

# Sells Plenty Of Thrift Through This EAGLE Want Ad.

FOR SALE — Thrift. Several different colors. Mrs. C. W. Coggin, Cherryville, N. C.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE**  
FOR SALE—Clarinet in good condition. D. R. BALLARD, Cherryville, N. C.

**FOR SALE** — Hampshire Pigs and shoats nice size, reasonable price. C. C. DELLINGER 3t-D21

**FOR SALE** — Eskimo Spitz puppies. Phone 4716. 1t-1p

**FOR SALE** — Small girls Bicycle. E. R. Bivens at the Dora Mill House No. 8. 1t-1p

**AUTOMATIC** Ashley Wood Heater for Sale. See Pink Mayhue, Howell Mill. 1t-1p

**FOR SALE** — Thrift. Several different colors. Mrs. C. W. Coggin, located between Charley Neil's and Clayton Dellinger's residence. 2t-D7

**FOR SALE** One good mule and farming tools. John Huffman, Bessemer City, N. C., Route 2. 3t-3p

**FOR SALE**—4 good milk cows. Marshall Allen, Bessemer City, Rt. 1, 2 miles off the Cherryville Dallas Highway. 2t

**FULL LINE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS AT EAGLE OFFICE.**

**PLENTY OF OVER SEA BOXES AT THE EAGLE OFFICE.**

**WANTED**  
FOR RENT: Two farms. One 2-horse farm and one 1-horse farm also want family to hoe a crop. See Marshall Allen, Bessemer City, N. C., Rt. 1. 2t-1p-D14

**WANTED**—New or used large Tricycle or small scooter bike. Phone 2822. 1t-1p

**WANTED**: Immediately 3 or 4 room house or apartment in or near Cherryville. J. R. Campbell, R-2, Cherryville, N. C. 1t-1p  
J. R. Campbell received his discharge from Fort Bragg on November 17th, and has returned home to civilian life.

**WANTED**—A tricycle for two year old boy. Call Eagle Office. 1t-1p

**LOST**  
LOST — Man's Ring. Finder please return to Harold Carpenter and receive reward.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
WILL RE-UPHOLSTER FURNITURE. WRITE EULA MAE ELLIS, Box 312, Cherryville, N. C.

IF YOU want to get married, write Box 358, Julietta, Idaho Send Stamp.

We now have electric power to our Hamer Mill and can do your Hamer. Your business will be appreciated.  
**DALTON FLOUR AND FEED MILLS**

WE BUY CHICKENS AND EGGS—Pay highest market. We sell feeds of all kinds. DALTON'S FLOUR AND FEED MILLS. North of High School. 1t

**PIANO TUNING AND REPAIRING** INDORSED BY LEADING MUSIC TEACHERS. WRITE J. F. PECHE, BELMONT, N. C. 1t

**Relieve COLDS WITH O&F**  
25¢ or Big Economy Size 50¢

**New Studio Couches with Spring \$79.50.**  
**New Oil Stoves, 2, 3 and 5 burners "RE-CARPENTER BROS."**

**Charm-Kurl PERMANENT WAVE KIT**  
★ Complete with Permanent Wave Solution, curlers, shampoo and wave set — nothing else to buy. Requires no heat, electricity or machines. Sets for every type of hair. Over 6 million sold. Money back guarantee. Get a Charm-Kurl Kit today. 59¢

**ALLEN DRUG CO.**  
Will pay top market price for new stock Corn in any size lots.  
**DEDMONS LIVE STOCK YARDS**  
Shelby, N. C.  
PHONE 502-J

**AT FIRST SIGN OF A COLD USE 666**  
Cold Preparations as directed

## LEGAL NOTICES

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Lillie Mae Scruggs, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Clyde Scruggs, Defendant

The above named defendant will take notice that an action has been started in the Superior Court for Gaston County for divorce and the defendant will be required within twenty days of the final publication of this notice to appear before the Clerk of the said Court, and answer or demur to the complaint, of the plaintiff or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 20th day of Nov. 1944  
O. A. Warren 4t-D14  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court  
O. A. Warren 4t-D14  
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Lillie Mae Ingram Barnes, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Howard Barnes, Defendant

