

Oct 12, 1944

# PYOTE FIELD 2 YEARS OLD!

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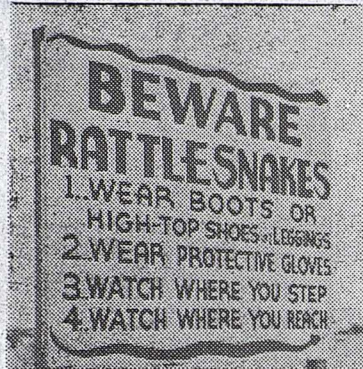
# ALLIED MIGHT HITS AACHEN, MARCUS ISLANDS

## THE RATTLER

PYOTE, TEXAS

Published each Thursday at the Rattlesnake Army Air Field, 236th Combat Crew Training Station (VH).

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### EDITORIAL

## A FAST YEAR

Among other things, war has a way of speeding up time's normal gait and compressing a lot of action into a short, kaleidoscopic whirl of events.

This feeling—as of rapidly turning the pages of a history book—is the feeling we get when we thumb through our battered Rattler file and try to work out a symposium on the field's second anniversary. Two years is a small speck in the fast-funnelling sands of wartime. Against a history book, two years is infinitesimal.

Fumbling for a suitable comparison, we remember the wainscoting on the kitchen door at home, and the 21 pencil marks there which represent our 21 birthdays. Every year dad stood the kids up against the wall and marked their height, with the weight alongside. It was the permanent record of annual growth.

We'd need the whole sky for a wall if we wanted to do the same thing for Pyote AAF. A year ago it was B-17s—at that time the Queen of the Skies—which flew the crews in training here. Today it is the B-29—the Superbomber of the skies which is just now bringing the war home to Japan—which drones over the field.

How much difference in size between a B-17 and a B-29? Well, that's a military secret but in that set of figures somewhere would lie the story of Pyote's past year of progress.

For the story of this field is inextricably linked with the story of the Army Air Force, its heavy bombardment phase, and our country at war. Its training mission mirrors the progress of the war. A year ago we trained Fortresses primarily for use against Germany; today, due in no small measure to the sustained air pounding of the Fortresses, Germany has been shaken to her foundations and is at her lowest ebb. Today the Mikado's name is moving to the head of the list for future attention and we train B-29 crews for the strategic air war which has just been started against the foe in the Pacific.

Commanders and men have changed more than once in the two years of Pyote's existence but every one has striven toward a single goal—the production of good crews which will blast the Axis from the skies.

That's our goal, which every man and woman stationed here should never forget for a minute.

Voting Is The Privilege And Duty Of  
Every Citizen.

## Churchill, Stalin Meet; Big 4 Issue Peace Plan

In the 150th week of the U. S. at War, this was the news from:

**THE WESTERN FRONT:** After a full week of drive, counter-drive, attack, and counter-attack, the American First Army was ready to take Aachen. The once-great German industrial city was almost encircled, its exits severed, its factories, houses, and buildings reduced to rubble. War analysts took an optimistic view of the Aachen battle; said that, if Aachen fell soon, the Siegfried line could be breached, and thus prevent a stale-mate for the winter.

**THE EASTERN FRONT:** Russian troops this week (1) continued their giant slash toward Memel, great Baltic port; (2) fought to close proximity of the East Prussian borders; (3) roared through the Balkans on their way to Budapest.

**THE SOUTHERN FRONT:** Allied fighter-bombers blasted away at German troops and barges trying to make a get-away from Greece. The Yanks in Italy advanced to within ten miles of Bologna, where German engineers were preparing to evacuate.

**THE PACIFIC FRONT:** Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet shelled the Marcus Islands—only three hours flying time from Tokyo. Observers noted that this shelling (the first by surface craft) was similar to pre-invasion poundings given Guam, Saipan, etc. The Jap fleet is based little more than a day's sail from Marcus.

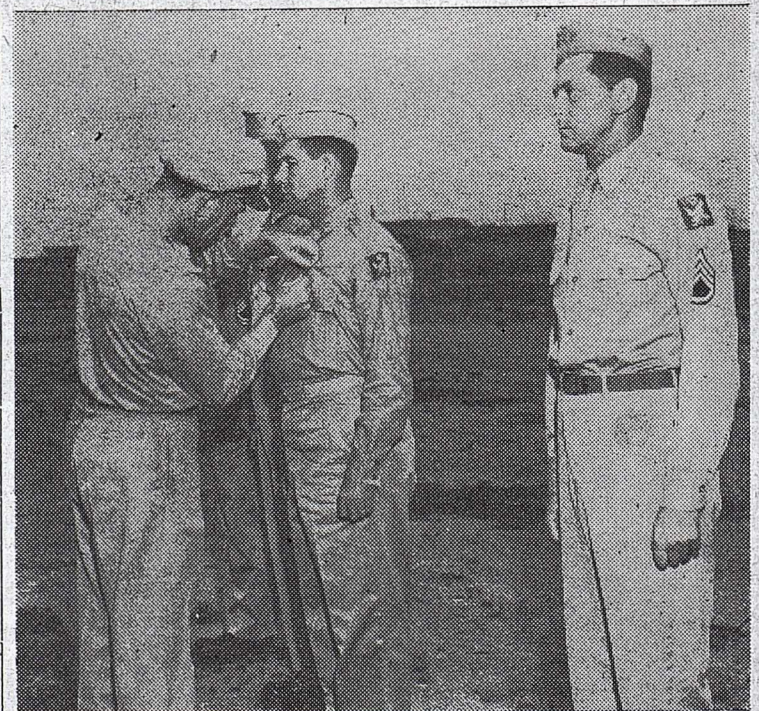
**THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT:**

Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden hied themselves to Moscow for a discussion with destiny's boy Josef Stalin. Their reason: to put finishing touches on plans for defeat of Germany. Rumors said that Roosevelt would meet with Stalin and Churchill after the November elections.

**THE PEACE FRONT:** The Big Four issued their peace-plan. Representatives for China, Russia, England, and the U. S. announced the map for the roadway to "the lasting peace". It calls for a world court, a military staff to enforce the peace, an international security organization, and the hope that France might someday increase it to the "Big Five".

**THE HOME FRONT:** Selective Service stated they would not call up any more limited service draftees, any honorably discharged men from the Army or Navy, or any men over 38.

## FIVE WIN DECORATIONS



Lt. Col. Persons awards the Air Medal with Cluster to Lt. Peter Shook during review ceremonies last Saturday. (Story on Page 3.)

# PYOTE AAF LIGHTS 2ND CANDLE

## CROWDS APPLAUD HOLLYWOOD REVUE

### Crosby Troupe Wows Packed Show Ground

An estimated crowd of eight thousand looked on as the Hollywood Headliner cast threw a 2½ hours entertainment clambake at the Parade grounds last Sunday evening.

Officers, enlisted men, and base civilians mingled with the representative guests from surrounding

Col. C. E. Duncan, Station Commandant, expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the men who contributed their time and labor to make the Hollywood show possible. Also he praised the courtesy extended by all personnel toward the members of the troupe.

"Without the untiring work of the officers and men responsible for the coordination of the day's activities, the show could not have been presented," said Colonel Duncan.

"I hope that department heads will recognize these soldiers for their work. They win from all of us a sincere 'thank you'. The cast expressed their deepest appreciation for the magnanimous treatment accorded them here."

towns to attend a spangled, glittery review titled "The North Hollywood Marching and Chowder Club Clambake Review".

Produced and emceed by Larry Crosby, manager of the illustrious Bing, the show ran the gamut of song, variety, dancing and laughs.

After a day of appearances at the hospital and mess halls and tours of the base, the entertainers put on the show from the specially built stage on the parade grounds.

The reception accorded the Hollywood guests moved one of the starlets to say, "We've never been so splendidly received anywhere!"

### THE COVER

The original Pyote GI is T-Sgt. Vic Holt, who arrived on the field the 3rd of November, 1942. Barracks bags packed and ready, Holt turns a dreamy eye to the railroad tracks in a faint, slight hope that someday, someday he might be leaving.

