

Armed Forces Week Reminds Billy of Doughboy's Perpetual Sense of Humour

By Billy Atkins

Armed Forces Week just ended afforded an opportunity for public speakers and comedians to dust off some old jokes again, as they have done before, during and after almost every armed conflict in which we have been involved.

For instance, a popular four-liner of World War II can be found best in the Hillsboro Recorder January 19, 1933, issue: "The vessels of our Navy, The girls of our land — May the former be well-armed, The latter well-manned."

In addition to furnishing some of the wit for the occasion, North Carolina has contributed great leaders, one being the Hon. George E. Badger, who probably missed by a whisker being a celebrated Secretary of the Navy. Naval encyclopedias record only one contribution by him to the service, however, and that was his order regulating whiskers. Since then certain male facial adornments have been known as "badgers."

In his "Humor and Humanity" Morganton's George Ivey wrote that he had heard his father say, "In the Civil War Virginia furnished the generals, North Carolina the troops and South Carolina all the noise and blow."

U. S. Senator W. Kerr Scott reported once his surprise when his grandfather showed him his war medals and explained how he got them. He pointed to the biggest one and said, "I got that one by mistake, and they gave me all the other medals because I had the big one."

And former U. S. Judge I. M. Meekin recalled what a Rainbow Division doughboy wrote on the side of a railroad boxcar the morning the World War I Armistice was signed:

"Now that we've paid our debt to France, who the hell else do we owe?"

Almost two decades later came the bonus, and a New Bern restaurant, Dennis Cafe, observed that U. S. doughboys fought in France saying, "Give me liberty or give me dough. Now, they are just saying 'Gimme, gimme'."

And Dr. J. F. Patterson of the same town complained that he was just unlucky. "I'm too old for the soldiers bonus and too young for the Townsend plan," he said.

Personally, I've always said Uncle Sam should pay soldiers a bonus as they enter a conflict abroad. They could spend the money while fighting over there. And that would save foreign diplomats time and trouble of coming over here to borrow it when the war's over.

Then came the Italo-Ethiopian war, and prize laugh around New Bern concerned a question, "Will you fight for Ethiopia?"

"Fight for her?" was the reply. "I don't even know her."

Later Hitler attacked Poland about the same time Hunk Anderson was building a football powerhouse at N. C. State. "If we get in war," observed Craven County Attorney R. E. Whitehurst, "Czechoslovakia, Lithuania and Poland will call all her native sons to the colors to fight and break up the State and Wake Forest football teams."

The late Judge Earle (Scrubby) Rives of Greensboro told how war fears even affected children. After his alma mater Carolina had been beaten by Duke, his son asked, "Dad, if we ever get in war, will Duke be on our side?"

Then came the draft for what was to be World War II. I was patriotic. I marched my 49-inch frame down to the draft board to join up. But they said they already had enough members on the board.

But they did designate me as the most perfect physical specimen to be rejected they ever saw.

You've seen those recruiting signs where Uncle Sam is pointing his finger and saying, "Uncle Sam needs YOU." Whenever I approached the sign, Uncle Sam put his hands in his pockets.

Good or bad, the Tar Heel sense of humor prevailed. The press of the state, some of the nation's and even magazines gave prominence during World War II to what they termed an "anonymous poem:"

Pie crust variation — For a not-so-new but always good pie crust variation, you'll like the graham cracker crust: 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs, 1/3 cup sugar, 1/3 cup melted butter. To make short work of the graham crackers, just drop them into a plastic freezer or vegetable bag, fasten the end securely, and roll your rolling pin over bag, crackers and all. The crumbs will be uniform in size and pour easily into a measuring cup with not a crumb on the floor!

Safety precautions — Falls are dangerous and they occur most frequently on broken steps, uneven floors, and from toys and other things left in the way. Poor light, loose rugs, slippery floors, steps and walks invite accidents in the home. And so do broken or weak ladders, windows without safeguards for children, standing on chairs, tables, stools.

Why not check your own home for these hazards and plan some way to keep members of your family from having a fatal fall or receiving an injury which may be permanent.

Foot injuries to humans and livestock are often the result of careless clean-up practices. Remove nails from used boards. Pick up broken glass and junk. Don't leave wire lying loose.

Quick peeling — You can easily slip off the skins of tomatoes, peaches, and pears if you put them in a wire basket or cloth bag and plunge them into boiling water for two minutes and then into cold water.

Prepare Woolens Now For Summer Storage

With the weather warming up, you may not feel like talking — or even thinking about woolens, but according to Mamie Whisnant, State College extension specialists in home management, now is the time to plan storage of woolen blankets and bedding.

If you're washing blankets this spring — or other woolen clothing, for that matter — try using the easy soak method for getting

"Absolute knowledge I have none,
But my aunt's washerwomen's sister's son
Heard a policeman on his beat
Say to a laborer on the street
That he had a letter just last week
(Written in Latin or maybe Greek)
From a Chinese coolie in Tin-buctoo,
Who said that the Negroes in Cuba knew
Of a colored man in a Texas town
Who got it straight from a circus clown
That a man in Klondike heard the news
From gang of South American Jews
About somebody in Borneo
Who heard of a man who claimed to know
Of a swell society female fake
Whose mother-in-law will undertake
To prove that her seventh husband's niece
Has stated in a printed piece
That she has a son who has a friend
Who knows when the war is going to end."

"Anonymous?" No! That folks was written by North Carolina's preeminent poet laureate, James Edwin Pearson, in 1933. Yes, he did regard it as his "best"

small flock of chickens. The new-type laying house is designed to be built on skids so that it may be easily moved from place to place on the farm. It can be disassembled into five panels and hauled on a truck for longer distances. This makes it a practical house for the family which is renting or living on a farm temporarily and wants a chicken house that can be moved readily.

Ritchie also points out that the house is well-adapted to the needs of a family living on a town or suburban lot, also.

Plans may be ordered through county agent's offices or by writing Agricultural Engineering Extension, N. C. State College, Raleigh. Ask for Plan No. 623.

Subscribe Now TO THE JOURNAL



Good Printing Is An Art With Us!


We combine experience and knowledge of type, paper and ink to make every printing job outstanding!

Rider Printing Co.
403 W. VERNON
CALL US TODAY!
2375

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

RULANE
REMEMBER —
Rulane Gas Service
Is Economical!
409 N. Queen St.
KINSTON, N. C.

SELL US YOUR
LARGE HENS
WE WILL PAY



22¢ per lb. for hens
Weighing 5 1-2 lbs. or
better this week.

Egg Prices Are Also Up
Bring Your Chickens And Eggs To Us For
Highest Prices

P. L. Nethercutt
200 W. BRIGHT STREET
(Next door to Lincoln-Mercury dealer)
We Sharpen Saws and Repair Guns

Frosty Morn Meats Inc.

"Helping to build a better Livestock Market for Eastern North Carolina"

Top prices paid for Hogs & Cattle Daily

No Commission Charge
No Waiting

Phone 5103 Kinston, N. C.