game-filled Hill Country, the central blacklands and prairies, the northern plains, and the far west mountains—including the virgin 700,000-acre wilderness of the Big Bend—may be mentioned as high points of the State's versatile character.

Wild orchids grow in Palmetto Bog of Gonzales County, and the Rio Grande's Santa Elena Canyon drops its perpendicular walls 1,600 feet. Temperatures range from 120 above to 23 below. While even the natives freeze stiff in gusty Amarillo, other Texans are swimming in Boca Chica Bay. While the Permian Basin gasps for water, floods pour down the rivers cutting the coastal plains.

A good Texan is a walking encyclopedia of statistics on his state's fabulous riches. He will tell you at the drop of a ten-gallon sombrero that 158 of the 254 coun-

ties produce a third of U. S. oil, with half the nation's oil reserves, and a third of its natural gas. Manufacturing brings in some 1½ billion bucks annually in normal times, more now. First in highway and railway mileage, Texas is gaining runner-up in airlines. A half million farms turn in a half billion dollar crop value, with cotton predominate—the country's largest—and the state also is out front in livestock production, a "Hereford Empire" now that the Longhorn has passed on.

A FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S SULPHUR IS IN THREE TEXAS COUNTIES, AND GOAL DEPOSITS COVERING THOUSANDS OF SQUARE MILES HAVE HARDLY BEEN TOUCHED BECAUSE OTHER FUEL IS SO CHEAP. TEXANS CLAIM THEIR LAND'S RESOURCES HAVE ONLY BEEN SCRATCHED, AND DISCOVERIES RESULTING FROM ITS MULTIBILLION DOLLAR WAR EFFORT—INCLUDING SUCH ENTERPRISES AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST TIN SMELTER—CREDIT THEIR BOAST.

Published estimates are that up to a million men or more now are training in some 100 Army and Navy installations here, and Texans are appalled at the thought that hundreds of thousands will go home eventually thinking that the area in which they were stationed sums up the state. Their one appeal:

"Come back after the war, welcome to look around; fish for tarpon at Corpus Christi, hunt deer in the Kerrville hills, strole down old San Antonio's dreamy river, dance in Dallas night clubs, pick grapefruit in

(Continued on Page 10)



By BOYCE HOUSE

Texas is a land of contrasts.

It has bluebonnets and cactus; piney woods and mesquite, tumultuous cities and El Capitan peak, brooding over an endless wilderness; peaceful little towns and happy farms.

Texas probably has more war industries than any other state and it will be our opportunity, when the war is over, to retain these industries, converting them to peace-time uses.

Carl Sandburg said of Texan Boyce House's writings: "A blend of the peculiar valor and swagger which is Texas." After a boyhood on the range and a stint as a newspaper editor, House began establishing a reputation as a raconteur of the Southwest, which is mostly Texas. He writes a column for 200 Texas weeklies, with over a million readers, and gives a Sunday radio network talk. He has written four books, Saturday Evening Post articles, poetry, and helped write the movie "Boom Town". "I Give You Texas", is a current best-seller. This column he contributed to the Rattler's Texas edition on request.

We have superb seaports along a great coastline and the ships of earth will throng the harbors when peace again reigns.

Texas has clear skies and great, open spaces; our State might well become the hub of the aviation network of the globe.

Texas is first in oil, in cattle, in cotton, in sheep, in goats, in natural gas, in sulphur, in highways and in railroads.

But more than natural resources or industries or landscapes, Texas has a glorious history. Texas is the only one of the 48 States who won her own independence and took her place as a republic among the nations of earth, sending and receiving ambassadors, creating her own navy, and maintained that proud position for 10 years; then voluntarily entered the Union and added to the Stars and Stripes the brightest star of all—the one that gleams for



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

AUSTIN, TEXAS

November 18, 1943

COKE STEVENSON
GOVERNOR

Sergeant Tomme C. Call
Editor, The Rattler
AAB, Pyote, Texas

Dear Sergeant:

It is an honest pleasure to be permitted to express greetings to the Army Air Force men training for the stern responsibilities of war. I am happy, too, to be privileged to thank you and the members of the staff of The Rattler for undertaking to bring to the men of that great bombardment training center some glimpses of Texas that they don't see from the ground in that sector of Texas.

Texas has been a proving ground for fighting men of our Nation since 1836. We were welcoming men from the other States then, and we have welcomed them on every occasion since when our Nation had need to condition men for the ordeals of war. The Flying Fortress crews that are being trained and conditioned out there go on to gallant exploits that will live forever in history.

We are happy in the knowledge that the blue air of Texas all over its confines every day is nurturing a new breed of eagles - eagles for victory. Not only our skies, but our land is being proving ground for war. In the timbered lands of East Texas, the lush coastal plains of South Texas, and the wooded hills of Central Texas, thousands of young men every day in the year are perfecting themselves in the many types of fighting that this war calls for. - Sailors, Marines, cavalrymen, artillerymen, infantrymen, tankbusters, and all the other specialists trained in the camps of Texas are on the offensive with their brothers of the air at the fighting fronts of this global war.

We in Texas are glad that we have been so favored as to be able to make this contribution to the Nation, and we hope, when victory has been won, that Texas will prove itself a worthy part of a better and stronger Nation.

Sincerely,

Coke Stevenson
Governor of Texas

Texas.

Texas is the only state with an Alamo, a Goliad, a San Jacinto; the memory of the heroism of Travis, Fannin, Bowie, Crockett and Houston will never fade. The most famous body of man-hunters in the world is the Texas Rangers. History records the deeds of Texans during the War between the States—Robert E. Lee exclaimed, "If I only had more Texans." And, by the way, the last battle of the Civil War was fought in Texas weeks after Appomattox—and, of course, the Texans won it!

But not only does Texas have a glorious history but her sons today are adding to that history every hour, for there are almost 50 Texas generals, a full dozen Texas admirals and half a million fighting sons of Texas in this war.

Such is Texas—land of a romantic past, of a splendid pres-

ent, of a brilliant future. To know the crash of her waves on the rugged coastline, the sweep of her winds across the prairies, the bloom of her dogwood in the Spring, the chant of the cotton-pickers in fields of white, the golden gush of an untamed oil well, the primeval, unspoiled grandeur of the Big Bend, the huge white moon that you can almost touch with your fingertips and, above all, the self-reliant, bronzed, sturdy-fibred, independent friendly folks who dwell within her vast borders—to know all these is to love Texas!

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Fifty soldiers who risked their lives in a deliberate exposure to malaria in New Guinea as part of a medical experiment have been awarded the Legion of Merit.

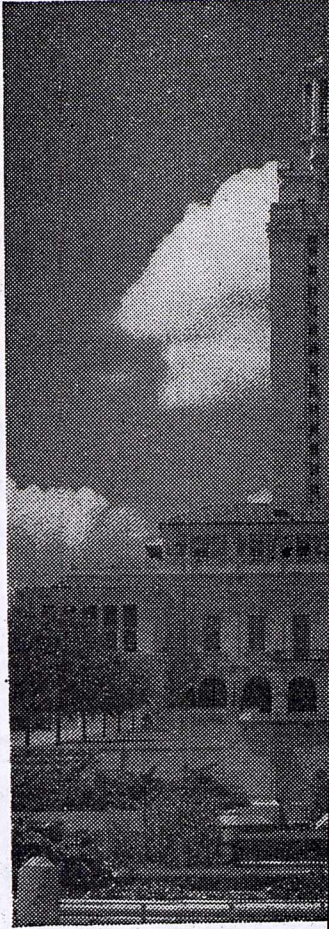
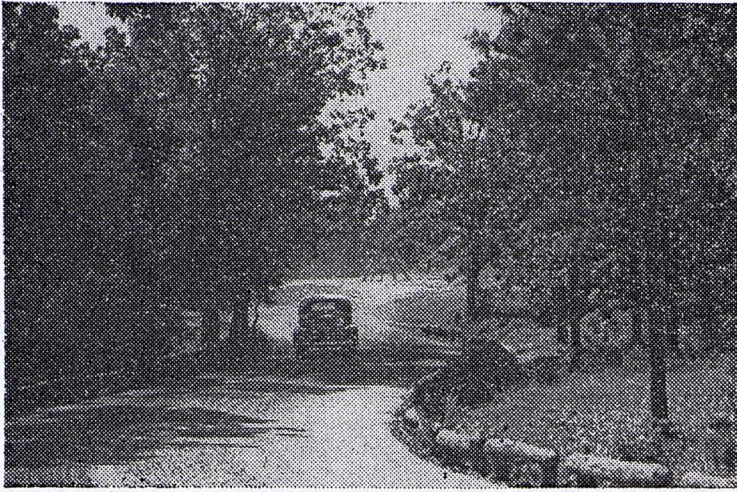
'Glory In Excelsis' Program Sunday In Base Chapel

The Chapel Chorus under the direction of Chaplain Edwin W. Norton will present the Christmas Cantata, "Glory in Excelsis" Sunday night before Christmas, December 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Base Chapel.

All Base personnel, military and civilian, are invited to hear the musical program. The cantata will be presented at the Presbyterian Church in Barstow December 23, at the Presbyterian Church in Monahans December 26.

