

Former Local Girl Is Highly Pleased With Life in WAC

Roberta Spencer Writes Interestingly of Training at Fort Oglethorpe

Life in the Women's Army Corps seems to agree with one former Plymouth girl, Miss Mary Roberta Spencer, according to a letter received from her by Mrs. Eliza Daniel, who is in charge of WAC recruiting for Washington County. According to Miss Spencer—now Private Mary R. Spencer, U. S. Army (WAC), if you please—she is having a most interesting, if very busy, experience. Some excerpts from her recent letter to Mrs. Daniel follow:

"Hello, 'Liza:
"If I remember correctly, I promised to write to you, but we have been so busy that I just couldn't crowd it in, but here I go.

"I wish you could be here with us. You would love Army life, I'm sure. It is very interesting, always something new and exciting happening.

Hope, Agnes and I are in the same company, so we see each other all the time.

"We have classes and marching from 8 a. m. until about 4:30 p. m. The classes are mostly lectures and, of course, some of the girls are always going to sleep. We see training films frequently. They are very interesting.

"We stand 'Retreat' at 5 o'clock and then go to mess. The food here is very good—much better than I expected. After we eat supper, we are free, in a sense, to do what we can. Of course, we can go into Chattanooga only on Thursday and Saturday nights, and then with a pass, but we have everything on the post, so why bother about going to town? We have theaters, stores, which the Army calls post exchanges, and service clubs.

"There is a real nice service club here in the part of camp where we 'rookies' are, and they have dances two and three times a week. There are always a lot of soldiers here, so we don't have to worry about having dancing partners.

"We have to work pretty hard, but we have a lot of fun, too. One thing I always get a kick out of is watching the girls climb up into their bunks. We have double-deckers, and I have a top one. The first few nights

We Will Celebrate Christmas

By PAULINE SMITH
District Agent, State College

Celebrating Christmas as usual this year? No, sir! More Christmas! More sharing, more family planning, more neighborliness, more thought of our men and women in service who serve that some day we have Christmas in peace. So we will celebrate Christmas.

The Star of Hope rides high and the eyes of helpless millions follow its course. Some things like faith and religion are eternal. So is the Spirit of Christmas. Both adults and children need the help that the Christmas celebrations bring to them, ever widening and expanding in its scope of usefulness to others.

Of course, children come first. Phillips Brooks said, "The future of the race marches forward on the feet of little children." The fight for eternal peace is a fight for the child, for the American home. We can make the child happy and at the same time teach him to help make others happier.

Let's start by planning an old-fashioned Christmas. Let's give up the fancy tinsel, expensive gifts, wild parties, and have open fires, filled stockings for every member of the family and for some lonely strangers. There can be plenty of fragrant evergreens and red berries from our own grounds. Let everyone, family and guests, have a part in decorating. The children's decorations may not be as well designed as yours, but they should have a place of honor, for theirs is a contribution toward a beautiful Christmas.

A sergeant says that the most pathetic characters at Christmas time are the homeless old ladies who will sit alone in some bleak room, and

I slept in my bunk I was afraid I would fall out, but if we make our beds properly, there is no danger of rolling out—and, of course, we all make them right! We all sleep in blue and white striped outing pajamas. They are good and warm, but they aren't very becoming. And our 'dog tags'—We wear them on chains and at night when the girls turn over in bed you can hear their 'dog tags' rattling. My bunk mate is a Spencer, too. She is from Kansas City, Kan. Her mother made some covering for our tags which we call 'dog houses,' so now we don't rattle.

"When we were leaving Raleigh I took a picture of Lt. Paige. Yesterday I was showing the pictures (of us girls while we were still civilians) to our platoon officer, and when she came to Lt. Paige's picture, she said, 'Lucy Paige—and she is a lieutenant.' Lt. Reilly started asking all about Lt. Paige and said that when she was in training, Lucy Paige was sergeant over their group. Small world, isn't it?"

"We have a wonderful bunch of officers. They are all swell.

"Try to get some of the girls to join the WAC, for it is a wonderful organization, and, take it from me, they will really enjoy it. The first two or three days are the worst, but if you survive them—and they all do—the rest isn't bad. Of course, there are a few unpleasant things, like KP and latrine cleaning, but they aren't so bad. Everybody has to take a turn at them, and they don't seem to mind very much.

"Then there is something else we 'gripe' about—'shots.' They aren't so bad as everybody says. We have a lot of jokes about them, and as long as we joke about things, you'll know that they aren't half bad.

"Hope and Agnes said to tell you 'hello.'"

"P. S.—The Army uses our first names, so now I am Mary Spencer. I can't get used to signing my name 'Mary' after so many years of 'Roberta.'"

and clever fingers; (2) See that there is a family gift for someone who is sick or unfortunate; (3) Invite as many lonely people to share the day as your house and conditions permit. Service men would love to help with decorations, and even with the nursing. Have you noticed a bunch of youngsters around the uniform boys? (4) Sing carols before breakfast even if you are stone deaf; (5) Have a corn popping or molasses taffy pull for old-time sake; (6) If you are alone in some strange place, don't mope. Look up other lonely hearts and share the Christmas together; (7) Your boy is overseas, share his home with somebody else's sons. Give a party for service men and you will be so busy making their Christmas happy that you won't have time to fret. Roll up the rug, turn on the phonograph and let them dance.

