

Transportation Corps



Robert E. Raines of the Fibre Warehouse, left us one year ago for training at Keesler Field, Miss. Robert is now Private first class in a Transportation Corps overseas and works in the supply room. At present he receives his mail through New Orleans. He wrote on April 9th that he had just received the February Echo and was glad to see that Leland Thomas and Clifford hadn't forgotten how to coon hunt.

BAND NOTES

Well, another month has rolled around and here we go again. It surely was good to see so many of you in the High School auditorium in Brevard on Saturday night, the 10th, when the band gave its first "formal."

As most of you know, the band has been together now for a little over a year and while it has made many appearances during this time, Saturday night was the first formal concert it has ever given. It was most gratifying to see so many of our friends there and to be given such a grand reception. We hope our Director, John Eversman, will take us back again for another one in the not too distant future, and that all of you will come again and bring your friends with you.

We would like to extend our thanks and sincere appreciation to Wayne Conn and Ray Bennett who spent many hours in helping to promote and stage the concert.

We were sorry not to be with you on the afternoon of April 16th for the announced band concert on the lawn outside the cafeteria; however, the weather did not permit, so the concert is postponed until favorable weather conditions make our outdoor concert possible.

All who attended the Ecusta Fun Festival on Friday night, the 16th of April, had an opportunity to see our Director dress us up in hick costumes in which we were able to take part in the Festival by adding our bits of corny music. We hope you had as much fun as we did and we are looking forward to another evening of this kind of entertainment in the very near future.

John Eversman has just announced that eight very fine violins have arrived so now his collection for the orchestra is almost complete. If you want to take part in this new organization, please be sure to contact him at once. Also the invitation to take a part in our band still stands. We need more members and we hope you will be the next one to join. Guess that's about all for this time. See you next month.

Great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes.

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.—Anon.

Dressmaker: "Ah, Madam, I consider that the most perfect fit I have ever seen."

Customer: "You should see the fit my husband will have when he gets the bill."

STITCHING GAB

Guess everyone is familiar with the following lines, particularly Ruby D. It's her theme song. "Hush little flivver, don't you cry, You can have your gallon by and by" . . . Can anyone tell why Dot G. was in Job Printing one day not long ago? Could you enlighten us, G. B? . . . Evelyn T. has joined the Ecusta Band. Even her brothers' hunting dogs go off in a corner to howl when Evelyn gets her trumpet out. Could there be some nostalgic similarity between the report of a gun and what comes out of that horn? . . . Mae O. spent a nice quiet vacation at home . . . Betsy A. doesn't mind coming to work but she does hate having to hire a taxi. Better get up a little earlier and catch the bus, Betsy . . . Sylvia is spending some time with her husband at Fort Bliss, Texas . . . Little Bill, Big Bill and John have started a research dept. under the supervision of Mr. Erwin. Four leaf clovers are supposed to be good luck symbols, boys . . . Teddy's brother visited him recently enroute to N. Y. He is in the armed forces . . . Sally J. has some tall tales to tell about her trip to Wilmington . . .

If you don't know the girl who wears Pearl A's picture, Toot P's sweater and Nell L's cap, just ask around . . . Maye W. is making a flower garden . . . Thelma S. seems to like No. 8 o. k. but there's no place like home and No. 4 is home to her . . . Lillie S. got a big grasshopper from Montana one day but she won't let us see it . . . When we heard that old familiar whistle for booklets we all knew that Martha H. had returned . . . Jimmie D., don't you know it isn't nice to spread mustard on a napkin and smear it on an unsuspecting head—even if it is a bald head? . . . Could someone give an explanation for Margaret P's drowsiness these days? . . . Spring surely has come. Myrtle P. has shed her sweater . . . Who should breeze in the other day but our sailor boy, Phil Riddle. We were certainly glad to see him . . . Louise O. would like to express her thanks to Stitching and Notching for her parting gift. She was so thrilled she forgot to say thank you to everybody . . . Edna Waldin and Lillie Nicholson are new packers in Stitching. Welcome, girls! . . . Helen C. quit Friday due to illness in her family. We hope you can come back soon, Helen . . . Frances W. surely is generous. All the girls who didn't have a partner at the dance were invited to share her husband . . . Mae and Pearl, don't you know that paper dolls are for children? . . . Last minute headlines: Lillie S's hero of Pearl Harbor is now at the Univ. of Washington training to be a pilot!

In Canal Zone



Leon Williams, PFC, worked on the Landscape Crew and left us in January, 1942. He was stationed at Keesler Field, Miss., and was then sent to Howard Field Canal Zone. We would like very much to hear a little more about you, Leon.