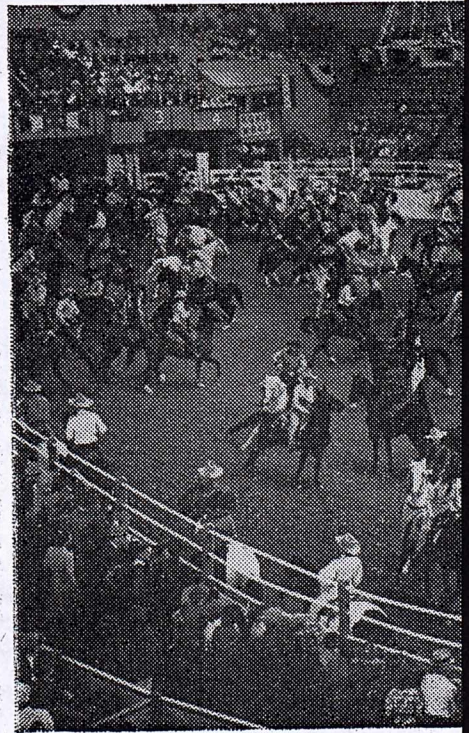
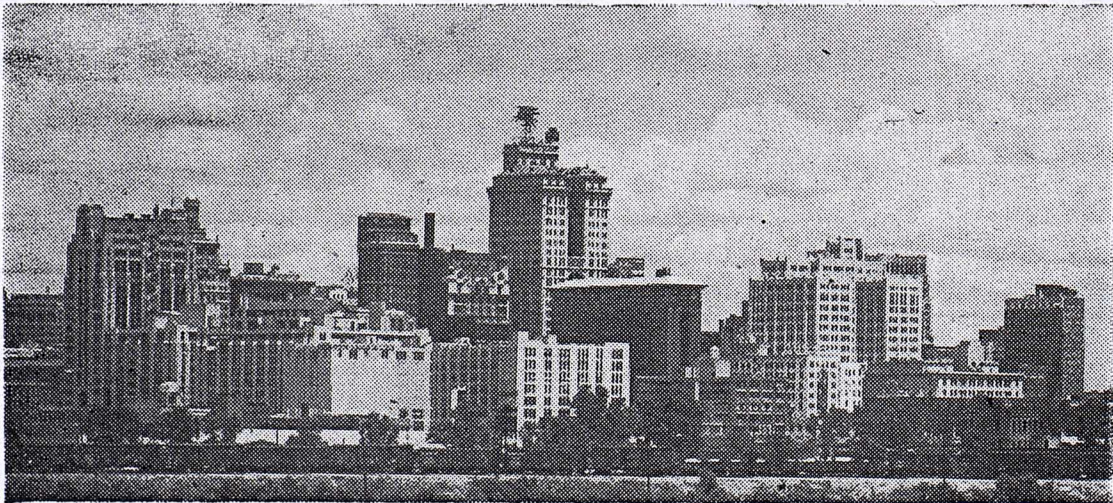
BIGTIME BARTER

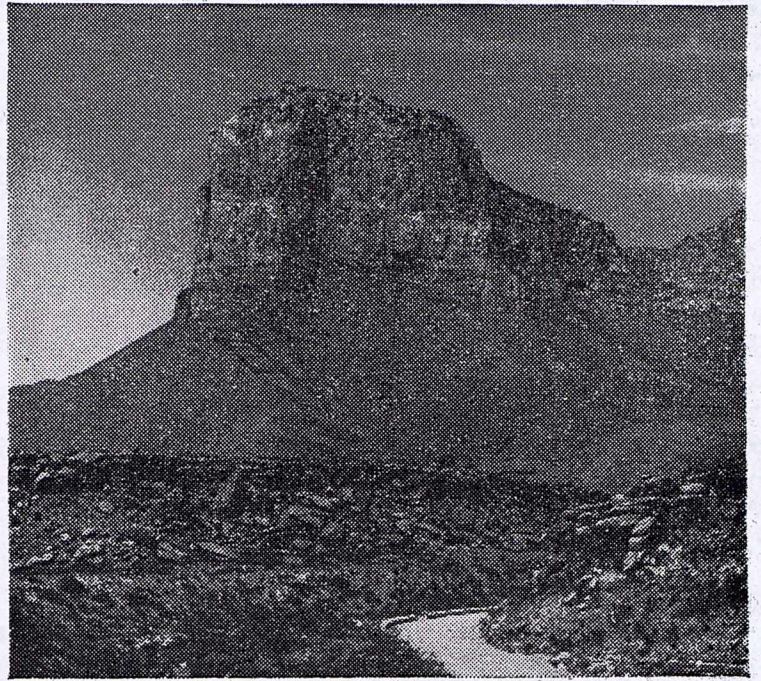
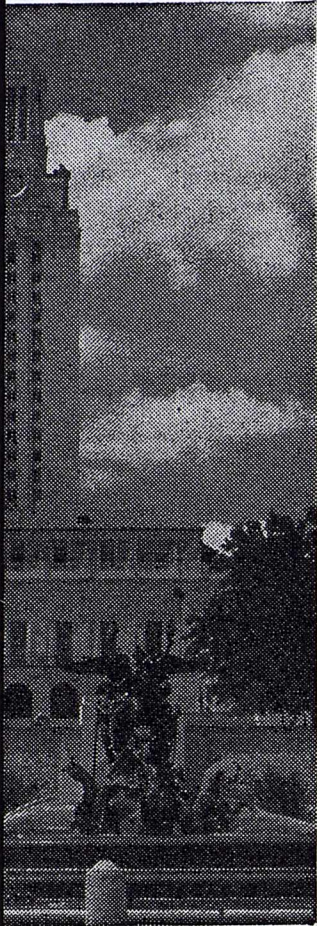
CHARLOTTE, N. C. (CNS)—This want ad ran in a newspaper here. "Will trade nylon hose for 12-gauge shotgun shells."