"Don't get me wrong!" says Holt, "It's a great base and I've been proud to be a part of it—but 2 years anywhere can get under a guy's skin."



The sultry Spanish songstress, Dolores, gives out with a serenade, to the guitar accompaniment of Cpl. Carmen Dantone. Larry Crosby, emcee and manager of the film troupe, introduces the secutive dancing of Zedra to the cheers of eight thousand GIs and their guests Sunday evening.

## Record Of Base Since Oct. '42 Is Outstanding

Two years ago Rattlesnake Bomber Base started its wartime career.

In October, 1942, when Allied military fortunes were at their lowest point, a few officers and men arrived here to start a B-17 training field. They had been preceded by the Army engineers and civilian construction workmen, who drove the first stake in Pyote's 2,720-acre plot of caliche dirt on Sept. 5.

When the first commandant, Lt.-Col. Clarence L. Hewitt, Jr., came a month later construction had spread to every acre and excavation on the runways was going forward.

Within a few weeks the first trickle of experienced airmen started flowing back from the theaters of operation. America, down but not out, had to call back many of her best fighting men to train the huge army needed to destroy the Axis.

The labors of all groups—officers and men, civilians and soldiers—have been combined at this field in a remarkable manner illustrating America's most potent war weapon—her genius for mass production.

Heavy bomber crews trained here have had leading roles in nearly every operation of the war. They are now adding laurels to the Army Air Forces all over the globe. Today Pyote Army Air Field has discharged its first great responsibility, training of B-17 crews, and is handling another equally as large, the training of crews for the Superbombers.

The field is a living monument to those who founded and built it. In all the Air Force's world-wide installations, it is a peculiar, if not unique, field. It is the Second Air Force's only field which does not have a sizeable town close at hand. This feeling of isolation is mirrored in the faces of new personnel as they step off the train at Pyote. But Pyote AAF has a community life all of its own, based on the spirit built up through two years of struggle against common hardships toward a common goal.

(CONT'D. ON PAGE 4, COL. 1)

## AWARDS GIVEN TO 4 EM, ONE OFFICER

Five decorations were awarded by L. Col. Stanley M. Persons, Deputy Station Commandant, to four enlisted men and one officer in a presentation ceremony Saturday.

T-Sgt. Grendell E. Hawes of Spokane, Washington, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his achievements, as Tail Gunner with a B-17 over continental Europe.

Lt. Peter E. Shook was awarded the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster for achievement while participating in the mass flight of B-17's from the U. S. to Hawaii with the 19th Bomb Group in 1941. Shook's home is Riverside, California.

S-Sgt. Lewis S. Dolman received the Air Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of the fifth Oak Leaf Cluster. Dolman is from Oklahoma City.

S-Sgt. Robert A. Slater, of

Council Bluffs, Iowa, received the Air Medal, and S-Sgt. John E. Craigie, of West Haven, Connecticut, received the Air Medal Oak Leaf Clusters.

Consult the Station Voting Officer, Capt. Charles J. Harnett, Extension 168, Station Personal Affairs Officer, about voting regulations in your state. The Personal Affairs Section is located in building No. T-640, directly behind the Station Library.

## Theater Schedule

(Unless otherwise indicated, show times are: Theater No. 1—1:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Theater No. 2—7 and 9 p.m.)

Thu.—CASANOVA BROWN with Gary Cooper, Theresa Wright, and Frank Morgan. (Mr. Deeds goes to town with wives and a stolen baby.) Also "Bear-Raid Warden" and Paramount News.

Fri.—TILL WE MEET AGAIN with Ray Milland and Barbara Britton. (The French underground again.) Also "This is America—Brazil Today", and Jasper cartoon.

Sat.—EVER SINCE VENUS with Ann Savage, Ross Hunter, and Ina Ray Hutton's Orch. (Music and comedy. Hugh Herbert woo-woos in this.) Also March of Time: "Post War Farmer", 3 Stooges comedy, "Gents Without Cents".

Sun. and Mon.—KISMET with Marlene Deitrich and Ronald Colman. (Harems and sultans in Technicolor.) Also "Plain Daffy", cartoon, and Paramount news.

Tue.—(Double Feature)—A WAVE, A WAC, AND A MARINE with Sally Eilers and Elyse Knox; "One Mysterious Night" with Chester Morris and George E. Stone. (Better spend your evening on the obstacle course, it's less wearing and more fun.)

Wed.—THE MERRY MONAHANS with Jack Oakie, Donald O'Connor, and Peggy Ryan. (Show business moppets discover romance.) Also sports reel: "Canine Cadets". Evening shows Wed. at Theater No. 2 at 6 and 8 p.m. No movie at Theater No. 1; USO show at 7:15 and 9:15.

## Service Club

Thur.—EM Wives Luncheon 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Concert by band at 8:30 p.m.

Fri.—Open.

Sat.—Open.

Sun.—WAC reception and dance for Pecos Wacs and Pyote GIs 7:00-11:00.

Mon.—Open.

Tues.—Dance, 9:00-12:00 p.m. with Field orchestra.

Wed.—Open. (USO show on base at Theatre No. 1.)

## Monahans USO

Thu.—Gingerbread making; Protestant discussion group.

Fri.—Informal activities.

Sat.—Dance, refreshments.

Sun.—Coffee hour, 11:00; Buffet Supper, 6:30; Song Fest, 7:30 Movies, 8:30.

Mon.—Song Fest, Mrs. Wray, 7:30; Movies, 8:30.

Tue.—Hobby Hour, Mrs. Baze.

Wed.—Better Halves Club luncheon, 12:30; Catholic discussion group, 8:30 p.m.; Spanish class.

## SECOND CANDLE—STAR DUST—

(CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1, COL. 1)

From the first commandant to the man who today guides the destiny of this key installation, Col. C. E. Duncan, Pyote AAF has had men of great ability at the controls. Most of them have brought back from current war theaters combat knowledge to sharpen the fighting edge of the crews rained here.

Many famous outfits have contributed to the task—most renowned of which is the fabulous 19th Bomb Group, whose men started arriving here soon after the field started. The work accomplished by these men has made records for flying and production of high-efficiency crews commonplace.

Warners hope to sell Patti Andrews (the blonde in the middle) on the idea of being a swing-happy Joan Davis . . . Krupa is cutting a new record, with a song called "Drumbriago" . . . From N. Y., they say that the Glenn Island Casino is closing for the winter. Business has fallen off this past year . . . "Anna Lucasta", a new drama with an all-colored cast, is getting T-riffic notices . . . The New Yorker says of the Stork Club, "Anyway, it keeps the kiddies off the streets." . . . Marilyn Maxwell will team with Bing at the Kraft Music Hall show, upon his return from o' seas . . . Meanwhile, George Murphy is filling in . . . Bergen is boasting a new nemesis for Charlie Mc-

## USO 'Step Lively' Coming Wednesday For Two Shows

"Step Lively" is the next USO show scheduled for Pyote's Theatre No. 1. This variety revue will play two performances next Wednesday, October 18th at 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Labeled as one of the best USO shows in many a moon, "Step Lively" boasts a number of headline attractions.

Heading the list is Stan Kavanaugh—internationally famous comedy juggler. Kavanaugh has had 39 years behind the footlights,

with such shows as "Zeigfeld Follies", Billy Rose's Fort Worth Centennial, and the Roxy Theatre in New York. Kavanaugh passed up several lucrative engagements to play the USO circuit, and has but recently returned from a tour of the Southwest Pacific.

Others on the bill include the Three Kays, a trio of girls in a comedy, acrobatic knockabout; Roger Williams and Alice, Hollywood's original sound-man and his girl friend. Williams doubles on the accordion and imitations, while Alice does the musical accompaniment as well as a take-off on Baby Snooks.

Also featured is Judy Kelly, an acrobatic dancer, Michael Doyle, the emcee and singer, and the Drake Sisters, tap dancers.

## Officers' Wives Elect Chairmen

During the luncheon business meeting of the Officers' Wives Club, new officers were named to various posts. Mrs. E. Swingle was elected vice-president and Mrs. V. Reynolds treasurer.

