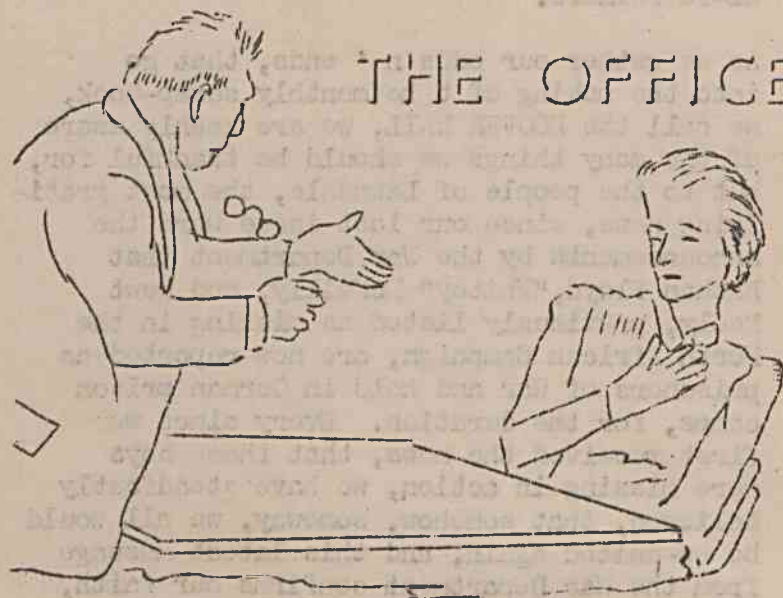


THE OFFICE OWL



By - Mrs. F.L. Rollins

We have had entirely too much excitement in the office the past few weeks. Our two Mildreds, upsetting us by their great adventures, Mildred Eaker joining the Marines, and Mildred Miller joining the married force. Then too some of the boys coming home on furloughs. I don't know which was the most excited the new bride or Jimmie Osborn's Mom when Jimmie came dashing in for a few hours, and, by the way, Jimmie was the only one who had nerve enough to kiss the bride.

The office force gave the two Mildreds a shower and you have never heard so much "ooing and ah-ing" over the beautiful lamps the bride received, and the lovely traveling bag for Mildred Eaker. The boys also presented the bride with a beautiful red hoe with this verse attached:

"She gave her heart to a farmer,
A Knight of the hoe and rake,
Who wanted a wife, well trained,
To wash, scrub and bake."

We are all very sorry to have Mildred Eaker leave us for she not only is a good worker, but a lovely person besides. Mr. Hart says he is afraid that Mildred won't like the Marines for the reason that she can't sleep unless she hears the frogs singing on Grassy Creek. They say, "All is fair in love and war," but to lose Mildred will be our loss and the Marines gain.

Did you know that the Food Administration has just about decided to stop the Point Rationing System, since both Fitz Rollins and Mr. S.A. Parker are farming? You should hear them giving "Stick" Elliott advice on how to make money on the farm, although neither one of them has yet discovered which end of the mule you plow with.

I think the war has affected the salesmen very much for the other day one came up to my desk and asked to see "Mr. Phony". I decided it was Mr. Forney he wanted to see and directed him to his office. Now you all remember how many halls and steps we have in our office, so the salesman stumped his toe on one of the unexpected steps, and fell to his knees. By that time he was getting slightly embarrassed and made the wrong turn and found himself in the store. He asked some of the clerks "Just how do you get out of this office?" Of course, they thought he wanted to get into the office and directed him right back again. I looked up as he went by my desk and found he was trying to go out the window for the door, with his face red, he said, "Lady, I'll swear I am not that drunk."

Jim Osborne was awfully out of humor the other day, and I finally discovered the reason. It seems that Jim had gone to town on Hunt's Bus, and coming back they crowded Jim too much to suit him, so he told them to put him off and he would walk home. Of course, he thought he would thumb a ride, in a few minutes, forgetting that cars were rather rare on the highways these days. So it turned out he had to walk all the way home, and "was his blood a-boiling and his dogs a-hurting?"

Boys, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing to help win this war, always keep in mind that your old home town, back in the hills of Old North Carolina, is standing by.