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LOSES LIFE IN GARAGE FIRE

His Airplane Forced Down;

NEAL RESCUED IN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

Lost In "Wilds of Mexico!"

Lt. Frank B. Neal, in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Neal, 417 Roanoke Ave., told some of the harrowing and exciting experiences when he was reported missing after a plane flight on Saturday, May 1, until rescued in an isolated Mexican village the following Thursday, May 6.

IN AIR CORPS



CPL. WOODROW W. MATTHEWS son of Mrs. G. N. Matthews of this city, has completed his training in the army air corps at Warrensburg, Mo., where he awaits orders. Story on Page 1—Section B

Lt. Neal left his Army Air base at Douglas, Arizona, at 3 p. m. May 1st. The plane was piloted by a British flying instructor named Kerr. They flew to Yuma, Ariz., where they left at 6 p. m. to return to Douglas. Darkness overtook them and the pilot, thinking he was north of the home base started flying South. They saw no lights and were soon flying in high mountains. They were running low on gas and were forced to parachute from the plane which crashed into the side of a mountain.

When Lt. Neal hit the ground, he was unhurt. There was no sign of his British pilot. The local boy wrapped up his parachute and went to sleep. Early Sunday morning he searched the mountains for the plane and pilot but could not find either. Nor was there any sign of habitation; nothing but mountains. Lt. Neal began a search for water which he did not find until afternoon. Later he saw a native on horseback who could not speak English but who took him to his home for the night. Mexican Intelligence officers arrived Monday and took Neal with them to find the crashed plane. That night they slept in a small Mexican hut and the Roanoke Rapids boy realized he was in one of the most isolated sections of Mexico with no way to get a message out and no way to travel except horseback. They arrived at a small village Tuesday night where they found Kerr, the British pilot, safe and unhurt. He had baled out a few minutes after Neal and had evidently landed on the side of another mountain. There was still no way to get a message out and it was Thursday morning before news got through to Douglas. Planes were sent and landed in a field near the village to pick up the two men. A regular celebration was held at the Army Air Base at Douglas when they returned as the post practically took a holiday. Planes had been searching for days but had found no trace of them and had just about given up the search.

When the news reached Roanoke Rapids Thursday afternoon it spread like wildfire and scores of friends rushed to the home of the Neals to congratulate them on the safe return of their son. Lt. Neal hopes to visit here about June 23rd. Two of his brothers, William and Webb, also in the army, hope to be here for the family reunion.

GETS PURPLE HEART AWARD FOR SERVICE

Kelly Bishop Wounded In African Campaign; His Parents Live Here

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bishop, 229 Roanoke Avenue, have been notified by the war department that their son, Cpl. Kelly Long Bishop has been wounded in the North



CPL. KELLY L. BISHOP

African campaign, and that he has been awarded the Purple Heart decoration for conspicuous bravery shown in line of duty.

Bishop, now only 19-years old, joined the armed forces in 1939, when he was 15. Before entering the army he attended high school at Mt. Airy, though his parents made their home here for some time.

His present address is: Cpl. Kelly L. Bishop, Headquarters Battery, 13th F. A. Brig., APO 302, care of Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Raine Wilson Is 1st Lieutenant; Gets Rank Today

Word was received here this afternoon by Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Wilson, 738 Roanoke Avenue, that their son Clunet Raine Wilson was commissioned a first lieutenant today at Camp Pickett, Va.

Lt. Wilson was a member of the 105th Medical Regiment from the city, and after serving at Fort Jackson, S. C. was selected for officers training and sent to Texas. He was commissioned a second lieutenant about six-months ago.

The Wilsons have one other son and daughter in the services. James Wilson is in the Army Air Corps, stationed at Memphis, Tenn. and Virginia Wilson holds the rank of second lieutenant with the Army Nursing Corps, stationed at Camp Patrick Henry, Va.

