

T H E D O P E

June 15, 1943

Published now and then at Douglas, Michigan,
for its sons in the Service. No. 17.

We've been hearing that the perch were biting well off the Saugatuck piers lately - so we went to sports headquarters to get the low-down. Our informant proved so enthusiastic, however, that we merely pass his report along to you. "It's wonderful" Ky said, "they're getting two and three hundred a day. I caught two hundred and fifty myself last Sunday - and nine ciscoes". This figures a fish every two minutes without even stopping for lunch - so, as we say, we merely pass it along to you.

— V —

Jerry Bekken and Steve Hamlin are in California already, stopping in Camp Grant just long enough to get new uniforms and some shots. "Am 25 miles from Hollywood" Jerry writes, "so you can figure out where I'm going if I ever get loose".And Bud & Kay Bekken are the parents of a new daughter, Miss Bernadette.

— V —

From Lawrence Shumaker, May 17: "Everything going along in good shape here, but these tropical islands are nothing to brag about. They're all right in story books. But to live here steadily - not for me. They can have their palm trees and jungles and moonlight nights. Give me the mainland. Here's one to work out: I'm northeast of Ev Bekken and 10 hours different in time from you". Sounds like the New Hebrides to us.

And Leonard Shumaker writes Howard Schultz that his "Island X" in the north Atlantic is the same as Ed Cobb's - which means Newfoundland. "This is a funny place" writes Leonard. "Up here they drive on the left side of the road all the time, and have to stay sober to do it. Back home only the drunks can do it".

— V —

We've just learned that Douglas has come pretty close to having a native among the WAACS. At least we have a part-time native among them: Miss Jane Foster, for many years a summer resident here, now wears the WAAC uniform. She's stationed in Washington and was one of fourteen girls, selected from 1000 in Des Moines, to go on duty in the nation's capitol. Swell work, Jane.

— V —

"Can you read that 4th line?" asked the examining doctor of the would-be sailor - referring, of course, to the fourth line on the eye chart. "Read it" exclaimed the boy, "why, I know the guy personally. He played football at Notre Dame".

Here's a note from Jack Campbell, now in the Officers Candidate School "somewhere in Australia": "Dear Dope - Guess it's about time I'm expressing my appreciation for what seems to me the finest thing a service man can get from home - the hometown news.Glad to hear that some of the fellows are getting a chance to visit the old town....sure wish I could do so too.....Saw my gang last Sunday. Ben Fisch was as usual - and I don't have to describe that to you....Getting cooler here now; a jacket feels good at night....Again I would like to thank everyone for their fine effort in publishing....." (swell bouquets).

V

Under date of May 1st we received a grand letter from Captain Frank Haven last week, now stationed "somewhere in Africa". Capt. Haven, as most of you know, was one of the organizers of the Douglas Athletic Club and the manager of our first ball team. He writes: "I was stationed in England for a while but am in Africa now. Australia was my first choice, and I would give a lot to be with the Douglas boys down there. What a fine lot of soldiers they are.....wish I had every one of them here with me as I had them that year when the ball team was born. What fun we had that summer.....Can't tell you what I'm doing but I do like the Army. Enjoy the life, the work, method of operation etc. In fact I would not trade places with anyone in the world right now.You people would get a wham out of seeing the natives here - Arabs - in their picturesque costumes. Robes and rags of all descriptions - everything from burlap to bedsheets. It's all something to wear. To see a large bundle of this riding astride a tiny burro is quite a sight. These burros, or asses as the Bible calls them, are approximately four feet long. They pack a load which we would put on a one-ton truck. And straight down the mountainside they go, with never a misstep.....I wonder how long these people have lived in this manner. They are exactly as the Bible describes them. The Roman civilization had no effect on them and now the French have brought their civilization but the Arabs remain unchanged. They are a strange and wonderful people - and will probably outlast us all.....My regards to each and every one of you".

V

Did you hear about the mounted officer who was looking for an orderly to care for his horse? Looking over a new group of draftees he asked all those who knew anything about horses to step forward. Promptly a spindly, underfed-looking little fellow stepped out. "Do you know anything about horses?" asked the officer, sarcastically. "Yes Sir" promptly responded the rookie. "Well, when you get up in the morning" said the officer, "what's the first thing you do with a good horse?" "Put two bucks on him" said the little fellow.

17 graduates at the High School commencement last week - 4 of them from Douglas: Frances Ann Campbell, Ted Engel, Don Hall and LaVerna Hamlin. Marjorie Brady was valedictorian, Ed Olsen salutatorian, and Father Nugent delivered the commencement address. The exercises were more impressive than usual this year, with Dick Hoffman already in the Merchant Marine, and Bob Anderson, Ted Engel & Dale Van Leuwen entering the Army this month.

— V —

Shipping bulletin: Newt Belgium is now skipper of the newly commissioned "S.S. Escanaba" - named after the old freight and passenger ship that sailed the Great Lakes for so many years. Newt's new command is a beauty - twelve feet overall and powered with a one-horse put-put - and plies the Kalamazoo river.

— V —

Bill Slater and his seeing-eye dog are back from Morristown, New Jersey, and are now a familiar sight together on the streets of Saugatuck. "Spade" is a black German Shepard, about 90 lbs. in weight, and as intelligent as a P.H.D. He and Bill go everywhere together, from the job with Faffnir Bearing in Holland to Bill's bed-room at night. A big hand to Charlie Koning and the boys of the Douglas A.C. for their part in bringing Spade to Saug.

— V —

Bruce Gates, one of our two 17-year-old boys in the Navy, has just graduated from the school for machinist's mates at Kansas University with the rating of Fireman 2/C. With 190 other graduates he now awaits assignment to the fleet. Congratulations, Bruce; Douglas is mighty proud of you and young Bob Mueller.

— V —

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Alec Campbell.

— V —

Charlie Ten Have reported to Camp Custer last week, and his smiling face will be greatly missed by all in Douglas. Of course Charlie's a resident of Saugatuck (through some circumstance beyond his control, no doubt) but we know his heart's in Douglas so we're putting him on our mailing list. Van Syckel's won't be the same without Charlie. For that matter, Van Syckel's has'nt been the same for some time. What with ration points, ceiling prices, questionnaires etc., Harold has hardly known whether he's a grocer or a bookkeeper. Things got so bad not long ago that he had to go to Chicago for a rest. While he was away Charlie was called to Allegan by the draft board and Louise had to pinch-hit behind the meat block. Boy, you should have seen the steaks we got that day,

So long,

H. S. K.