RATTLER
OFFERS

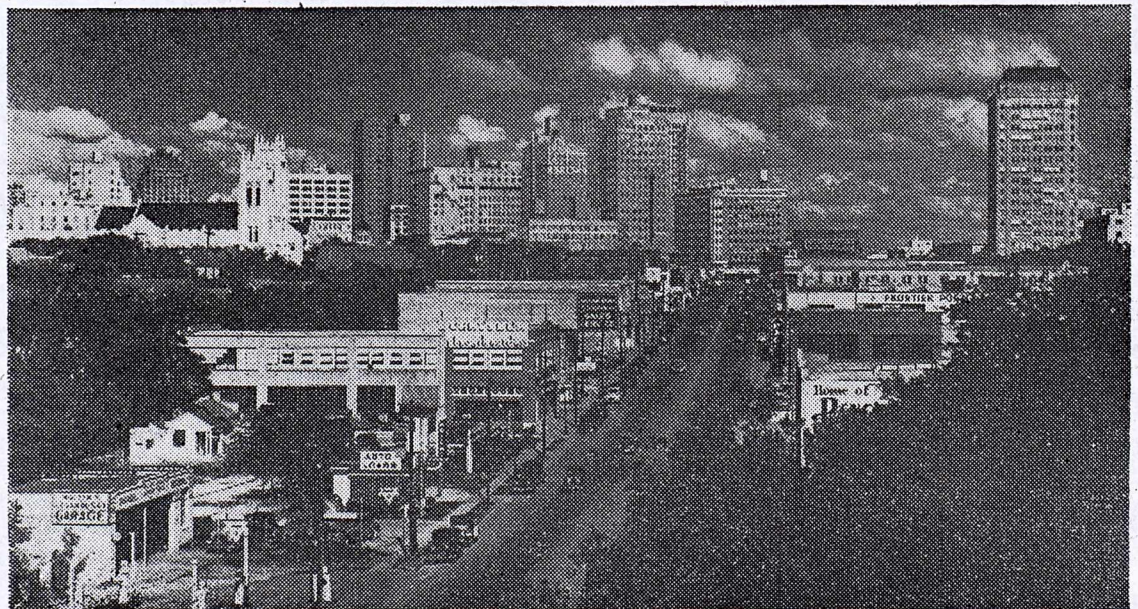
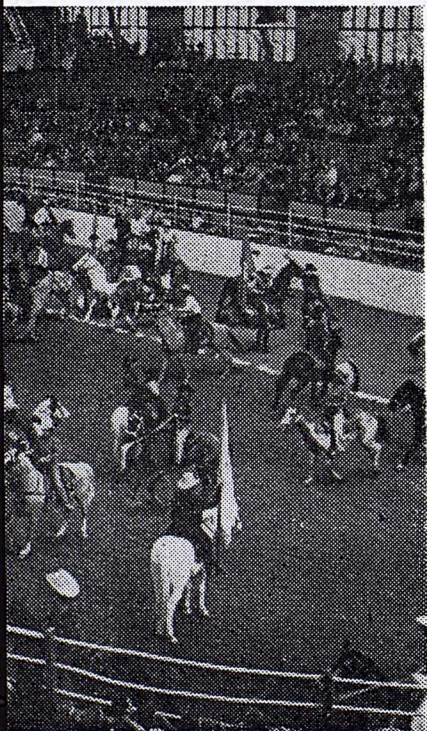
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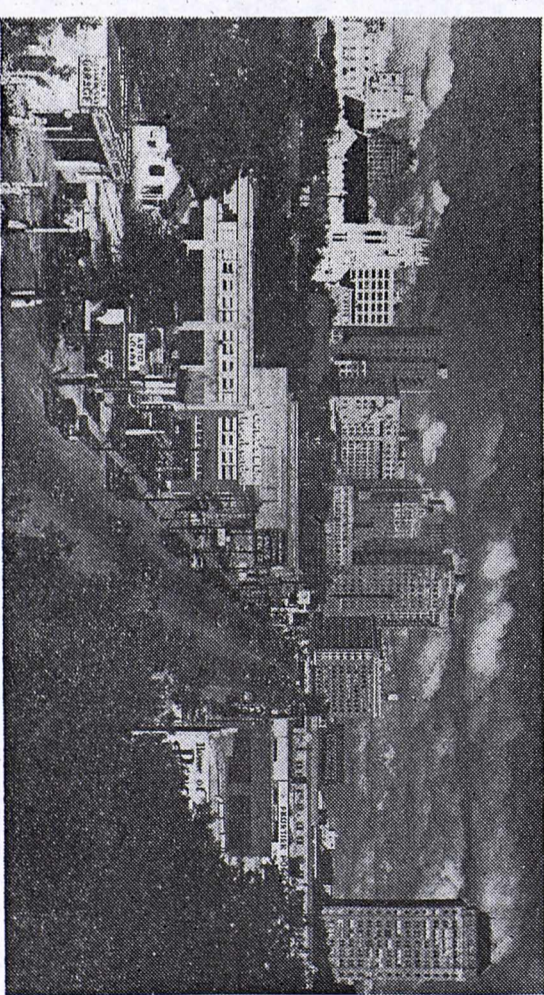
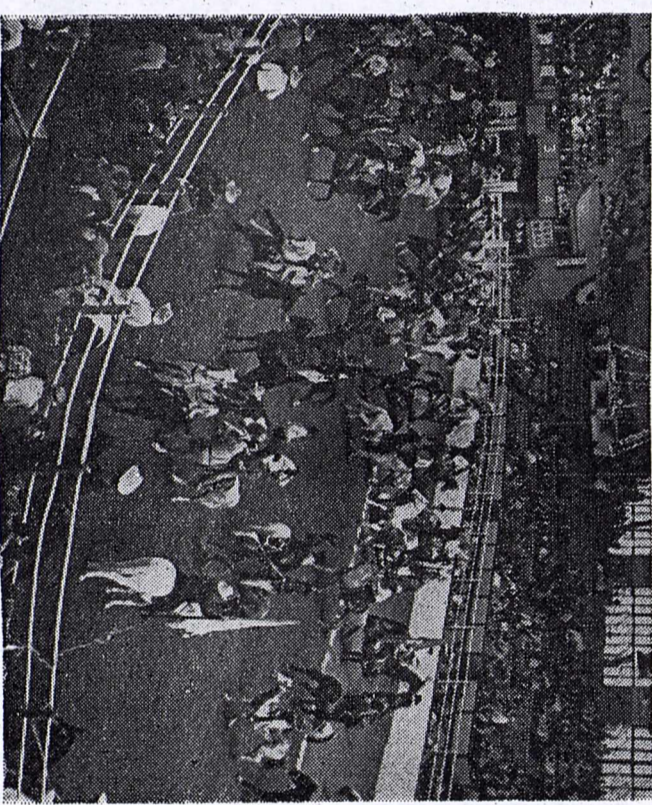
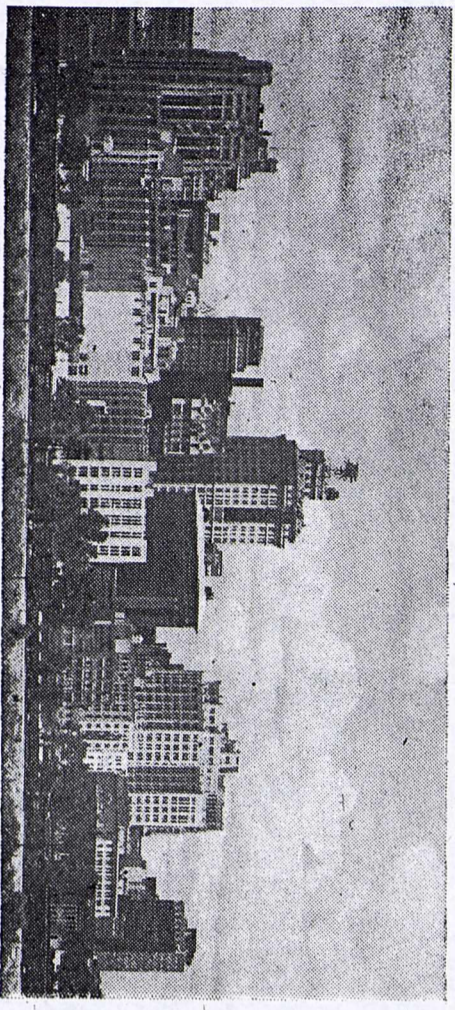
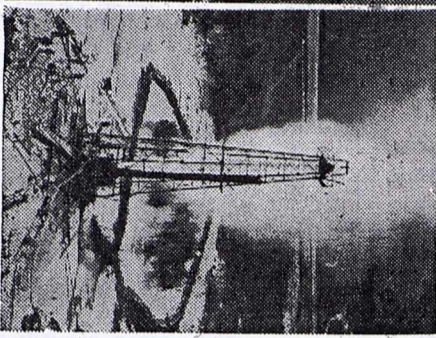
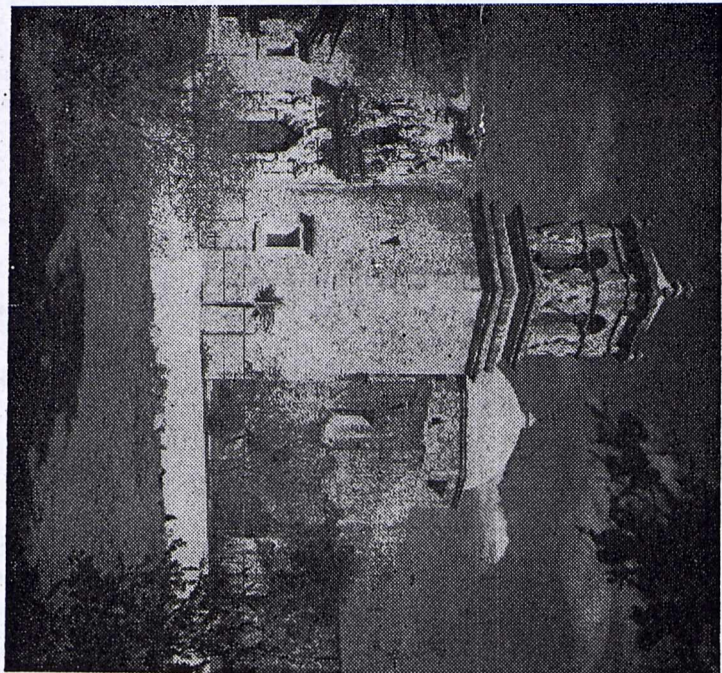
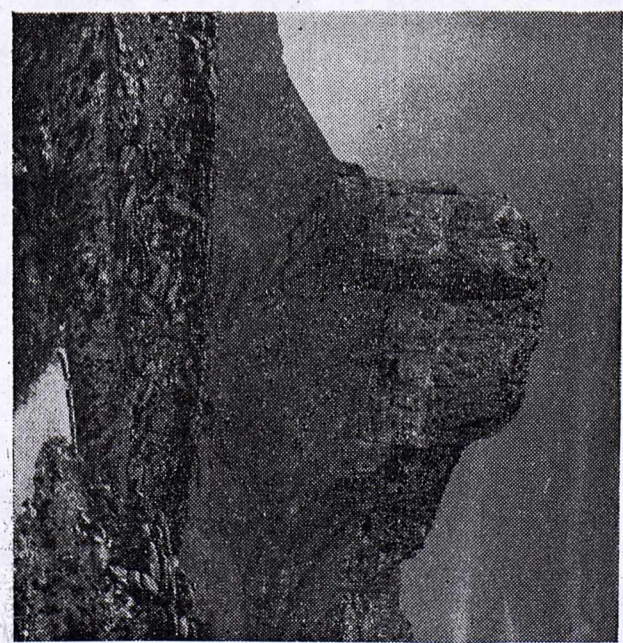
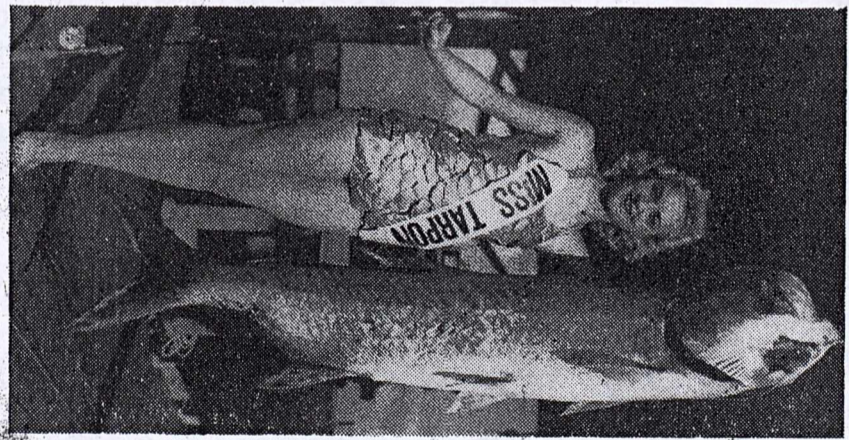
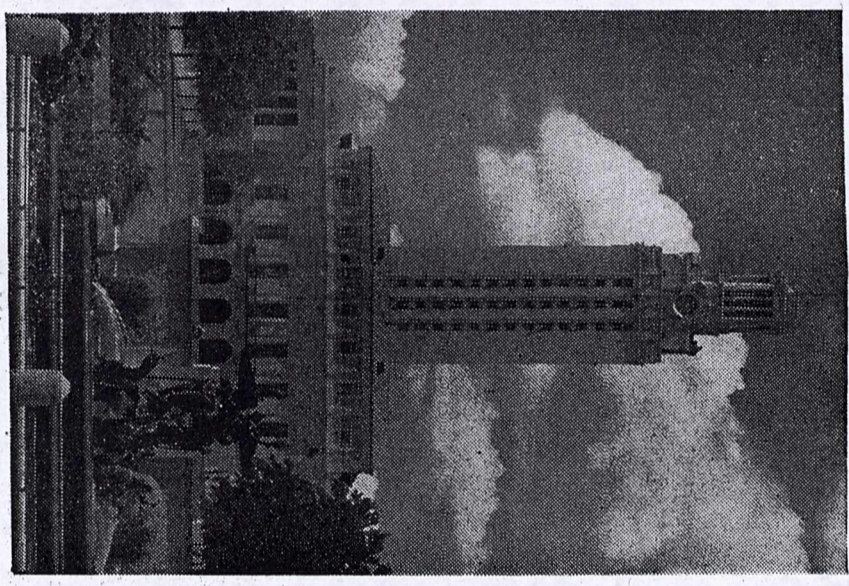
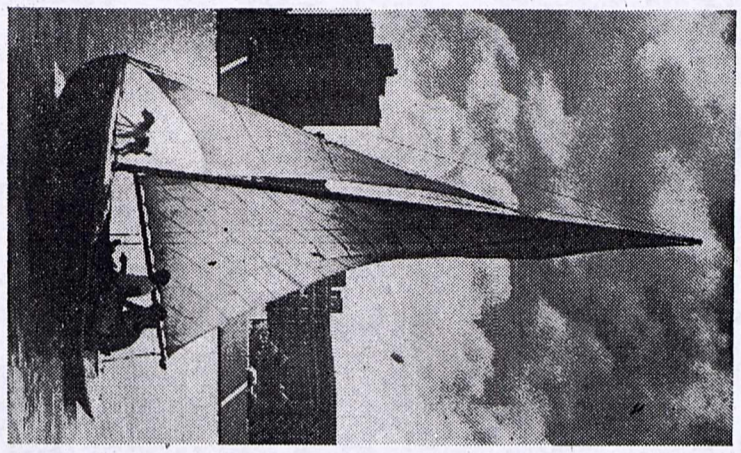
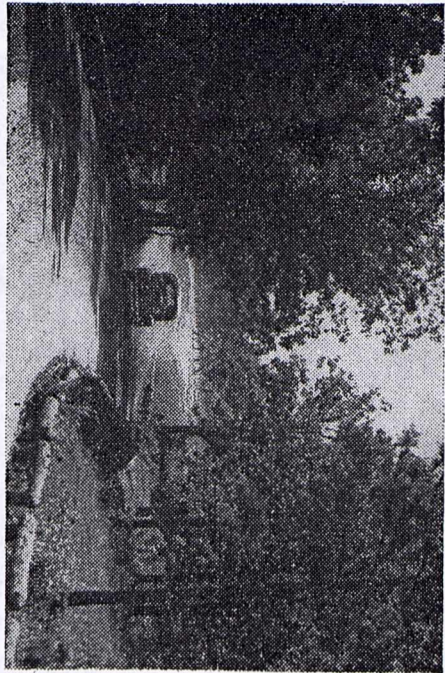




