

# PEOPLE & PLACES

By LEW HARDEE

If exciting new places do not interest you, if you don't like tropical breezes and palm trees and good times, then read no farther. This is a story of my visit to Doris and John D. O'Daniel, popular Southport couple now living in Panama.

"How do I get over to your place from here at Amador?" I asked John D. over the phone.

"Let's see. You are over on the Pacific side of the Isthmus. We are at Coco Solo, over on the Atlantic. Hop on the train and I'll meet you at Colon Station.



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SANDWICHES—  
TRY  
DARI-MAID  
SHALLOTTE, N. C.

It's only fifty miles here and will take you a little over an hour," said John D.

"This is all new to me, John. I know nothing of the Panama Railroad. Tell me, is there anything special I'm supposed to do?"

"Lew," he said, "There's one way to describe it, 'easy going.' You'll have no trouble at all. Believe me, as long as the Panama Railroad is running, the W.B.&S. will never die. It is a sort of W. B.&S. gone native."

A short while later I saw what he meant. I arrived at Balboa Station as the train was pulling in. There were a handful of cars, of the old beaded wood variety, the first and second class coaches being separated by a solitary baggage car. To my inexperienced eye, the two classes seemed identical. A gentleman waiting to board explained to me that there is little difference in accommodation. However, in the first class cars, where the Americans usually sit, one does not hang out of the windows, but sits primly in his seat.

The ride over was interesting. For a short time we rode through the suburbs and past military reservations and airfields. Then we hit the jungle. It is a savage place of impassable black swamps, with closely entangled mangrove trees, scrubby wild bananas, and hanging vines. We rounded mountains of surprisingly beauty and crossed streams which sparkled with bright, jade water as they passed from the black of the jungle into the sunlight of the railroad clearing. We saw native Indian ladies with parasols walking down rust color-



MEET LIEUTENANT DARREL SMITH and FAMILY

## SPARTLIGHT

Lt. Smith was born in Reading, Iowa, and it was there that he received his public education.

In 1942 he enlisted in the United States Navy and served in an enlisted status until 1955. During this period, he served the Heavy Cruiser Louisville and at various Naval Air Stations throughout the United States.

Lt. Smith received a commission in 1955 with duties first aboard several destroyers and then on the staff of the Commander Cruiser Division Four, with home port in Boston, Mass.

He came to Sunny Point Army Terminal in October 1960 and is now the Military Sea Transport Service representative for Sunny Point.

Lt. Smith is married to the former Hazel Wallis of Mt. Vernon, Ind.

He and his wife now reside in Southport with their four children—Lorry, Bobbie, Vicki and Jo Ellen.

ed mountain paths, and thatched were in sight, no paths or roads roof huts set high on stilts. were to be seen, no humans could be found. Yet, the conductor stepped off the train and lifted a woman and her baby into the

high grass. He stepped aboard, waved to the engineer, the whistle blew and we were off again.

At times the line parallels the canal. It always surprised me to see great ships out in the middle of nowhere patiently creeping along. Halfway across the Isthmus, we traveled along the shoreline of Gatun Lake, created to supply the millions of gallons of water needed for the operation of the locks. As the train rattled through an area of savannah country, flat with low bushes, I fully expected to see Indians riding across the plain to attack us with poison darts.

Head shrinking, I am told, is still practiced in remote isolated areas of southern Panama and northern Columbia. I later saw examples of their grotesque craft on sale in a Panama City as souvenirs.

Don't let me give you the impression that Panama is uncivilized, though. The Panamanian lives in a decent house, drinks Coca Cola, and like the average

American, his murdering is confined to the English language.

But I have run out of space and must stop without having even arrived at Coco Solo. I promise that next week we'll spend more time with the O'Daniels and less wondering about in the jungle.

The U. S. expects to export about 6.5 million bales of cotton during the 1960-61 season, as compared with 7.2 million in 1959-60.

## 4-H Club News

By James E. Goff, Assistant County Agricultural Agent

1960 was one of North Carolina's best years in 4-H Club work. It was a very good year in Brunswick County and we hope it will keep improving. Remember the 4-H motto is "To Make The Best Better."

The boys and girls of Brunswick County will have an opportunity to join an Automotive club as soon as the Extension Staff and the Adult leaders secure information on the organization of such a club. Further information will be available at a later date.

There will be a 4-H County Council meeting on Monday January 23 at 4:30 P. M. It will be held at the Extension Service Building in Supply. We urge every officer of each club to try to be present so that some important matters can be discussed and

## Dove Season Ends

The open season for shooting doves closed Saturday, Jan. 14. It was the end of the final half of a split-season for shooting the popular birds.

agreed on.

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SWIFT PREMIUM

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PIGGLY WIGGLY

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19c

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Pt.

19c

WILSON

CORNED BEEF

HASH 29c