



RATTLESNAKE **ARMY AIR FIELD**

PYOTE, TEXAS Published for the personnel of Pyote Army Air Field by the In-

formation and Education section, with the cooperation of Public Relations. All material is reviewed prior to publication by the Public **Relations** Officer.

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Be Kind To Your Boss

Ever since Pyote observed Military Courtesy week, we have been attempting to write an editorial about it. Now, we have read many editorials about Military Courtesy and most of them seem to end up by pointing two morals-that it is the peachiest thing in the world to salute officers and a good soldier will run blocks out of his way in order to salute one; or the other moral, that Military Courtesy ain't no fun, but you'd better or else.

All of which doesn't say anything that hasn't been said many times.

But, remember, this military courtesy is nothing new. When we stop to think of it, we had the same thing at the various civilian jobs we've had. We have worked for many bosses in our life-time, and we have felt respect for all of them—because they were our superiors.

Maybe it boiled down to the item that you don't give a sock in the nose to the man that signs the pay-checks. At least, we didn't. We never gave the boss a hot-foot; because it just didn't make sense.

Military Courtesy goes a good deal further than saluting an officer. We think the entire premise of courtesy is that we're all taken and put together in a camp. It's not our favorite spot in the world to be, but we are all here together, and a little courtesy goes a long way foward making things endurable.

So, that's it, fella. Courtesy pays off in dividends—whether it's just "not bucking a line" or saluting a staff car. Let's keep on remembering that.

He Wants A White Shirt

A friend of ours, named Jim McGovern, is over in Belgium and has been for sometime. Jim's post-war plans are plain and simple. All he wants is "a white shirt". We have been thinking about Jim's white shirt for some time, and contrasting it with the tall talk about "bonus armies" and "rights of the soldier", etc.

Saturday's El Paso Times carried a story that strikes us much the same way. Sid Feder, former sports columnist for AP and now war-correspondent says "the boys up front-those who practically have taken a lease on the fox-holes in these parts-would like the folks to know they are not going to be so tough to get along with when they come home, in spite of what some of the experts would have you believe".

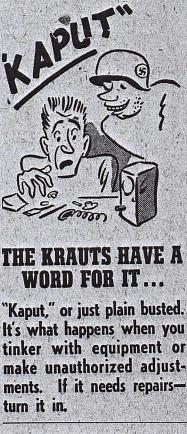
"For weeks they have been reading about how changed they are going to be from the shooting, and how loaded with war psychosis, and how the women folk will have to make readjustments, and they are wondering how everyone knows so much about it that is, everyone but themselves."

As Pfc. Lorin Schipper of Kansas City asked: "Just what do they expect us to be when we get back? I figure I'll be as normal as I ever was," he insists. Irked by so much comment, a Stars and Stripes reporter made a special survey among the 34th Division.



Headlines of a year ago, culled from the files of The Battler:

March 29, 1944-The Rattler opened a pin-up contest to determine the Queen of Pyote. The Officers' Club was officially opened with a formal dance. A stationwide clean-up drive had every GI on the field out for three hours policing the entire area. The Special Services Office inaugurated a series of weekly orientation lectures by Pvt. Sims. A volley-ball league got underway at the Rec. Hall. The Monahans USO honored the basketball teams with a feast In the world news spot-light: Russia bridged the Dneister River, headed for an invasion of the Balkans. Hitler reinforced the armies at Ploesti, hoping to save them from the oncoming Red Army. The allied assault on Cassino was stalled. The Japanese enlarged his thrust into Imphal, though beset from Burma to the Marshalls.





Q. I was in the Pilot Training Program, but was eliminated because of a physical disability just before I was about to receive my commission. I have since heard that the standards were lowered, and I believe I could now meet the prescribed physical standards. Is there any way in which I could get reinstated?

A. War Department regulations prohibit the reinstatement to pilot training of those individuals who previously had been eliminated from training because of failure to meet prescribed standards for flying. However, such individuals may be eligible for further air crew training, i.e., bombardier or navigator.

Q. I expect to go back to my old job after my discharge. It is a full-time job as a copywriter with an advertising concern. I also expect to attend Law School full time in the evenings. Will I be eligible for the \$50 a month subsistence from the Veterans' Administration as well as free tuition under the GI Bill of Rights?

A. Your tuition will be paid by the Veterans' Administration provided you meet the scholastic and other requirements, but you will not be eligible to receive any sub-sistence payments during such time as you are fully employed at a gainful employment and are pursuing a course of studies not directly related to your employment.



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

Jon Kimche, military correspondent for Reuter's news agency: "It is the belief of informed sources that Kesselring's appointment to command the Western front may be the medium through which the German generals may consider honorable capitulation".

In order of their popularity, these are the post-war intentions: "To return to school. To get back to work (especially the married men. To travel (in the U.S.). To marry and settle down."

Other comments were: "I haven't changed a bit and tell my wife she'd better not change either, or I'll really be browned off." 'Say, after what I've been through, I never want to go rabbit hunting again. I'll know what a rabbit feels like with bullets bouncing around him." "I won't be any different mentally than when I came here 37 months ago. And I sure don't want anyone making sacrifices for me. I'll make my own."

Put that all together and you have the GIs of World War II who don't want to be a problem. All they want is a chance to go back to what they had, and the opportunity to wear a white shirt ... and maybe, even, a bright red tie.

Gunner Captures Polar Bear From Tail of B-29

Crew Of Bomber "April Fool" **Faces** Quiz

Captured in mid-air, when he landed on the tail of a B-29 flying at 15,000 feet, a fullgrown Polar bear was brought back to Pyote Army Air Field and turned loose when the Mess officials refused to issue a meal ticket to him.

Daring exploit of tail-gunner Pfc. (temporary grade) Guy Fawks Cordwood of Squadron 1% was recorded for posterity upon celuloid when a fellow tail-gunner in another B-29 attempted to kill the monster by turning his 20 millemeter cannon on him. In the excitement the wrong switches were thrown and the camera operated but no bullets came out of the cannon.

Other members of the crew of the gigantic B-29, who affectionately call their "big bird" "THE APRIL FOOL" were witnesses to the exploit.