THE BEAUTIFUL

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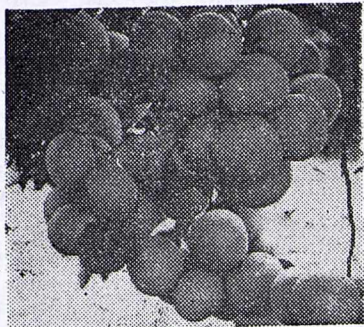




RATTLER OFFERS

TEXAS THE BEAUTIFUL

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The Rio Grande Valley's sweet grapefruit, growing like clusters of grapes over acres of orchards.

PICTURES ON PAGES 8-9

Top Row, Left To Right

Tyler State Park, a 1,000-acre piney-woods playground in East Texas.

Sailing is a peacetime pleasure in the choppy bay before coastal Corpus Christi, a resort town now devoted to the world's largest naval air station.

Oil-rich University of Texas' 750,000-volume Mirabeau B. Lamar Library, named after the Republic's second president. Statue symbolizes united South and North crossing the ocean to carry freedom abroad, singularly significant today.

The mighty tarpon, one of fifty odd varieties offering fun for anglers near Galveston, Texas, and down the coast. The "tarpon rodeos" are a unique sport. This island was once Pirate Jean Lafitte's domain.

El Capitan, highest mountain in Texas, near El Paso at the southern end of the Guadalupe Range.

Center Row

Mission San Jose de Aguayo, "Queen of the Missions" and one of four built by Franciscans with Indian labor near San Antonio; in addition, the Alamo was originally a mission. Built in the early 18th Century, the missions had a profound influence on early civilization.

Airview of a wild "gasser" near Tyler in the East Texas oil field, world's greatest known pool.

Texas is not all cactus and mesquite. Galveston Island's cleaners were brought in by trading schooner, and now sixty varieties, a million bushes bloom under the palms.

Bottom Row

Skyline of Dallas, Texas commercial center and second city in size with 430,000 population. White Rock lake, Texas State Fair grounds, a sophisticated night life are among its attractions.

Grand entry at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show's rodeo held in Fort Worth each spring. Thousands of Texans still make their living riding the range, but to urban Texans the

Texan's Pride

(Continued From Page 6)

McAllen, swim in Austin's Barton Springs—then if you don't like Texas, the hell with you!"

Known variously in early days as Florida, Amichel, Province of Panuco, New Philippines, Cibola, Quivira, Province of Santa Fe, Texas was finally named permanently by Alonso de Leon's 1690 expedition, after the Tejas ("Friends") Indians. It's six-flag history (Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Southern Confederacy, and United States) tangled its laws and spiced its politics, inculcated a love of independence and freedom that causes Texans still to consider even their place in the Union as that of voluntary association.

HALF URBAN, HALF RURAL, TEXAS STILL LACKS INTEGRATION, IS STILL ECONOMICALLY IMMATURE DESPITE ITS 17TH CENTURY BEGINNINGS OF EUROPEAN-SOURCE CIVILIZATION. AMONG THEMSELVES TEXANS READILY ADMIT THEIR FAULTS AND THEIR STATE'S—FOR IT HAS ITS UNDERPRIVILEGED, ITS ERODED LANDS, ITS SLUMS, ITS INADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, ITS BELATEDLY UNDERTAKEN LITERARY AND ART CULTURE—BUT INSIST THAT ALL YET-UNSOLVED DIFFICULTIES ARE MAN-MADE AND NOT THE FAULT OF THEIR BELOVED LAND. AND THEIR POSTWAR PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT ARE HOPEFUL, IMMENSE—AND POSSIBLE.

For Texas' wartime, involuntary and often super-critical visitors, a Texan may suggest:

Instead of being inked by local self-esteem, express an equal pride in your own home section of these United States. Most Texans will understand and respect your pride, possibly even believe you—though the chances are 10-to-1 they'll try to top your boasts.

The Texans' final word to you, soldier, will be "Come back!" And they'll mean it.

Then there was the cowboy who was feeling so happy, he shouted: "I can whip a rattlesnake and give 'im the first bite!"

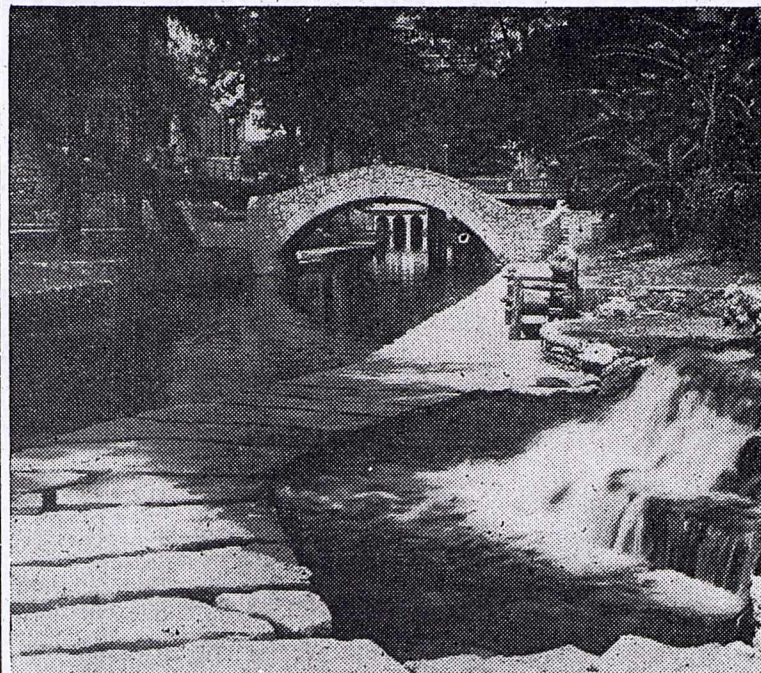
—Boyce House

show is as unfamiliar and fascinating as to visiting Easterners. High-bred livestock shows are the significant part of the annual affair.

"Where the West Begins", cowtown Fort Worth, Texas' meat-packing center and its fourth city in size, with 244,000 population.

The selected pictures, obtained through courtesy of various Texas chambers of commerce, can only indicate the State's variety.

Through San Antonio's Heart



Old San Antone, "Mother of the Army" and first training center of the Army Air Forces until recent years, likes the clear river that runs crazily through its business district. Lovers in canoes, peddlers in scows, an open air theater with the audience on one side and the stage on the other, overhanging cafe balconies are part of its charm. Strongly Latin, San Antonio is wide-awake now —one of the country's largest military training centers.

The Civvies

Who is this person "Freddie" in Civilian Personnel? Never heard of him.

Several of our folks are sporting the merit ribbon—J. C. Reese, Floryne Preslar, Lillian Stewart, Carrol Kerns, Varda Newsom and Sadie Shuttleworth.

Hey, somebody ask J. C. what cost him \$25 on the night of December the 7th.

Carrol Kerns had a nice surprise on her birthday the 8th. Her husband, T-Sgt. Ralph J. Kerns, was to leave immediately for OCS, Miami, Florida.

