

THE DOPE

Feb. 15, 1943

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for its sons in the Service. No. 9.

Nothing new in Douglas, except some nice fresh snow - and we think you've heard enough about that.

The boys have had Newt Belgum out again, this time after fish. Bud Bekken and Lloyd Engle put their fishing shanty on Pat's trailer, and they and Newt drove down to Scott Lake for a quiet day on the ice. Everything went fine; three lines were put down, all types of bait were used, and the heating arrangements, both external and internal, were of the best. Net result of the day's labor: One bluegill. They say that even this was not caught in the usual way. The little fellow just swam up to have a look, and Newt accidentally breathed on him.

Tony Preston told us about the village factory recently: As most of you know, it was taken over about a year ago by the Crampton Manufacturing Co., of Holland, and its principal work since then has been the plating of plumbing hardware. During the summer the Crampton people built a small addition to the plant, to provide painting facilities in addition to plating; and recently the company secured war orders which account for about 30% of the work here. This war work consists of hard-chrome plating some small tank parts and cadmium plating some gunmount bearings to be used for tank cannon. The local force now comprises nine men and women, of whom six are from Douglas: Betty Powers, Florence Monique, Mrs. Deamerest, Otis Thomas, Roy MacDonald and Milton Atwood; also Floyd Prentice and Mr. and Mrs. Spanman from Saugatuck. The work week is fifty-four hours and the monthly payroll about fifteen hundred smackers.

One of our boys really hit the bull's-eye this month: Pvt. Buren Osterberg of the 409th Infantry, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. And Buren not only hit it - he knocked hell right out of it. In the last target practice held by the 409th on the camp range, Buren emerged from 1800 participants as the Number One shot of his regiment. Using the M1 semi-automatic rifle, and firing both slow and rapid from the prone, sitting and kneeling positions, at a distance of 200 yards, he scored 208 bulls out of a possible 220. If anybody thinks that is'nt shooting, just let him try it. Very few men or officers ever attain such a record; and Douglas and the Osterberg family can feel mighty proud of their boy. And just incidentally, in token of his achievement, Buren was presented with a War Bond by the Colonel in front of the regiment.

Herewith the two tickets in the forthcoming village election:

Citizens' ticket:	People's ticket:
President: Louis Quade	President: Ben Bieler
Trustees: Walter Dienhart	Trustees: Ray Goodin
Sam Mancuso	Charlie Koning
Bob Waddell	Jimmy Sewers
Treasurer: John Norton	Treasurer: None
Assessor: Carmen Forrester	Assessor: Bert Lockhart
Clerk: Osie Welch	Clerk: None

The following communication, scribbled on the back of an old envelope, reached Douglas last week from New Guinea: "Hello Ky. Got my latest Dope today. I think a hundred and forty guys have read it already. Glad I read it first because it's so black now I can't even see the date. Love and kisses, Bennie".

Another for Douglas: Charles S. Ash has joined the Army and is stationed at Camp Grant. And his uncle asks the world to note that it's Charles S. Ash, and not the only and original Cully.

Latest dope on the globe-girdling Jennings: Boss has reached Hawaii and Jake has arrived in the British Isles. We picked these off on our map and find that the boys are now about equally distant from Douglas and about nine thousand miles apart. At their present rate of travel, they should meet on January 7th, 1944, at the Raffles bar in Singapore.

The following excerpts are from letters received recently by Father Nugent from all points of the compass:

From Lewis Mueller in Mobile, Alabama: "Am waiting at this place for an unknown destination across the sea.....feeling fine and wishing I were over there.....My best to everyone in Douglas".
From Alfred Pshea in New London, Connecticut: "Have found out since I have been in the Service how much the people back home think of me...fine people in Douglas..Am in the Navy until 1947".
From Leighton Buck in New Orleans, Louisiana: "Don't know how soon I'll be sent across.....but I'm looking for moving day".
From Lieut. Paul Bekman (of the Lake shore) at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana: "Went on a ten mile hike today. The sand and pine trees brought back memories of the woods around Mt. Baldy and good old Douglas.....Regards to all my friends back there".
From Lawrence Shumaker in San Diego, California: "Saw Hollywood last Sunday - some sight. Waited in line 7 hours for a bus but it was worth it....My last note from this side...on my own now".

Billy Goshorn has been moved again, this time to Salt Lake City, Utah. Billy writes that the new camp is "the worst hole ever" - everything wrong with it, food, weather, non-coms, everything. This had us puzzled for a while (from a fellow like Billy) then along near the end of the letter we came upon the following: "Have been here only three days, the last two of them on KP".

KP must be a specialty out in Utah. Vic Culver writes to John Norton from Camp Kearns: "KP yesterday and more tomorrow. Boy, oh boy, it's taking all the snap out of me". After Vic's experience at Van's, the Army is grooming him to be a meat inspector. "I don't know why", Vic says, "they don't have any meat to inspect around here. I may have sold steaks all summer but I sure wish I could get my hands on one now. I would'nt be selling it".

Got our first news from Steve Millar this week, since he wrote in December that he was "on his way" from the Naval camp at Davisville, Rhode Island. From Dutch Harbor, Alaska, Steve writes: "We're a tough bunch now, ready for anything and raring to go... Tell Bennie Fisch in the next issue of The Dope that he can send some of his girl friends with their grass skirts up here - if he can spare them". (How about it, Bennie? Gonna help old Steve?)

Basketball (as brought in by our special on-the-spot reporter, K. Walz): February 5th at Gobles: Saugatuck 28 Gobles 14. This game was played on a wet floor (due to a leaky roof) and produced some of the weirdest basketball ever seen in Michigan. It was all trick shots, fancy footwork and pratfalls. February 10th at Holland: Douglas A.C. 25 Chris-Craft 17. The Club really got going for this one and turned in a fine performance. February 12th at Saugatuck: (1st game) Chris-Craft 40 Douglas A.C. 22. The boys didn't look like the same team and are trying to forget it. (2nd game) Saugatuck 30 Bloomingdale 27. This was a honey. Saugatuck lead from the start but was pushed all the way. Jack McDermott played especially well, putting on a beautiful passing game with Bob Anderson and Ray Biller.

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. William Devine.

Have you heard about the new, quick test for fitness now being used by drafting boards? One doctor looks in one ear, another doctor looks in the other; if they can see each other the man is rejected.

So long,

H. S. K.