

# Capt. Slagle Relates More Of His Adventures As The Only Doctor At The Pole

(Editor's Note: This letter to friends in Macon County is the last one that will be received from Navy Capt. T. D. Slagle until October. The Macon native and former Sylva surgeon is at Little America on a U. S. Navy expedition and he writes that the thaw means no more planes will be landing at the base until next winter.)

Very unexpectedly, I went up to New Zealand again, to take a pa-

tient and put him on a Globemaster for the States. He was a boy that was injured when he got an arm under a mooring line over the drum of a winch and I repaired him as well as possible at Little America sick bay, and then, since the airplanes could not fly because the runway went to sea, he had to be evacuated by ship. By a sort of mutual consent, Dr. Christy, the ship's doctor on the USS Glacier, stayed and worked for me and I took his place on

the ship for the last trip. That way he got the chance to be on the ice for a few weeks and I got a chance to get in a little late summer sunshine on the beaches in New Zealand. (I did get the patient off on the plane.)

I have been fortunate enough to get in a lot of traveling since I came to L. A. Station. I went out to a glaciologist's camp where he was studying "deformation" of ice—or what makes it form crevasses, etc., and how fast and how deep they go, etc. That was the camp of Dr. Jim Zumbege, from the University of Michigan.

### To Byrd's Camp

Then I have made two trips to old Little America III camp where we dug down to the top of Admiral Byrd's old snow cruiser and went

through it. Maybe you saw some of the envelopes we got out of it, with the premature announcement on it of the cruiser arriving at the pole with the picture of a small airplane on the top of the cruiser. Actually it would not run on the snow—it went about 12 miles from the ship but bogged down and had to be abandoned. Then we went through the camp which is a labyrinth of tunnels with the walls lined and the roof supported by the piles of crates of perfectly good food and supplies of all kinds. There is a lot of good electrical equipment and all kinds of stuff there. We got some very good cheese and fancy foods but couldn't begin to salvage what was there. We went there—the 40 miles from camp—by helicopter. The thing I enjoyed most about the thing was finding and discarding a fine lot of fresh frozen spinach.

Then once I went by plane to refuel and supply one of the traverse parties. It was the one being made by the senior American scientist, Albert Crary, on a triangular route from L. A. S. to McMurdo Sound, and then along the base of the Queen Maud Range, by the mouths of the glaciers and the inland edge of the Ross Ice Shelf, and then North to L. A. Station again. He was making all kinds of observations along the course of the traverse, but the most important thing he did, probably, was study the depth of the ice shelf and the water under the ice and the type of bottom under the water, by seismology (blasting a charge of dynamite and measuring time and type of echo). (He is wintering over at L. A. Station again this winter and you may have seen how he fell into the drink just a few days ago when the barrier ice halved while he was standing on it, doing a sounding in the water. He was very lucky because the helicopter fished him out quite soon. He was on his toes however, and must have most of the credit himself because he swam to a chunk of ice and stayed out of the water and the way of the killer whales till he was rescued.)

### To The Pole

On the second day of January I went to McMurdo Sound with Captain Maher, the boss of things down here, and the next day we went to Marble Point, sometimes called Cape Bernacchi, where Lt. Cdr. Henry Stephens, of the Civil Engineering Corps, was doing a "feasibility study" on the question of building a permanent air base. I don't know the answer, but it looks to me like it has just about everything, and the only place on the continent that I have seen or heard of that you could say that about. On the fourth of January we visited aboard some of the ships that were there and then went to the New Zealand camp, "Scott Base", which is the headquarters for the Fuchs-Hillary party. And on the day after that we went to the South Pole. That was a memorable experience especially going up the Beardmore Glacier—which the glaciologists tell me is the king-pin of all glaciers. It is a river of ice that empties (with the help of a few smaller ones) the polar ice cap and brings the ice down to the Ross Ice Shelf. It descends about ten thousand feet in about 107 miles, and in spite of being very hard ice, it flows several yards a day. There are many icefalls and smaller glaciers flowing into it between the mountains on both sides. The surface is covered with crevasses made by the ice cracking as it runs the course between the mountains. The mountains are very beautiful too. But when we got to the top the snow was flat and relatively smooth till we got within a few miles of the pole station when we began to follow the tracks of the three tractors that Hillary and his party had come in the day before. We were met

at the landing strip by Vernon Houk (The doctor and the only Navy officer there—the boss of the station). He runs a good station and he and all the rest of the personnel think it is the greatest place in the world. (I didn't tell them any better). It was a queer sensation to put your hand around the flagpole, marking the exact geographical pole and figure you had your hand around the world. It was the only time I ever knew my directions for sure—at least then I was looking north no matter which way I looked! Sir Edmund was there and he and Derek Wright, one of his party, came back on same plane I was on. Both are very nice, unassuming folks.