Scout Attendance Camporee Near City May Hit 175

Local Boy Scout officials and enthusiasts predicted that tomorrow morning will see some 175 scouts finding their way to the new District Wilderness Camp on Whetstone Creek in Northampton County, near the city for the Halifax District Camporee which starts Friday morning with a full 3-day program.

It would appear that weather conditions are conducive to a full three-day's program of scout activities, events and stunts. Particular stress is being given this year to such skills as first aid-work signalling, map making and other skills essential in national defense.

Troops from Littleton, Jackson, Conway, Murfreesboro and other communities are expected for the district camporee here, which will close with devotional Services Sunday morning, May 7th.

Don Tillar is camping activities chairman for the local camporee, assisted by Clyde Liske, Howard Pruden, and other scout leaders of the community.

NEW METHODS OF CANNING SHOWN HERE

May 20th At Roanoke Mills Cannery; May 21st At The Armory

The Roanoke Rapids Food Conservation Program for Defense will be launched next week, May 20 and 21, by the Roanoke Rapids High School Home Economics Teachers.

Miss Myra S. Scull, District Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, will demonstrate all the latest approved methods on canning, dehydrating, and other methods of food conservation at these meetings.

On Thursday, May 20, the demonstrations will be given at the Roanoke Mills Cannery on First Street at the North end of town. All sector and block leaders from Sections numbered 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 are expected to attend this meeting from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.

Friday, May 21, the demonstrations will be given in the kitchen of the Armory for all sector and block leaders from sections numbered 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 13. This meeting will begin at 10:00 A. M. and close at 4:00 P. M.

Miss Naomi Shank, System Home Service Director of the Virginia Electric and Power Company, will also be present for these meetings. Miss Shank is well known among housewives of Roanoke Rapids and is considered an authority on foods.

Canning in tin will be included on the program for the benefit of those leaders working with patrons (Continued On Page 8—Sec. A)

C. K. NEWSOM IS CREMATED UNDER AUTO

Discover Body Of City Youth Under Car Monday At Belmont Home

The body of Claud K. Newsom, 26-year old son of Tom W. Newsom of the Belmont residence section near the city, was discovered underneath the burned ruins of the family automobile about 11 o'clock Monday morning. The automobile and garage had caught fire and burned during the early hours of the previous Sunday morning. The gruesome discovery was made by Miss Lois Ellis, who lives in the neighborhood, when she was looking over damage wrought by Sunday's fire. Young Newsom had been the object of a wide-spread search by his family.

Newsom is known to have returned to his father's house late Saturday night, and it is reported had forgotten his key and was unable to awaken his parent. He apparently decided to sleep in the car, as he often did during the summertime, it is said. Fire in the garage was discovered about 5 o'clock Sunday morning. The garage and automobile were practically destroyed by the flames. It is supposed that young Newsom was asleep in the car when the blaze started, that he was overcome by carbon monoxide gas from the automobile burning, and in some manner fell below the car, where his body was found Monday morning practically cremated.

A coroner's inquest was held at the scene of the death shortly after discovery of the body, under the direction of H. G. Rowe, county coroner. The verdict of the jury was that Newsom met with an accidental death by fire.

Funeral services were conducted at the Cemetery Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock with Rev. Lester A. Tilley officiating. In addition to his father, Newsom is survived by three brothers, Major C. Bobbie and Whit Newsom, all of this city; two sisters, Mrs. Virginia Speight of Roanoke Rapids, and Mrs. Etta Salmon, of Littleton. His mother died November 15th, 1942. He was born in Warren County, a short distance from Littleton. He received his education in Roanoke Rapids Schools, later joining the U. S. Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged last fall, at which time he returned to the city to make his home with his father.

Enfield Election

Ernest Stallings was re-elected Mayor of Enfield Monday over William Mann by a vote of 274 to 113.

Four town commissioners were elected as follows: R. E. Shervette, Sr., Eli Bellamy, Bud Marshall and Frank Vaughan. Winners of Monday's election took office yesterday and will serve for two years.