A special Board of Officers is now being convened and will, among their other duties, decide whether charges of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Tail-gunner' Cordwood are sufficiently substantial to warrant a court martial.

The Society, Monahans Branch, alleges that, "once having pulled the polar bear to safety, at risk of his life and limb, Tail-gunner Cordwood was cruel, in that he failed to feed the animal from the in-flight kitchen and failed to provide appropriate oxygen, para-chute, flying clothes, and other equipment needed to insure the comforts of the brute. (Whether "brute" refers to Pfc. Cordwood or to the polar bear is one of the points that will have to be cleared up by the inquisitorial body.)

Here's Tail-gunner Pfc. Guy Fawks Cordwood's story:

"We, that's the B-29 and me, were returning from one of those long operational flights. I was setting up in the tail with all my armament ready to shoot down anything of an enemy nature.

"We ran through a long series of thick clouds and just as we were in the middle of a particular dense bunch, I heard a thud like something had hit the tail real hard. When we came out of the cloud bank I looked around and there was stuff dripping all around the tail mount.

"As the windows began to clear I looked out and there was the thing they tell me is a polar bear on the tail. I thought it was just



5323

This remarkable photo was taken at 15,000 feet up in the blue by the gun camera on the Superfortress "Flying Fool". It is offered as uncontestable evidence that a polar bear was captured in mid-air by Pfc. (temporary grade) Guy Fawkes Cordwood, tail-gunner of the B-29 "April Fool". The photo shows Pfc. Cordwood saving the bear from a plunge to death by holding him with his trusty lariat while the "April Fool" tears along at well over three hundred miles an hour.

and I was afraid that it would get | who has always been jealous of killed out there.

"I grabbed a lariat, that I always carry in the pocket of my flying suit, in case we should have to make an emergency landing anywhere near Pyote and find it necessary to rope a steer for eating purposes. I tried to get a loop around that big kitten, they tell me now that it was a polar bear, but I couldn't do it.

'I was afraid that with the plane zooming along at about 400 miles an hour that the big cat would be blown off the tail, so I opened the escape hatch and climbed out on the horizontal stabilizer and got the rope around the cat, they tell me now that it was a polar bear, but it looked like a cat to mel

"I had just gotten the rope good and secure, when the tail-gunner

me because he wanted the tail job on the "April Fool" turned his 20 millimeter cannon on me. Personally I wasn't a bit afraid of being hit, I know the Central Fire Control System from A to Z, but that poor cat slid off the stabilizer and, I had one heck of a time pulling him, or was it a her, back up."

(Editor's note-It was the gun camera on the tail-mounted guns of "The Flying Fool" that re-

corded the picture on this page). When the B-29 "April Fool" landed here and Plane Commander Lt. Don Quixote Blumberg checked the crew he found Pfc. (temporary grade) Guy Fawks Cordwood with the bear practically sitting in his lap in the tail gunner's compartment. He (Cordwood) was clawed and mauled, his a great big cat when I first saw it of the B-29, "The Flying Fool", nose was broken and he was bleed-

Just A 'Big Cat' Says Gunner Of ''April Fool''

contusions.

In the battle, Pfc. Cordwood had pulled out a handful of the polar bear's fur. It was on this act that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Monahans Branch' based its first charge of cruelty

As for Cordwood, his last and final word in the matter is: "Polar bear, shmolar bear, I still say it was a big white cat!"

AAF To Begin Plane-To-People' Radio Program

The Army Air Forces will inaugurate a new plane-to-people radio program over a nation-wide network beginning March 31, according to an announcement from the War Department received at the Pyote Army Air Field.

The new program will give people on the home front first-hand reports of air combat from all theaters of operations. The broadcast will be made by means of the new wire recording apparatus installed in fighting planes.

Combat radio reporter teams are with the Army Air Forces to provide on-the-spot eye-witness reports of action in advance of the front, and the direct reactions of air crew members and of their colleagues on the ground.

Titled, "The Fighting AAF," the program will be heard Saturdays from 1:30 to 2:00 PM, over the Blue Network. The first program begins Saturday, March 31. Pro-duction will be supervised from Washington directly by headquarters of the Army Air Forces.

THE COVER

On a peak overlooking two countries stands the Christ of the Rockies. The statue stands at the junction of three states, on the Mexican border, at the peak of the Sierra de Cristo Rey mountain. Below the statue runs a highway which event-ually will connect Alaska with Argentina, and to that other monument known throughout the world-the Christ of the Andes. The cross stands 35 feet high, and the monument's height is 52.5 feet. The photo on the cover was taken by Sgt. Oscar N. Bard, Pyote Base Photo Lab, and was chosen for the cover as appropriate for the Easter issue.

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Pyote Drops To Third In No. of Flying Hours

Pyote dropped into third place for flying training hours for B-29 fields in the Second Air Force for the week ending Friday 23 March, according to figures released by the Statistical Control office.

A total of 1533 hours were flown at this field, which was just 58 hours short of the top mark made by Clovis. During the previous week Pyote topped all other fields.

The total number of flying training hours accumulated by Pyote. during the month, up to midnight last Friday, passed the 4500 mark by a good margin, but the field is still 240 hours short of the total hours accumulated by Clovis up to that time.

With the aim of the field to lead all other fields, a steadily increasing effort will have to be made by all personnel in order to put Pyote on top when the month ends. The continued efforts of all personnel, both military and civilian, will accomplish this aim.

FLYING



BIG CHIEF PILOT FORMATION MISSION SO WON'T COLLISION

Fraternizing Of Officers, **EM** Forkidden

Orders have been issued by Major General Robert B. Williams, Commanding General of the Second Air Force, reminding all personnel that the fraternization of enlisted men and officers is prohibited.

The order in part says, "The prohibition against fraternization is not contrary to the requirements for a close relationship among members of the same combat crew. It is entirely in accord with that requirement and is a requisite of a well disciplined crew. Neither does the prohibition against fraternization imply that relationship between commissioned and enlisted personnel cannot be friendly, it means merely that they must remain on an official rather than a personal or social basis."