### Hitches Ride

A couple of weeks later I hitched a ride in one of the R4D's (or DC3's) in fact it was "Que Sera Sera", the one that Gus Shinn landed at the South Pole the first time a plane was landed there. (Gus is from Leaksville, N. C.) We went to Byrd Station, which was established last year at 120° W. longitude and 80 S. latitude. You may have seen the movies they took on the trip, it was on TV and was called, "Eleven Men Against the Ice." That is a nice station too and is run by another friend of mine, Dr. Peter P. Ruski. There is the best sort of morale there and I don't know what it runs on, but everybody is happy and sure they have the ideal spot for the winter—and that is what counts.

That is about all the running around I have done except locally. I was very lucky in having a doctor extra down here for a while this summer and he did my work while I ran around. On the way back to N. Z. on the Glacier this time I did have the good fortune to visit the Cape Hallett Station, run by another friend, Dr. Bob Bornmann. They too, think it is fine—but it is on a penguin rookery site, and I can't agree—it smells like a penguin rookery—and I know because I never smelled one! (before, that is!)

### Last Mail Trip

Since this is the last trip down here it is the last mail that will leave the continent till October. There were to have been Globemasters flying till the middle of March from McMurdo Sound, but that all had to stop when the ice runway there went to sea. The ice broke up and floated out to sea and that was a surprise since it had not gone out so far up the bay for the last many years. Then the snow runway went out and so even the Navy planes with skis cannot land there. That meant that the Glacier had to make an extra trip to evacuate people from the ice and to bring some more people and supplies down. I was just lucky enough to get the trip. I like station but I cannot say I was reluctant to see some vegetation and get a swim. And then it was nice to be noticed again. I have three months of gray beard on and I was the only one of the kind I saw there, so people did look at me. It all helps the morale to be noticed even if you do have to do it the hard way.

While in N. Z., I went with three others to the Marlborough Sounds at Picton, N. Z., and took some launch trips as well as swimming. It is unusually beautiful scenery and pleasant after seeing nothing but snow and ice for three or four months.

### GIBSON IS ENLISTEE

Lawrence Bobby Gibson, 17, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Houston, of Franklin, Route 3, has enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps and is now in recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S. C.

The new hybrid seed corn available to farmers in 1958 is N. C. 288, a yellow variety.

## Demonstration Club Meetings For Week Are Announced

Meeting of home demonstration clubs in this county for the coming week have been announced by Mrs. Florence S. Sherrill, county home demonstration agent. They are as follows:

- Today (Thursday): Clark's Chapel club at the home of Mrs. Earl Smart at 1:30 p. m.
- Friday: Cullasaja club with Mrs. Robert Burnette at 2 p. m.
- Tuesday: Carson club at the community building at 2 p. m.
- Wednesday: Iotla club at 1:30 p. m. with Mrs. George Brown; Patton club at 7:30 p. m. at the community building.
- Thursday: Holly Springs club at the home of Mrs. Earl Justice at 1:30 p. m.

## Marines Offering New 120-Day Delay Enlistment Plan

T/Sgt. Bill Oliver, local Marine Corps representative, announced this week that young men and women of Macon County may now enlist in the United States Marine Corps under a new program, the 120-day delay plan, which allows an applicant to enlist now and receive up to four months delay in reporting for active duty.

This program should be of particular interest to young men and women who will be graduated from high school in June and plan on enlisting in the Marines shortly after graduation. Many North Carolina seniors have already taken advantage of this program, Sgt. Oliver said.

The delay will count for pay purposes, under the present pay plan. A new recruit's pay increases after the first four months of military service, and this delay will be credited against the total military obligation which every young man faces under the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1955. In addition to these advantages, a man will be draft exempt during the 120-day delay period. According to Sgt. Oliver, this program is not restricted to high school seniors. Young men and women who desire to qualify for enlistment prior to working out an employment notice will find this program very desirable.

