

## Now He Tells Dad About War and Fighting



**Local Navy Man Tells of Battles of Coral Sea, Midway, Marshall Islands**

A fish's eye impression of the big battles of the Pacific during this World War is not the most nerve-racking experience in the world, decided Electrician's Mate, 2nd Class, John D. Stephenson, of Southern Pines, who has been through the battles of the Coral Sea, the Marshall Islands, and Midway.

Twenty-four-year old Stephenson arrived last Friday in Southern Pines for a brief visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Stephenson. He is leaving July 30 for the West Coast where he will report again for war duty aboard one of the U. S. heavy cruisers.

### Action Below Deck

In a battle on the sea, few of the cruiser's crew are on deck to see the actual fighting. Young Stephenson's job, for instance, keeps him below deck, checking on wiring and electrical connections — without which guns wouldn't fire and that would be just too bad! Of course, most of this checking and repair work is done before the fight begins. Like with the ground crew of the Air Forces, much of the success of the fighting depends upon the technicians and a fighting ship.

The worst of the Pacific battles which Stephenson's cruiser has been through, he believes, was the battle of the Marshall Islands. His cruiser was right in the thick of the battle — under fire — for about three and a half hours.

### Just Missed Pearl Harbor

Mate Stephenson enlisted in the Navy in June, 1940, having graduated from Southern Pines High School in 1937 and worked in Southern Pines, principally at the A. & P. store, afterwards. Prior to the entry of the United States into this War, the home port for Stephenson was Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Islands.

On that fateful day of December 7, 1941, his cruiser happened to be about eight hours out of port immediately after the attack by the Japanese began, word of fighting was radioed to the ship.

"We just didn't believe it," Stephenson said, "but of course we headed right into port, but got there after it was all over."

The battle of Marshall Islands followed shortly after this.

In the famous Coral Sea battle, the cruiser was under fire for about 18 minutes.

"We were actually in the battle zone for about three days, but those 18 minutes seemed like two years," the slim, short Navy man said. "When you're below deck and can't see what's going on—but can hear and feel it—time goes mighty slowly."

### Family of Fighters

Young Stephenson isn't the first member of his family to join the Armed forces. His father, Deputy U. S. Marshall John H. Stephenson was with the 301st Battalion, heavy tanks, during the first World War and served in France 18 months, taking part in the battles of Meuse Argonne and the Somme. He is a member of the American Legion and has served as district commander of the Legion and also of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

His brother, uncle of young John, Theodore Stephenson, was a master gunnery sergeant in the Marines for over 30 years and had been cited

(Continued to Page 5)

## Dr. Monroe's Plan for Hospitalization Related in Harpers

Magazine Article Tells Proposal to Use Hotels in Event of Emergency

A scheme proposed by Dr. Clement Monroe, of Moore County Hospital, for the use of hotel rooms as hospital quarters in the event of war emergencies in this country came in for national recognition this week in the August issue of "Harpers Magazine," just off the press.

An article by Charlotte Muret called "Hotels into Hospitals" is the story of how Dr. Monroe devised a plan to care for casualties without demoralizing the countryside. The author, an American, studied in France where she married Maurice Muret, editor of the "Journal des Debats," but she is now living in the United States. She gathered material for the article while visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Maurice at Eagle Springs recently. While her mother was a patient at Moore County Hospital, Mrs. Muret became acquainted with Dr. Monroe and discussed this plan.

Although the article refers to the plan as if it were already in operation, it actually has not been put into effect in this county. The author also slightly over-estimated the population of Moore County towns, but this does not effect the soundness of the idea.

### Excerpts from Article

Part of the article from Harpers is as follows:

"Preparation for the care of the injured in case of air attacks is one of the chief needs in civilian defense today. There are few places where existing hospitals can handle the casualties that may occur.

"A plan has been worked out in Moore County, North Carolina, which will prepare the region to meet any emergency at a minimum expense. The plan proposes to use local hotels to create temporary casualty hospitals in each town in the county. There are seven towns in the district with a population averaging two thousand five hundred persons apiece, and each town has at least one hotel. Moore County is well inland, but an important air base is near by and Camp Bragg is only forty miles away. It was essential to provide for the distribution of injured people about the county to places where they could be cared for. This would prevent jams and breakdowns at the few regular hospitals.

### Unprepared for Emergency

"The idea originated with Dr. (Continued to Page 4)

## HOSPITAL CAPACITY INCREASED 15 BEDS

Re-Arrangement of Facilities Allows for More Patients

The capacity of Moore County Hospital was increased this week from 65 to 80 beds, through a re-arrangement of facilities. Negro patients will now be accommodated on the ground floor of the new wing, instead of in the original building. The new section for Negroes will have 17 beds as against the 10 previously available.