Mrs. S. Persons introduced Mrs. C. E. Duncan to the club-members, and Col. C. E. Duncan delivered a pep talk, stressing three major points: services to the club's own members, recreation, and service to outside agencies when necessary.

New chairman appointments were: Transportation, Mrs. W. H. Kruse (584-J Monahans) and Mrs. Malec of Pecos. Calling hours are from ten to noon each Thursday.

Club consultant is Mrs. G. B. Mothersead, whose office hours will be from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Red Cross appointee is Mrs. J. L. Harlan who announced the hours for surgical dressing are from 2 to 5 p.m. and also on the third Thursday of each month, following the free luncheon. Knitting classes will also be held, Mrs. Harlan stated, with Mrs. J. A. Alley and herself as instructors.

All girls interested in joining the eGray Ladies now being organized should call Mrs. Harlan at 192-J in Monahans.

Special activities chairman is Mrs. L. Hickerson who informed the club that bowling would be held at 2 p.m. each Saturday.

## Orchestra Gives Concert Tonight At Service Club

The station band will play a concert tonight at the Service Club at 8:30 p.m. This streamline concert opens the fall season of musical programs arranged and conducted by W-O Irvin E. Zimmerman.

Tonight's menu includes Danse Macabe by Saint Saens, which is the symphonic poem representing the dance of the devil at midnight; In a Monastery Garden by Ketelbey, augmented by a male chorus; Cubana, David Bennett's composition will be played as a violin solo with orchestra by Pfc. Bernard Tipple.

On the popular side, the program will feature concert arrangements of such perennial favorites as Gershwin's Embraceable You, Jessel's Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, and for the finale, Pvt. Fred Coradetti will lay aside his trombone and take the baton to direct a symphonic paraphrase of Jerome Kern's Smoke Gets In Your Eyes.

## Pecos Wacs Guests At Sunday Dance

An All-Wac-GI dance is being planned for Sunday night at the EM Service Club, according to an announcement by the arrangements committee.

Special guests will be the Wacs from the Pecos Army Air Field, a group of the lovelies having already accepted an invitation.

The station orchestra will provide music for the evening which the skirt-clad members of the khaki society are holding as a combination courtesy measure to the GIs and also as a tribute to the Service Club.

Dancing starts Sunday evening at 7:00 and lasts till 11:00. This Wac-GI dance will conclude a week of special festivities which celebrated the first anniversary of the Service Club.

Carthy—it's a female named "Effie Kinkel" . . . Harry James is destined for a date in Fort Worth this month. Music lovers apply for 3-day pass now! . . . —Sugar.

# EIGHT GIs TELL STORY OF '42 PYOTE

## No Heat, Lights, Water, Plumbing— Say Pyote Vets

If there were a "hashmark" for each year at Pyote, there would be eight men wearing two such stripes.

Selecting November 30, 1942 as the "veteran" date, the RATTLER found but eight GIs who were still sweating it out at Pyote.

Here are their pictures and their story.

**S-Sgt. Victor J. Holt, chief teletype operator. (Arrived Nov. 3, 1942.) Home: Brewster, Wash. (See cover.)**

"When I first came here we didn't have a signal office. We just had a wire machine in the area engineer's building. There was no water and no latrine. The first weeks we stayed in the Tourney hospital in Monahans, and drove back and forth to work. The dust storms on the base were terrific. There was nothing to do but eat, work and sleep. It wasn't long before Combat Crews moved in and the place began to get underway. I was the first GI to be married here—3 weeks after my arrival. It's a good base, but I'll never forget those first days. I was the first man to scrub the Mess Hall No. 1 floor. There were no windows in the Mess Hall then, either."



**T-Sgt. John E. Dullanty, Chief Clerk at Director of Training office. (Arrived Nov. 7, 1942.) Home: Spokane, Wash.**

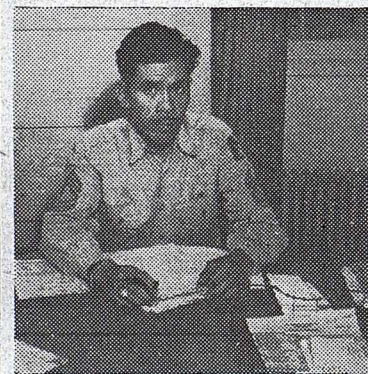
"It was hell here two years ago. But what a great improvement since! We had to heat our own shaving water in buckets in the Mess Hall. We had "Chic Sale" latrines with ten men capacity. Just before Thanksgiving '42, we had the grandfather of all dust storms. The dust was so thick that by the time you lifted your finger from the typewriter key the dust would have covered it and obliterated it. We lived in Monahans—no curfew, no MPs! And that was heaven. I have a personal pride in seeing Pyote AAF grow

from a desolate spot to a station of such magnitude."



**S-Sgt. Wesley Dansie, Teletype operator. (Arrived Nov. 11, 1942.) Home: Salt Lake City, Utah.**

"I arrived alone at Pyote and found only twenty other enlisted men on the field. There was nothing to do after a day's work but go to bed. No heat, no water—it was real pioneering, boy, I'll tell you! We had to do KP about every other day, and heated our own water at the Mess Hall in large GI cans. In those days we didn't have locks on the Mess Halls, and come midnight, we'd slip in and get away with a late snack. With three or four quarts of milk gone every morning, Mess Sgt. Bloomberg was up in arms. I started the telegraph office from scratch. All I had then was a Western Union machine. Business was "very rushing"—about two messages a day."

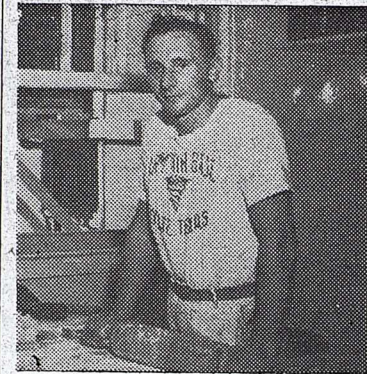


**M-Sgt. George M. Villa, Acting First Sgt. Medical Detachment. (Arrived November 3, 1942.) Home San Francisco, Calif.**

"When I arrived, we had all organizations in one building. Of the four bases I have been at, this is the best one. Here I have been able to get acquainted with most of the personnel. I well remember when we had to watch out for the rattlesnakes. Now we have well paved roads to walk on . . . quite a change!"

**Sgt. Wayne J. Gurney, Finance Accounting. (Arrived Nov. 26, 1942.) Home: New York City. (No Picture Available.)**

"I arrived at 8 in the morning and was on KP at ten! There were only a few of us EMs then, and we all lived in one barracks. The sand! Everything was dug up for building, and the dust storms would blow everything away. It certainly has grown rapidly, and today I think it is one of the best bases I've been on!"



**Sgt. Abe Bloom, Baker. (Arrived Nov. 28, 1942.) Home: Chicago, Ill.**

"Certainly is a great improvement. We had to do all our own baking by hand when we first arrived. Now we have machines to do the job. This base is the nicest I've been at, because they give you an even break here. I am looking forward to taking a dip in that swimming pool, as it sure is hot in my work at the bakery. As for food, this is the best in the Army. They have good cooks and bakers, and we try to make a soldier happy through his stomach; for we know here at Pyote good food can keep a soldier's morale high."



**S-Sgt. Walter A. Boreski, Meat and Dairy Inspector. (Arrived Nov. 30, 1942.) Home: Eylria, Ohio.**

"We had our offices in the Station Headquarters, and later the hospital. Before we had facilities to work with, it was tough going. As for sports, we certainly couldn't play baseball when we first arrived. The field wasn't cleared up, and had to be leveled off. The NCO Club is a wonderful thing for us Non-coms, too."

## Cash, Awards Slated For Suggestions

A committee has been formed here at Pyote which will act on suggestions, as turned in by enlisted men, officers, and civilian personnel.

Suggestions are welcomed that concern a saving to the Government in time or money. If suggestions are adopted and accepted by the committee, the persons making them will receive the following awards: If military, recommendations for the Legion of Merit, consideration for promotion, preferment in assignment, etc. If civilian, cash awards ranging from \$5.00 to \$2500.00, the amount determined on the basis of the net savings accrued to the Government by the suggested method, invention, or process.