LETTERS HOME

Armed Guard School
5/38 class
Little Creek, Va.
April 18, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

Just a few lines to let you know I haven't received the last two copies of the Echo and I was very much disappointed. I am still at Little Creek, Va., and will be here for two or three more weeks for an advanced gunnery course. I have received my 3/c Petty Officer's rating now and am a 3/c Gunner's Mate. •

I have been with another former Ecusta employee for the last two weeks. He is Hershel Galloway and used to work in the rewinders. We were together for two weeks and were then separated. He was sent to Brooklyn and I was left here.

I wish you would send me the last two copies of the Echo. Reading them is just like reading a big long letter from home. Tell everyone in the Refiner Room that is on C shift that I would like to hear from them.

A former employee,
WILLIAM E. GREEN,
G. M. 3/c.

Dear Karl:

Yesterday I received your letter and it cheered me up tremendously. All I ask is that you keep them coming. True, they do make me homesick and could I say, with some slang, "Ecusta Sick," but after all, letters do make you pine for the familiar places you are connected with.

Ecusta was a place where I earned a living but to me Karl, it meant much more. It was fun making a living there and the friends that I made there are friends that will stay with me for years to come.

Maybe you are right when you say that you, and not I should be in the Army fighting for this thing called peace but that's not a question to argue. Here I am in the Army with a job to do and one to do in a hurry. Whether we will ever meet in this great outfit is something that remains to be seen but I hope that some day we can meet again, whether it be here or at home after the smoke has cleared.

Yesterday I also received a very nice letter from Mr. Bauer. He told me all the news and cheered me up a lot. Working for him was one of the bright spots in my past and I hope that it can be arranged so that I can once again work for him upon my return. He has been so nice to me and helped in so many ways. Hats off to a good boss.

They still have me in the Battalion Warehouse where I do all of their typing. The rest of the time they work me in the warehouse. Two or three days ago they told us that we would be required to learn every part of the 50 cal. machine gun which is quite a job. We went out on the range the other day with M-1 rifles. What a rifle that is, Karl. You can't help but feel safe with one of those over your shoulder. I qualified the first time and got a rating as marksman so won't have to go out again for a while. I'm going to try and qualify as sharpshooter which will entitle me to a medal. Don't think I'll have much trouble with a little practice. The officers here are very nice. The Battery Commander is a darned nice fellow and really gives us every break. Texas is a helluva state; the wind blows all the time and most of it comes right into your eyes with a ton of sand. I don't want any part of Texas.

Took my first trip into El Paso. Quite a nice town, about the size of Charlotte and with just a little more of the big town atmosphere. Nice shows, plenty of good eating places and something for every type of soldier. Plan to go in again soon and purchase some things.

Well Karl, old boy, write soon and keep me posted. Give my regards to Mr. Bennett, Hester, Denton, Audrey and all the rest whose names I haven't time to mention.

Your friend,
BOB ANDERS

In North Africa



James Robert Tinsley, Seaman 2c, was employed in the Champagne Hand Booklet service before entering the service in December of 1941. He took his boot training in Norfolk, Va., and was later with the Patrol Wing Atlantic Fleet, Naval Air Station, Norfolk.

At Mayport



Apprentice Seaman Herbert Hensley, one time Ecusta Millwright, left us in September of 1942. His last correspondence came in December of last year from the Naval Section Base at Mayport, Fla. At that time he spoke of the wonderful winter, of his daily swims et cetera. We've been neglected for 4 months, Herbert. How about a letter?

Dear Sir:

Two and a half weeks ago I received your most cheerful letter and you'll have to forgive me for not answering sooner. Many unforeseen obstacles have prevented my doing so.

Yes, I have the slight globe trotting feeling but would rather not be one. The service has been most interesting at times but sitting here in one spot all these months has become most tiresome and the longing to return to Ecusta and my many friends is growing stronger every day. I am glad to know that just being a small cog in this conflict is helping and I will continue to do my best. My knowledge of the different theatres of war is most confusing at times but believe this conflict will close some time in the very near future. There is no doubt but what victory will be in our favor.

The Echo has been very prompt in reaching me and I get a lot of enjoyment from its many articles. I was honored to see my picture in it and I know the Echo is doing a big part in cheering the boys up at mail call. Thanks a lot for the swell present which arrived just a few days after your letter. Under the circumstances my Christmas was pleasant but it brought back lots of memories. Maybe next year we fellows can celebrate Christmas at home.

I am very happy to know each and every one of you all are behind us fellows and we will do our best in these parts to carry out our end of the load.

Sincerely yours,
SGT. JOHN E. BISHOP