And what do I want for Christmas? Friendship and love and cheer. Faith in my fellow comrades to last through the coming year. Fill up my Christmas stocking with laughter and mirth and song; tuck in plenty of patience to have when things go wrong. Leave out all greed and self-pity. Give me the strength for my task; give me wisdom and courage this Christmas; that's all I will ask.

Well-to-do American children have too many toys. Can't we teach the child of 1943 to share, not only by repairing toys to be distributed by some organization—but also to be content with simpler pleasures?

It is these lonely old shut-ins, the unfortunate children whose hearts should be gladdened on this Birthday of the Christ Child. Community planning may be the solution.

A church in one town sends a Santa with gaily wrapped gifts for all shut-ins. Another community has a big Christmas tree before a bonfire. Carols are sung, Christmas gifts distributed, and afterwards candy-filled cornucopias are handed out to all.

Could we revive the old custom of singing carols from house to house? Open house, to which strangers are invited, should be more common. Buffet service is the perfect way to entertain. Perhaps serve hot spiced grape juice, cider, or Russian tea. Simple refreshments, simple entertainment will help to instill a steadfastness in American life which is fast disappearing.

Last December I knew a group of neighbors who built a barn for a sick neighbor. The women came in after the "barn raising" and served a bountiful supper, followed by games. Miss Sallie Hill, of the Progressive Farmer, tells of the pooled gifts of an organization. Instead of exchanging gifts as usual, the members pooled their resources and paid for the digging of deep wells at a negro orphanage.

Mrs. Effie Vines Gordon, Nash County home agent, reports that the home demonstration women there have asked for the privilege of furnishing 320 Christmas boxes to soldier patients in nearby camps.

Regardless of other plans made, let's endeavor to preserve the true spirit of Christmas. See that children know Christmas carols and legends which should be perpetuated. Let's take time to wrap our gifts, no matter how simple, and make a secret of them.

Take time to write letters to old friends and to add the tiny decoration of a Red Cross seal. Let's give the most needed gifts as it has been said: "Let us who share the warmth, the harmony and the beauty of this Christmas pledge ourselves to do the one best thing we can to assure the protection and help of service men everywhere—to buy war bonds regularly and continually."

Now it is up to you and to me, who are well and comfortable, to keep our chins up and to help others who are inclined to worry. It is simple if we could only get it over; to be happy a person must forget himself and remember others.

In an excellent article on How To Be Happy This Christmas, Margaret Cousins writes that children are almost indispensable for a real Christmas, and says she, "If you haven't any children, borrow some for the holidays, either from an orphanage, welfare agency, or from tired parents."

Some other suggestions for making this Christmas a happy one for ourselves and others can be summed up: (1) Christmas happens in the heart and not in the pocketbook, and we can have the glory of Christmas beauty for the cost of imagination

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MACKEYS

William Reddick arrived Friday to spend several days at his home here. Corporal Reddick is stationed with the Army in Arkansas.

Mrs. W. G. Liverman, of Columbia, visited her mother last week.

Mrs. R. S. Davenport and son left Monday to spend the holidays with Mr. Davenport in New Bern.

Mrs. Nan Everett has returned after visiting relatives in Columbia. Cadet Jimmie Davenport is the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davenport.

ROPER

Mrs. Mark S. Polak and daughter, Reta, and Miss Elizabeth Blount, of New York City, arrived here Tuesday to be with their mother, Mrs. W. E. Blount.

Joe Nowarah, jr., of the United States Navy, is spending sometime here with his parents.

Gerald Gaylord, of the United States Army, San Luis Obispo, Calif., is spending the week here with his wife and parents.

Worth D. Poyner, of Norfolk, spent the week-end here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mauldine and

children, of Rocky Mount, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams, jr., of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end here.

PLEASANT GROVE

Mrs. William Phelps and Mrs. Frances C. Hutchins spent Saturday in Elizabeth City shopping.

Misses Christine Grey, Katherine Grey and Ruth Gurganus accompanied Mrs. J. C. Tarkenton to Edenton last Friday.

Mrs. Walter Knowles spent several days in Williamston last week at the bedside of her mother, Mrs. Mark Chesson, who is very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Chesson and sons, Larry and Billie, visited friends in Roper Sunday.

The Christmas tree and Christmas program of the Pleasant Grove Sunday school will be sponsored Tuesday night after Christmas, December 28, at 8 o'clock, at the church. The public is cordially invited.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the many kindnesses extended us during the illness and at the death of our husband and father, H. Leon Davenport.—Wife and Children. 11



GREETINGS!

To you and yours at this Christmas season, we extend our most sincere wishes for happiness—happiness that lasts not merely through the holiday season but that continues throughout the year of 1944.

