

High On Windy Korean Hill, Soldier-Hermits Do Vital Job

Taegu, Korea—Three thousand feet up, atop a remote Korean mountain, ten soldiers live virtually as hermits. Their solitary existence is required for the maintenance of a Signal Corps radio relay station.

"Home" for the soldiers is a tiny compound, bordered on two sides by a cliff poised over a drop of hundreds of feet down to the forest floor. The other two sides are fenced with barbed wire.

The job of these men in their rugged Shangri-La is explained by the NCO in charge, Sergeant First Class Floyd D. Malone of 927 East Beacon Avenue, Montezano, Washington.

"When you make a phone call in Korea, say from Taegu to Seoul, your voice often goes onto high frequency radio waves instead of through wire. Those waves have to relay till they get where they're intended. We pick up signals from the Taegu relay and boost them on to another station on a mountain north of here. They boost them on to another station, and so forth, on to Seoul."

Supply is the biggest problem the men face. Everything must be brought up by pack bearers. Forty-seven such workers haul water, gasoline, food and spare parts up the mountain. Updrafts from the mountain have proved too strong to permit a helicopter to land there.

Bucket baths are the order of the day due to the scarcity of water. If the men want a shower, they hike all the way down to the camp at the foot of the mountain.

Three men stay in a rented Korean house in the village, making the drive into Taegu every day for supplies and mail. Duty there is "mecca" for the mountain hermits. They call it their "sukoshi R & R." (Translation: Sukoshi—Japanese for little; R & R—the well-known term for rest and recuperation leave.)

That anathema of the soldier—the inspection—virtually is non-existent at the mountain compound. The climb puts a damper on this phase of Army living.

"Anyway, as long as all the telephones in Korea still are working, they know we're in operation," says Malone.

The wind is a real enemy to the station. Once, the kitchen roof was blown atop an antenna. The same blow took off the fuel shack and power shed as well. The quonset hut at present is secured with cables.

Heavy snows and ice make operations even more difficult in winter. Every morning in winter, the men have to climb the antenna tower and either chip off the ice with a bayonet or melt it off with a blowtorch.

The cook, Sergeant First Class Harold E. Dodd, Route 5 North, Chattanooga, Tenn., complains that his kitchen floor becomes an ice rink when he swishes hot water on it for a mop down.

"I slept in my pile jacket, OD's, ski socks—in a sleeping bag and under four blankets—and still I nearly froze to death last winter," he said.

Summer's greatest menace is forest fires. One last year came perilously close, giving the men a scare, what with their stores of ammunition and reserve gasoline.

The men take turns at all-night guard. Since their basketball net and backboard went sailing off the mountain with a stiff wind, the sports program has dwindled to horseshoes. Even this pastime requires figuring the windage before a pitch.

Five times a week, movies are shown and are a highpoint for everyone.

Five of the men are taking United States Armed Forces Institute courses and others get a lot of reading done, but the biggest joy they have is mail. The lack of that, more than anything else—the wind, the cold, the isolation—can make the men get the blues. But they hasten to correct any idea that they conform to Hollywood notions of psychological tensions.

"Nobody ever goes berserk or runs screaming off down this mountain or quits talking to anybody," the men said.

Interesting Programs Seen At Planetarium

A new program entitled "The Eyes of Astronomy", is being presented in the Morehead Planetarium every evening at 8:30, Saturdays at 3:00 and 8:30 (11:00 A. M., 5:00 and 8:30 P. M., on "home football" Saturdays) and at 3:00, 4:00 and 8:30 P. M., on Sundays. Special presentations for school groups are at 2:00 P. M., each Wednesday and 11:00 A. M., and 2:00 P. M., each Thursday, advance reservation is requested.

The program deals almost exclusively with telescopes, and features the principals and properties of the giant 200 inch Hale telescope on Palomar Mountain.

Concurrent with this program, the entire North Scientific Exhibit Room of The Morehead Planetarium will contain a comprehensive exhibit exclusively devoted to the 200 inch telescope. This exhibit may be seen daily from 2:00 to 10:00 P. M., Saturdays from 10:00 A. M., to 10:00 P. M., and on Sundays from 1:00 to 10:00 P. M., free of charge.

TEACHER'S PET



This cute little miss will go to the head of the class in her smart winter cotton. Designed by Love, the laced-shoulder jumper is in Reeves rich "cross-cut" corduroy with separate white broadcloth blouse. The National Cotton Council reports these schooltime corduroys wear like iron, wash easily and come in a range of rich colors.

CROP Week Is Set By State Chairman

At the Annual North Carolina CROP Committee meeting held in Raleigh Commissioner of Agriculture L. Y. Ballentine, State Chairman, officially designated November 8 as CROP Sunday and November 8-14 as CROP Canvass Week. On CROP Sunday the ministers and churches interpret the plans for the canvass to their people.

During CROP Week the county committees and canvassers collect corn, wheat, other grains, peanuts and cotton as well as cash for overseas feeding of orphans, refugees, widows, food and famine victims. It is planned that 5,000 volunteer collectors will canvass for relief supplies in early November.

The Rev. Carl R. Key of Durham, State Director, reported 43 counties organized for the regular canvass and eight counties ready to make a special canvass for both food and clothing.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dries of Wyomissing, Pa., announce the engagement of her daughter, Miss Guinevere Ann Dries, to Marvin P. Wilson, Jr., son of Mrs. T. K. Birrell of Raleigh and Atlanta, Ga., and Marvin Wilson of Edenton.

The wedding is scheduled to take place in June.



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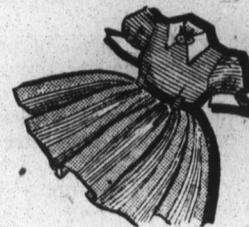
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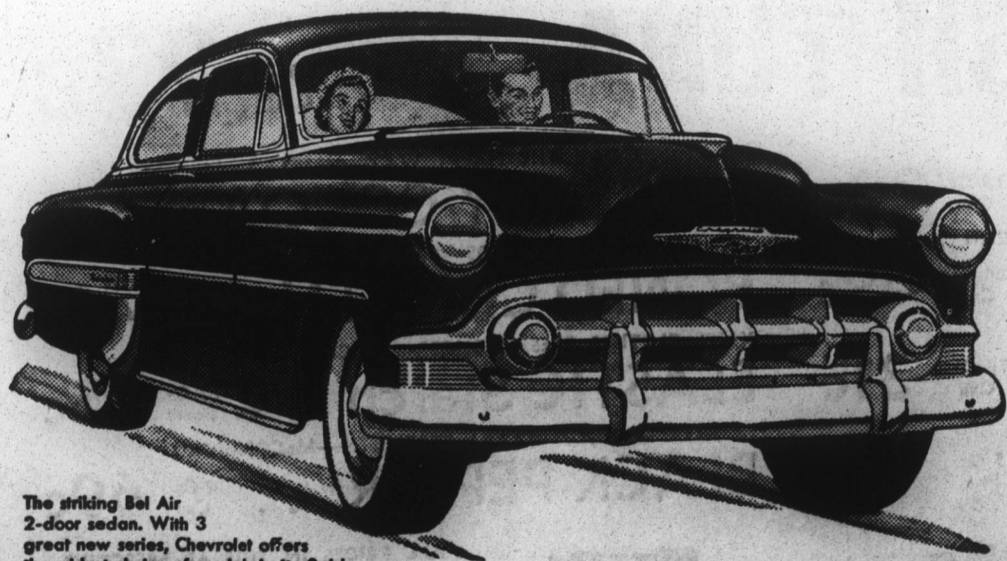


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