Forms have been provided in all departments and offices on which to submit your suggestions. Suggestion boxes have been set up throughout the field to receive your ideas that can be turned into a savings for the Government and recognition or cash prizes for the author.

## 'Fire Prevention Week' Oct. 9-16

The week beginning Oct. 9 has been designated by presidential proclamation as "Fire Prevention Week."

This field, along with all other army installations, is expected to exercise particular vigilance during this week against fire. The ever-present fire hazard has a greater probabilities of extensive damage to war equipment, facilities and supplies than any other hazard that is subject to physical control. A fire loss on the home front might mean a campaign stalled or postponed on the fighting front with subsequent loss of American lives.

Let's watch out for fires.

NEW YORK (CNS)—While hundreds of men, women and children looked on, two men battled with knives over the affections of a girl on an East Side street one evening recently. One of the men, Solly Ricaboni, 63, was stabbed in the chest. The other, Patsy Lanino, 33, was stabbed in the back. While they were fighting, the girl they both loved disappeared in the crowd—with another man.

The eighth Pyote pioneer is M-Sgt. A. W. Klebanoff, Finance Dept. (Arrived Nov. 26, 1942.) Home: New York City. Klebanoff is on furlough and couldn't be reached for an interview.

# 'TWO YEAR SWEAT' TOLD



"From rattlesnakes to B-29s"—is the sum of the story of Pyote Army Air Field.

And this—this was Base Headquarters in the early days of the field. A two room shack, half of it was for the first C.O. of the base.

It's a far cry from this weather-beaten shack to the Headquarters building of today.



The RATTLER staff has a certain affection for this photo, for this picture it was that graced the cover of Vol. 1, No. 1 of the field's paper.

The officer arriving on the field is Lt. Colonel C. L. Hewitt, Jr.—the station commandant that activated the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

I could select no more appropriate time than the second anniversary of the Pyote Army Air Field to comment on the great strides made at this base. The progress of Pyote AAF, its excellent maintenance and training records, and its splendid achievements are mirrored in the successes of the Army Air Forces' actions.

To the enlisted personnel, officers, and civilians who are so largely responsible for this growth, we are all duly grateful; not forgetting that this progress is an inspiration toward even greater achievements in the future.

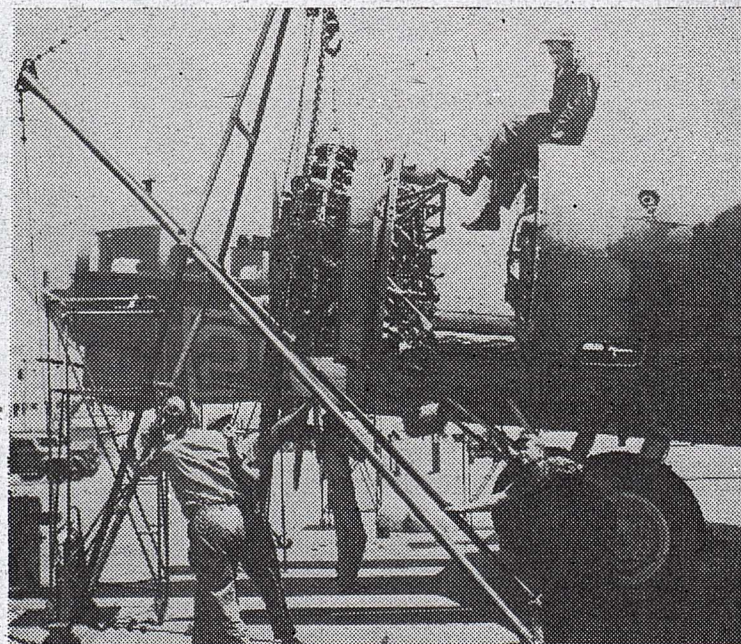
COLONEL C. E. DUNCAN  
Station Commandant



From our own photo album the RATTLER gives you a quick, kaleidoscopic view of Pyote Army Air Field—1942-1944.

C. O. of the Rattlesnake Army Air Field in its formative days was Col. Louie Turner (above, left). Colonel Turner succeeded Colonel Hewitt as Station Commandant, and is well remembered here at Pyote for the initiative and enthusiasm that went so far to build the field.

A familiar sight on the line is the combat crews in training heading for the ship (above center). Here a crew of a B-17 prepare



One of the finest jobs of all in the story of Pyote is the job on the line. Maintenance crews have set many records and goals in keeping the ships in tip-top condition. A 24-hour-a-day, never-ceasing job—these boys have the responsibility of seeing the planes can, will, and do fly.

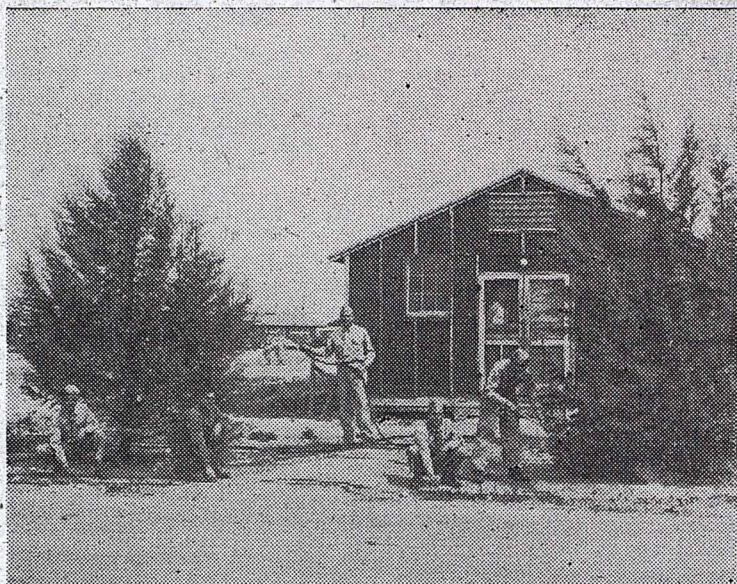
Their records are one of the finest achievements at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

# IN PYOTE AAF PICTURES

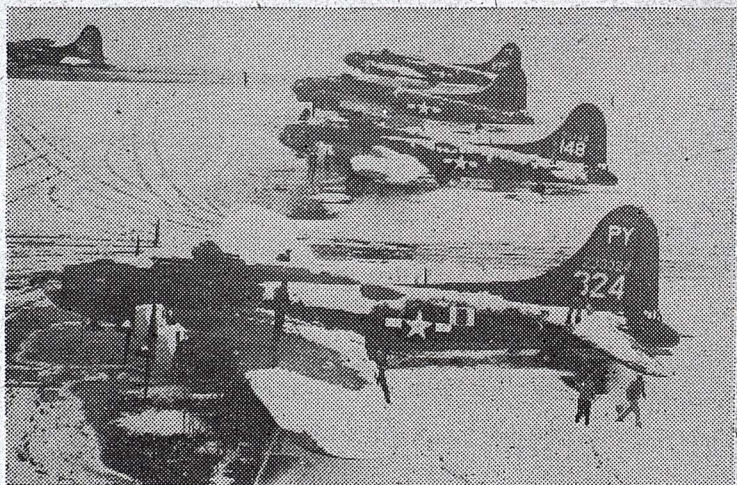


for the days training mission, under the watchful eye of veteran instructors.

One of the highlights of the past year was the appearance here of Maj. Gen. Uzal G. Ent, C. G. of the Second Air Force. (Above, right.) General Ent gave an informal address to field personnel last spring, told them what the 2AF hoped to accomplish, and then answered questions of the GIs regarding Second Air Force policies.



Base beautification has always been a hope at Pyote. And residents of Section F's Barracks 539 planted trees and plants to aid in the program of scenery improvements.



If you weren't here last January, you won't believe this . . . but the snows came to Pyote, for one of the bigger news stories of 1944 for The Rattler.

GIs romped through the snow, and to walk down the street without ducking a snowball was a physical impossibility.

Typical reaction was one GI's comment—"Migawd, Pyote personnel IS frozen!"



