

In Radio Company



HOMER L. BATSON, formerly Blacktender at Ecusta, left us in Aug. of 1941. He was stationed for a time at Camp Walters in Texas, and was later transferred to Fort Lawton, Wash. For a time Homer received his mail % Postmaster, Seattle, Wash., but our latest information concerning his whereabouts takes him back again to Camp Walters, where he is a 1st Class Private in an infantry and radio company.

Machine Booklet

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Machine Booklet Dept did not have any news in the last issue of the Echo. Believe it or not, several people noticed absence of this article . . . The marriage business is on the boom again. Kathryn Freck decided that she no longer liked single life and became the bride of Kenneth Lance in January. Ruby Jones surprised us by getting married last month also . . . Mamie R. is officially a mechanic now for she has her overalls. Remember how you felt toward the new mechanics when you were operating a machine, Mamie? . . . No one can say that Gertie isn't patriotic. She thought of a way to help raise money for the new oxygen tent fund . . . We all hate to see Guy leave us but he reports for duty soon in the Merchant Marines. Best of luck to you, Guy . . . Daisy really believes in preparedness. When she sees that she is going to operate a bad machine she always asks for an aspirin for she knows the machine will give her a headache . . . Buddy's vacation must have helped him considerably. He certainly has worked since he came back . . . Alice T. has been very sick. We hope you are feeling better and that you will soon be back with us, Alice . . . Mae W. needed her vacation to catch up on her sleep. The week before she took it she was waked up every few minutes . . . No wonder Alfred never liked working evening shift. It is awfully dark from the gatehouse to the plant, isn't it, Alfred?

HIGH-LOW

A farmer visiting the big city decided to ride in a pullman for the first time in his life, so he asked the ticket agent for a berth.

"Upper or lower?" inquired the agent.

"What's the difference?" the farmer asked.

"Well," the Agent replied, "the lower is higher than the upper. The higher price is for the lower. We sell the upper lower than the higher. Most people don't like the upper because when you occupy the upper you have to get up to go to bed and get down when you get up. You can have the lower but it's higher. If you are willing to go higher it will be lower."

With a blank look the Farmer responded, "I guess you're right, mister, but I've changed by mind. I'm goin' back in the wagon the same as I came here."

LETTERS HOME

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Dear Mr. Wells:

How's everything up in God's country? Has your cactus frozen yet? Mine has! We got down here at 4:00 on the morning of the 16th. After a good night's rest we got up at 5:30. It was just like a double back at dear old Ecusta. We form a line every morning for chow, then we form a line for ships store, then we form a line for vaccination, then we form a line for clothes issue, then we form a line for—oh, what's the use! If all the lines we form were placed end to end in the right direction I'd be back in the Machine Room!

I have been vaccinated, inoculated, educated, vacated, fumigated and darned near decapitated! You should see where my hair used to be! I've got less hair than Leon English!

Do you know why our forces lose so few men in action? Because if they live thru' 3 weeks' detention they can't be killed.

If you want those Jap ears drop us a line. We get pretty lonesome and when the mailman doesn't call our name it's a pretty tough feeling.

Yours truly,
W. G. CROMER

Barrack 46, Sect. R5F
Naval Air Tech, Tr. Center
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Wells:

I'll write a few lines today while I'm not so busy to inform you of my present address. I am now stationed at Memphis, Tenn., having come here after graduation at Northwestern University. I am still in the radio communications field but instead of ships radio, I am now taking a ten weeks' course in aviation radio. Upon completion of this course I'll then probably go to a gunnery school. Looks as if I'll be in school for the duration of the war.

However, I'm able to enjoy this southern weather once more which is quite a help. There are several boys here from Brevard, two of whom are former Ecustans. Sure glad to run into some of the old bunch.

Hope everything is going fine at Ecusta and with the Ecusta employees. My regards to all of them and especially to the Fiber Warehouse crews.

MARSHALL LOFTIS

Jan. 13, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am sending you my new address because I like to get the Echo without too much delay.

Since I received your letter I have traveled many miles and am now stationed somewhere in England. I am getting along just fine and I am liking England very much although I have been here only about two months.

I sure want to thank you all for the cigarettes I received a few days ago. I hope that this finds the plant in full swing and everybody getting along ok. Tell the boys in the Machine Room "hello" and wish that I was back there with you all.

Well, it's chow time so I will close for this time. Hoping to see you all in the coming future.