Heretofore the ground floor of the new wing was used chiefly for storage and miscellaneous purposes. It has been re-painted throughout, but no structural changes were necessary.

The section in the original building formerly used for colored people is being renovated and re-decorated. It will be set aside for children's quarters, which will make the Hospital more quiet, and will likewise give children a section which they may regard as their own.

## BETSY JEAN BACKER WILL ENTER U. N. C. IN FALL

Chapel Hill — (Special) — Betsy Jean Backer of Bennett street in Southern Pines is one of the 570 freshmen who has been accepted at the University of North Carolina for the fall term. Although the Naval Pre-Flight school is using some of the University's facilities, there is still plenty of room at Carolina to accommodate a normal enrollment.

## LOCAL BOY KILLED

Word was received in Pinebluff this week of the death of Foster Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Simpson of Pinebluff, in a torpedoing off the Atlantic Coast. Only meagre information was available but it was understood that the ship on which young Simpson was on duty was torpedoed on June 28.

## Kiwanis Pays Honor to U. S. Navy Men

Four Middies Guests of Club; Fred Weaver Talks Briefly on South America

Several homecomers from distant parts were honored by the Sandhills Kiwanis Club meeting Wednesday at the Southern Pines Country Club, with Electrician's Mate John D. Stephenson principal guest of honor.

With several invited townspeople as guests, the Club set the scene for presentation to young Stephenson by Mayor W. Duncan Matthews of a framed picture of the Navy man with his father and mother. Inscribed on the picture was the following: "With the help of such as you, we will fight and conquer again and again. W. D. Matthews, Mayor of Southern Pines."

Also recognized as guests of the club were Wilbur Scheipers of Southern Pines, with the U. S. Navy in Norfolk, and two of his shipmates, G. A. Scott of Phoenix, Ariz., and W. Sachau of Iowa.

### Weaver Gives Talk

Home from his post with the State Department in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Fred Weaver, of Southern Pines and Aberdeen, was also among the recognized guests, and young Weaver told the club of some of his experiences in the South American country where he was at the time of Pearl Harbor and of the history-making South American conference, when the United States sought the united support of all of her Southern neighbors.

E. C. Stevens was in charge of the program, but gave credit to Postmaster Frank Buchan, a guest of the club, for originating the idea of recognizing Mate Stephenson, who has served in three major engagements of the Pacific.

In trying to think of some appropriate gift for young Stephenson, which he could take with him, it was decided that a family group picture would be the most satisfactory and desirable gift.

The two visiting seamen with Schiepers were at Pearl Harbor during the December 7 attack, but declined to discuss their experiences.

Among other guests at the club meeting were M. F. Grantham, Clifton Blue of Aberdeen, Alex Fields, Hugh Betterley, Chan Page, John H. Stephenson, father of young Navy man, and E. J. Woodward.

## Negro Nurse's Aide Class is Organized

Group of About Six Will Begin Training at Hospital on August 10

A class to train Negro women for work in the Red Cross Nurse's Aides Corps is scheduled to be started at Moore County Hospital on August 10. This is the first class of its kind in this section of the State, as far as available information reveals. At Southport, N. C., Negro nurse's aides have rendered valuable service caring for victims of tanker torpedoings.

It is expected that there will be about a half-dozen Negro women enrolled for the training, according to Mrs. James Boyd, county chairman of the Nurse's Aide Corps committee. She said that these who have made application seem enthusiastic over the opportunity to do the work.

In charge of teaching the Negro class will be Mrs. Mary Page Wilder Johnston of Aberdeen, who received training at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, and has done regular nursing duty at the Moore County Hospital.

There are at present 22 members of the Nurse's Aide corps in Moore County, all of whom have done some work toward the required 180 hours per year, and some of whom have exceeded the number of hours of contributed work.

## County Tax Rate Reduced From 85c to 53c per \$100 Through Use of A.B.C. Funds

IN OUR SERVICE



LT. L. D. WILLIAMS, JR.

Lawrence Drake Williams, Jr., 23, erstwhile corporal, and son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Williams of Southern Pines, has risen from the ranks and is now wearing the gold bars of a second lieutenant, Medical Administrative Corps. He received his commission at Camp Berkeley, Texas, July 15, and was home this week for a brief furlough before reporting for duty in Boston, Mass. Young Williams enlisted December 9, 1940, and trained at Fort Bragg and Fort Jackson as a member of the 105th Medical regiment. He's a graduate of Southern Pines High School, where he received the American Legion Medal for citizenship.

## Canteen Class Ends With 19 Graduates

Members Receive Certificates as Members of Red Cross Canteen Corps

Another step forward in preparation for civilian defense in Moore County was taken this week when 19 Southern Pines women were awarded certificates in Red Cross Canteen Feeding, and are now prepared to feed large groups of people on short notice, should the emergency arise.