The sign, "Beware of Rattlers," was erected in the early days of Pyote—and the boys weren't kidding. This picture was the one that tagged the base "The Rattlesnake Bomber Base", and as part of the history of the field, it will run permanently on the masthead of The Rattler.

In retrospect, just two years ago since Pyote Army Air Field was first started, it is with a sense of deep pride I extend to the enlisted personnel, officers, and civilians of this base my sincere appreciation for your individual efforts in contributing to the building of this field.

We have come a long way. We have witnessed our hopes, desires and aims cemented into actualities; actualities that spell success and definite assurance that ours today is the finest Army Air Force, with Pyote Army Air Field doing its full share to a victorious conclusion.

LT. COL. STANLEY M. PERSONS  
Deputy Station Commandant

## FROM SNAKES TO B-29s SAY PIONEER OFFICERS

Only five officers remain of the original group of the 28 who arrived at Pyote in the fall of 1942.

They were gathered for a special anniversary picture and reminisced over the "early days" at Pyote.

"There's quite a lot of difference," Captain Eugene D. Taber, Finance Dept., stated, "I've certainly enjoyed watching the Base grow up. Every time I look around I never thought I would see it as it is today."

Captain Charles P. Ripley, Medical Detachment, agreed.

"Men think Pyote is a tough Base—they should have been here two years ago. It's a comparative paradise now."

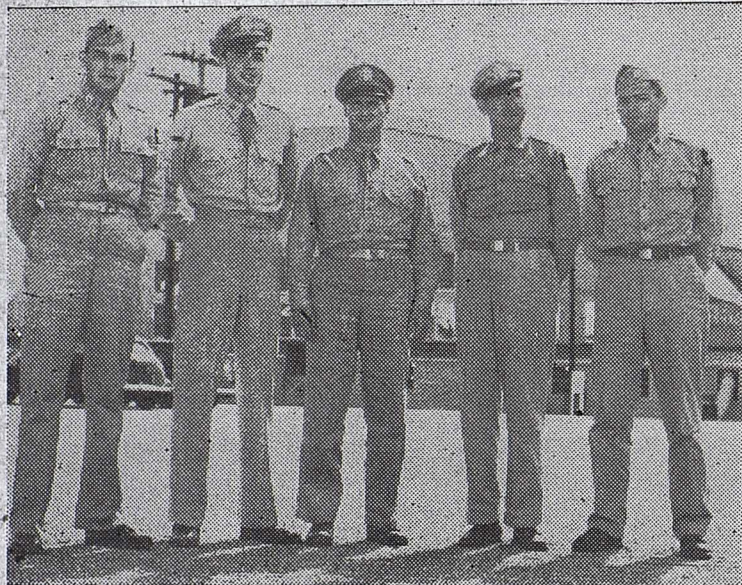
Lt. Col. Charles Tenhouten, Medical Corps, added: "Those who have been here since the Base was started have seen tremendous changes. The longer I remain at this air field, the prouder I am of Pyote AAF."

"I've seen Pyote from the ground up," said Captain Ocie L.

Conger, Corps of Engineers, "Many have come and many have gone, but Pyote goes on—and keeps building!"

But it was Captain Emmett L. Lane who summed it all up. Captain Lane moved in in August of '42 with the Corps of Engineers when construction started. He was the first soldier of Pyote.

"From a gate house when I arrived—to a base of about 500 buildings," Captain Lane mused, "From Rattlesnakes to B-29s. It's the war effort at its best!"



This quintet of officers is all that remains of the the vanguard who started Pyote AF two years ago. (Reading left to right) They are Capt. Eugene D. Taber, Capt. Charles P. Ripley, Lt. Col. Charles Tenhouten, Capt. Ocie L. Conger, and Capt. Emmett L. Lane.

## Seven Civilians Mark Second Year Serving Rattlesnake Bomber Base

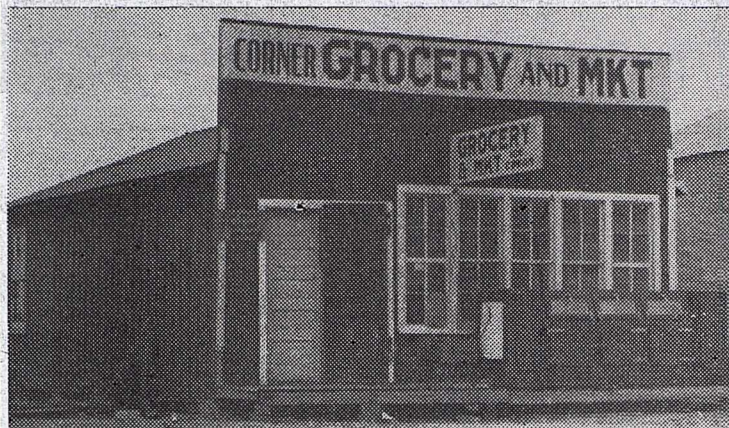
Among the base personnel who have pioneered the Pyote Army Air Field are seven civilians.

These men and women have chalked up two years at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base, remembering way way back to the day when this field was in the skeleton stage of development.

These seven are Halbert E. Adams of the Post Engineers' Office who arrived September 8, 1942 (Adams worked for the U. S. Engineers before being transferred to the

Post Engineers.) Edna McLeod of the QM Office who arrived November 9, 1942, Vestal T. Murphy at the Ration Board who arrived November 11, 1942, Ruth Klebanoff in the Budget and Fiscal Office, November 24, 1942, Ralph Walker of the Post Engineers, November 23, 1942, Charles E.

Lowry, Chief Clerk at Commissary, Nov. 23, 1942, and J. C. Reis of Civilian Personnel who hit Pyote on the 29th of August, 1942. Reis—manager of Civilian Personnel—is the oldest man in point of time at Pyote, arriving here before the base was begun.



This one-room, frame shack was the Pyote Grocery store when Pyote was little more than a pause on the T & P railroad . . .

## SO THIS IS PYOTE . . .

When the first contingent of soldiers arrived at Pyote they found three cafes, two grocery stores, the railroad station, the JP office, and the post office. Later, a theatre was rolled in on wheels, and then came two barber shops, two pool halls, and a drug store.

Its 1940 official population is listed as 201. But Pyote wasn't always like that.

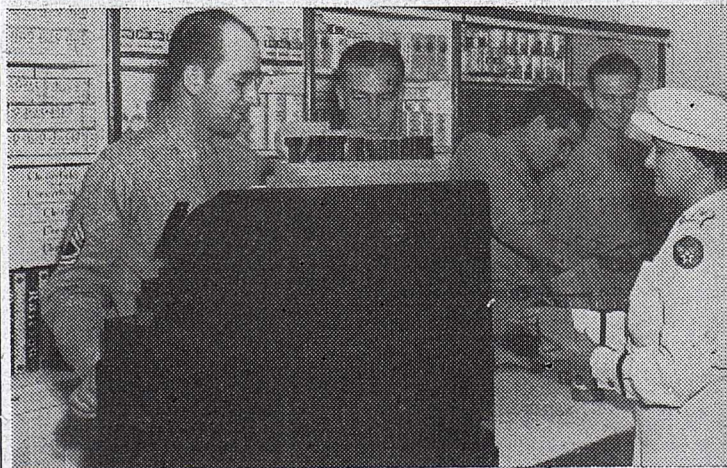
In 1927 an oil boom hit Winkler county and put Pyote on the map. It became the railhead for the busy oil fields. In 1928, the Pyote station handled more freight than Fort Worth, Dallas, or El Paso. It led the state in freight shipments. And during March and July of the following year, its freight business outdid New Orleans to lead the entire South.

During these boom days, Pyote hit a population of over five thousand. But when the end came, the majority hit out for newer oil fields, and Pyote dwindled again. For ten years, little Pyote went back to the languorous life of a small, small town that had once held the lure of black gold.

But in 1934, a minor spurt brought the oil-men back, and Pyote began to come back to life. But after a year or so, the population dipped again, cattle and stray dogs roamed the once jostled board walks of Pyote, and the streamlined autos zipped past without hardly a sideward glance.