G-AISLING

PHILLIPSON - BROTHERS Married at Station Chapel, on March 24, Pfc. Gloria A. Brothers, Sqdn. B, of Loudonville, Ohio, to



The Pyote Red Cross War Fund lacks approximately \$200 of achieving its goal of \$3,000, Mr. Clifford L. Gibbs, Pyote Red Cross Field Director, announced last night.

The drive at Pyote lagged after rolling up 85% percent of its quota in the first fifteen days of the month. Now with four days remaining in the month, the goal is still only 94% achieved.

To date, the donations to the American Red Cross have been given, in the major part, by enlisted men of the field-the men that the Red Cross did not solicit. voluntary donations make up far more than half of the total amount. This is a rather sad reflection on the officers and civilian personnel of Pyote Army Air Field. Neither the officers, nor civilians, have reached the quota allotted them.

Civilians	\$ 480.02
Enlisted Men	1524.05
Officers	834.50
Total	\$2838.57

DETAIL LOADS SALVAGED PAPER



Pyote Salvage and Reclamation section loading the second carload of salvage paper for the month of March. Sgt. Walter B. Clardy, in charge of the salvage yard, directs men from Squadron C in loading the car. The men are; Pvts. John Heard, Ernest Jackson, Johnnie Freeman, and J. C. Edwards.

Pyote Salvages 2 Carloads Of Waste Paper During March

Carrying on an intensive conservation and reclamation prothat is being conducted by all Second Air Force bases. Pyote has already shipped out two carloads of salvage paper during the month of March, according to Lt. Aldon M. Bebb, reclamation and salvage officer.

T/Sgt. Philip N. Phillipson, Sqdn. D, of Blanchardville, Wisc. Rites were performed by Chaplain Edwin W. Norton.

CAMEN - FELSOST

Married at Station Chapel, on March 22, Rena Felsost, of Detroit, Mich., to M/Sgt. Harry Camen, Sqdn. E, of Detroit, Mich. Rites performed by Chaplain Gilbert H. Curry.

The 173rd Week Of War Against Germany

Fast moving events followed the Allies' breakthrough on the Rhine. Eisenhower states: "The German Army as a military force on the Western front is a whipped army," Roosevelt alerts all diplomatic posts throughout Europe for "events of critical importance". Argentina declares war on the Axis. The major breakthroughs on the Western front had cut the Nazi hordes into four beaten segments. Russian troops are less than 200 miles away from racing Allied armies. In equivalent miles, the Allies are the distance from Berlin that Pecos Army Air Field is from El Paso; the Reds are the distance from Pyote to Pecos from the Nazi capital. "Victory", says the UP correspondent, "is in the air".

Against Japan

Despite Admiral King's statement that victory over Japan would be tough, the Navy drastically curtailed the building of fighting ships. A billion dollar construction program, announced March 6, was cut back 75 per cent. American troops storm ashore on the Okinawa Islands, 380 miles from Japan, and Cebu, one of the two last major Philippine islands still in Nip hands.

"A carload of paper averages 30,000 pounds," Lt. Bebb stated, "and since the demand for waste paper has increased, we must salvage every possible scrap of paper."

Second Air Force has set up a minimum quota of 16 pounds of salvage paper per man per month at each base. According to Lt. Bebb, the amounts collected here are below the minimum figures. In the four months since starting the drive an average of only 8 pounds per man per month has been collected.

All personnel are urged to do everything in their power to aid in the salvage campaign. Con-tainers marked, "Salvage Paper," are placed around the field. All salvage paper is collected from offices and departments and stored in these containers until collections are made under the supervision of the Provost Marshal section.

The paper is baled at the salvage yard, loaded into railroad cars and shipped to a paper company where it is used in the manufacture of many different materials for the Army and civilian agencies.

A few suggestions have been made by Lt. Bebb which will aid in the salvage campaign: Keep paper separate from other types of trash so that it may be easily collected, and don't cram or wad paper up when discarding it.

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Unless otherwise noted, Theatre No. 1 shows at 1:30, 6:00, and 8:00; Theatre No. 2 shows at 7 and 9, with matinee, Sunday only, 2:15.

Y. THURSDAY

"I'LL BE SEEING YOU" with Ginger Rogers, Joseph Cotten, and Shirley Temple. Girl on leave from penitentiary meets battle-fatigued soldier. Might be called the 2nd War of Nerves. Shorts: Army-Navy Screen Magazine and Paramount News. (108 minutes).

FRIDAY

"The UNSEEN" with Joel Mc-Crea, Gail Russell, and Herbert Marshall. Ghosties and goblins. and things that go bumpety in the night. Shorts: Popular Science and "Musical Mexico". (100 minutes..)

SATURDAY

"CIRCU MS TANTIAL EVI-DENCE" with Micheal O'Shea and Llovd Nolan. Young moppet saves Dad from being electrocuted for accidental murder. Shorts: Three Stooges comedy, Flicker flash-backs, and sports reel. (102 minnites)

SUNDAY & MONDAY "GOD IS MY CO-PILOT" with

Dennis Morgan, Raymond Massey, Dane Clark. Film version of bestselling story of flying hero. Shorts: Cartoon and Paramount News. (103 minutes.)

TUESDAY

"STRANGE ILLUSION" with James Lydon, Sally Eilers, Warren William. Class'"B" film with some has-been names in a melodrama. Shorts: Screen Snapshots and sports reel. (106 minutes).

WEDNESDAY

"EARL CARROLL VANITIES" with Dennis O'Keefe and Constance Moore. Gals, gams, and gayety, with even the plot sort of bare. Shorts: "I Only Have Eyes For You" and Paramount News. (107 minutes.)

Easter Formal Due At Rec. Hall Friday Evening

An Easter formal will be held tomorrow evening, March 30th, at fit music into exquisite rhythmic the Rec. Hall, with dancing from patterns. 9 to midnight.

Miss Martha Gould, hostess, made the following statement regarding the Rec. Hall dances: "We appreciate use of the Recreation Hall for all dances, but the follow-man, and Mrs. Betty Spillyards, wife of M/Sgt. Howard L. Spilling regulations must be observed. (1) Absolutely no smoking, in the Rec. Hall. (2) No fatigues. (3) Stags must keep off the dance floor."