Helen Reese showed yours truly around the Sub-Depot Headquarters the other day. Mighty swanky work-house.

Happy birthday to Floryne and Sadie this coming week. Hope they both live to be a million.

Mrs. Newsom spent last week in El Paso, Texas.

Polly and Floryne are having a hard time these days finding flies to feed Jake. Never mind there will be sufficient come warm weather.

Sadie and Ed are having macaroni and cheese all this week. Some cook, this Ed.

PFC Gibson joined the bunch this week. The gals think he is the cutest thing. One little rebel gal

sure changed her opinion of the Yankees after she saw him. Glory be, what's this world coming to?

SANTA CLAUS, WILL YOU PLEASE see that this letter is answered? Olivia wants a bonus check; Elsie wants headlines in the paper of the armistice signed; Evelyn wants her baby that's overseas; Lillian wants a new car; Carroll wants to get back to Salt Lake City, Utah, for Christmas; Betty wants her nice Lt., by the name of Thack; Goldie wants some heat in the dormitory; Skrip wants to go to Buffalo; J. C. wants a Buick convertible, preferably one with a female attached with shoes on; Gibson wants to go to Pennsylvania; Polly wants to beat Edna Earl playing pool; Edna Earl wants her own man; Floryne wants a Capt. Bill; Mary, a diamond ring and an ironing board; Ilva wants a Bill from the Service Squadron; Lt. Murphy wants an airplane ride home; Varda Newsom wants a rich rancher; OH MY, I just want . . . period.

BROOKLYN WILL AGREE

The late Senator Ben (Pitchfork) Tillman of South Carolina is credited with having said:

"Texas has more trees and less timber; more rivers and less water; more resources and less cash; more itinerate preachers and less religion; more cows and less milk, and you can see farther and see less than any d--- country in the world."

WAC Flak

Sorry you missed WAC FLAK last week but as there are no excuses in the Army, Bledsoe will try to make an explanation instead. Returning from a short trip to Kansas City, Missouri (Home Sweet Home), a column was started on the train. "Thoughts while traveling" seemed to be an appropriate title but in Ft. Worth the transfer to the famous T & P at midnight was a bad move for the column and also yours truly, 'cause the thoughts I was a-thinkin' I could not be a-writin', and then to top it off, fever set in so the first stop in Pyote was the Base Hospital and then a few days of goldbricking. Ain't that a Pistol?

Sgt. Montis has been transferred to the Wm. Beaumont Hospital in El Paso, Texas, for further treatment. We've missed her from the barracks and from her work and now we miss her from the hospital. Monty's room was always a popular place during visiting hours but that's not so unusual, for to know Monty is to love her and everyone knows her. Don't be gone too long, Monty, no one can take your place.

Charlotte Ziegel stole a march on us last week, and a wedding march at that. Having made arrangements to meet her fiance, Mr. Wallace Robbins, in El Paso, they married quietly. Pvt. Adele Berlowitz was in on it too and was the blushing bridesmaid. Charlotte is the tall darkeyed girl from the Base Photo Lab who has been feeding all the girls of Barracks No. 1 those candies, nuts and cookies, Wally has been sending. We bet the sweet stuff will still continue pouring in only more so now. Ahhhh romance, what have you done to our WAC Detachment? Cpl. Ruth Armstrong has also been smitten and will take the fatal step Friday, the lucky fellow works at Base Operations. More details in our next column.

Something New Has Been Added—Sgt. Mary Roman is the WAC you see working down at the Quartermasters. Mary was stationed at Casper, Wyoming, but is well pleased with the transfer and when she learns her work she says she will be perfectly contented with the Rattlesnake Bomber Base. She just started to work when the 'flu' landed her in the hospital but just for a few days, now she is busy loinin'. We are glad to have you with us, Mary.

Sgt. Peggy Nugent has been transferred to the office at Link Trainer. She will be missed from the Personnel Office at Base Headquarters but let's hope she



likes her new assignment. Charlotte Gold is the newly assigned squadron representative for Special Service. Please submit all suggestions to her as to whether you would like a basketball game or a moron party, (tho it would be more of a novelty if the party could be some other kind) and she will see that your wishes are granted.

Basketball, there is something. Too bad you all couldn't have seen the mock game between the browns and the greens (colors of fatigues) rehearsed at the Rec Hall

last Monday night. Boys rules, if any, with Cpl. June Barber as referee, and was there ever plenty of fun, and sore muscles for a few days after. Was anyone looking through the window that night? We wonder.

Tuesday, December 7th was the opening of the New USO in Monahans. It was officially opened by a parade with this Base represented. The WACs were treated royally and instead of hut, two, threeing through the town they rode jeeps. A real treat. Cpl. Ruth Tucker was Miss Freedom and passed in review on a float. You

Hundreds Had Fun At Monahans USO's Jam-Packed Opening

In the large, smooth-floored ball room of the new Monahans USO Club, above, Pyote soldiers and their dance partners—junior hostesses, girl friends and wives—jostled to the jive of the Rattlesnake Bomber Base Dance Band. The afternoon parade (see page 1) and the barbecued deer did not slow up the party that rolled on until midnight.

In the lower photo Mr. E. C. Nicodemus, associate regional USO supervisor, makes the presentation of the building to Major Sebastian Mangamelli, who accepted the club for Rattlesnake Bomber Base soldiers in the unavoidable absence of Col. Louie P. Turner, station commandant.

did a good job, Ruth, and we are proud of you.

Hope to be back next week with more news of the Pyote WACs, so, until then don't forget, Bledsoe saidso.

PAJAMA PICKET

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—Actress Joan Webster picketed a Government agency building here clad only in a pajama top. She believes that the U. S. should conserve material by restricting pajamas to the top piece only.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By T-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

No red-blooded American will ever forget the December 7 incident of 1941, nor will 30 Medics fail to remember that commemorative day just 2 years later. It was of special significance. Why? Because it meant marching down Monahans' "5th Avenue" before 10,000 eager spectators. The bands played on and proudly the "Pill Rollers" strutted behind the MP's and "The Canine Corps". All S-Sgt. Bumgarner had to ward off the vicious beasts with was the guidon and was he ready! Remember, fellows, all eyes on dogs!

Directly behind came the truck drivers and more bands; ah, what a gala day for everyone! Finally it was "Eyes Right" in front of the reviewing stand and then up the rugged road to the fine new USO. This building is a grand tribute to the service men and women and is greatly appreciated. Shortly came the "venison call" and first in line were the Medics closely pressed by the MP's. All efforts to discourage their staying failed but there was plenty of the rare meat for everyone.

Then off to the "oasis" to quench the thirst and guess what it turned out to be? Another birthday party for Cpl. Doherty and AGAIN he was 19 years old. Miraculously a large cake came like "Pennies from Heaven" and was rapidly disposed of. More and more tables were joined until the "joint" reminded one of a game of dominoes. S-Sgt. Uebel took roll and all but 4 were present. Not bad, eh? Not until the place had almost been taken over completely were the Medics really contented. Later in the evening the dance at the USO concluded another perfect day.

PFC Tony Nigro, Cpl. Joe Ozimek, Cpl. Schweibinz, Pvt. Souda, Sgt. Byers and Cpl. Valcq were lounging around the day room Monday listening to the radio when much to their surprise they heard Pyote mentioned. It was the "Luncheon with Lopez" program heard by short wave coming directly from Hotel Taft at Times Square in New York City. The entire program was dedicated to the 11th Bombing and Gunnery Range and Pyote Air Base. We do rank back in the States, don't we fellows?

And again the "duck season" has come! "Quack, Quack, Quack!" Get down you "physical weaklings". Don't you fellows ever want to become strong like the rest of the soldiers on the base? From reports there will be more

MALE CALL

BY MILTON CANIFF



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"Casting of Eyes Heavenward", more "vigorous" calisthenics and "rougher hikes". Now that goes for you too, Brute!

This Detachment's day room is going to be the best on the base and the extensive remodeling job is speedily progressing. What's this we hear about a fire-place and bar too? Here is the \$64 question: Will the day room be completed by Christmas?

PFC Davey Frier is getting tired of doing the work of 4 men so the next time he goes home on furlough he is going to bring his kid brother along to help him. Now how is that for "Yankee Ingenuity"? Now Pvt. Tony Sarni isn't worried about his work so much but he is wondering if KP is the best place to train for boxing. Or is he?

Sgt. Biondi and Cpl. Shaffer have been hitting the Kermit road plenty hard of late and Cpl. Moore and PFC Ransom have struck the trail to Hobbs, New Mexico too. There's a reason for those well-beaten paths but you can rest assured that these "Pyote Campaigners" are not going to disclose that "Civilian Secret". How about it, fellows?

"Ok, fellows, it's time to get up" said Pvt. Oligney as he was rubbing his eyes. Grumbling in no soft terms, the patients got up and soon thermometers were protruding from their mouths. "Ah, what a short night," retorted one. Here's the pay-off: The Baltimore Flash thought it was morning! The exact time was 2300. Thanks to the Nurse or Oligney would probably have had his patients on their way to breakfast!

Giving credit where it's due is only to be expected. It is no other than our own PFC Tony Frain who is the originator, director and producer of that famous Barracks 2 step. Nice work, Tony. How about getting that ingenious mind to work some more? Or is it another "Treatment" that you are waiting for? You're the paddler of your own canoe!

Did McBride ring the bell? Or is Mac kidding when he says that he will be in good shape for World War III in 1963? What a warrior; he's been in 2 now! Is Ferney Mae really going back to Dallas? Has Cpl. Dwyer found that 7 room apt. he is looking for somewhere in West Texas? Try barking at the moon, Greg. Who in the 2nd Air

Force finds it more difficult to get up in the morning than "Junior" Albert and "Pop" Wehling? That goes for "Sunday, Monday and Always", "Mutt and Jeff" (Sgt. Gustafson and PFC Misiewicz) really believe that they should have the Purple Cross. After all, weren't they burned on duty and in action.