Yours truly,
PVT. THOMAS BROWN

Dear Mr. Wells:

How is everything going at Ecusta by now? Fine I hope. First of all I want to thank you all for the Christmas present and also the Echo, which I have been receiving regularly.

I really like the Maritime Service. The training here isn't too tough or too long. It consists of 13 weeks' training and then a 9-day furlough. Upon our return we will be placed on merchant ships.

On my furlough I hope to visit Ecusta and friends which I made while working there.

Well, it's about time for taps so guess I had better close for this time. I'm hoping to hear from Ecusta soon.

KENNETH SMITH (A. S.)

January 16, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I will try to write you a few words tonight to let you know I am getting along fine and hope you all are too. I received your letter and was glad to hear from you all. You don't know how much it helps me to hear from someone back home but I guess I won't hear from many people now for I am going into foreign service and I don't guess that they will let me receive many letters.

Well, I must close for this time with love to all the Ecusta members.

FRED LAUGHTER.

January 18, 1943

Dear Mr. Straus:

I greatly appreciate the interest you have shown in writing and sending copies of the Echo. Also I am very grateful for the lovely box of stationery from Ecusta. It is a wonderful Christmas present and the one thing I needed a great deal. Thank you for remembering me with such a nice gift.

Like most of the boys, I guess I hated pretty bad to leave Ecusta last March. However, this job is more important right now and it won't be an easy one to finish but we've got an army better than any of them and after it's over Japan and Germany will be the least of our problems for a long time to come.

It was good to see Tom Ramsey again several weeks ago while he was in C. W. School here. He has now gone back to his previous assignment. Right now Albert ("Flash") Gordon is here in O. C. S. and although I've tried I haven't been able to get in touch with him. The men in that school certainly have difficult courses and keep plenty busy.

My work is fairly interesting and I've learned a great deal. In a way it's almost equivalent to a college education in the amount of studying they expect us to do. The field work is most interesting and we are out on the range a large part of the time. It may be of interest that my promotion to first lieutenant came through about a month ago.

I certainly miss being with all the people at Ecusta and it's nice to hear from them in the Echo. It means a great deal to receive the paper for it brings very pleasant memories of the time spent there. Thank you again for sending it to me.

I appreciate the Christmas present and hope you have a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
LISTER SKINNER.

NATIONAL RUBBER DIRECTOR OFFERS SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSERVING RUBBER

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Editor's note: The following is a letter from Mr. Wm. M. Jeffers, Rubber Director of the War Production Bd., Wash., D. C., concerning conservation of rubber. You will observe the five suggestions, which have been made by Mr. Jeffers, which will assist in the conservation of rubber. These suggestions are printed below so that truck drivers AND all others who operate cars will understand the vital need for conserving rubber.

January 28, 1943

Gentlemen:

The other day I told the Senate Committee on Technological Mobilization that our supply of rubber is being consumed at such an alarming rate that by September 1943 it may drop below the disaster level set by the Baruch Committee.

There is not "plenty of rubber" in the country. The need of conserving rubber is more pressing than ever. If one of your truck drivers abuses a tire, ruins it beyond re-treading, he may hurt your pocket-book, but he certainly isn't hurting "the Government" or the Rubber Director. The fellow he hurts most is some boy that folks like you and I know—a boy in the Army or Navy whose very life depends on the strength of the tires we give him, on the safety of the gas tanks in the plane he flies.

So, when I ask you to back up a renewed drive for truck-tire conservation, I'm really asking you to back up our men in North Africa, the Solomons and dozen other fronts. Here's what I'm asking you to do—partly for yourself, but mostly for them:

1. See that your drivers understand that the 35-mile speed limit is to be observed and why. Speed is one of the most important factors in tread wear and tire-body conservation.

2. There must be no over-inflation nor under-inflation of tires. Neither must there be any bleeding of pressures in tires while they are

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In Signal Corps



CLYDE W. OWEN, formerly in Champagne Shipping Dept., left Ecusta July 24, 1942 and is now a Corporal in the Signal Corps at Daytona Beach, Florida. Clyde recently spent a furlough at his home in Rosman.

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before her fateful step at Christmas went by the name of Marona, has taken up where Mary Ellen Jones left off at labeling bobbins and Mary Ellen has taken up where Freda left off at running No. 18. Both were and are well worth their jobs whatever they are . . . Let's see, we started off talking about February, didn't we? Well, besides Ground Hog Day and Valentine's Day it has brought us some cold weather and to us of Shift C—Graveyard.