Movie Memo-Pyoters Ready to Gct . 7his Week-In th' Swim Next Week **Swimming Pool** VANITIES CASE

To Open April 1 If Weather's OK

The EM swimming pool will reopen, weather permitting, some-time within the next week, Lt. G. B. Mothersead, Special Services Officer, announced Wednesday. "Recent windy and cool weather

has temporarily postponed the opening of the pool," he added, "but with warmer weather due here, swimmers can expect to be swimming in their own pool shortly after the first of the month, or as soon as weather permits."

The swimming pool, located behind the Special Services Office, was' constructed late last summer, by GIs of Pyote. Funds to build the pool were, in the most part, from the GIs themselves, in voluntary contributions. A musical comedy, "Off Limits", helped defray much of the cost. Many ci-vilians contributed handsomely, and the labor was strictly GI.

The pool opened for the 1944 season on the 12th of October and closed the first of November. Avid aquatic fans are anxious for the 1945 swim season here at Pyoteat the GIs own pool. Special Ser-vices will shortly post rulings as to the use of the pool.

\$75 War Bonds To Be Prizes At NCO Club

Two war bonds, one for \$50, and the other for \$25, will be prizes to the holders of hte lucky stubs at the NCO Mess April 13th.

All members who purchase their membership card Saturday are ad-vised to hang onto the stub. The drawing will be from a bowl of serial numbers of the membership cards at the NCO Mess, April 13th, at 9 PM.

FREE MENDING AVAILABLE AT RED CROSS FIELD OFFICE

The ladies from surrounding towns who patch, mend, and darn for the GIs each Thursday, now have their free mending quarters at the Red Cross Field Office, directly across from the library.

Sgt. Glenn Cook, formerly associ-ated with Pyote's Tech Gunnery School, and here on temporary duty from Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Louis Faw of Monahans, formerly of the Army Air Forces, will sing a portion of the baritone solo parts.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

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At The Theatres

Thu.—"I'll Be Seeing You" with Ginger Rogers, Joseph Cotten, and Shirley Temple.

Fri.—"The Unseen" with Joel Mc-Crea, Gail Russell, and Herbert Marshall.

Sat. - "Circumstantial Evidence" with Lloyd Nolan, and Michael O'Shea.

Sun. & Mon. — "God Is My Co-Pilot" with Dennis O'Keefe, Raymond Massey, and Dane Clark.

Tues.—"Strange Illusion" with Jimmy Lydon, Warren William and Sally Eilers.

Wed. & Thu.—"Earl Carroll Vanities" with Dennis O'Keefe and Constance Moore.

At Monahans USO

Thu.—Birthday Night! Fri.—Informal activity. Sat.—EASTER FORMAL! Dance band.

Sun.—11:00 a.m., Brunch; 2:30 p. m., Recorded classics; 6:30 p.m., Buffet Supper; 8:30 p.m., Movie, "Charley's Aunt" with Jack,

Benny. Mon.-7:30 p.m., Song Fest. Tue.-Arts & Crafts.

Wed.—12:30 p.m., "Better Halves Club" luncheon.

• At the Chapel PROTESTANT

Thursday, 2000, Protestant Communion Service; Friday, 1200, Chaplain Curry; 1300, Chaplain Anderson; 1400, Chaplain Norton. Each service will last one-half hour. EASTER SUNDAY-0715, Sunrise Service at flagpole in front of Hqts.; 1000, Sqdn. C Easter Service; 2000, Easter Vesper Service. Combined choir of Monahans Presbyterian Choir and Chapel Choir will sing the Cantata "Seven Last Words".

LUTHERAN COMMUNION SERVICE

Easter afternoon at 1530. All Lutheran personnel are asked to participate.

CATHOLIC

Thursday, 1715, Mass; Friday, 1900, Good Friday Devotions. Confessions at 1630, and following Mass. Saturday, 0800, Mass; 1630, Confessions; 1930, Confessions. Easter Sunday, 0800, Easter High Mass and Benediction; 1200, Mass; 1715, Mass.

SMALL FRY TO HAVE EASTER EGG HUNT

Civilian Personnel is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt next Sunday, April 1, for children of Pyote AAF personnel. Children from age 2 to 11 are invited to participate. The hunt will be held Easter morning. Parents are asked to contact Mrs. Fisher at the Civlian Personnel office for full particulars.



Constance Moore shows some handsome gams in "Earl Car-roll's Vanities" showing next Wednesday and Thursday at Post Theatres 1 and 2.

Church Presents Easter Cantata Sunday Evening

The choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Monahans, conducted by Pfc. Lowell Barnes, has joined voices with members of the Pyote Army Air Field. Chapel chorus to present the Bubois Easter Cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ".

This cantata, to be presented at the base Chapel on Easter Sunday evening, April 1, at 8 p.m., has many beautiful solos and fine choral passages, and is considered to be one of the most outstanding Easter Cantatas ever written. The composer, Dubois, was a famed French organist and composer of the middle 19th century. He had a great melodic gift, and ability to

Featured soloists among the military personnel are Chaplain Edwin W. Norton, baritone, and Cpl. Corky Van Husen, tenor. Mrs. Gladys Zimmerman, wife of band yards, will sing the soprano parts. Piano accompaniment is by Lt. Grace Burleson, ANC. In addition, guest soloist will be

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PLANS UNDERWAY TO R

Col. Key Thanks Volunteers At EM Club Fire

At last week's fire, which destroyed the enlisted men's Service Club, the quick work of the many volunteers who rushed to aid, was responsible in preventing a greater loss.

As soon as the fire was discovered personnel of the field formed a line and removed much valuable equipment and fixtures from the building.

Another group of enlisted men climbed on the roofs of the barracks to the north of the club, and beat out the sparks which were blown from the fire over to the roofs of the barracks.

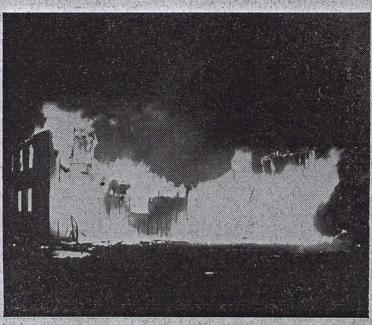
The quick-thinking and untiring efforts of all these volunteers prevented the nearby buildings from catching fire, and also aided in saving valuable equipment.

