

JESSE GILLESPIE

The following letter to Mr. Harry H. Straus is from Jesse Gillespie who was the first Ecusta employee to be called into service:

Jesse C. Gillespie FC2-c
U. S. S. Tidewater
Charleston, S. C.

Mr. Harry H. Straus
President—Ecusta Paper Co.
Dear Sir,

Would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the nice gift you gave me as being the first man called back to service. I thank you very much and sure enjoy wearing it. I appreciate the watch most highly. Was so nice of you to think of me in this way.

I never realized when being discharged in 1946 that I'd be called back this soon, but since things turned up like this I'll do what I can again. I hope we can have permanent peace after this war.

I have been assigned duty here at Charleston and hoping I can stay here. Was quite a change for me coming out of civilian life, but am somewhat getting adjusted now.

Am truly hoping that it won't be long until I can return to work at Ecusta. I enjoy working there better than any place I've ever worked.

The day I left for service I was told that your health was keeping you in pretty close. Here's hoping for you the most speedy recovery and that you'll be able to carry on your work at Ecusta because I know from the past that you are always thinking of Ecusta and the ones that work there.

Thanking you again for the nice watch—I still remain an employee.

Jesse C. Gillespie

THE OYSTER AND THE EAGLE

As God was making the creatures, the oyster asked Him that he, the oyster, be guaranteed absolute economic and society security. So God built the oyster a house of shell to protect him from his enemies. When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell and food rushes in.

The eagle, however, asked God for freedom. So He gave the eagle soaring wings and said, "The blue sky is the limit. Go build your own house."

The eagle flew to the highest mountain craig. Here he built his home where storms threaten daily. For food the eagle flies through miles of rain and snow and wind.

The eagle, not the oyster, is the emblem of these United States.

LETTER FROM W. W. "BILL" HUBER

Our good friend, W. W. "Bill" Huber, former Ranger of the Pisgah District of Pisgah National Forest, has recently received another promotion. He is the new Chief of Wildlife Management for the Pacific Northwest region of the United States Forest Service.

Bill left Pisgah Forest in 1948 to assume duties as Forester in the Division of Information and Education in the regional office in Philadelphia.

He wrote the article, "Sam's Special", which appeared in the April issue of *The Echo*.

Bill has maintained contact with his many friends in Transylvania through correspondence, the *Transylvania Times* and *The Echo*. Below is reprinted a letter which Mr. Harry H. Straus recently received from him:

September 8, 1950

Mr. Harry H. Straus
Pisgah Forest,
North Carolina.
Dear Mr. Straus

It was indeed a surprise and a pleasure to receive your letter, and to know that my friends think of me.

I have missed the good people of Pisgah Forest, and that beautiful climate and country. I am still judging the rest of the United States as to how it conforms to the high standards of Western North Carolina. This section of the west, though, is tops, and as the rainfall goes, so goes the vegetation. You can travel from dry sagebrush prairies where the rainfall is 4" annually to the lush vegetation of the west coast where 100" annual rainfall is common, in less than a hundred miles. Snow-capped mountain peaks make the horizon picturesque. All in all, I am quite pleased with this assignment and the people with whom I am working.

I am sorry to hear that you have been ill, but I am glad that you will soon be able to return to the office. If at any time you are in this section of the country, please let me know, as I would like to take you on a tour of the great Northwest.

Sincerely yours,
William W. Huber

It is interesting to note that even before the start of the Korean conflict Americans were paying nearly as much to support their government as they were to buy food for their tables. Figures for last year are not ready, but in 1948 the total costs of our federal, state, and local governments amounted to nearly \$52 billion. During the same year we spent less than \$53 billion on our food bills.