Ready for Christmas, fellows? Won't be long now.

SERGEANT TELLS COLONEL WHERE TO HEAD IN

NORFOLK, VA. (CNS)—Lt. Col. Leon J. Meyung, a new commander, was running along the line in a practice march dressed in fatigue clothes when a sergeant stopped him.

"What the hell are you waiting for," the sergeant snarled. "Get in line."

Just then the Colonel realized that he had dressed in such a hurry he had forgotten to pin his silver oak leaves to the lapel of his fatigues. He looked just like any other soldier. He started to explain to the sergeant but the latter wouldn't listen.

"Get in line," he repeated. "And don't look so offended." The Colonel fell meekly in line.

Gypsy 93rd

By CPL. IRVING J. PACKER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH LONG
—Several weeks ago M-Sgt. Leon J. Long asked M-Sgt. Elmer A. Riba to get him a date. Riba was very obliging and made many phone calls and succeeded in dating two girls from Midland for Long. It wasn't very long before Long prettied himself and managed to hitchhike to Midland. The long and short of it all is that when he finally met the girls he spent all of his time reading a book. From the reports received by yours truly, the girls weren't bad looking at all. Long, after much ribbing by Riba, made a long distance call to one of the girls and asked for a date, but was unsuccessful. If I were Long I wouldn't worry too much about it since there are many good books to be read at the Base Library.

MARRIAGE ON PARADE—

When Cpl. LeRoy P. Courge announced his wedding date for New Year's Day, many of the boys from this Unit mustered up enough courage to pop the question.

Cpl. Donald (Ducky) DeGeorge flew to Rochester, New York, to tie the nuptial knot and bring his newly acquired wife back to God's Country—God's forsaken country.

Sgt. Clifford (Bugger) Schmidt has his fingers crossed and hopes that Ducky arrives in Pyote safe and sound. Bugger has the marriage bug too and plans to get married very shortly. Says Bugger, "Before I got into the Army I looked quite anemic but have managed to build myself up to my present proportions by good clean living. It wouldn't hurt me at all if I got a little going over by master beautician Ducky since I do want to look a little like myself. Must look real pretty for the little woman back home, but fellows, please don't get me wrong." Whoops, my dear!

Another member of this Unit who is going to bite the dust on New Year's Day is S-Sgt. Charles Hollis. Hollis is very much worried about the wedding ceremony since it is the first time he has ever gone through such an ordeal. Nothing to worry about, Hollis, since all you've got to do is say, "I do." It is really as simple as that, but when the little woman says, "I do" her words take on a different significance. Those two little words by her mean that, "I do want your month's pay, or I do want you to do the laundry, and I do bla bla bla." Only kidding, Hollis, or am I, you married men!

THE BATTLE CRY OF THE WEEK—What Unit am I in, Unit B or Unit E? For several days, the men in the Orderly Room, just



PVT. HARRY GEORGE
SHENANGO PERS. REPL. DEPOT, PA.

"That's what I love about you honey; you're such a darn swell cook."

shrugged their shoulders, but that little bit of confusion has been straightened out and you can have all of your Xmas Gifts sent to Maintenance Unit B.

This Unit welcomes into our fold 1st Sgt. Ralph W. Litson, who has taken over the duties of 1st Sgt. Morris E. Taylor, who has been assigned to work at Base Headquarters. Sgt. Litson was a member of the 73rd Bomb Sqdn recently returned to the States after seeing service from Fairbanks to the Aleutians. When Sgt. Litson was asked what is the difference between Pyote and the Aleutians, he answered, "I can best answer the question by asking, what is the difference." I dunno. However, there is one thing that Sgts. Litson and Taylor have in common and that is their deep concern for the lack of green grass in front of the Orderly Room. If you believe in Santa Claus, Sgt. Litson, we may have green grass by Xmas—1944.

To Sgts. Litson and Taylor, we offer the very best of luck on your new jobs.

If there is anybody in this Unit who desires any information about anything it may be a very good idea to see Sgt. Adolph P. Schosboek. Little Shosboek is a walking encyclopedia. It has been said that he can tell you the exact number of drops of water that fall

every day over Niagara Falls. Is it true, Shosboek, that you can tell us the number of times the fair town of Pyote has been covered with snow within the last six months?

S-Sgt. Phillip E. Stock is a man of influence since he can really put the heat on you. One of his main stock in trade is to see that the heater in barracks 505 is in working order. Good work, Phillip—the boys in your barracks have a warm spot in their hearts for you besides warm feet.

Still don't know what kind of a building is being constructed in the Unit Area. Many rumors have been spread. One rumor is that we will have an additional Day Room to take care of the overflow of the old Day Room. There may be some logic to that rumor since it has been reported that on several occasions there have been as many as three men in the Day Room who took advantage of its facilities. Another rumor is that a new latrine is being built. That, of course, may be another latrine rumor.

SPEAKING OF PYOTE?

"Is it hot in West Texas?" the traveling man in the Beaumont hotel lobby repeated the question.

"Why, I was out there last week and I saw a coyote chasing a jack-rabbit—and it was so hot, they were both walking."

—Boyce House

Parachute Patter

What is this—new curtains, a new table and more work than ever.

Yes, the department has seen quite a change the last few days. The curtains were made from material from local issue but are exceptionally attractive. Even the boys on the swing shift had to admit it takes a woman's touch to make something beautiful. We give the designing credit to Mrs. Rozell, and the girls in the department all helped in the manufacture of them.

The pictures of all the U. S. aircraft were given to us by the Coca Cola Company. They seem to fit right into the atmosphere.

Jewell Ball sat at the machine sewing the curtains so long that her back got into a critical condition, and Mrs. Harris was going to give her chiropractor treatment, but Jewell got so tickled Mrs. Harris gave up.

Ed De Mello must be planning on joining the parade of movie stars after the war. Why do we think so? Well—every time any one goes to the show, there he is watching, watching, the movie of. His favorite is a brunette.

Oh boy, old Santa won't forget the Parachute gang this year. He has already promised to visit all the workers on Thursday, December 23. With Christmas Carols and bells, we will make jubilee for 30 minutes after working hours. Just to make the boys feel a little of the Yuletide spirit that they would have had in their own home. Come on, you boys, hang up your GI socks. Who knows what may be in them besides holes?

A party made up mostly from the parachute gang has reservations made at the Ace of Clubs in Odessa for Saturday night. A big time is planned for all. However, we don't plan on any headaches, but of course this is—continued next week.

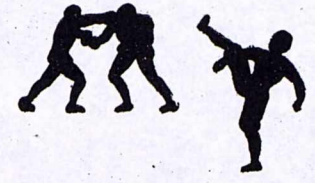
We girls are very grateful to Ruth's mother for the delicious Strudle and Mandel bread she sent Ruth; however, we girls help enjoy its contents. Ruth is planning on having her mother come to visit her for a while and we would like to have her help cook our Christmas dinner. Maybe she will, eh Ruth? I'll bet you'll like that. Come on Mother Jarmulnek, pack up and come to our good old Texas to join our gang.

WANTED: FATTER WORKERS

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. (CNS)—A local foundry has applied for extra ration coupons to fatten up its workers. Some workers have lost from 20 to 47 pounds since food rationing began, the firm complains.

RATTLER

SPORTS



Pyote Coyotes Go Down Before Hot Marfa Five

The Pyote Coyotes, base basketball team, ran into a stone wall last Friday and bounced off on the short end of a 33-18 score against the Air Cobras of the Marfa Air Base in a tilt played at Marfa.

Loaded from stem to stern with former All-American basketball talent and professional hoop artists, the Marfa club ran rings around the Pyote five. Coach Glucksman's charges fought hard but the odds were too steep for them. Making excellent use of its height edge, the Marfa team controlled the ball at will in scoring this victory.

Halftime score found the Pyote five with only one point while Marfa had racked up nineteen. A determined bid during the third quarter whittled the Cobras' advantage to ten points with the score reading 25-15. During the final stanza, Marfa bounced back and scored fifteen more points while Pyote had to be content with three.

Lt. Harvey of Marfa set the scoring pace for the evening as he netted eleven points on three baskets and five fouls. Lt. Harvey formerly starred for the University of Colorado and during the '39 and '40 seasons was listed on many All-American rosters.

Runner-up in scoring honors was Lt. Pate who netted six points. Formerly of Oklahoma A. & M., he was selected on the All-Missouri Valley team.

Scoring for the Pyote five was spread very thin through the lineup with Boles' four points the best the Coyotes could offer. Harcourt and Hogan each netted three while the rest of the scoring was divided among Joyce, MacFarland, Kleppe and White.

This Saturday night the Pyote team will meet the Odessa High School team in a game at the Rec Hall, starting at 8:15 p.m. Admission to these basketball games is free so drop in and root for your base team.

THE BOX SCORE

PYOTE	G	F	Pt.
Hardcourt, f	1	1	3
Emmert	0	0	0
Bundy, f	0	0	0

Warmin' The Bench—

Football Is Funny Game; Great Irish Eleven Loses One, But Looks Good

By SGT. FRANK DE BLOIS
CNS Sports Correspondent

Football is a funny game. On Saturday morning you are hailed as the coach of the year with a wonder team on your hands and whaddaya think happens on Saturday night? You're a fake with a bunch of bums in your stable. You can make mine croquet.

The Chicago Bears, who set all kinds of records against the New York Giants a couple of weeks ago, were punched all over the ball yard by the Washington Redskins the following Sunday. The Skins lost to a lot of characters called the Phil-Pitt Steagels the week after that.

