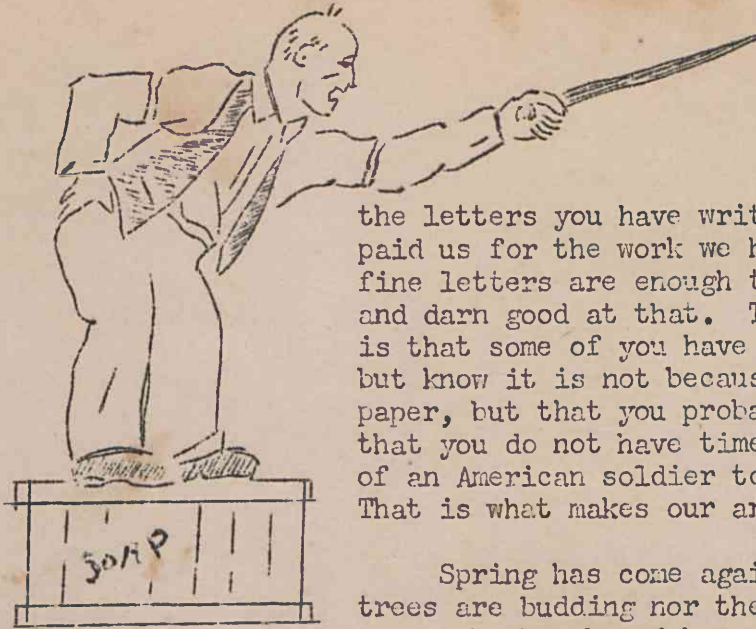


Dear Boys:-



*Drawing by Blair Price*

One of the greatest pleasures we have around here these days is getting out the "Hot Off The Hoover Rail" for you, and the letters you have written us have more than repaid us for the work we have done on it, for those fine letters are enough to make any one feel good, and darn good at that. The only complaint we have is that some of you have not let us hear from you, but know it is not because you do not enjoy the paper, but that you probably have so many duties that you do not have time, and we know it is typical of an American soldier to put duty before pleasure. That is what makes our army the best in the world.

Spring has come again to Lawndale, not that the trees are budding nor the flowers blooming, but the checker board has again appeared on the rail with Jake Ward, Sam Jeffories and others hard at work, so we KNOW there will be no more ice and snow but just some cool days until summer comes.

The war was brought home to us this month with a jolt, when we heard that Dr. Neely and Everett McNeely were missing in action in North Africa, and Lt. Robert Martin from the flying corps. It made us mad and it made us sad, as it made us realize that we were probably not doing as much as we should to help you, so we went "over the top" in the Red Cross drive, and the sum raised is enough to make everybody in this town proud of the way every one responded. We can now truthfully say that we are behind you 100% and to the last ditch, and we are going to win this war or bust.

I read an article in the paper the other day, written by a soldier on Guadalcanal saying there were no Atheists in the fox holes down there, which makes me feel that you boys are thinking deeper these days about things worth while, and so are we as you will note from copy of a prayer of a father, sent me a few days ago:

"OUR FATHER, watch over and protect our sons in the service, and shield them with your care. Banish from our hearts all anxiety and make us happy that they can serve their country. May our love and prayers and teachings guide them now, and may they turn to you and strive to do your will. Keep them faithful in all their religious duties, and help them to win in all struggles against temptation and sin. Make them strong, manly and cheerful. May they work hard, play fair, and stay healthy, wholesome and pure. May they be loyal and ready in duty, prompt in service, and willing in sacrifice. Help them to face their problems and solve them as men. May they hold dear the ties of home and friends and do their best for the defense of their loved ones and their country. Grant, O Lord, that a just peace may soon be established throughout the world and that our sons may come safely home and take their places among us and resume their work. Into Your gracious keeping we commend our sons, and ask your richest blessing upon them."

As you know we are rationed now for about everything, but we are not kicking as we feel it is helping our boys in the service, and we are not suffering, but get a lot of good laughs out of it. The people of this country were always extravagant, so this may be a good lesson for us, which we will not forget when the war is won, and will live longer by not overeating. Don't worry about the homefolks as they are doing fine, and will make greater sacrifices with a smile if called on to do so.

KEEP 'EM RUNNING as they have started retreating, and remember we are wishing you all the luck in the world, and a safe return home.

Geo. H. Hart.