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced by the plaintiff in the Superior Court of Gaston County, for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce from the defendant; and the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gaston County in Gastonia, N. C., to file answer or to demur to said complaint of the plaintiff within twenty days after the final appearance of this notice, and that if he fails to answer or to demur to said complaint within the specified above named time, the said plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the said complaint.  
Witness: Paul E. Monroe, Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County, at his office in Gastonia, N. C. This the 30 day of October, 1944  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County, N. C.  
Claude B. Woltz,

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Zula Emory, by her Next Friend, Pearl Barnes, Plaintiff,  
-vs-  
Buddy Emory, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUMMONS  
The defendant, Buddy Emory, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Gaston County for an absolute divorce on the ground of two years' separation; and the said defendant will further take notice that he is hereby required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gaston County at the Court House in Gastonia, N. C., within twenty (20) days after the final publication of this notice and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.  
This the 9th day of November, 1944.  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk of the Superior Court.  
ERNEST R. WARREN, Atty for Plaintiff. 4t-D7

**ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**  
In the administration of the estate of the late Thos. P. Wise, deceased, the undersigned administrator will offer for sale at public auction the following articles of personal property belonging to the said estate:  
One grain binder, a grain drill mower, a two horse wagon, cultivators, harrows, turning plow, plow stocks, a mule and miscellaneous articles of household furniture, and hand tools.  
The sale will begin at or shortly after TEN O'CLOCK, A. M. on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 1944; and will be held at the late residence of the said Thos. P. Wise in Howards Creek Township, near George Black's Store.  
TERMS OF SALE: CASH.  
This the 9th day of November, 1944.  
HAL WISE, Administrator of the Estate of Thomas P. Wise, deceased.  
L. Berge Beam, Atty. 3t-N30

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Ray K. Gates, deceased, late of Gaston County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Cherryville, N. C., on or before the 9th day of November, 1945, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.  
This November 6, 1944.  
W. BRICE GATES, Adm. of Ray K. Gates, deceased.  
DAVID P. DELLINGER, Attorney. 6t-D14

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
SUMMONS  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
Mary Alice Estes, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Charles Estes, Defendant

The above named defendant will take notice that an action has been started in the Superior Court for Gaston County, for divorce and the defendant will be required within twenty days of the final publication of this notice to appear before the Clerk of the said Court, and answer or demur to the complaint, of the plaintiff or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 15th day of November, 1944.  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk Superior Court.  
O. A. WARREN, Attorney for Plaintiff. 4t-D7

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Gladys Terry Case, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
William D. Case, Defendant

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced by the plaintiff in the Superior Court of Gaston County for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce from the defendant; and the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gaston County in Gastonia, N. C., to file answer or to demur to said complaint of the plaintiff within twenty days after the final appearance of this notice, and that if he fails to answer or to demur to said complaint within the specified above named time, the said plaintiff will apply to the said Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.  
Witness: Paul E. Monroe, Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County, at his office in Gastonia, N. C. This the 20 day of November, 1944.  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County.  
Claude B. Woltz, Attorney for Plaintiff 4t-D14

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of John Denton, late deceased of Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said John Denton to file same with the undersigned administrator within one year after date hereof or this notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon.  
All persons indebted to said John Denton will please make prompt settlement with the undersigned as possible.  
This the 27th day of November, 1944.  
J. L. HAMME, Administrator.  
521 Comm. Bldg., Gastonia, N. C. 4t

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO DEFENDANT NAMED Mae Long, Plaintiff**  
-vs-  
Fred Long, Defendant.

The defendant above named will hereby take notice, that the plaintiff in this action has commenced an action for absolute divorce on the grounds of two years separation, in the Superior Court of Gaston County, North Carolina.  
The said defendant will further take notice that he is required to file answer or other pleading in the office of the Clerk of said Superior Court, in the Gaston County Court House in Gastonia, North Carolina, on or before the 11th day of January, 1945, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for such relief as he may be entitled to under the pleadings and evidence in the action.  
This the 27th day of Nov. 1944  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk of Superior Court  
J. L. Hamme, Atty. for Plaintiff, Gastonia, N. C. 4t-D21

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO DEFENDANT NAMED Mary Lou Raines, Plaintiff**  
-vs-  
Luther Calvin Raines, Defendant

