



THE PILOT



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TEN CENTS

THE Sand Box

Being Filled Weekly BY WALLACE IRWIN

To my way of thinking Mr. Tom Preston of 1795 Dorchester Road, Brooklyn, N. Y., is the real Sandhill Sandy Claus. His gift came on the dot, Christmas morning when I was saying to myself, listlessly, "Irwin, you are a fool for holidays. And if you don't write your column this week the 1-2 Pint Club will say it's just another hangover."

No such thing. On Christmas eve I went to bed comparatively early. True, I was singing "Adeste Fideles" in my worst hog Latin, but that means nothing. Except that I had rallied round a tree so bright and happy and generously laden that it made us war-parents almost forget—but never quite forget—that we were waiting for the merriest Christmas of all, when our boys come home.

Where was I? . . . Oh, yes. I awoke sluggishly, as is my custom, on the morning of December 25th. The railroad strike was still hanging fire, and the thought came floating in: "The Brotherhood of Trainmen seem to be putting national brotherhood on the blink." I lay there, cooking up a bad, black rhyme like this: Railroad man, you stop the machinery,

Go to the beanery,
Gaze at the scenery,
While Hitler heels, "Their war's in the cleanery!"

God bless the engineers!" But such a thought is morbid, quite out of step with the holiday spirit, I reflected. Yo-hum. What should I put in the Sand Box? Maybe I should just write "Happy New Year!" and go back to sleep.

Then the mail came, manna from heaven, answer to prayer. For it contained Mr. Tom Preston's contribution, as follows:

Consider a moment Wallace I,
Standing there with his head held high,

A man of stature, a man of means,
And a man with cash in his rumpled jeans.

(Thanks to the Pilot's generous hand
He draws a cool two smackers and—)

The kids in town are plenty awed,
The women sigh as he strolls up Broad,

For a chap who coins such lavish salary
Rates a smile from the ladies' gallery.

(Wally grins as he cops his fee
And gallops off to the A. B. C.
Sandhills men take pains to hide
The bitter envy felt inside,

And a troublesome group by the Seaboard station
Loudly hint that it means inflation.
("My secret?" he whispers, sniffing the pine,
"John L. Lewis' a pal of mine!")

Mr. Preston tops this off with a message which is all too modest for one with so sharp a pen, even though he aims it at me. He says, "Please excuse the downright sloppiness of this communique. It's a rough and hurried effort". It doesn't sound any more sloppy, rough and hurried than what I am delivering weekly (at fixed salary) to Mrs. Bessie Cameron Smith, the present editor of my literary being. The only difference between Mr. Preston and me, professionally speaking, is that he isn't on the Pilot's payroll.

Happy New Year, as I was about to say. Thank you, Mr. Preston, especially for your closing wish, "Keep up the good work on your Sand Box." I feel better about 1944.

EPIPHANY SERVICE

The traditional Epiphany Service of Lights will be held in Emmanuel Episcopal Church Sunday, January 2, at 6:30 p. m. The public is cordially invited to participate. This Service of Lights is of especial interest to children.

ANN RICHARDSON

Capt. Eveleth Richardson of Camp Jackson, S. C., and Mrs. Richardson announce the birth of a daughter, Ann, at Moore County Hospital Thursday, Dec. 30. Mrs. Richardson was formerly Miss Etta McH. Cameron of Manly.

Capt. Innes-Taylor Trains Soldiers in Rockies for Service in Arctic Regions

Trainees Are Taught To Meet Problems Resulting From Arctic Air Travel

Capt. Alan Innes-Taylor, a former Southern Pines resident, is commanding what has been termed "one of the most interesting soldier-training projects in the entire world," a "training in arctic living" branch of courses conducted by the army air forces training command at Echo Lake Camp. This project has been developed within the last five months in the region about Mount Evans, near Denver, Col.

The work has been carried on in the greatest secrecy, with every approach to the area closed to the public and guarded day and night. Men sent there for training did not leave the area for a single night.

Two weeks ago reporters and photographers were allowed to visit the area for the first time and interesting pictures and stories have been released. We are reprinting a part of the detailed story which appeared in the Denver Post, feeling that it will be of unusual interest to Capt. Innes-Taylor's many local friends:

"At the start of the war, army heads realized the shortest routes from the United States to war zones, both east and west, lie across the arctic. An incalculable amount of air-borne traffic is now passing over the arctic wastes—in temperatures of 60 degrees or more below zero. This arctic air-travel presents staggering problems—weather forecasting, supply bases, mechanical servicing, unusual physical training, rescue technic, medical attention and the like.

"Out of this need came the arctic training school at Echo Lake—a branch of Buckley field's arctic training division.