"Personnel who assisted on Wednesday night," stated Col. Key, "are to be commended for their spirit of cooperation and for the manner in which they conducted themselves in such an emergency."

Tactical Efficiency Week Observed

Second Air Force has said, "Tactical efficiency is the primary purpose of training within the Second Air Force." Tactical Efficiency Week is designed to cause you to ponder what you have learned in training. All the train-

WEDNESDAY-8:28 P.M.



ing you have received here points to one thing—your efficiency in combat. Think, this week, of what you know—and DO.

Are you tactically efficient? Or do you merely fly in the sky? Have you learned from your formation and altitude missions how to take care of yourself with increased fire power and against anoxia?

fire power and against anoxia? You know that the straggler has a tough time. That's why you want those formations tight and clean. It's the fire power you can bring to bear against the Japs that will enable you to drop those bombs on the button—Tokyo!

Frances Dotson Named Assistant For Red Cross

Miss M. Frances Dotson, a native of Denver, has been assigned as an assistant to the field director of the American Red Cross at Pyote Army Air Field.

She later took the Red Cross training course at American University, Washington, D. C., and after completion did extension work at Camp Ritchie, Va. She was assigned to Pyote in March, city schools.

Service Club Was Opened In 1943

The Rattler, M

On October 7, 1943, the Pyote EM's Service Club held its gala opening. More than 2,000 soldiers and their guests thronged the club to witness the unveiling of the GI's own place. The formal opening was marked by a dance and reception, with Col. and Mrs Clarence Hewitt heading the re ception line. Miss Eleanor Crow der, hostess, and Miss Doroth Robb, recreational hostess welcomed the boys and girls to the club.

Lt. Colonel Hewitt's brief ad dress at the opening paid tribut to the men who labored so har and so long in order to make the club one of the best in the Army He said:

"When the Government turne, this building over to the base, i was just a shell. The finishe product you see here tonight is th result of long and hard work by group who deserve all the credi in the world."

The Service Club, like the swim ming pool, was built and furnish ed largely by the willing hands the GIs on the base. An entir squadron of men volunteered GI the entire Club previous to th opening.

1943. She is on duty at the St tion Hospital.

Previous to entering the Re Cross, Miss Dotson was an admir istrator and counselor for the Wa tertown, South Dakota publ schools, and for the Arvada, Colo city schools.



rch 29, 1945

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BUILD EM SERVICE CLUB

WEDNESDAY-8:13 P.M.



WHY PYOTE?

This is the first of a series of articles by a committee whose purpose is to explain to all personnel, both military and civilian, why the field is here, what the purpose is, and how each of the many departments fit into the general over-all organization of Pyote Army Air Field.

Upon first entering Pyote Army Air Field, a person will probably think, "This is just another field". On the surface this may be so, but by delving into the intricate workings of this Combat Crew Training Station, an entirely different picture presents itself.

During the day there will not be many people seen about the field, for they are all busy at their various jobs . . . jobs that are all being done with one purpose—to train B-29 combat crews.

Administration and Services

The heart of the organization is Administration, where all the activities concerned with personnel, payrolls, records of all kinds, and other similar duties are carried on. personnel work at the numerous of supplying the equipment and tasks that make up the big job of the administration of the field.

Other departments which coordinate their efforts in the admin-istration of the field are the Hospital, Finance Office, Statistical Control Office, and the Air Inspector.

Training

The training of combat crews is a most important job, since the success of the field's mission depends on how well the crews are trained. The training includes flying, ground and technical training, carried out under the supervision of the director of training. The instructors are battle-tested pilots, bombardiers, navigators, gunners, radio men, and engineers who are imparting lessons learned in combat to the officers and enlisted men in training for combat.

Maintenance and Supply

The training of crews cannot be accomplished without the equipment and supplies needed to carry out the training program. The Maintenance and Supply depart-It is where military and civilian ment of the field has the vital role

keeping it in first-class operating condition. In short, this department "Keeps 'Em Flying!"

Trained civilian and military maintenance specialists are busy day and night in the Sub-Depot and hangars repairing and overhauling parts, equipment, and planes.

In future issues of The Rattler, this series of articles will tell how, out of a countryside overrun with rattlesnakes; whipped by whirling dust storms; vegetated by desert plants; blossomed this B-29 Combat Crew Training Station . . . whose goal is to be the best in the country. Yes, THIS IS PYOTE!

COOKS LOVE THE ARMY

New York (CNS)-We don't know why this should be true, or what it proves, but Selective Serv-ice has just finished a survey which shows that domestic helphousehold cooks, chauffeurs and valets-had the highest percentage 59.6-of rejections for military service.

Reconstruction **Awaits Approval** Of 2AF Headqts.

Plans were underway this week for the reconstruction of the Service Club, partially destroyed in a fire last Wednesday evening.

Post Engineers appraised the cost of rebuilding the main lounge at approximately \$20,000, and requests for funds and appropriation have already been made to 2AF headquarters.

No tentative date has been set as yet, for construction to begin, until approval is received. Contractors have stated that the main lounge, billiard room, and balcony, all destroyed in the fire, could be built in a month's time "providing we had the men and materials".

A board of officers is investigating the cause of the fire, and, as yet, no announcement has been made as to the origin.

The fire was discovered shortly after 8 o'clock Wednesday evening and despite a steady breeze was brought under control about an hour later by members of the field's fire department and enlisted civilian volunteers.

Enlisted men climbed to the roofs of several nearby barracks and beat out sparks blown from the fire and threatening the barracks roofs.

The main part of the club, including the large dance hall and lounge, was completely destroyed by the flames. The cafeteria and war room, located in the south end of the building, was saved, al-though damaged by smoke and water.

The club had been undergoing repairs and redecoration during the past two weeks. Some of the furniture from the office and war room was saved by volunteers who formed a chain and passed the articles through the doors and windows before the flames reached them.

An investigation is being conducted to determine the cause and the amount of the damage.

The club was one of the finest of Army service clubs. It was formally opened on October 7, 1943, and had been in continuous use since that time. Wednesday night's fire was the only major fire on the field since the Officers' Club was destroyed in the summer of 1943.