The defendant above named will hereby take notice, that the plaintiff in this action has commenced an action for absolute divorce on the grounds of two years separation, in the Superior Court of Gaston County, North Carolina.  
The said defendant will further take notice that he is required to file answer or other pleading in the office of the Clerk of said Superior Court, in the Gaston County Court House in Gastonia, North Carolina, on or before the 11th day of January, 1945, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for such relief as he may be entitled to under the pleadings and evidence in the action.  
This the 24th day of Nov. 1944  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk of Superior Court  
J. L. Hamme, Atty. for Plaintiff, Gastonia, N. C. 11-27-4t

ties to appear before the Clerk of the said Court, and answer or demur to the Complaint of the plaintiff or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 14 day of Nov. 1944  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk Superior Court  
O. A. Warren, 4t-D7  
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
J. C. R. Gantt, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Bertha Gantt, Defendant

The above named defendant will take notice that an action has been started in the Superior Court for Gaston County, for divorce and the defendant will be required within twenty days of the final publication of this notice to appear before the Clerk of the said Court, and answer or demur to the complaint, of the plaintiff or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 20th day of Nov. 1944  
O. A. Warren 4t-D14  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court  
O. A. Warren 4t-D14  
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Lillie Mae Ingram Barnes, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Howard Barnes, Defendant

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced by the plaintiff in the Superior Court of Gaston County, for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce from the defendant; and the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gaston County in Gastonia, N. C., to file answer or to demur to said complaint of the plaintiff within twenty days after the final appearance of this notice, and that if he fails to answer or to demur to said complaint within the specified above named time, the said plaintiff will apply to the said Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.  
Witness: Paul E. Monroe, Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County, at his office in Gastonia, N. C. This the 20 day of November, 1944.  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County.  
Claude B. Woltz, Attorney for Plaintiff 4t-D14

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Gladys Terry Case, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
William D. Case, Defendant

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced by the plaintiff in the Superior Court of Gaston County for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce from the defendant; and the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Gaston County in Gastonia, N. C., to file answer or to demur to said complaint of the plaintiff within twenty days after the final appearance of this notice, and that if he fails to answer or to demur to said complaint within the specified above named time, the said plaintiff will apply to the said Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.  
Witness: Paul E. Monroe, Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County, at his office in Gastonia, N. C. This the 20 day of November, 1944.  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court of Gaston County.  
Claude B. Woltz, Attorney for Plaintiff 4t-D14

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of John Denton, late deceased of Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said John Denton to file same with the undersigned administrator within one year after date hereof or this notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon.  
All persons indebted to said John Denton will please make prompt settlement with the undersigned as possible.  
This the 27th day of November, 1944.  
J. L. HAMME, Administrator.  
521 Comm. Bldg., Gastonia, N. C. 4t

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO DEFENDANT NAMED Mae Long, Plaintiff**  
-vs-  
Fred Long, Defendant.

The defendant above named will hereby take notice, that the plaintiff in this action has commenced an action for absolute divorce on the grounds of two years separation, in the Superior Court of Gaston County, North Carolina.  
The said defendant will further take notice that he is required to file answer or other pleading in the office of the Clerk of said Superior Court, in the Gaston County Court House in Gastonia, North Carolina, on or before the 11th day of January, 1945, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for such relief as he may be entitled to under the pleadings and evidence in the action.  
This the 27th day of Nov. 1944  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk of Superior Court  
J. L. Hamme, Atty. for Plaintiff, Gastonia, N. C. 4t-D21

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO DEFENDANT NAMED Mary Lou Raines, Plaintiff**  
-vs-  
Luther Calvin Raines, Defendant

The defendant above named will hereby take notice, that the plaintiff in this action has commenced an action for absolute divorce on the grounds of two years separation, in the Superior Court of Gaston County, North Carolina.  
The said defendant will further take notice that he is required to file answer or other pleading in the office of the Clerk of said Superior Court, in the Gaston County Court House in Gastonia, North Carolina, on or before the 11th day of January, 1945, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for such relief as he may be entitled to under the pleadings and evidence in the action.  
This the 24th day of Nov. 1944  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk of Superior Court  
J. L. Hamme, Atty. for Plaintiff, Gastonia, N. C. 11-27-4t

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
Ida Convery, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Gordon R. Conway, Defendant.