The 20-hour Canteen course followed a 20-hour course in nutrition, qualifying those who have completed the 40-hours to manage and direct canteens, if necessary.

The Canteen course was taught by Mrs. Michael Varhol, experienced dietician, and included practical demonstrations of mass planning, buying and cooking, as well as lectures and discussion groups.

### Hear of Real Canteens

At the last regular meeting of the class, Mrs. Roger Herbert Plowden, who has had actual canteen experience in England during both the present War and the last World War, talked to the class about some of her experiences and made practical suggestions concerning the work to be done.

Before the class disbanded, Mrs. E. V. Hughes, chairman, appointed permanent committees which will continue to function and make further plans for the class' activity. Each member of the Canteen Corps is required to serve 18 hours each year in order to retain the Red Cross certificate.

### Those in Corps

Those receiving Canteen certificates are: Mrs. J. H. Towne, Mrs. R. L. Greene, Mrs. Carl Thompson, Jr., Mrs. T. L. Tweedle, Mrs. Hermon E. Smith, Mrs. Peter Cumming, Mrs. Eugene Stevens, Mrs. L. H. Littlefield, Mrs. Roger H. Plowden, Mrs. Ruth Barkmer, Mrs. P. G. Blue, Mrs. C. L. Dutton, Mrs. J. R. Healy, Miss Ann Murphy, Miss Jane Gibbs, Mrs. Leo Siegel, Mrs. M. A. Hayes, Mrs. Osborne Palmer and Mrs. E. V. Hughes. Those who complete 10 hours of training, entitling them to a Canteen Aide Certificate are: Mrs. Guy Whitall and Mrs. George C. Moore.

## Cut of Nearly One-Third Gives Moore One of Lowest Tax Rates in State

From the standpoint of county finances, opponents of county-controlled liquor stores received a set-back this week as the County Commissioners approved a budget estimate which provided for a tax rate reduction of over one-third, from 85 cents per \$100 to 58 cents per \$100 for the 1942-43 fiscal year, attributing the reduction to the fact that "more of the revenue from the A.B.C. stores has been applied to reducing the tax rate."

Thus, Moore County will have one of the lowest county tax rates in North Carolina this year. The proposed 58-cent rate is more than 50 percent lower than the all-time high rate of \$1.18 in 1927.

### Less Needed for Schools

The budget estimate for the 1942-43 year provides for no county funds for current expenses and capital outlay for the schools and for \$37,625 for school debt service. During last year, the county levied for \$10,141 for current expense and for \$57,311 for debt service for schools.

"Provision for the school building program is not as large this year as it has been in the past," reported Everett, Zane and Muse of Sanford, accounting firm for the county, thus making available the revenue from the A.B.C. stores, which "has been used in taking care of additional county expenses resulting from the welfare program and the construction of school buildings and additions."

### Budget for \$379,890

Although the total budget requirements are nearly the same as last year, \$379,890 for 1942-43 compared with \$380,762 for last year, the estimated revenue available from sources other than tax levy is placed at \$271,549 for the coming year as against \$227,435 for last year. This leaves the amount of \$108,341 required to balance the budget for 1942-43 compared with \$153,327 needed last year. Allowing for uncollectible taxes and costs of collection—\$16,248 this year against \$22,994 last—this leaves a total of \$124,589 for the tax levy of the coming year compared with \$176,321 for last year.

Although there was no estimate of property valuation, because this is a re-valuation year, the tax rate (Continued to Page 5)

## Blues Maintaining Lead of Two Points

Final Match of Current Series to be Played Next Sunday Score, 28-26

The third golf match of the current series of four at the Southern Pines Country Club brought nine points to each team, leaving the Blues with the two point margin earned in the second Sunday of play.

The score stands now at 28 to 26, favor of the Blues, with the tournament going into the final round of play next Sunday, August 2, with line-ups approximately as before.

A larger field turned out this week than previously, and probably the final tournament will bring out a few more competitors for the deciding day of play.

Following are last Sunday's results, with the Blue teams named first:

Gordon Keith and Dr. George May 2 1-2 vs. Clarence Edson and Dick Sugg 1-2

Joe de Berry and Bert Weather- spoon 1-2 vs. Jimmy de Berry and Jack Thomas 2 1-2

Bill Moore and P. V. Hatch 1-2 vs. Charlie Morrison and Dr. L. M. Daniels, 2 1-2

N. L. Hodgkins and Elmer Davis, 2 1-2 vs. A. B. Patterson and Ralph Mills 1-2

L. T. Hall and Carl Thompson, Jr. 2 vs. E. C. Stevens and J. D. Hubbs 1. Dan Farrell 1 vs. Charlie Little 2.