How about that? And how about Notre Dame? There was a team for you. They beat Georgia Tech, Michigan, Army, Navy, Northwestern and the powerful Iowa Seahawks. And then—while all the experts sat around with their eyes hanging down to their knees—the invincible Irish lost one.

Heroes of this number one upset of the season were eleven men who play football for the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois. They beat a Notre Dame team that had been compared with Knute Rockney's best when Steve Lach, formerly of Duke, pitched a 41-yard forward pass to his quarterback with 30 seconds left in the ball game. If you gave a script like that to Sam Goldwyn he would think you were nuts.

Notre Dame's defeat stripped

Boles	1	2	4
Lawrence, c	0	0	0
Joyce	1	0	2
Stage, g	0	0	0
McFarland	1	0	2
Sullivan, g	0	0	0
Kleppe	1	0	2
White	1	0	2
Hogan	1	1	3
TOTALS	7	4	18
MARFA	G	F	Pt.
Reece, f	2	1	5
Addison	0	0	0
Pate, f	1	4	6
Schropp	1	0	2
Harvey, c	3	5	11
Hoey	0	0	0
Mikkelson, g	1	0	2
Yeager	0	0	0
VanHooebeke, g	0	1	1
Morgan	1	0	2
Gray	2	0	4
TOTALS	11	11	33

the team of its cloak of invincibility but failed to dim the team's aura of greatness. The Irish ended their season with an average rushing gain of 313.9 yards a game to better a national record established in 1937. Coach Frank Leahy's 1943 eleven was the greatest powerhouse in Notre Dame history. Even when they lost they looked good.

Undimmed too, were the bright, particular stars of this much-publicized team. Angelo Bertelli, football player of the year and Heisman award winner for 1943, was not around at the Great Lakes lampooning, having been transferred to the Parris Island (S. C.) Marine Training base some time ago, but his replacement, Johnny Lujack was there and he looked all right working out of the T. All American Halfback Creighton Miller looked good, too, and so did All American End Johnny Yoniker, All American Guard Pat Filley and All American Tackle Jim White. In fact, they all looked so good that you wouldn't think they had lost the game unless you happened to take a quick gander at the scoreboard.

The game was a thriller. Notre Dame led 7-0 at halftime. Then Great Lakes pulled ahead 12-7 and in the last period the Irish nosed in front 14-12. The Sailors won 19-14 on Lach's pay-off pass, which quarterback Paul Anderson caught on the five-yard line.

Great Lakes' triumph was the first for the Bluejackets over Notre Dame. The Sailors tied the Irish, 7 to 7, during the last war and played a 13-13 draw with Leahy's team last year. The Bluejackets' 1943 record was 10 victories and two defeats, which should give them the national service team championship for the second straight year.

Physical Training Program Revised, Will Be Tougher

Contrary to a vicious rumor now running around the Base, the Physical Training Program has not been dropped in favor of a Physical Torture period. The truth of the matter is that the exercises have been toughened a bit in order to whip the boys into shape.

According to a bit of propaganda, put out by the Physical Training Department, any ailment you may be suffering from will be instantly cured by a liberal dose of the new set of exercises set forth by Training Circular 87.

To quote that venerable document:

"The exercises listed below differ from those now in general practice in that they are more strenuous and varied in nature".

They have trunk twistors, back twistors, side benders, squat benders, burpees, push-ups, and so on far into the night.

A new schedule has been drawn up for all men on the Base and according to advice from the P. T. strong-arm squad, "best you exercise".

Asked for a statement as to what this new modern form of mayhem would consist of, Lt. Charles L. Guimento, Physical Fitness Officer, merely sat back, whistled and said, "twill be a beaut".

Schedule Announced For Static Officers

Classes are held for static officers every day, Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Classes last an hour.

Each officer is required to attend three hours a week.

For those 30 and under, the Physical Training Department has devised a gentle form of torture and for those over thirty, in addition to competitive sports, there will be a fifteen minute program of warming-up exercise.

If the pace is too keen for anyone in the 30-or-under Group, they may drop back into the "Old Man's League" as Lt. Guimento put it in his little opus to this office.

Diedrichs' Squadron

By S-SGT. ROY WORTENDYKE

In a daring attempt to bring variety into the program of the Service Club Dance last Friday, this squadron directed the spotlight onto hitherto unknown or unrecognized show talent. During the intermission, while the Service Club remained in darkness except for the moving finger of the "spot", long, lank, loose Pvt. Maurice Clauw, a self-taught, former professional who is now a clerk in the Sub-Depot radio shop, tapped and snake danced for an appreciative audience. Behind him swirled the music of Pvt. Frank Kaprinski, a trumpeter whose talent had been hidden in Barrack No. 2, S-Sgt. Arthur Roche, drummer, and Sgt. Erwin Werthamer, band pianist.

After Pvt. Clauw had completed his second encore, Pvt. Kaprinski moved into the circle of light to play an unforgettable interpretation of the "Sugar Blues." It was with difficulty that PFC Robert Catudio, the capable master of ceremonies, persuaded the cheering audience to allow Pvt. Kaprinski to step back. But the ladies were not disappointed, for PFC Murray Hamilton sang in his deep, romantic voice to them. Then, in a quick change of tempo, the trumpeter and Sgt. Andrew Gszak, quick-fingered accordionist of the 410th, set feet to stamping with polkas. Pvt. James Green, of Altitude Training Unit, and PFC Hamilton, provided the vocals for several band numbers.

Other persons whose cooperation and assistance made the program possible were band leader Sgt. Frank Stone and the base band, Sgt. Albert Haas, PFC Clifford Schleede, of this squadron, S-Sgt. Miley Crabtree, 410th, who created the signs and posters. M-Sgt. Joseph Gutteridge, squadron representative on the Service Club council, Pvt. Ken Costello, HBC, PFC Frank Smith and PFC Andrew Foster, 410th, who managed the lighting, T-Sgt. Karl Weller, Sgt. Frank Padak and S-Sgt. Roy Wortendyke, who planned the program, and Miss Dorothy Gayle, Robb and Miss Eleanor Crowder, director and recreation hostess respectively of the Service Club.

The fellows in the squadron who have had a look-see into the new USO building in Monahans say that it is really a humdinger of a place (for West Texas, of course), and that if Wink and Kermit are going to establish USOs as it is rumored they will, they will have to go some to beat Monahans.

Capt. Martin Diedrichs, commanding officer, PFC Raymond McAllister, Sgt. Frank Wyzyko-

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

OAKLAND, CAL. (CNS)—A department store offered 4,000 pairs of silk stockings in a special anniversary sale. The cops prevented loss of life among the customers in the riot that followed.

AB Sqd. Unit C

Dear Mom,

Well, well, it's Christmas time and I want to see Santa Claus.

We haven't recaptured our Badger yet; I think we will have to move the Orderly Room in order to get him.

Our Basketball and Boxing Teams are progressing nicely. The Basketball Team won its first a few nights ago. By the way, the Post is going to have a Ping Pong Tournament. Some of the boys who are going to participate are as follows: John Kennedy, Tommie Free, Isiah Robinson, and Loise Kemp. The first prize will be \$5.00 and the second prize, \$3.00. I hope one of us will bring home the bacon. Mom, the other day I was told that there's a certain lady on the M. P. Force (tsh-tsh). She seems to be telling a certain M. P. (W. S.) what to do. Say what's this, a certain Cpl. (T. M.) has been shining a private's (U. B.) shoes, in order to attend the theater. Well what do you know about that?

Say, Mom, the boys who work on the line were highly praised last week. Under the supervision of Cpl. Charles Norman, they had the cleanest B-17 plane on the base. We wish to thank the following soldiers for their splendid work: Arthur Ambrose, Willie C. Brant, Isiah Robinson, Robert Stephens, Jethro Adams, James Vaughn, Alvain McMorris, Earl Altman, James Gigger, Marshall Bell, C. B. Lymas and Charlie Abrams. Keep up the good work, fellows. Well, that's all the news for now, so I close.

Your Son,
E. Z. BREEZE

wski, PFC Robert Swanson, Sgt. John Kotzur, PFC Howard Heindel, Pvt. Robert Eberlein and Sgt. Howard Matty represented the squadron at the official opening of the building . . . During the week PFC James Henderson achieved his ambition of trying for flight training when he was transferred to the Flexible Gunnery School at Laredo . . . When they received honorable discharge papers Pvt. George May and PFC Richard Clyde achieved the oft-stated ambition of becoming civilians . . . The squadron basketball team is getting in shape under the skillful coaching of PFC Harold Cooper . . . "Uncle Larry" is carrying things too far when he refuses to make a date with any girl who doesn't own a car.

QM Sees

By SGT. J. F. CANNON

With the addition of Miss Virginia Allen to the office force in the Property Section, the claim of the QM to having the most beautiful girls on the Base is considerably strengthened. The Sub-Depot may have quantity but the companion Supply Service has the quality. For further proof of that statement, I ask anyone who wishes to challenge our claim to watch how the supply sergeants who come in with requisitions linger to talk awhile, and I am sure that it is not Sgt. Gelhaart's magnetic personality that draws them. The newest addition to the force has made her residence in Wink and at the present time your correspondent is trying to determine just where—purely in a business way you understand, Miss Allen is kin to Dotty Potts, known to all who do their buying at the QM Sales Store.

Speaking of the Sales Store, here is a conversation that was overheard by a termite friend of ours. A rather attractive young lady asked Cpl. Jimmy Barone, "Have you any dates?" With the wolf in him jumping to the fore, Jimmy replied, "I've only one date around here is me." Was his face red when our heroine squelched him with, "You would look very funny on top of a fruit cake." Oh well Jim, times are getting bad all over.

