

# THE DOPE

Oct. 1, 1943

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for its sons in the Service. No. 24.

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Autumn has come to Michigan, officially and otherwise. All the usual signs are with us, from the heavy dew on the morning grass to that big yellow moon over the Kalamazoo. Altogether it's a wonderful time of year -- and we doubt if there's any place in all the world where it has anything on Douglas.

— V —

We had a pleasant visit with young Bob Mueller last week. Bob's here on leave from sea duty in the Atlantic, and is sure one fine-looking sailor. Seaman First Class, no less - and a gun-crew man on Liberty ships. Bob has four crossings to his credit already: two to Casablanca and one each to Liverpool and Oran. Some getting around for a lad of seventeen summers. Bob told us about an amusing experience he had in Casablanca. He was chatting agreeably with a pretty French girl on the street (in the time-honored sailor fashion), when Mademoiselle suddenly looked up with: "Oo la la, here comes my dream man!" Bob turned around to see what his rival looked like - and stared into the face of the biggest and blackest nigger in Africa. "It took me just one jump to get out of there" Bob says - and out of the lives of French women forever.

— V —

We're happy to report that Father Nugent has returned to Douglas and that Father Liguori, his brother, is rapidly recovering from his severe illness. It was touch and go for a while - but all looks like clear sailing now.

— V —

Did you hear about the little girl who said "We used to have trouble finding Grandma's glasses - but now she leaves them right where she empties them". (Editor's note: Grandma does 'nt live in Michigan. This state's getting so dry it's pitiful).

— V —

Military secret: You men are already influencing the younger generation. Philip Quade, just out of Douglas School, has gone to Onarga, Illinois, to attend Onarga Military School; Spike Van Syckel, 16, is in Delafield, Wisconsin, attending St. John's Military School; and Larry Symons, of Ganges, is attending Barbara Hall Military School in Kalamazoo. And each of these youngsters made over a hundred dollars this summer to help get himself into uniform. Gotta hand it to 'em.

Here's part of a letter from Al Stasik to Mr. and Mrs. Royal Reeder of the What-Not-Inn. As most of you know, Al hails from Fennville, but used to do a swell job of pitching for the Douglas ball team. He went to the southwest Pacific about the same time our boys did, got shot up rather badly in New Guinea, and is now in O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Missouri. "Today they took my big cast off" writes Al, "and put me in an airplane splint. It is much lighter - and not only that - now I can scratch all over. Boy, what a relief!.....Still have a Jap slug near my spine. At least, I'll have a keepsake..... And am I putting on the weight since coming here! But of course the cooking is'nt like yours, Mrs. R., especially the pies.... Here's one for the book: In all the time since leaving home I've had just one bottle of beer. Think of the catching up I'll have to do". (Al's complete address is: Sgt. Elmer Stasik, Ward C-6, O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Missouri).

— V —

More about Max Campbell: Things have sure been happening to that boy. On a recent week-end leave from Camp Berkeley, Tex., he combined operations with a Lieut. Helen Hiller, of the Army Nurse Corps at Camp Claiborne, La. - and made it Mr. & Mrs. Max. Awfully nice and cozy alright - but we can't help but wonder about the military aspects. Does Warrant Officer Campbell salute Lieutenant Campbell? and if so, who cooks the breakfast? In any case, congratulations, big boy - all the best to both of you - and Douglas wants to see you.

— V —

From Benny in Australia, September 12th: "This is a quiet and peaceful Sunday afternoon. We've worked like mad all week - so I'm very contented to just sit around!.....Had a line from Bull Durham yesterday. If I don't take enough razzing about my bald noggin around here, which is not bald yet, Bull has to keep it up from New Guinea.....Right now it's starting the usual afternoon rain - and I just did my laundry. Oh well, a double wash won't hurt them any.....All for now. I certainly hope I'll spend next summer in the old home town. Gotta get the ball team rolling. Best regards to everyone".

— V —

"Are you free this evening" asked Private Doakes. "Well, not exactly free", she said invitingly, "but very inexpensive".

— V —

Boss Jennings writes from Hawaii that he and Charlie Gilman exchange Dopes & Commercial-Records - that is, Boss swaps 1 Dope for 2 Commercials. Gosh, Boss, don't you get anything to boot?

Hugh Jones, who celebrated his seventeenth birthday last Sunday, has applied for enlistment in the Marines. Hugh, as many of you will remember, used to live in Douglas and now lives on the New Richmond Road. His brother Harmon, eighteen, is married and in the Navy; and Hallie, nineteen, is with the Marine Raiders in the south Pacific. Hallie reports running into Don Woodall, of Saugatuck, out that way recently - Don is also a Marine Raider. And Bill Woodall, Harry Sundin and Jean Simonson all went through the Sicily campaign.

— V —

Final report on summer activities: As you've undoubtedly gathered from previous reports, it was a very busy summer in Douglas & Saug. In the first place, what with all the younger men in Service and many of the older ones in War work, the help situation was difficult in the extreme. And coupled with that, the customers came in droves and with well-filled pockets, which gave the homefolks plenty to do. The pavillion had its best season in years, doing an excellent business both on the dance floor and at the movies. The larger hotels - Maplewood, Saugatuck, Butler and Mt. Baldhead - were all filled to capacity and turned away an average of 12-15 guests a day right through the summer. In this situation, of course, the restaurants were overrun with patrons - completely unable to meet the demand for forage. And the bars did a land-office business - selling everything the boys could get their hands on - including in some cases, we're told, the better brands of tonics and liniments..... Over here, things were not so high-pressure, but still the boys and girls managed to do very nicely. Van Syckel's did about 25% more business than last year (which was about 10% better than the year before); Norton's did half again as well as last year; and the Walz Barber and Beauty broke all previous records, last or any other year. "I hardly slept the whole summer" says Ky; "you won't believe this, but one day I turned away forty-three haircuts"..... "Think of it" moaned Ky, "me standing here and watching twenty-two dollars walk right out of that door".

— V —

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

— V —

Bud's done it again! T/Sgt. Standish took just one week of that rest camp business - then got himself back to his guns. And believe it or not, he's already added a 4th oak leaf cluster to his Air Medal. ....You've exhausted our adjectives, Bud - Douglas is damned proud of you, that's all.

So long,

H. S. K.