

Around The Pencil—BY EVELYN POOLE

Classes Send Clothes To Greek Families

"Thank heavens," sighed Jim as he shuffled into the library, "another study hall! Now I'll have time to get a good hour's sleep."

As he enters the library he is startled to see that the teacher is planning to be there all the period.

"Dog-gone, no sleep this period! Old Crow's feet is guarding today. OH! I have a wonderful idea! I'll put an encyclopedia in front of my face and she will think that I'm studying."

After getting settled behind the book, Jim throw his pencil on the floor and closed his eyes. Immediately dreams began to float through his mind. In his dream his pencil jumped into his hand and began to scold him severely.

"Don't you have any sense? I'm surprised that Bailey has such a student as you! You are not only lazy, but very careless. For example, just look at me. I'm all chewed up, and you threw me on the floor and stepped on me. You just don't know how much work was necessary for me to be created."

"Aw, go to sleep," Jim growled. "Who cares about an old pencil, I could buy another just like you for a penny."

"You don't deserve the trip I was planning for you, but I may as well take you and show you just how my kinsmen are born. But first let me give you a sketch of my genesis. The lead in me was first discovered by ancient Egyptians, who wrote with lead and graphite on papyrus. My eraser was made from latex, the plant juice of a

rubber tree found in Brazil. But let's hurry; we have a lot of territory to cover before the period is up."

"Where are we going?"

"To see a pencil created. Most of my cousins, are Germans, English, or American. Let's journey to New York, where most of my American kinsmen are reared."

Upon entering a pencil factory, Jim saw the clay and graphite being thoroughly mixed, pressed, and forced through holes making it coil like wire. While still soft the lead is straightened and cut in correct proportions according to the length of the pencils.

"Since I am an ordinary pencil, I am composed of seven parts clay and ten parts graphite," the pencil explains, "and my case is made of the best grade red cedar from southern forests."

Jim saw the wood arived in blocks, each block large enough for six pencils. After the grooves for the lead were drilled into the blocks, glue was poured into the grooves, and then the lead is put into them. After this process Jim witnessed the block being run through a machine with revolving knives, which cut the block, thus forming pencils. Soon the pencils were trimmed and labeled and the tin tips and rubbers were put on with an automatic machine.

"Now we must hurry back to Bailey; it is just one minute before the bell rings," the pencil informs Jim. Ring-a-ling.

To aid needy families of Greece was the purpose of the sophomore and French II classes of Bailey high school in sending three boxes of clothes.

The boxes contained sweaters, skirts, dresses, trousers, coats, shoes, socks, underclothes, soap, shirts, and blouses.

Seven other such boxes have been sent by members of the community.

NAMES

Names of the destitute Greek families were supplied by Mrs. T.C. May, former seventh grade teacher, who has been corresponding with several people in Greece.

One man whom Mrs. May corresponds with is an American citizen who was caught in Greece at the beginning of the war. In letters he has related stories of the hardships and living conditions which the Greek people have undergone during the occupation of the Nazis and the present day guerrillas.

"Wake up, Jim," a voice shouted in his ear. I thought for once I would give you the pleasure of sleeping. But you know you learn nothing while you are asleep."

Jim jumped up quickly, expecting to see the pencil fairy speaking to him.

Clutching his pencil tightly, he hurried out of the door muttering, "Miss Teacher, just once you are mistaken; for while sleeping I learned to appreciate my pencil."