(Photos on this page by Sgt. Thomas Gordon.)

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The Rattler, March 29, 1945

Pyote WACs Have Their Own Easter Bunny: 1 ea. "Corky"

The WAC awea has a new mascot, and no occasion is more appwopwiate than Easter for Corky to get his picture in the papers. Corky is—a wabbit; the Wac's own wabbit, at that.

His owner is Pwivate Jean Hoffmaster of Kalamazoo, Mich., and whose parents shipped Corky down to Pyote. Corky woves cawwots and soda-cwackers (he's cwazy about soda-cwackers); is a genuina angowa wabbit with timid eyes, wong, wong ears, and a sure understanding of the name "Corky"

Under Jean's tutewage, Corky has assembwed several pwain and fancy twicks. He can stand up and beg for a soda-cwacker (sodacwackers are his secwet passion), he can answer mess caw, and goodness knows what aw.

A wicker-basket, wooking not unwike an Easter basket, serves as Corky's home and twavewing conveyance. Jean often takes Corky into Monahans to see the 'bwight wights".

Does Corky bewieve in the Easter bunny? The answer isn't known. Aw that is known is that this Easter, Pyote has an Easter bunny of its own (that's just wild over soda-cwackers).

Army To Grab Men Who Shirk War Jobs

- Washington (CNS) - Draft-age men who leave war work without permission are being inducted into the Army even though they are below the minimum standard for general military service, the War Department has revealed.

The men are being given four weeks basic training at Camp Ellis, Army Service Forces Training Center near Peoria, Ill. Upon completion of basic training, those with urgently needed skills will be offered a chance to volunteer for war work, and, if accepted, will be placed on inactive duty in the Enlisted /Reserve, subject to recall. Those who do not volunteer may be assigned to war work as _uniformed soldiers drawing Army pay.

"CARROTS, CARROTS, CARROTS!"



Pvt. Jean Hoffmaster feeds "Corky" a carrot.

Rattle Snake Charmer



This week's Pyote pin-up is named Marjorie Roirdan, all primped and prettied in a pose as a bandit. There must be a word for a feminine bandit, but the only ones we can think of have 5-letters, and we know Marjorie couldn't be one of those. At any rate, she's in the movies where she is putting her best— er— foot forward, as any fool can plainly see. We can plainly see.

Dust, Sand Set Pyote Record. Last Saturday

Dust! That familiar word to residents of Pyote Army Air Field, paid a gusty visit to the field Saturday. The Weather Office at The Rattler's request, dug into the statistics on Saturday, and discovered that March 23rd was the dustiest day of the year, probably the dustiest day in the history of Pyote Army Air Field.

Six PM Saturday found the dust storm at the peak of its sand- that dust storms have had "ceilstinging fury. At that hour the ings". The gust at 6 PM was 65 visibility was "zero", and the cell-degrees.

IKE ASKS PFC. FOR JOB

France (CNS) — A couple of Kansas men were talking over post-war employment prospects.

"What was your job before the war?" asked Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Chief, a citizen of Abilene, of Pfc. Rolla Ummel, Ness City.

"Farming," said Ummel.

"How about giving me a+job after the war," Gen. Eisenhower suggested.

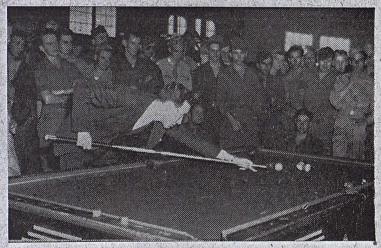
"I don't know sir, but I'll keep you in mind," Ummel promised.

ing (a ceiling of sand) was also "zero". It is one of the first times

The Rattler March 29, 1945PHOTO DIARY RECORDS BUSY WEEK AT PYOTE



WEDNESDAY—WAC Dayroom is formally re-opened with supper party to see the redecorated room.



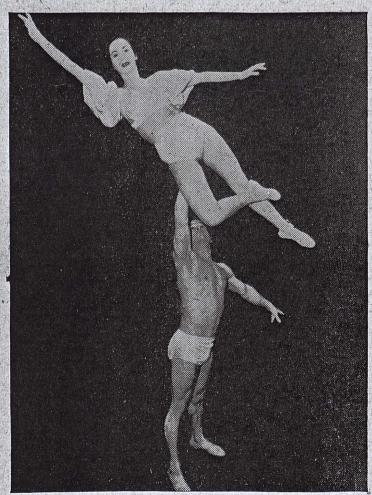
THURSDAY—Irving Crane shows Pyote some fancy pocketbilliard tricks, runs 136 consecutive shots.



FRIDAY—Carlsbad AAF brings a gala 21/2-hour show "Naughty Nineties" to two packed houses.



SUNDAY—Palm Sunday and a beautiful morning brings Easter finery to the Chapel.



MONDAY—The USO show "Broadway Maneuvers" featured acrobats, Bob and Helen Ranous.

Spring Thaw For Ratings: 255 Deserving Add Stripe

With the first spring breezes whipping across the Texas prairie, the vernal thaw came to Pyote Army Air Field. The long-frozen promotions to grades of Corporal, Sergeant, and Staff Sergeant thawed to allow the naming of 15 S/Sgts., 120 Sgts., and 120 Cpls. from static personnel.