Pyote has been a boom town twice. It's been a ghost town twice. And now this topsy-grown town has turned topsy-turvy again. The streets that echoed to cowboy boots and drillers' shoes now clatter to the rhythm of the GI brogans.

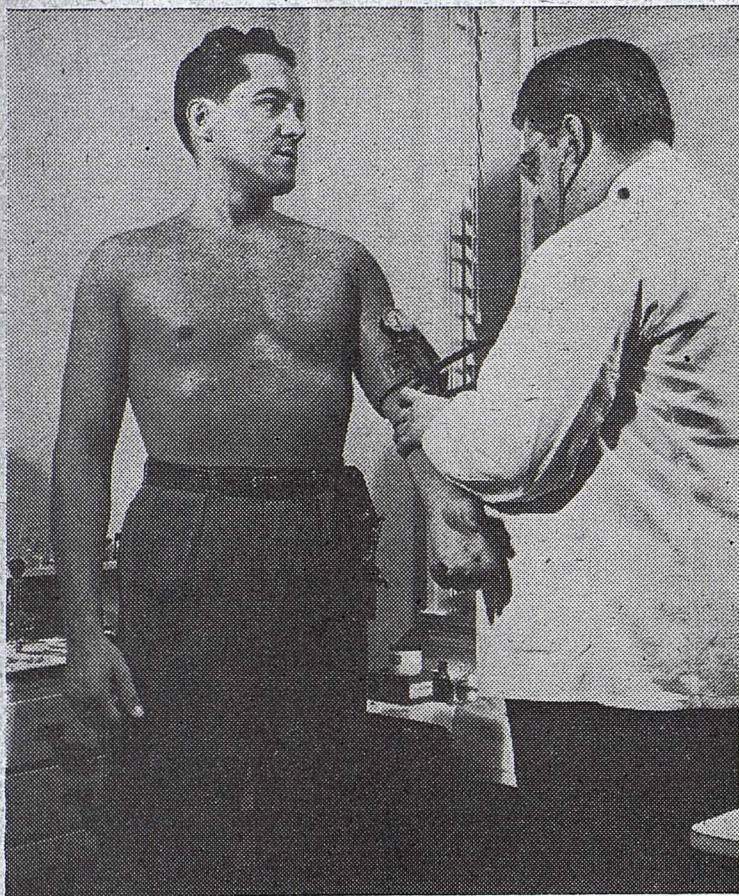
And the future of Pyote which once looked down in the earth for the rumble of oil now looks to the skies for the roar of the B-29s.



. . . This modern, well-stocked GI grocery is the Field commissary. It offers provisions to enlisted men, officers, and families at special low-rates; is operated by the Post Exchange, and staffed by GIs.



## G. I. Bill Of Rights



(Photo Courtesy Click Magazine)

### U. S. Guarantees Veterans Complete Medical Care

The GI Bill of Rights grants four rights to men and women in uniform: The right to a home, the right to health, the right to a job, and the right to education.

The right to health: Many former servicemen are going to need medical, dental or hospital treatment before they will be able to resume civilian lives, and provision has already been made for them.

The Army intends to release you into civilian life in the same physical condition (or better) than when you were drafted. If, however, that is impossible due to battle injuries and wounds, the GI Bill of Rights authorizes a large health program to aid these veterans.

The Government is authorized to spend \$500,000,000 to construct new hospitals for veterans. This supplements the 83,000 beds in 94 veterans' hospitals already established. Other facilities may be bought or leased.

Numbers of men will have to have artificial arms, legs, teeth, etc. The Government will provide these, and it will train the men, when that is necessary, in their use—regardless whether the patient is treated in an Army or Navy hospital, a Veterans' Administration hospital, or the out-patient department of some other institution, or under a contract.

The GI patient will not have to

pay a cent for hospitals or doctors or appliances. The entire cost will be borne by the U. S. Government.

Every man or woman in the service, before he returns to civilian life, will have the opportunity to request hospitalization. But, even if he doesn't put his claim in then, that will not prevent him from applying later on for such care as he may need even for illness or injuries not suffered during his service. If he is in immediate need of treatment at the time of his discharge, he may be sent to a veterans' hospital even without a formal request.

Next week: The Right to a Home.

#### RATE INCREASED

President Roosevelt has signed a bill increasing the special delivery mail rate to 13 cents. The change will become effective on November 1st.

### Surgeon Tells Of Pioneering Days Of '42

(A valuable insight about the "early days" of the Rattlesnake Base is given here by Lt.-Col. Charles Tenhouten, Base Surgeon.

I reported at this station as a Captain on October 25, 1942. At this time, five officers and four enlisted men were the entire military complement.

No buildings were completed, but the contractor obligingly put a roof on one of the Hospital warehouses and installed temporary windows.

There were no water facilities, no sewage on the station, except in the Area Engineers Office until after Christmas of 1942. Female employees were given transportation to and from the Area Engineers' Office for the purpose of obtaining a drink of water or attending to other personal matters.

Water was hauled in from Pyote in a truck, and an outside CCC pit latrine was in use. Officers took



LT.-COL. TENHOUTEN

turns being Base OD, and what a lonely job that was—without heat, lights, water, or company!

The change from the days when we had no roads, no lights, no water, no sewage, and exceedingly severe dust storms, to the present fine Army Air Field which we now can be well proud of, has been an experience which endears this Station to the hearts of those men who were present while the Base was under construction.

### Rattle Snake Charmer



The lass with the gypsy eyes is Miss Jean Porter, who you saw in Red Skelton's "Bathing Beauty". This week's Pyote Pin-up is dedicated to the stalwart soljurs who look at girl's FACES occasionally. Cute, ain't she?



# KOOPS' KORNERS

**BAGDAD OF THE PECOS:** A week or so ago we hit sort of a low mood. Dunno why, exactly. The barracks was empty and there was no one to talk to. We'd seen the movie and just weren't in the mood to write letters. The World Series was coming up and we got to wishing we were in Wohl's bar on 7th street in St. Louis, arguing baseball and having a Calvert and chaser. And the more we thought about home and the guys we knew and how much we were missing, the bluer we got. It was just one of those nights.

We went out for a walk and stopped by the Service Club, and the library, and the PX, and got listening to some stories, got to swapping jokes, and drinking a beer or two, and ended up by picking up enough stuff for a column.

We talked to Emily at the library about one book and another, and she said she had something she wanted to say. Seems that some officer accidentally walked out of the library with their only copy of "Strange Fruit", one of the best best-sellers. They don't know his name, but they do know that 23 guys are waiting to read the book. So would I remind him that the book should be returned, please?

We said we would and walked over to the Service Club. They were looking for a fourth at bridge, and a coupla fellas were playing ping-pong out on the porch. We sat down in the lounge and got talking to a fellow who said he heard a pretty funny story from a steward on the T & P.

Seems a bunch of fellows were being shipped to Pyote. The steward told them the diner was open if they wanted to eat. Well, they talked it over and finally the spokesman for the guys said, "Aw, guys, let's wait till we get to Pyote and we can eat at the Harvey restaurant there." So, they waited. And the train stopped at Pyote, and as the train rolled on, the steward heard one of the bunch turn to the spokesman and say, with a tone of infinite disgust—"Harvey House Hell!"

We got quite a kick out of that. And we told the guy about the fellow overseas who got a telegram from his wife that read: "Not getting any better come home." So he dashes into the orderly room to ask for an emergency furlough. And they say to him. "Bo, you just read that wrong."

I got over to the patio all right and got talking to some GI about his furlough.

"Ya know, it was sorta funny," he was telling me, "when I went on furlough I passed right through the town where an old ex-girl friend of mine lives. Gee, she and I went together for years. Why, I took her to the high school prom and we had all sorts of hopes and dreams about being married someday and—gosh, it was heavenly. Well, it was the same old story, Ed. She married some other guy and moved away. I hadn't seen her since. And I got to thinking maybe I'd stop off at that town and pay her a visit—for old time's sake—to sorta see if I'd changed or she had changed. You know. Well, I got off the train, and looked up her husband's name in the phone book. And I hopped a cab over to the house, and my heart was beatin' away a mile a minute. Just to think I would see her again! Well, the cab stopped, and I walked up the steps and rang the bell.