With Christmas on the way, the barracks have taken on the appearance of a department store with all the toys wrapping for an early mailing. Burnsed seems to be the biggest wrapper and he did a colorful job with the holiday paper and string.

A new argument has arisen, the likes of which haven't been heard since "Red" Gagnon left for Camp Lee. The latest has to do with the capabilities of the "Swooner Crooner" Frank Sinatra. Those who are standing up for the latest "glammer boy" are Cpl. "Baldy" Barafatto and Cpl. "He's a bum" Barone. Those who are of the opposition that Sinatra is a passing fancy are Cpl. Cole and the author of this column. We would like to hear further opinions on the subject. Let's have them and the more the merrier.

The Bowling League continues to roll along with the positions of the teams unchanged. The Yardbirds, led by Gus Barabas, still hold the lead and although Bob Gelhaart's Sad Sacks have the three top bowlers, they are in the second spot. The Goldbricks and the Snafus are fighting it out for the third spot.

Things that they can't use for Christmas: Eisenger, a pair of 30-35 pants; Gelhaart, a tooth



FT. MONMOUTH, N. J.—WACs stationed here have a watchdog named Pal who is silent when in the presence of women but immediately starts barking when a man passes the barracks.

INDEPENDENT

TRENTON, N. J. (CNS)—The State Assembly was discussing a proposal to pay Assemblymen more than the \$500 a year they are now receiving when 54-year-old Assemblyman Thomas M. Muir stood up. "I want you to know," he said, "that I don't have to do this for a living. I'm independent. My mother's a welder."

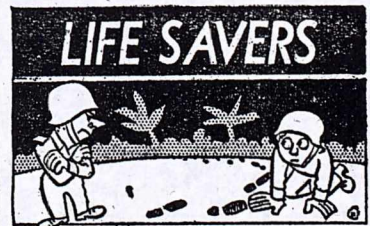
Lou Klein, St. Louis Cardinals second baseman, has joined the Coast Guard and Millard Howell, veteran Syracuse pitcher has been inducted into the Army.

brush; Barafatto, a comb; Pallay, a set of hair curlers.

The QM is to lose another of its most capable workers. Beryl Parlet is leaving to join her husband, and the Quartermaster is to be without her cheerful smile and her willingness to work. This correspondent worked in the Property Section with Mrs. Parlet until he took his desk to the Director of Supply, and knows her to be one of the most capable cogs in the efficient QM machine.

George Wubben carried on a most interesting phone conversation with "Beverly" from Monahans the other night despite the fact that he wasn't alone. In fact poor Beverly didn't know which one of the five she was talking to at any one time. Oh well George, "Share the Wealth".

Thoughts in the night: "Life is a bowl of cherries but think of the people who get all of the pits."



IF YOU get lost returning from a mission, it is safer to retrace your steps until you recognize a familiar landmark than to proceed and possibly run into enemy traps or patrols.



FORM THE habit of noting landmarks in the daytime. A landmark familiar at night may remind you of the position of another, in relation to it.

Speculation Points Toward Invasion Of Balkans

Turkey Favors Allies, Menaces Shaky Balkans

By SGT. TOMME CALL
Rattler Editor

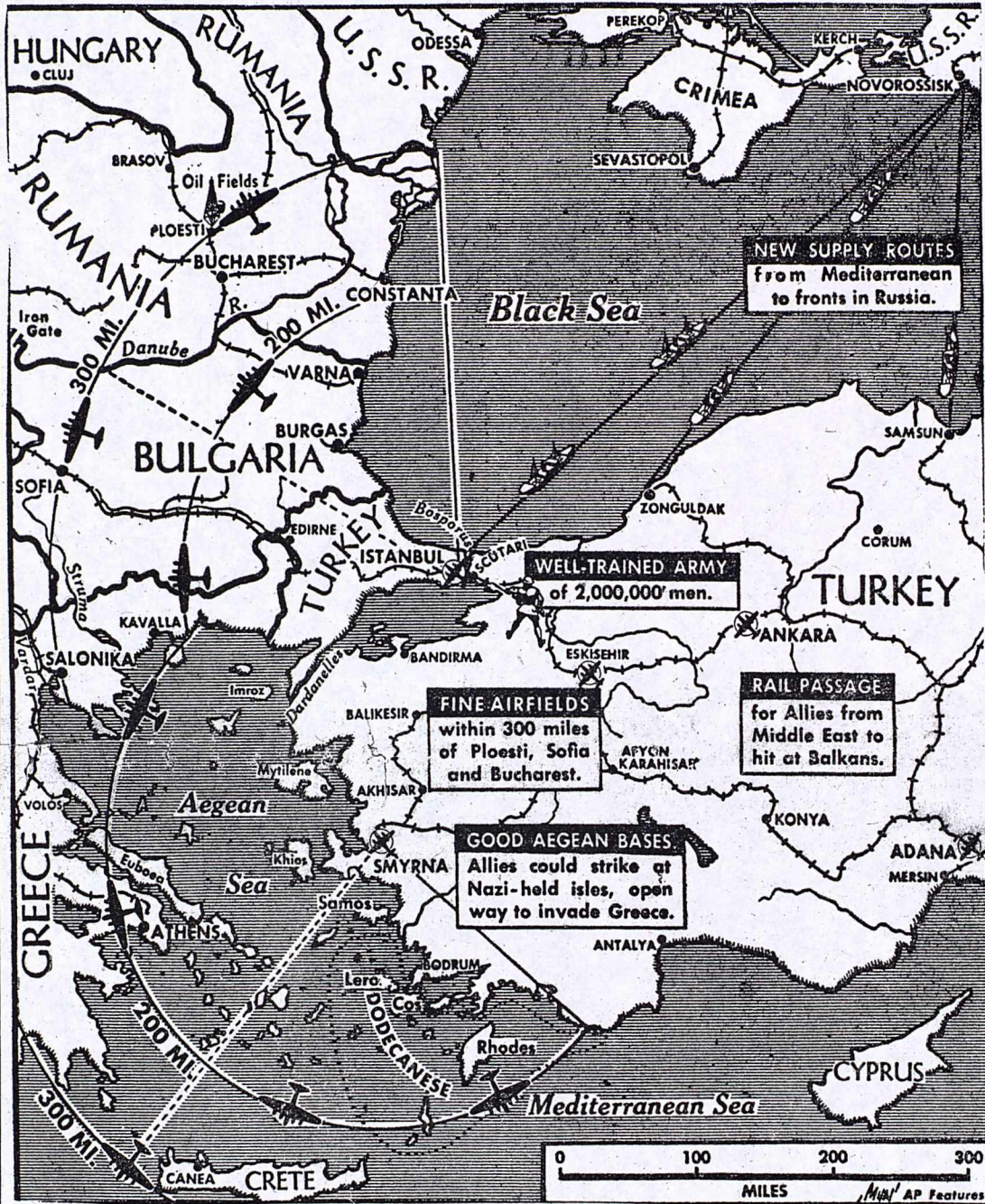
If the main Allied invasion of continental Europe is not in the making in the Balkan theater, at least a convincing feint is being aimed in that direction. Closely following the conference of the main powers of the United Nations in the Middle East, military moves, propaganda and rumors focus on those lands, restive victims of German domination and collaboration.

As heretofore imponderable Turkey lifts the veil from its significant intentions, Bulgaria's jitters threaten the Nazis' control with internal revolution. Turkish President Inonu's meeting with Churchill and Roosevelt may not have overt results for months, and maybe then not in open war, but the adjacent map indicates what Turkey can and may offer the Allies.

As the Eastern Front's endless mud turns into frozen highways in a few weeks, the Red Army is expected to launch its greatest winter offensive—probably the first of the major United Nations' blows "which will be undertaken from the east, west and south." The Russians before Kiev last week were standing successfully against all the Germans could throw in their powerful counter-offensive to take that strategic city, key to the course of the war on half the Eastern Front and necessary as a base for the Red Army's winter operations.

The Balkans awaited in fear the development of that offensive. Further preparing the Balkans for possible invasion the Allies again bombed Bulgaria's Sofia last week, with USAAF's Gen. Arnold warning that our airpower could now strike at every point in Europe, including Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania. Secretary of State Hull warned the Balkans that if they continued the war they would share the fate of defeated Germany, and Moscow spokesmen echoed the threat.

Yugoslavia Partisans set up a provisional government and guerilla warfare and anti-Nazi demonstrations intensified throughout the Balkans. But deserting Germany would not



be easy for the satellite lands; the Germans doubtless would rush to hold wavering allies in line with force, was reported to be doing just that in Bulgaria.

While the U. S. Seventh Army rested in Sicily and powerful British and American forces waited in the Middle East and the British Isles, the U. S. Fifth and British Eighth steadily, painfully were taking the remaining heights on the road to Rome. Since vast reinforcements are not being poured into that breach in the Fortress Europe, speculation grew that the Italian show may be only a

large-scale diversion, to draw German troops away from future invasion points.

The past month has been a great one in the air of Europe. Losses have dropped off with improved tactics, and destruction has increased materially—with the razing of half of Berlin the highpoint. Allied airmen are now using whole bomber and fighter fleets as a trained boxer uses calculated feints and blows, and the Luftwaffe is getting increasingly groggy.

Allied forces gained difficult ground slowly in the Southwest Pacific theater last week,

which, coupled with air and sea attrition, still aimed at Rabaul.

Big news from the Far East last week were Chungking reports that Chinese troops, fighting to protect the Rice Bowl, had recaptured Changteh and were near full victory in what may be the greatest battle on that front since the unsuccessful defense of Shanghai in 1937. Air raids and a Chinese column pointing toward Hankow, heart of Japanese domination in central China, may indicate a major Chinese offensive to be coordinated with the Allied Pacific campaigns.