"Trainees Live In Portable Houses
"Young soldiers of exceptional physical hardihood and an expressed liking for cold weather outdoor service are picked for this arctic training. They go to the base-camp at Echo Lake in groups—each of which receives five or six weeks red-blooded training, which begins every morning at 5:45 o'clock, in pitch darkness, and often does not end until well into the night.

"The trainees live mostly in James portable houses—structures resembling half a huge hoghead, with rounded roofs that shed snow. These houses are made of synthetic material—a dark brown layer on the outside, and a gray layer on the inside. Between these two layers is a mat of spun-glass, two and one-half inches thick, which gives perfect insulation. Four men occupy a house.

"In charge of the training of these young soldiers is a group of experts on arctic living whose personal experiences are even more fascinating than the work they do. The camp is in charge of Capt. C. A. K. Innes-Taylor, a Canadian veteran of World War I, who has been with expeditions to the arctic, as well as with Admiral Byrd's expeditions to the antarctic.

"Working with Captain Innes-Taylor is Belmore Brown, 63, veteran of Alaskan trails and north Canadian winter living, who was in the first party to conquer Mount McKinley in Alaska, North America's highest peak.

"Taught To Handle Emergencies
"Also giving their experience to the project—albeit they are not present personally all the time—are such noted explorers as Dr. Viljalmar Stefansson, Sir Hubert Wilkins and Col. Ashley McKinley.

"At Echo Lake the officers live in the same kind of quarters as the enlisted men. They all eat in the same mess-hall. There is never an inkling of 'brasshat' formality. All share the rugged, hard work.

"The thing these trainees are being taught is how to take care of themselves—and of wounded comrades—in case their airplanes are wrecked or grounded on inaccessible glaciers or bad mountain terrain in the heart of the arctic, how to 'live off the country', how to give first aid, and how to get wounded men back to civilization.

"Part of this training applies to the mechanical servicing of airplanes in exceedingly low temperatures, of airplane reconnaissance in the search for missing men, the signaling systems such lost men would

HEADS SPECIAL WORK



CAPT. ALAN INNES-TAYLOR

use in communicating with air-searchers, and the delivery of food and medical supplies to injured men.

"Army doctors are trained to parachute from airplanes to glaciers or heavily-wooded mountainsides. There are folding sleds, called "pulkas," which can be parachuted, along with the doctor, from a plane. Even big dog sleds can be folded for parachute delivery.

"Every group that goes over arctic terrain is equipped with signaling-banners of fluorescent cloth, in vivid colors. The fluorescence makes these banners visible from an airplane even 20,000 feet above the ground. The designs in which the banners are spread on the ground form code letters.

"At Echo Lake, Capt. Innes-Taylor gets a group of trainees together in his office each night. He says:

"Boys, here is your problem: Theoretically, an airplane has been wrecked on a glacier at latitude 'such' and longitude 'so'. Airplanes have tried to parachute food and medical supplies to the survivors, but the 'chutes drifted away. Some of the men are badly injured. Go bring them in."

"Experts Teach Use Of Skis
"The trainees already have been taught 'ground navigation'—by compass. They have learned the use of skis—from expert instructors. They have been taught the use of snowshoes—by an old Alaskan sourdoughs. And they know how to handle Eskimo dog teams. There are many dog teams at the Mount Evans project.

"The spot they have to reach to find the 'lost airplane crew' usually requires a round-about journey of 100 miles or more—up and down the slopes of Mount Evans (or maybe to the mountain's summit); thru heavy timber; up and down sheer cliffs—all exceedingly difficult terrain. The round trip may take a week.

"But the 'rescue party' loads its dog sleds with medicines, food, sleeping bags, trail tents and dog food (mostly frozen horsemeat), and sets out—regardless of weather. Professional instructors go along to check their 'navigation' and their work.

"The 'rescue party' sleeps out on the trail at night—building hurried Yukon 'lean-tos,' if in a timber country, or regular Eskimo snow igloos, if above timberline; or just rolling up in sleeping bags in trail tents at times.

"They are taught how to fish thru the ice of lakes or streams, how to

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GYMKHANA SUNDAY

The gymkhana scheduled for last Sunday at the Southern Pines Country Club horse show grounds was postponed until Sunday, January 2, on account of the rain. The program will be carried out as previously announced, with six classes of events, the weather permitting. The Equestrian Committee hopes to have a military band from Camp Mackall.

INJURED IN FALL

Ed Starnes, well known business man of Southern Pines, slipped on the ice Christmas morning and fell, breaking bones in both his hands. Both injured members are in casts.