"And then I got to thinkin'—that maybe she would have changed—gotten a little plumper maybe, a little older, or different, you know. And that maybe the memory of the girl as I knew her and loved her was, oh I dunno, just maybe the way I want to remember her always. Anyway, I heard the sharp heel clicks of a girl coming to answer the door. And I just—I just turned and ran down the street, and cryin'? Why, I was bawlin' like a baby—"

Well, we ambled back to the barracks, thinking about that guy and his first girl, and looking up at those stars and the clouds. And we decided it was a pretty good way to spend an evening. Yessir, it was all right.

And as we passed the bus-stop we saw a soldier kissing his girl good-night. And we walked on, thinking to ourself, "It was a pretty nice evening, after all. Anyplace where a guy can drink a beer, or tell a joke, or read a book, or kiss a girl, is a pretty good place to be."

## PICK THE WINNERS!

Twelve games are on The Rattler's Football Dopester card this week, topped by the Navy-Duke clash at Baltimore.

Three winners each week will be presented War Department theater books as prizes. If you want to get in on the competition, check your selections below and turn the sheet in to the Public Relations Office, Station Headquarters, by 1700 Friday.

The rules are simple. Entrants must pick both the winner and score of each game on the chart, and winners are decided on the closeness of scores when equal numbers of games are doped correctly. Approximately a dozen games will be run each week, of which one or two will be in District 7-A, the district in which Monahans, Wink, Pecos and Kermit play. Remaining games will be among the top collegiate and service teams of the nation.

Remember the deadline—1700 Friday—and have your selections in. Winners will be announced in next week's Rattler.

### THE GAMES

Team	Score	Team	Score
Navy	_____ vs.	Duke	_____
Yale	_____ vs.	Columbia	_____
Texas	_____ vs.	Oklahoma	_____
2nd Air Force	_____ vs.	New Mexico	_____
Illinois	_____ vs.	Iowa	_____
Wisconsin	_____ vs.	Ohio State	_____
Northwestern	_____ vs.	Michigan	_____
Purdue	_____ vs.	Iowa Pre-Flight	_____
Randolph Field	_____ vs.	Southern Methodist	_____
Southern Calif.	_____ vs.	St. Mary's Pre-Flight	_____
Rice	_____ vs.	Tulane	_____
Kermit	_____ vs.	Pecos	_____

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

## At The Chapel

**PROTESTANT**—Sunday: Section C Chapel, 0900; Station Chapel Service, 1030; Civilian Housing Service, 1130; Station Vesper Service, 2000.

**CATHOLIC**—Sunday Masses: 0800, 1615, 1830. Daily Mass, 1830, except Thursday. Mass Thursday at 0930 in Red Cross Reading Room. Evening devotions Tuesday and Friday, 1900. Confessions Saturday, 1730 to 1830; 2000 to 2100; before all Masses on Sunday.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**—Thursday, 2000; led by Mrs. Mabelle N. Homes, Wartime worker.

**JEWISH**—Friday, 1930, Sabbath Evening Service.

### JESSE OWENS, GI, WILL RUN AGAIN

Jesse Owens, former Ohio State track and ex-olympic cinder star, is scheduled to run again—this time in Paris. Owens, serving with American Forces in France will compete against various French stars.

## Perfect Marks Pace Dopesters

Two perfect scores led the field in the Rattler's Football Dopester Contest last week.

M-Sgt. Mike Zrko of Sec. E and Cpl. K. T. Cloutin of Sec. F. picked 13 games correctly. They will be awarded theater ticket books along with Pvt. Robert Blish of Sec. A. Pvt. Blish missed one game for third place and all other contestants missed two or more.

### DRESSINGS NEEDED BY STATION HOSPITAL

A critical need for women to make surgical dressings has arisen at the Station Hospital. Increased work done at the hospital has created a demand which is not now being met.

Wives of officers, enlisted men and civilian employees are urged to help out. If you want to lend your aid, call the Red Cross Field Director, Mr. Richard Beatty, and make arrangements.

# Ticket Sales Brisk For NTAC-Superbomber Tilt

## Iowa Pre-Flight Pulls 12-6 Upset On Superbombers

Tickets for the 2nd Air Force-NTAC football game Oct. 21 were reported moving briskly at Pyote AAF, where they were placed on sale last Friday.

Sales are being handled through section orderly rooms and at the Special Service Office, through facilities of the Special Service Office.

Prices are \$1.75 for officers and civilians, and 60 cents for enlisted men and their guests. No seats in Odessa's Fly Field are being reserved, so it will be a good idea to get enough ducats early for you and your guests.

# Kermit Takes On Pecos Eagles In 7-A Headliner

The first conference game of the season in 7-A brings together the top two teams of the district—Pecos and Kermit—in Pecos Friday night.

Statistics give Kermit's hard-charging Yellow Jackets an edge. The Jackets ran over Monahans 29-0 early in the season and a week later the Pecos Eagles defeated Monahans 18-7. With the game on Pecos soil it should be a close and hard-fought struggle, one that may decide the circuit title.

In non-conference games Ancrows comes to Wink and Monahans invades Crane. Neither of these stack up as interestingly as the Pecos-Kermit clash.

Last Friday night Wink's Wildcats shut out the Monahans Green Wave, 18-0, in Monahans.

A Class AA game which should be a hammer-and-tongs affair is slated for Fly Field in Odessa Friday night when the Abilene Eagles come to town for a session with the Odessa Bronchos. Both teams are gunning hard for the championship of District 3-AA, one of the toughest districts in the state. San Angelo, defending state school boy champion, is the leading title contender.

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS)—A Minneapolis night club sent this telegram to a London theatrical agency: "Understand Hitler, Goering and Goebbels closing Berlin soon. Have opening for trapeze act starting Oct. 1. If available sooner, please advise."

# Seahawk Upset Stops 2-Year Winning Streak

## 'Strike' Paces Ground-Gainers With 8.8 Mark

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—The Second Army Air Force's Superbombers, their great two-year football winning streak broken by the Iowa Seahawks, tomorrow begin preparations for a two-game invasion of Texas gridirons.

Saturday, the Flyers go against the University of Mexico in the Sun Bowl at El Paso and the following week they take on North Texas Aggies at Odessa.

El Paso will be a familiar setting for Maj. William B. (Red) Reese of the Superbombers. Two years ago he led the team, then known as the Bombers, to a 13 to 7 victory over Hardin-Simmons in the Sun Bowl in the brightest chapter of Second Air Force football.

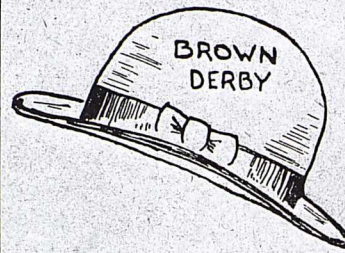
New Mexico may give the Superbombers much trouble this Saturday. The Lobos are fast and tricky and they took heart from the 12 to 6 victory of the Seahawks over the 2AAF outfit which had breezed through five victories this season.

The Reese attack sputtered and stalled against the Pre-Flights in Memorial Stadium at Lincoln, Neb., before 29,000 spectators. The Seahawks were lifted to peak strength by the addition of several hard-bitten officer gridmen. Two of these, Tackle Vic Schleich and End Jim Poole, were the outstanding linemen on the field and conspired to check the 2AAF passing ace, Glen Dobbs, who managed to complete only eight of 20 passes for 71 yards.

Dobbs, however, owns one of the outstanding passing records in the land, with a season's showing of 32 completions in 50 throws for 451 yards, six of his pitches going for touchdowns. And Texas fans will see in Johnny Strzykalski one of the hardest-running backs in service football. The former Marquette sophomore has carried 31 times for 273 yards, an average of 8.8 yards per try.

The Superbombers expect to be strengthened for the New Mexico game by the return of Guards Bob Perugini, Ed Hiemstra and Visco Grgich, who did not make the trip to Lincoln because of leg injuries.

# P. T. Award



Awarded to Section F for second straight week for having the lowest percentage in Physical Training, and to be retained as long as Section F remains at bottom of list.