These 255 ratings are the first mass promotions at Pyote since April 27, 1944, when 156% ratings were given. Horace Bentley, Hamilton A. Mey-

coln, Ferris R. Blackwood, Rich-

ard L. Simpson, Alva L. Cogburn,

Kevin G. Cooke, Elmer R. Atkin-

Those promoted to Corporal

Squadron A

minskas, Ludlow B. High Jr., Al-

Phillip G. Muise, Peter D. Ka-

Those promoted to Staff Serers, Fred J. Henneman, William H. geant were: Switzer, Jacob A. Warner, Morris Walk, George R. Kenyon, Charles

Squadron D

W. Metz, Rodney G. Wessman, John J. Lynn Jr., Robert F. Brocks, George C. Van Husen, John A. Yoder, Lee V. Retterbush, Donald Lester W. Yeager, John J. Kane, Gordan L. Berg, Ralph C. Ahart, Ernest J. Madsen, Cecil E. Shoe, Olaf W. Olson, Francis O. Smith, Lawrence Klotz, Daniel C. Huth. J. Raisler, Francis J. Harcar, Marvin S. Nussbaum, Sperry D. Lin-

Squadron E

John F. Cannon, Carl R. Vaughn, Francis F. McCann, Marion M. Reavis, Merton F. Porter.

son, Joseph P., Grudzien, Edward J. Witbeck, Clarence B. Anderson, Those promoted to Sergeant were: Thomas G. Pursiano, John W. Zir-

Squadron D

hut, Clayton L. Hayworth, Edward Harry M. McBurney, Leon J. L. Meurer. Cissell, Alex N. Narva, Francis W. Jefferson, Donald D. Lontz, Melwere: vine E. Speelmen, Mervin A. Funk, Elmer A. Struchtmeyer, Walter A Clark, Doyle W. Ealy, Robert G. Noel, Floyd M. Burton, Francis J. Knauer, Norman H. Short, Crockvin W. Breaux, Andrew /Derrick, ett G. Lowery, Shirley E. Cowles, Stanley J. Grzybowski, Wilbur H. Rudolph J. Tauer, Jack W. Ny-strom, Edward L. Fifer, John L. Koenig, Kenneth V. Tucker, Wil-liam B. Mangan, Louis V. Bedard, Lee, John Massey, Roy N. Bal-langer, Jose G. Gomez, Frank G. Koenig, Kenneth V. Tucker, Wil-liam B. Mangan, Louis V. Bedard, Leo J. Beck, Malcolm Alexander, Earl E. Overmeyer, Emil J. Erick-shaw, Edward A. June, Albert George R. Kelton, Dorman, W. son, Aaron A. Karp, John J. Starowicz, Charles E. Bradley, Clyde W. Thompson, Fernando A. Campillo, Louis Lopez, Charles W. Taeschler, Daniel W. Guffey, Thomas D. Semones, Andrew B. Urban, William E. Jones, Edward W. Mason, Charles J. Gates, David E. Freize, Emery C. Davis, Rene A. Delmolino, David H. Langseth, Ray D. Donnell; Bruno A. Manheimer, Wayne F. Phelps, Richard S. Anderson, Thomas G. Hum-phries, Robert W. Conking, Raymond 'A. Pellegrin, Earl G. Koziol, Wallace Gregory, Leo W. Klock, Arthur C. Beale, Herbert J. Haldi-man, Fredrick J. Kohnken, Leo J. Goytowski.

Squadron E

Grady D. McCue, Herbert F. Erady D. McCue, Herbert F. Ebel, Lowell E. Wurm, Wayne Roberson, Milton E. Pell, John W. Stewart, Lester B. Huff, Henry N. McCutcheon, James H. Sheppard Jr., Slyvan A. Hart, Roscoe A. Champ, William P. Fogarty Jr., Norman Richardson, David L. Dean, John E. Kaye, Clifton E. French, William Williamson, Matthew I. Ceurvels, William E. Roegner, Lloyd Roach, Alvin B. Shipley, Robert L. Botkins, Donald D. Trimmer, George E. Walean, Rinaldo Eckley, Joseph A. Comanitz, Alva Hayes, Walter F. Malleck.

Squadron F Charles Bassi, Willis R. Martin,

Gonzales.

Squadron B Emily M. Mucci, Freda Elliott.

Squadron C

Sam Peters, Cornelius Portis, Herbert C. Wilson, Albert B. Kel-ley, Nathaniel M. Phillips, Amos Sims, Louis Brooks. Squadron D

Jack M. Gentle, Burton H. Williams, Edward M. LaBeau, Clarence L. Tisher, Williams L. Flowers, Harry E. Hockman, Gordon W. Murray, Gordon J. Rathbun, Harold F. Schneck, George A. Hill, Leland D. Hepler, Donald R. Johnson, Leon A. Sarraille, Chester Shaffer, Harry O. Dawson, Joseph W. Biondi, Robert L. Catlin, Daniel Cessarich, August Corrao, Herbert H. Hirschenberger, Thomas Huskins, William C. Ridley, Evan E. Dettmer, Emmett C. Gipe, Ven-nie J. Brandt, Gregorio G. Gut-ierrez, Bruce M. Michna, Robert L. Smith, Louis H. Wilms, Louis C. DeArmond, Archie Stabio, Stephen P. Gusso, Joshua Traylor, Richard Vuncannon, James H. Anderson, William G. Bentley, Norman R. Garwood, Darwin M. Gilmore, Don D. Haviland, Charles J. Cotcher, Osrow M. Cunningham, John A. Johnson.

Squadron E

James H. McDaniel, Robert L. Walters, Michael Davidyock, Harold L. Katz, Howard J. Traubman, Domenic J. Fuiano, Frank A. Viz-zini, Louis H. Cook, Bruce A. WeiNewton, Don R. Morris, Lyle C. Henderson, William J. Walston, Henderson, William J. Walston, Russell H. Carlson, Clifford W. Voss, Wayne B. Conyers, Peter Magdi, Frank F. Srokmán, Edward J. Schlichter, Robert S. Swanson, Walter F. Chaney, Paul A. Buecher, Donald J. Burdick, Keet E. Dodd, Ruperto Gonzalez, Herschal L. Bowman, Virgil H. Burns, Robert J./Hammer, Arthur Franklin, Clifford Scheede, Chester J. Sartori, Francis Sordelet, Elmo Haywood, George L. Mahaney.

Squadron F

Harold G. Johnson.

Squadron M

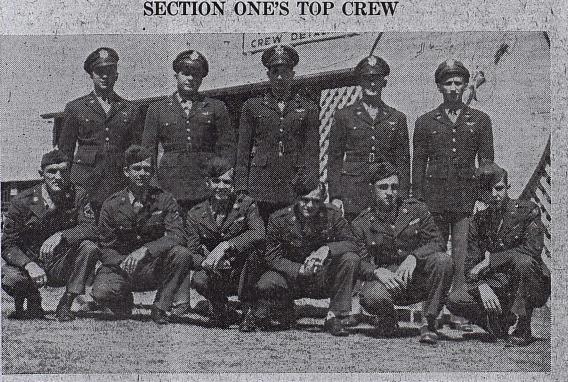
Herbert P. Schultz, Robert Mercer, Francis L. Bukowiec, Stanley A. Misiewicz, John A. Church, Charles W. Mailand.