S U M M O N S  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action has been started in the Superior Court for Gaston County, for divorce and the defendant will be required within twenty days of the final publication of this notice to appear before the Clerk of the Court, and answer or demur to the complaint of the plaintiff, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 20th day of Nov. 1944.  
EMMA CORNWELL, Asst. Clerk Superior Court  
O. A. Warren, 4t-D14  
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS IN SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO SELL THE LANDS OF JAMES HOVIS for division:**  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GASTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IN THE PROCEEDING ENTITLED:  
Clarence Hovis and wife Dorothy Hovis, Marshal Hovis and wife Dora Hovis, John H. Hovis and wife Bertie Hovis, Petitioners  
-vs-  
Guy Hovis and wife, Frank Hovis and wife Bryte Hovis, Ruth Mauney and husband J. C. Mauney; Roy Hovis; Alva Walker and husband Alton Walker; Archie Hovis and wife Hazel Hovis; Lathan Hovis and wife Lillie L. Hovis; Lois Hovis; Ernie Long; Lester Harwell Sr. and all nine of his children, Jess Baucum and son, Fred Baucum, Mrs. Adelaide Hovis widow of James Hovis, Ded. together with any and all other heirs at law of James Hovis, Ded. together with any and all persons claiming an interest in and to the lands of the late James Hovis, and all of his heirs at law named or unnamed above, will hereby take notice, that a special PROCEEDING HAS BEEN COMMENCED IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSIGNED CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GASTON COUNTY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING A CERTAIN LOT IN THE TOWN OF STANLEY, N. C. IN THE COUNTY OF GASTON, N. C. as the heirs of the late James Hovis on the premises. All such heirs at law claiming an interest are hereby notified to file answer or otherwise plead in this special proceeding, now pending in said office within 10 days after the final publication of this notice or the petitioners will apply to the court for the relief therein prayed and for such other and further relief as they may show themselves entitled to under the law and fact of the proceeding.  
Wherein fail not at your peril. This the 16th day of November, 1944.  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk of Superior Court of Gaston County, Gastonia, N. C.  
J. L. Hamme, Attorney for Petitioners, Gastonia, N. C. 4t-D14

**NORTH CAROLINA GASTON COUNTY.**  
Charley Pastell, Plaintiff  
-vs-  
Hettie W. Postell, Defendant.

S U M M O N S  
The above named defendant will take notice that an action has been started in the Superior Court for Gaston County, for divorce and the defendant will be required within twenty days of the final publication of this notice to appear before the Clerk of the said Court, and answer or demur to the complaint, of the plaintiff or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This the 11th day of Dec., 1944.  
PAUL E. MONROE, Clerk Superior Court  
O. A. Warren 4t-D28  
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

**LETTERS to SANTA CLAUS**  
Dear Santa,  
Donald is 9 years old, Forrest is 7 years old, Wayne is 6 years old, Rebekah is 3 years old, Forrest wants a caterpillar and a trailer, Rebekah wants a tea set and baby doll, Donald wants an electric train, Wayne wants a trailer and tractor.  
We all want apples and oranges, nuts and candy. Bring mother and daddy, grand mother and grandfather something.  
Love  
FORREST AND REBEKAH DONALD AND WAYNE

**Keep them in Your MEDICINE CABINET**  
Alka-Seltzer  
Try Alka-Seltzer for Headache, Morning After, Aching Muscles, Acid Indigestion, Pleasant, prompt, effective. 50¢ and 60¢.

**ONE A DAY VITAMIN TABLETS**  
High Vitamin potency at low cost—ONE-A-DAY Vitamin Tablets, A and D tablets in the yellow box—B-Complex tablets in the grey box.

**DR. MILLS' NERVINE**  
For Sleeplessness, Irritability, Headache, and Nervousness, when due to Nerve Tension. Use only as directed.

# LOVE AT FIRST FLIGHT

By CHARLES SPALDING AND OTIS CARNEY

**CHAPTER VIII**  
Barred from the Navy's V-7 program because he lacked two years of college math, Lester Dowd tries to enlist in the Coast Guard but is turned down because of a "facial squint." The doctor refuses even to examine him. Commander Whitman, an old friend of the family, endeavors to get a waiver for Lester so he can join V-7, but after weeks of waiting Lester learns that they still insist on two years of college math. He is successful in joining the V-5 Naval Aviation and is sent to Anacostia Naval Base. After making his first solo flight he gets a three-day furlough and visits his folks in Chicago. The furlough ended, he leaves for Corpus Christi.