# Dusters Win, 19-0 Off Link Trainers

The Dusters of Sec. D look more and more like the hot club in the Station Touch Football League. Last week they knocked over the Flying Links 41-6 with considerable ease.

The Blockbusters landed on the Link Trainers 19-0, with Gamler taking three touchdown tosses. Dick Hertling was outstanding for the Links.

The schedule for the coming week:

Oct. 12—Sawbones vs. Night Raiders.

Oct. 13—Wildcats vs. Gents.

Oct. 16—Dusters vs. Bks. 5 Medics.

Oct. 17—Bruisers vs. Bks. 532.

Oct. 18—Flying Links vs. Trainers.

# Cardinals Cop The Crown 4-2

The St. Louis Cardinals, a sad looking ball club until they hit their batting stride, wrapped up the '44 World Series Monday with a 3-1 win over the Browns.

The inter-city series, first in 43 years in which the Browns participated, was distinguished for its pitching. A total of 88 batters struck out in the six games to set a new Series record, and a new single game record was set in the fifth game when 22 men whiffed.

The game scores in order:

- Browns 2, Cards 1.
- Cards 3, Browns 2.
- Browns 6, Cards 2.
- Cards 5, Browns 1.
- Cards 2, Browns 0.
- Cards 3, Browns 1.

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS)—Stanley Olson, a baseball umpire, was arraigned in Municipal Court on a charge of passing a traffic light. "I didn't see it," the umpire pleaded. "I played ball for 15 years," said the judge, "and I never saw an umpire with good eyesight. Five dollar fine."

# Schedule Set For 7th Area 2AF Cage Loop

## Pyote's Opener Against Tucson Carded Dec. 1

BIGGS FIELD, El Paso — A basketball calendar for the seventh area of the Second Air Force League was set up here recently at a meeting attended by representatives from Pyote, Alamogordo, Tucson and Biggs Field.

The top team in this area will receive a trophy and compete in the 2AF play-offs.

With the league set up on a round-robin basis, each club plays the other three quintets four times each for a total of 12 league games.

A double elimination tournament will be held at the conclusion of league play on Feb. 1-2-3 to determine the Seventh Area representative for the 2AF play-offs. The tournament winner rather than the league winner will represent the area, so a slow start will not necessarily eliminate a club.

Pyote's team travels to Alamogordo for its first league game Tuesday, Nov. 21. The boys anticipate some rough competition and are working out five times a week in order to be ready for the opener.

First home game for Pyote will be on Dec. 1 when Tucson invades Pyote.

The balance of the schedule: Dec. 8—Pyote at Biggs Field; Dec. 13—Pyote at Tucson; Dec. 15—Alamogordo at Pyote; Jan. 5—Biggs Field at Pyote; Jan. 10—Pyote at Tucson; Jan. 12—Pyote at Alamogordo; Jan. 17—Pyote at Biggs Field; Jan. 19—Tucson at Pyote; Jan. 24—Alamogordo at Pyote; Jan. 26—Pyote at Biggs Field.

# Pyote Cagers Play Marfa '5' Friday

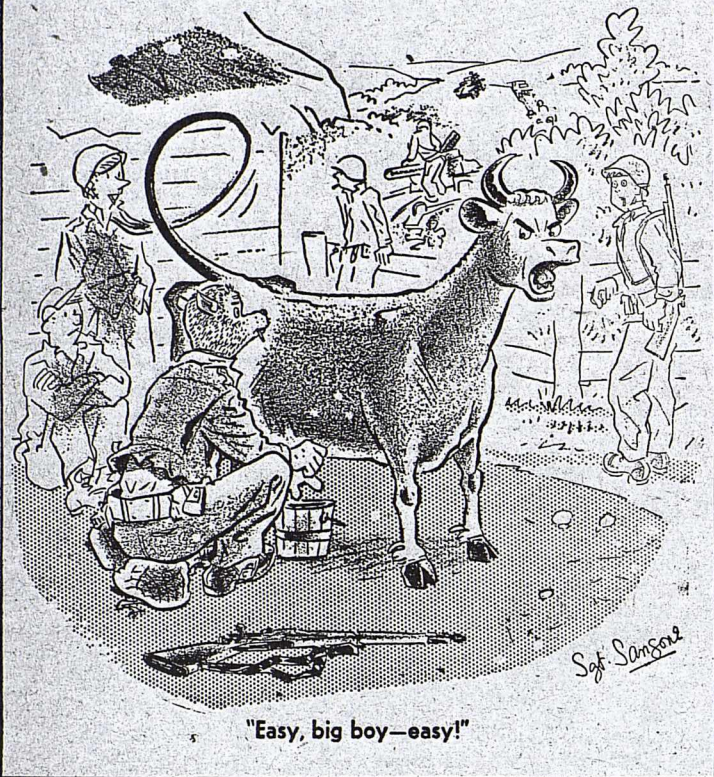
In the first practice game of the year, Pyote's basketball team invades Marfa Friday night.

Making the trip are: Lt. Robert I. Friedman, Lt. Hewitt K. Graham, T-Sgt. Martin P. Joyce, Sgt. Joseph H. Burns, Cpl. James J. Burke, Cpl. John A. Dahl, Cpl. William V. Funk, Pfc. Harold A. Cooper, Pfc. Roland F. Crenshaw, Pfc. Douglas J. Held, Pfc. Chester J. Satroni and Pvt. Bruce M. Michna.

### The Wolf

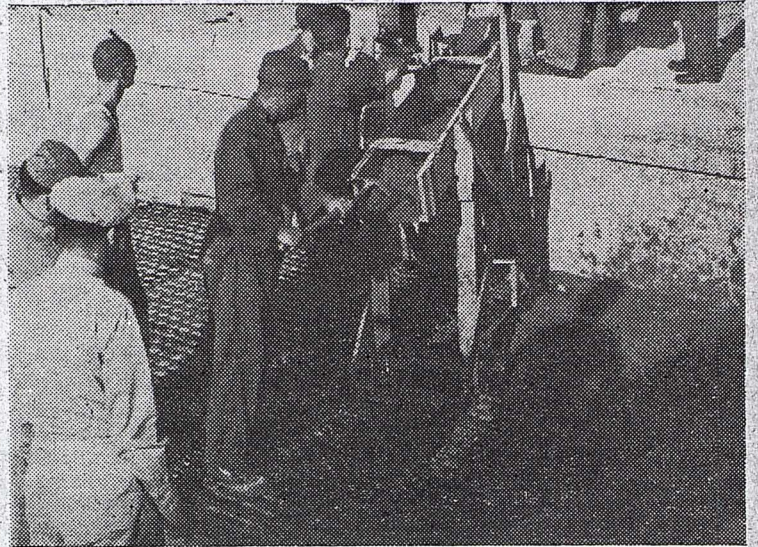
by Sansone

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"Easy, big boy—easy!"

### EM Swimming Pool Almost Ready



GIs pour the concrete flooring for the swimming pool, as final activities put the finishing touches to the enlisted man's own pool. By the end of the week, only the bath house and walks will be left to complete before the pool is opened for the remainder of the season.

It is estimated that—with the right breaks and good weather—the pool should be ready to use within a week or ten days.

Construction of the pool began in late August, and construction chiefs hoped to give the pool its maiden dip before the week is out.



**Q.** Does the U. S. Army pay for neutral property destroyed by Americans in battle?

**A.** The Army won't pay for property destroyed or damaged during combat action. However, once the Army occupies an area, it may settle claims for damage done to private property not arising from combat. (AR 25-90)

**Q.** What's the difference between a CDD and a Medical Discharge?

**A.** None at all. A CDD (Certificate of Disability Discharge) is the official name for a Medical Discharge and refers to all discharges granted for physical reasons.

### THE CRYSTAL BALL

(Each week The RATTLER will record predictions on the duration of the war, as made by ranking men and women of our time.)

Elmer Davis, director of War Information: "The failure of Allied airborne troops at Arnheim makes chances for a victory in Europe this year more remote. This defeat alters our earlier report that Germany would go down before or not long after the end of 1944."

# M A L E C A L L

By Milton Caniff

