

THE DOPE

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for its sons in the Service. No. 5.

The gas rationing and a blizzard hit Douglas all at once - so the change from a full tank to four gallons wasn't so bad. With the thermometer down to 6, not many of us wanted to joy-ride anyhow - and by the time the cold weather is over we'll have forgotten what a full tank looks like. So there we are.

The deer season ended on the 30th of November and, as far as we can find out, the following men got their bucks: Bill Wicks, Rufus Monique, George Durham, Elmer Plummer, Bob Breckenridge, Ed Force and Herman Hirner. Also, during the bow and arrow season here in Allegan, some lucky fellow from Lansing brought down a 21-point buck, weighing 263 lbs., over on Swan Creek.

One more for Douglas: Leonard Shumaker has joined the Navy, reporting for duty at Detroit. Congratulations, Leonard; the home folks are all pulling for you.

We attended a meeting of the Douglas Athletic Club recently which was certainly an eye-opener for us. The clubhouse was packed - with every able-bodied male, it seemed, from miles around. Pool, ping-pong and card games were all going full-blast, with galleries and kibitzers thick around the tables. The refreshment board really bent under the weight of the "free lunch", and the makeshift "bar" put out cokes and beer as fast as two waiters could take them away. These waiters, incidentally, were something rather special in themselves - Ky Walz and Andy Jager in white monkey-jackets, rushing the grog in top night-club style. Father Nugent made an excellent address to the gathering, Garth Wilson showed some beautiful color movies, and yours truly lost seven cents. Altogether it was quite an evening.

The Club has been faced with a membership problem lately, the proud result of having so many of its number in the armed Services. So the boys have decided to admit to membership some of the older men - which is certainly a break for the older men. We're told that no less than 20 of these have joined already, and undoubtedly many more will do so. As one of the boys who was home on furlough put the matter: "We certainly hope you'll keep this thing going until we get back". There seems to be only one answer to that - and we all know what it is.

Bennie Fisch reports that the girls in New Guinea all wear grass skirts. Then Bennie adds: "A forest fire would be a calamity". (How about a photograph, Bennie? You and some of your gal friends? We'll have it enlarged for Norton's window).

In this connection, we see by the papers that a strip-tease artist was pinched recently in Des Moines, and turned out to be a WAAC who was AWOL. We have'nt heard what happened to the girl, but why could'nt she be used conditioning troops for New Guinea?

Steve Millar had a 5-day furlough recently and spent three of it in Douglas. As you know, Steve's in the Navy, Carpenters Mate 3rd class, but says that about all the carpentering he's done was to drive some nails to hang up his duds. He looked fine in his uniform, healthy, happy and hard.

Billy Millar is still in the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, according to Steve; nothing serious, just undergoing minor repairs.

Floyd Jennings reports a letter from Boss, out in San Francisco, saying that he was sending his radio and camera home and leaving for other parts. No further word. So keep an eye peeled, Hawaii, New Caledonia, New Guinea and points west.

Basketball: Saugatuck H.S. has played two games since our last issue: St. Joseph Catholic School, of Muskegon, was played at Saugatuck and St. Joseph won 36 to 26; and Bloomingdale was played at Bloomingdale and Saugatuck won 22 to 20. The line-up in both games was as follows: Bob Anderson and Ray Biller, guards; Lawrence Monique, center; Dale Van Leuwen and Jack McDermott, forwards; and Ed Olsen, Gerald Rasmussen and Jack Knipper, substitutes. Bob and Dale starred in the first game and Jack McDermott scored eight points in the second, breaking a 20-20 tie only a few seconds before the game ended. Both games were hard, well-fought contests and all the boys played smart, heads-up basketball. Doc Waugh says that future games will depend entirely on gasoline. Saugatuck has a good team and a good schedule; but obviously: no gas, no games.

Sartorial note: In the absence of most of the village sheiks, Ky Walz has broken out in complete new raiment.

We had a line from Lewis Mueller last month, down in Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Lewis is in the Quartermaster Corps, drives Uncle Sam's newest supply trucks and semi-trailers, and likes his present location very much. He mentions particularly the hospitality of southern girls and the flavor of southern chicken. We've got to admit that's a hard combination to beat.

Pfc. Floyd Thomas was home on furlough late in November, from Camp Blanding, Florida. Tommie looked fine and reported everything under control in his territory. He got back to camp six hours late, however, and in short order drew three assignments to KP. "Crime doesn't pay" he writes.

Cpl. Fred Ash sends the following to The Dope from Seattle:
"I am sure proud of the boys back in good old Douglas.....just to know that most of my boyhood pals are in the service of the good old U.S.A." Right, Freddie! And don't think Douglas isn't proud of them too!

Incidentally, how about some of the rest of you men giving your editor a hand and sending in something about your selves? Things are getting pretty quiet in these parts now - and we can't just dream this stuff up, you know. So shake that old elbow and let's have a line. Your old friends in Douglas, now distinguished guests of England, Africa, Alaska, Hawaii, New Caledonia, Australia, New Guinea and fifteen of our States - they'll all be mighty glad to hear from you. Box 216, Douglas.

This issue of The Dope is mailed to all Douglas men in the Services through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Norton.

Father Nugent, our fine Irish priest, sends you this one:

The first American to kill a Jap was.....Michael Murphy.
The first American to sink a Jap ship was.....Collin Kelley.
The first American eulogized by F.D.R. was....Patrick Powers.
The first American Admiral lost in action was Dan Callaghan.
The first American to sink five Jap ships was Michael Moran.
The first American to get four new tires was.....Abie Cohen.

So long,

H. S. K.