Dr. T. A. Cheatham Praises Service of Sandhill Kiwanians

Club Speaker Talks on Kiwanis and Its Motto; Poole Is New Member

"Kiwanis and Its Motto: 'To Build' was the subject of Dr. Cheatham of Pinehurst when he addressed the Sandhills Kiwanis Club at its meeting Wednesday at the Pinehurst Country Club.

Dr. Cheatham stated that the Club had not only grasped many of the public problems in this county during its twenty-one years of service, but had seen them through to a final finish. He described a good citizen as one who does his own part and in addition helps his fellowman. He predicted that Kiwanis has much to look forward to in the future and warned that we must prepare ourselves to meet with many of the fundamental problems that will arise after the war.

"It is not so much what we do, but how we do it," the speaker declared, stressing the importance of our "accepting our problems with the spirit of serving our community and making it a better place in which to live."

Dr. Cheatham was presented by Charles W. Picquet.

O. Leon Seymour of Aberdeen welcomed Representative J. Hawley Poole into Club membership.

Local USO Is Scene of Holiday Activity

Many Soldiers and Wives Enjoy Christmas Parties; New Year Plans Announced

Christmas at the Southern Pines U. S. O. Club was a happy occasion, with more people in attendance than had ever visited the Club on any previous day. Thanks to the American Red Cross, which presented the U. S. O. with a check for the purpose, there were Christmas presents for all soldiers.

Mrs. J. A. McPherson of Cameron donated a lovely tree and Southern Pines residents gave quantities of delicious home-baked goods, so many soldiers were able to enjoy a really home-like Christmas. The U. S. O. is also very grateful to those who invited soldiers into their homes for Christmas dinner.

A bingo party was held Christmas Eve, with prizes of long distance telephone calls home for soldiers and presents for lucky army wives.

New Year's Festivities

Another bingo party is planned for New Year's Eve, with prizes the same as above, and on Saturday night, Jan. 1, a dance will be held, to which all servicemen and their wives are cordially invited. There will be a good orchestra and refreshments will be served.

Tennis Shoes

Since tennis is practically a year-round pastime here, there is need for more tennis shoes for the use of servicemen. The Club has racquets, balls and some tennis shoes, but gifts of additional new or used shoes would be very much appreciated. Donations will be called for if donors will telephone 8932.

MOORE COUNTY RED CROSS OFFICE MOVES

The Moore County Red Cross office which has for the past thirteen months been located in the Barnum Building, Southern Pines, is moving to the Welch Building on South West Broad Street, Southern Pines, in the office formerly occupied by the Postal Telegraph Company, from which address it will start functioning January 1st, 1944.

Leon Seymour of Aberdeen has consented to serve as Chairman of the War Fund Drive for 1944 and his headquarters will be at the above address.

Mrs. William J. Kennedy of Southern Pines will assume the office of director of Chapter activities. Mrs. Kennedy's duties will consist of coordinating all the activities in the Chapter.

HEROES—HEROES

With all honor and respect to those who are fighting on far away lands, in the air and under the water, there are hearts just as brave as theirs in the homes of our land. Perhaps that explains the valor of some of our heroes. . . like Lt. Hugh McPherson, who is reported missing in action over Burma after having engaged in air missions which had won for him four decorations.

The day before Christmas Hugh's mother, Mrs. J. A. McPherson of Cameron, accompanied by her daughter, Doris, appeared at the U. S. O. Club in Southern Pines with a choice Christmas tree, tall and perfectly shaped. Mrs. McPherson stated simply that her boy had been missing in action since December 1 and she wanted to give the Christmas tree to the Club, thinking some other boys would enjoy it.

Brave lad; equally brave mother. Both merit decorations. And enjoy the tree the soldiers certainly did, from the time they began trimming it until the last gift was removed. Mrs. McPherson will be glad to know that it made Christmas much more home-like for hundreds of mothers' sons.

Christmas Baskets Cheer Many Families

Relief Committee Expresses Thanks to All Who Helped Make the Work Possible

Many homes in the Sandhills were made happier at the Christmas season by the generosity of local individuals and organizations who contributed through the Committee for Christmas Relief of the Southern Pines Council of Social Agencies.

This Committee reports that 38 baskets of food were given out, some with clothing and toys, and a large donation of toys sent to the Sanatorium.

Through THE PILOT the Committee wishes to thank all who helped to make this possible and to acknowledge the following cash contributions: Miss Louise B. Baynes, \$3; Miss Laura Jenks, \$1; Miss Katherine Wiley, \$5; Mrs. Charlie Picquet, \$5; Red Cross Canteen Corps, \$42; Miss Mary Blymeyer, \$15; Miss Mary Bishop, \$6; Mrs. Ernest Ives, \$10; Mrs. Edith W. Way, \$10; Miss Harriet Barnum, \$5; Preston T. Kelsey, \$5; Woman's Auxiliary of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, \$10; Mrs. Miller Gaffney, \$10; Mrs. J. H. Andrews, \$10; The Vandeviers, \$2; Mrs. C. L. Hayes, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Lewis, \$3; Miss Vera Chase, \$5; Mrs. D. H. Turner, \$2; Southern Pines School, \$10; Mrs. J. H. Tilghman, \$2; Miss Edith Titus, \$1; Mrs. W. E. Cox, \$2. TOTAL, \$154.