TEN CCD MAKE CPL, SIX MORE GIS WIN PFC.

Besides the • promotions listed above, ten CCD men won Corporal stripes, and six more GIs were awarded stripe one under the new Pfc. allotment ruling, during the past week.

Sec. III Corporals are: Paul F. Fitzpatrick, Leonard Newman, Leo M. Stevens, Norman Steinmetz, Irwin Wisetsky, Malcolm J. Carpen-ter, Ernest R. Harris, Donald O'Hara, William H. Dunning, and Burlen C. Henline.

Pfcs., Sqdn. D; Edison E. Miller, Robert D. Jones, Robert L. Gifford, and John Ottendorf. Sqdn. E: Edward T. Zanat, and Emanuel E. Hoersch.



This 11-man crew team, having completed its training at Pyote, was selected as the top crew of its Section in enthusiasm, ability, and military bearing. From left to right, standing: 2nd Lt. George W. Knop, 1st Lt. Leo M. Bach, Capt. James H. Lehmann, 2nd Lt. David Bryant, and 2nd Lt. Edward S. Ferguson. Lower row, T/Sgt. Michael Tymchek, Cpl. Donald Barton, Cpl. Howard Hoffman, Cpl. Odis Plecher, Cpl. Harvey G. Shaw, and Cpl. Raymond Bechard.

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I was in Monahans working on last week's Rattler when someone phoned about the fire at the Service Club. Later, upon returning to the office, I tripped across the following story that some GI had slipped under the door. It gave me a pretty fine eye-witness view of the entire proceedings. If you were on hand for the blaze, this might remind you of the details, if you weren't—here's what happened, as some Pyote joe saw it.

". . . Men ran with jackets and coats flapping, heading for the scene of the blaze. Some knew where the fire was, others just ran. When they neared the building they saw the smoke billowing. Siren-blowing trucks came blaring around the club and began shooting chemicals toward the flames. The stream was falling short and the truck had to move forward through a picket fence, but even then, flames pushed the stream aside.

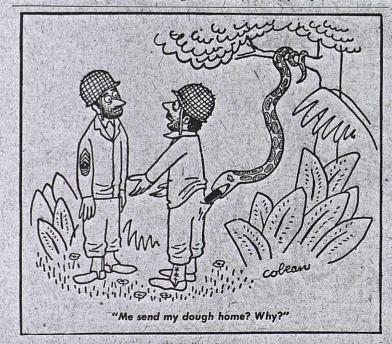
"Several GIs were standing on an adobe wall with a hose. Abruptly, snake-like fashion, the hose whipped and knocked several fellows to the ground. Gathering crowds cheered in typical military fashion.

"Fire shadows became eerie in the dusk. Men swarmed into the cafeteria and began bucket-brigade lines, passing equipment and supplies from danger. Someone went among the tables wiping them clean with long, swishing strikes, and napkins, sugar bowls, china and silver flew in every direction. Others grabbed the tables and pin-ball machines and dragged them to a place of safety. A Mexican civilian and a soldier salvaged some food supplies. One fellow stood in the middle of the floor, dumbfoundedly dodging scurring humanity.

"Outside again, some Joe hollered "Does anybody have a match?' Flames lapped greedily skyward and camera fans snapped shutters at the crackling blaze from barracks tops. A woman turned and squealed to her husband, "Grandstand seats—just like a ball game!" as she pointed at the rows of onlookers on the barracks roof-tops.

"By that time, GIs were on the roofs northwest of the Club busily squelching straying sparks. Everyone began asking how the fire started. Guesses were few—spontaneous combustion, stray match, nothing certain.

"Chairs, tables, and supplies were beginning to pile up in the streets. Noise became deafening as flames, water, pumps, and human





voices mingled into one uproar. More chemical fire trucks roared to a stop with spotlights flickering and sirens screaming. People moved reluctantly to let them pass.

"An ambulance pulled up. The Sergeant in charge said someone had been cut. Women gestured toward the fire. GIs grouped and talked. Darkness closed over the field but the flames kept dancing.

dancing. "Now MPs had taken over guarding the soda fountain equipment. One stood alert at port arms. The building was burning through and between the flames fire-fighters' streams from the opposite side were visible.

"On a roof men hollered for hose. Someone yelled, 'Give 'em the goddamn hose'. Several laughed. The onlookers got cokes and sandwiches as they watched the blaze. Spark-ladened smoke blew northwest. GIs still applied fire extinguishers to the roofs. Rafters dropped, making extra flame bursts skywards. The more arrogant and aggressive flames began to subside.

"Crawling over and around furniture, groups formed and began to talk—about the fire in most cases, but sometimes of the girl at home, house, work, army . . .

"Chemical fire-trucks rambled to and from the fire while the pump trucks stood stolidly. Occassionally someone got sprayed by a wild hose. Glass broken by the heat cracked and popped with a shattering noise.

"Slowly the fire began to retreat and as it did, the onlookers reluctantly left the spectacle, slowly realizing the extent of the loss in pleasure-hours. They walked slowly, thoughtfully away."

THE GAG BAG

The luckiest thing in this world is that lipstick isn't fattening. Cpl. Dave Ross of the Band came up with the top crack on the Service Club fire. "What! No ice cream, no milk, no coke, no Service Club!"

• A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.

A bargain is a good buy \mathcal{N} . a goodbye is a farewell ... a farewell is to part ... to part is to leave ... if your girl left without a goodbye, she was no bargain anyway.

GRAPEVINE INTELLIGENCE

Those question-marks on the Daily Bulletin each day head the list of total flying hours accumulated by B-29 bases in the 2AF. . . The movies listed in black type in the "This Week" column are The Rattler selections for the pick of the cinema showings for the week. . . This week's "Male Call" is a real oldie—first published in January, '43. Reprinted by request. That was way back when the heroine was "Burma" instead of "Lace".

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