We wish also at this time to express our thanks for the patronage you have given us during the year drawing to a close and to convey the hope of continuing to serve you in the future.

NORMAN FURNITURE COMPANY

James W. Norman Plymouth, N. C.



We Still Have Many Gift Items

RUGS

and Bathroom Sets
59c to \$3.98

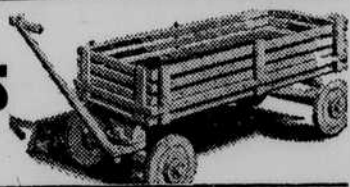
COMB & BRUSH Sets
25c - 69c - 89c

SWEATERS

\$1.00 to \$2.29

LARGE STAKE WAGONS

Only Two Left



Mexican Hand Blown
GLASSWARE
15c - 29c - 39c - 49c

LADIES SLIPS
\$1.00 - \$1.59 - \$1.98

LADIES HOSE
42c - 55c - 76c

LADIES RAYON TAFFETA
GOWNS ... \$2.98

Ladies Panties
50c - 59c - 69c

CLOSE-OUT ON ALL
LADIES HATS
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

Regular Price—\$1.29-\$1.69.
Special For These Two Days Only

WINSLOW'S

5c TO \$1.00 STORE

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

This has been a most trying year, and we have not always been able to render you the kind of service which we would like, and to which we feel you are entitled.

However, you have been most patient, and we would indeed be derelict if we did not pause now to express our gratitude for the loyalty and forbearance of our patrons.

We sincerely appreciate your past patronage, your friendship, and express the hope that we may continue to serve you for years to come. May this Christmas season bring you happiness and contentment.

Smith Brothers CLEANERS

Telephone 232-6 Plymouth, N. C.



- APPLES ... Basket \$2.40; Per Pound 10c
- ORANGES Box \$4.68 Bulk, 10 lbs. 55c
- 8 Pound Bags 45c 1/4 Box Bags \$1.10
- 1/2 Box Bags \$2.20
- TANGERINES Bushel Basket \$3.84; 5 Pounds 40c

- CELERY stalk 15c GRAPES per lb. 17c

Red Mill
MINCE MEAT
2-lb Jar 43c

Southern Manor
FRUIT CAKE
2-lb. Carton \$1.29

NEW CROP NUTS

- 1-LB BAG
- Stuart Pecans 47c
- 1-LB BAG
- Mixed Nuts 47c
- 1-LB BAG
- Walnuts 45c
- Fresh Crisp Nabisco—1-lb Pkg
- Ritz Crackers 23c
- Red Mill Creamy—1-lb Jar
- Peanut Butter 24c
- Cake Flour—2 1/2-lb. Pkg
- Swans Down 28c
- Lang's Brand—Quart Jar
- Sour Onions 33c
- Rosedale Thrown—2 1/2-oz Bottle
- Queen Olives 13c
- Joyana Chocolate—10-oz. Can
- Malted Milk 38c

Green Stamps D, E, F Now Good

- 12-oz Can
- Tender Whole Kernels
- (10) NIBLETS Brand Corn 13c
- 46-oz Can
- Delicious Healthful Colonial
- (6) TOMATO Juice 21c
- Jackson Brand—29-oz can
- (15) PUMPKIN, 29-oz can 14c
- 19-oz Can
- Del Monte—Mary Washington
- (18) ASPARAGUS 19-oz cn 39c
- Comstock Brand—20-oz. Jar
- (15) PIE APPLES 20-oz jar 23c
- (4) Layer Raisins, lb 20c
- New Pack, 19-oz Can
- (18) Tomatoes 11c
- 27-oz. Jar
- (6) Comstock Beets 17c
- 18-oz Can
- (2) V-8 Cocktail 14c
- Colonial—20-oz Jar
- (14) Apple Sauce 13c
- Tomato Soup—10 1/2-oz Can
- (4) Campbell's 9c

Southern Manor Golden Bantam
(13) CORN, 20-oz. Can 14c

Cigarettes Popular Varieties \$1.25
Carton of 10
Mixed Pickles Triangle Sweet 12c
12-oz. Jar

- Mott's Apple Juice, qt. bot. 20c
- 125-Foot Roll
- Cut-Rite Waxed Paper 17c
- XXXX Sugar, 1 lb Carton 8c
- Pender's Best Plain FLOUR, 10-lb. Bag 60c
- Triangle Self Rising FLOUR, 10-lb. Bag 54c
- Double Fresh Golden Blend COFFEE, 2 1-lb Bags 41c
- Triple Fresh Our Pride BREAD, 2 16-oz. loaves 15c
- Best Granulated SUGAR, 5-lb Paper Bag 32c

MRS. FILBERT'S
MARGARINE
(6) 1-lb Ctn. 25c

FLORIDA GOLD—UNSWEETENED
GRAPEFRUIT Juice
18-oz Can 13c

CHOCOLATE-ORANGE-LEMON
Christmas Special
CAKES, 2 lb Size 69c

CHALET BRAND
Breakfast COCOA
1/2-lb Pkg 10c