In addition several boxes of clothing were left with no names. Mrs. Harold Fowler and Mrs. Reynolds gave clothing; The Southern Pines School and The Ark gave food, clothing and toys; the Town gave the use of a truck; the School gave the use of its station wagon; the grocers cooperated (Morris Johnson of Dorn's packing all the food baskets); Mrs. E. V. Hughes, the Girl Scouts and the Young People's Service League of Emmanuel Episcopal Church gave invaluable service in tying and packing; Prof. Brown and one of his teachers, Miss Mary Hasty of West Southern Pines Schools, helped distribute toys and clothing. To each of these the Committee is grateful.

SLIGHTLY CONFUSED

A telephoned alarm of fire at 11:15 o'clock last Thursday night from the "Jones house on New Hampshire Avenue, West Southern Pines" diverted one truck to that section of Southern Pines. The following truck bound west on the same call was fortunately stopped in front of the Jones cottage, number 27, New Hampshire Avenue, near Page Street, where a fire in the living room was quelled by the firemen with but slight damage to the furnishings of the room or to the effects of the army family occupying the house.

Blackouts Will Be Held in Sandhills Area Jan. 5-6, 6-7

Maneuvers Similar to Recent Ones Will Be Staged by Air Forces

Blackouts called at the request of the Army will be held in several counties in and adjacent to the Sandhills area on the nights of Jan. 5-6 and Jan. 6-7, it has been announced by R. L. McMillan, State director of the Office of Civilian Defense, and R. Walker Martin, OCD's director of civilian protection.

The blackouts were requested by the Army as an aid in training tactical troops stationed at Camp Mackall in night maneuver conditions closely approximating the conditions they will encounter in combat.

"Since a large part of troop maneuvers in combat are under cover of darkness, it is absolutely essential that our specialized troops be trained for combat in completely blacked-out areas," the Army request said.

Such maneuvers were held in the Sandhills on two nights early in December. At that time, the cooperation of OCD and other citizens drew high praise from Col. William S. Pritchard of Fort Bragg, internal security officer for North Carolina. Fliers who returned recently from Europe said the blackout was "perfect".

Blackouts on the designated nights next week will cover Moore and Montgomery counties and the sub-districts aircraft warning centers of Southern Pines, Rockingham, Laurinburg and Hamlet. On each of the two nights the blackout will last from 9 p. m. to 2 a. m.

Points of impact and greatest congestion during the maneuver will be in the general vicinity of Camp Mackall and Aberdeen.

Many paratroopers and glider-borne troops will participate in the maneuver, and the Army has requested that all non-essential pedestrian and motor travel be avoided within the maneuver area during the designated nights.

The State Highway Patrol will close all highways leading into the maneuver area from 7 p. m. to 2 a. m. on the blackout nights. The patrol will maintain road blocks, and traffic within the area will be controlled by military police.

The entire area will be open to all travel during daylight throughout the entire period of the maneuvers. Entire responsibility for the blackout has been placed on the OCD and local volunteers, Director McMillan said, and he urged local protection units to cooperate fully with the Army.

MEN IN THE SERVICES

FATHER, SON IN ARMY

Major George C. Burns and Pvt. Bob Burns, of Southern Pines are one of the few father-son combinations from Moore County in the Army. Major Burns, who is stationed at Greensboro, has been in the service nearly two years. Pvt. Burns was inducted at Fort Bragg November 29th, and is now at Keesler Field, Miss. Mrs. Burns, the wife and mother, and a daughter, Suzanne, reside at the Colonial Inn.

HERE FOR CHRISTMAS

Pvt. Garland Pierce of Fort Bragg spent Christmas with his wife and children in Southern Pines.

LT. SMITH AT HOME

Lt. John Alex Smith, who recently completed his training at officer candidate school and received his commission, arrived in Vass Wednesday for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, on Route 2.

GREETINGS FROM FISHER

Christmas greetings have been received by friends in town from Col. Bill Fisher of Southern Pines, who is attached to Gen. Chenault's outfit at Kunming. Col. Fisher is commander of the "Liberators of China" a B-24 heavy bomber group, and he has led many missions against the Japanese.

PROMOTED

Capt. Almet Jenkins of Southern Pines (Continued on Page 3)