The others from Anacostia had arrived before me. All were impressed by the station's vastness, its organization and smartness. Geographically, the new location had such a heady effect upon Tim Carpenter that he continually gazed at the Gulf and muttered rapturously, "Jeez, we're in the North Latitudes!"

The Navy functioned, to do it credit, just as it did in the Temperate Zone. We were assembled, greeted, and told that the first week was another stretch of indoctrination. For a cadet indoctrination is a recurrent holy period in which he humbles himself for seven days before one novelty after the other. This had included pevers, and by graduation we had all attained the sang-froid of the hardened before whom the world stretches like an old sock.

The prime object of indoctrination here was to acquaint oneself with the jangled jargon of the public address system which controlled the entire day. "There it goes again!" cried Red Run in the trror of ignorance. "We watched a group, for whom this esoteric pealing held special meaning, take up their belongings and move crisply to a scheduled activity."

"It's like Finnegan's Take," I said in exasperation. "Finally the riddle solved itself in symphonic form. It all originated in the battalion office. At six o'clock in the morning a bugle opened the movement with a strong presentation of the ever-repeating reveille. This gave way to the brassy "Fall out for chow," breakfast the low moan of a rickety thing was eerily reproduced as the wood-wind took the theme and announced "Call call." For the next twelve hours the merry din of "bells, bells, bells toll of ground school, athletics, drill, study period, and undry musters, a routine varied only by a male solo interrupting in a robust bass with the harmonizing aria entitled, Will Cadet Matt call Amber 3200 and ask for Miss Rose."

The third movement was tinged by experimentalism. The psychiatrist on the base had succeeded with the theory that music improves digestion and had arranged to have every evening meal formation concluded with some celebrated selection. Military factors decreed that the modern band had softened the tissues of fighting men and determined instead in John Philip Sousa. Here, I thought the composition failed miserably. After dinner is the last time to remind a volunteer warrior of his trade. Any practicing specialist who believes a gastric juice is hoodwinked into working overtime by the demonic strains of The Black Horse Troop March should have his license suspended. At ten-fifteen the opus ended on the appealing note of taps. Whatever its shortcomings might have been, the entire program was free from the cancer of advertising. In my bunk I often conjured up the dreiful possibility of younger generations marching off to squadron through the courtesy of Princess Pout Both Salts. That must never happen here.

Admittedly a pilot must be in prime physical condition. The athletic period that induced this state of being was a model of Spartan severity. Most of the program was drawn from the institution, and that part of the day when everything lopped for muscles was glumly anticipated like a plague year.

Charged with the "toughening up" process was a commissioned Apollo of large and lovely proportions, which he marvelously maintained without doing the exercises. Wear and tear strikes a gym master most frequently on the larynx, and our Legree, by a long and faithful service, had literally blown his lungs out. His assistant, a junior-grade lieutenant, and a blueprint for the strong silent type, strolled among the tollers watching to see that no sinew flagged. He spoke on an average of once every three days. When the company was reduced by exertion to gasps and groans, he made a very real contribution by snarling: "Pipe down over there."

After the hell of calisthenics we were run over to the command course, designed by some twisted mind to produce in a short time, in a small space, on a large number, the effect of crossing the Sahara on roller skates. First a short address by Apollo.

"The beauty of this thing izzat it's practical," he beamed. "No empty theory. Frinstance, let's take you there as an example." He motioned me out of ranks. "Let's suppose your plane has crashed," he said fancifully. "You're twenty miles from camp and a hunnert Japs are racing up the beach. You got one chance. You make a break for the jungle in the direction of your lines. Git goin'," he ordered. "And camp only twenty miles away," I breathed.

The course curved and doubled back so that no matter how fast I ran he could always keep pace by walking across the different legs. When I got to the first obstacle he was there with instructions.

"First you come upon a log four feet high. You hoildle it," he asked. "You never go around it?" I asked. "Don't worry about me. I'll make it all right." I knew he would. I swayed weakly in the hemp. My legs shook and I fell the last twenty feet.

"Down at the bend there is a barricade. You gotta hurry. The enemy is right behind," he revealed. "Where are the Marines?" I whispered inaudibly, unable to speak.