He also said that the Marine Corps offers a two-three or 4-year enlistment and qualified applicants who are "air-minded" may be guaranteed direct assignment to aviation duty.

Persons desiring more information on these and other Marine Corps programs are invited to contact Sgt. Oliver at the Franklin Post Office any Wednesday morning.

How is this for a big fish story? While fishing off the fantail of USS Leyte (CVS 32), Boatswain's Mate James W. McCall caught a shark weighing 1,050 pounds. After an hour-and-a-half with the 11-foot six-inch shark, he hauled it aboard, with the help of 14 of his shipmates.

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## FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

March 3, 1958

### Eastern Division Basketball Playoffs

#### Smoky Mountain Conference

February 18-22, 1958

Gross Receipts	\$3134.00
10% to Franklin School	313.40
Balance	\$2820.60
Expenses:	
Officials and Travel	\$274.00
Gym Fee 5 Nights	100.00
Game Ball and Scorebooks	25.35
Police Protection	60.00
Advertising and Publicity	25.00
Telephone Calls	14.25
Total Expenses	\$498.60
Net Balance	\$2322.00
20% to Smoky Mountain Conference	464.40
Balance	\$1857.60
Travel Allowance (10c mile—one way)	70.20
Total for Distribution to Participants	\$1787.40
28 Shares at \$63.83 Per Share Plus 2c to Each School	

School	Trips	Mileage One Way	Total Mileage	Amount	Shares	Amount Per Share	Total	Amount of Check
Swain	6	36	216	\$21.60	6	\$63.83	\$382.98	\$404.60
Cullowhee	5	27	135	13.50	5	63.83	319.15	332.67
Franklin	4	—	—	—	4	63.83	255.32	255.34
Cherokee	3	32	96	9.60	3	63.83	191.49	201.11
Glennville	3	39	117	11.70	3	63.83	191.49	203.21
Sylva	3	20	60	6.00	3	63.83	191.49	197.51
Highlands	2	20	40	4.00	2	63.83	127.66	131.68
Webster	2	19	38	3.80	2	63.83	127.66	131.48
Total				\$70.20			\$1787.24	\$1857.60

### Report of Condition of

# THE BANK OF FRANKLIN

of Franklin, in the State of North Carolina, at the Close of Business on March 4, 1958

### Assets

1. Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balances, and cash items in process of collection	\$358,192.83
2. United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed	1,598,518.83
3. Obligations of States and political subdivisions	80,222.20
6. Loans and discounts (including \$ none overdrafts)	884,507.33
7. Bank premises owned \$10,506.56, furniture and fixtures \$18,046.76 (Bank premises owned are subject to \$ none liens not assumed by bank)	28,553.32
11. Other assets	11,135.54
12. TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,961,130.05

### Liabilities

13. Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	\$1,629,427.55
14. Time deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	744,159.47
15. Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	71,158.43
16. Deposits of States and political subdivisions	124,155.42
18. Other deposits (certified and officers' checks, etc.)	48,808.40
19. TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$2,617,709.27
23. Other liabilities	42,800.08
24. TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,660,509.35

### Capital Accounts

25. Capital *	\$75,000.00
26. Surplus	75,000.00
27. Undivided profits	148,620.70
28. Reserves	2,000.00
29. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	\$300,620.70
30. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	\$2,961,130.05

\* This bank's capital consists of:  
Common stock with total par value of \$75,000.00  
Total deposits to the credit of the State of North Carolina or any official thereof \$28,637.79

### Memoranda

- 31. Assets pledged or assigned to secure liabilities and for other purposes \$217,000.00
- 32. (a) Loans as shown above are after deduction of reserves of 22,666.32
- (b) Securities as shown above are after deduction of reserves of 7,000.00

I, H. W. Cabe, Cashier, of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear/affirm that the above statement is true, and that it fully and correctly represents the true state of the several matters herein contained and set forth, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Correct—Attest:

H. W. CABE, Cashier  
FRANK B. DUNCAN,  
VERLON SWAFFORD,  
R. S. JONES, Directors.

(Notary's Seal)

State of North Carolina,  
County of Macon, ss:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of March, 1958, and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.  
My commission expires December 22, 1959.

CECILE GIBSON, Notary Public

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