When I got to the Barricade, my lungs were bursting, everything was black, and Roman candles were going off just behind my eyes. "Everything is all right now," sang an angel voice. "These are your old friends. This is camp."

"Good," I croaked. "Tell the beggars there's a stranger at the door suffering from shock and exposure." "You squirm under." "There is no friend like an old friend." "Now you finish by running two hundred yards to the Officer of the Day's shack and announce yourself."

"The hell I do!" I panted, outraged by a false paradise. "I might send him a singing telegram or send up smoke signals, but I could not move another inch." "You got an important message with you, you gotta get through," he coaxed cunningly. "Others are counting on you." "When they get to ten they'll stop," I groaned, groveling on the ground.

He bent down to me and whispered, what will Cincus do? What will Cominch think?" I looked the wretch squarely in his watery eyes, made a final desperate effort, and tottered drunkenly to the finish line.

What bearing the mission had on the tempestuous course of events is difficult to assess, but at any rate, my conscience is clear. The next stage of training was called basic and regarded by those who handled it as a finishing process.

"You boys have completed primary and you are supposed to know how to fly," the flight commander explained, without any great conviction. "Here you will improve your technique, learn how to handle yourself in the unpredictable, develop a style of your own."

Civilly, it had its counterpart in a semester at charm school. Much specious talk was devoted to the "unpredictable," a lively, elusive topic, discussed in the most abstract terms. The best minds in the squadron were unable to corner, capture, and pigeon-hole the "unpredictable." It might be a cow on the runway, a snowstorm in June, but whatever form the "unpredictable" took, the well-trained cadet was supposed never to turn a hair. We were taught to miff the "unpredictable."

Another feature of basic training was an introduction to service type aircraft. In this case, the service-type aircraft was a Vultee intermediate trainer, an all-metal contraption, equipped with some of the technical improvements, such as a controllable-pitch propeller, radio equipment, flaps and tabs, and one low wing. All this bric-a-brac had to be handled with some degree of competence for the Vultee was a much more sensitive creature than blousy "Yellow Peril." If you neglected the check-off list, a compact set of commandments to facilitate landings and take-offs, and determined on a high pitch when it should have been low, and rolled your flaps up instead of down, you entered upon a course of wild, uncertain adventure. When this happened, a plane ostensibly poised to take off would be seen to speed happily into the Texas plain as if afflicted with a desert madness. Then the radio control tower, judging from the madcap performance that the American Dream was being wilfully betrayed, would screech formal invectives, and a well-intentioned, badly coordinated lad from South Dakota would hear himself denounced as an idiot, a blockhead, and an obstruction to the war effort.

After some preliminary instructions which attempted to develop a classical restraint in my landings I started to use up the allotted

solo periods. "Practice those landings," the instructor advised. I had a habit of coming thirty feet over the runway, and dropping on it from that height like a plummeting hawk. "More swoop," said the instructor.

One morning I was dutifully practicing my scales on an outlying field when the weather, which had been cloudless and bright since dawn, turned genuinely vile. The ceiling fell below two hundred feet and an enveloping fog swept in off the bay. It was the "unpredictable" in the mesh. While there still was room and time, I dove down and executed a rough but harmless landing. In another minute the ceiling fell to zero.

On a corner of the field was a telephone shack. Unlocking the controls, I scrambled over to notify the authorities of my doings. That was what a wise old hand always did in such circumstances. Above the telephone were instructions. Someone with an eye for simplification had written, "Raise the receiver and ask for Chief of Operations."

I complied and was immediately connected with a languid voice, as of a child who had adapted herself easily to our age of violence.

"Is this heah a crash call?" she drawled with a minimum of interest. "No, it isn't. I want to get the Chief of Operations." "That's all you-all can get from heah," she said sadly. "Ah can't ring anyone else. Not allowed." "All you do is ring the Chief of Operations?" I asked, a little appalled by such simplicity. "Not allowed to ring anything else," she said drowsily. "Oh, that's too bad." "Ah'll ring," said the operator, and she sounded sadder than ever. (TO BE CONTINUED)

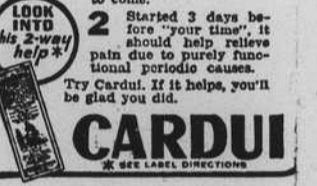
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