

12-4-90

Dear Paul,

Thought I'd stick this in the mail in case you would want to try to catch Mike on TV Sat. (2:00 CBS, I think). Hope all is going well with the genealogy research. Our Matt recently became engaged to his girlfriend from Palatine, Ill. It looks like there will be a wedding there sometime next summer. Would you like to attend a wedding where you've never met any of the people in attendance? Matt is coming up on 1500 hrs. now so is sending out resumes. Mark Fischer (w/ Midway commuter) was in our church recently, visiting his family here, & talked at length w/ Matt & asked him to send a resumé. Don't know if anything will come of it. He's checking some leads others have given him, too.

Have a nice Christmas.

Your cousin,
Mary Sue

P.S. I ordered & received the book from Malcolm Smith, and I enjoyed it. Also a nice note from him.

if so, we'll send you an invitation.

Region/Ohio

■ For news items concerning Crawford County, call Rhonda Davis at (800) 472-5547 or 522-3311, Ext. 221, Monday through Wednesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Galionite to sing national anthem at Army-Navy game

Midshipman excited that broadcast going to troops

By Rhonda Davis
News Journal

GALION — Michael Smith isn't nervous about singing the national anthem in front of a national television audience.

But he gets the goose bumps when he talks about America, and about the U.S. troops stationed in Saudia Arabia who will also see him sing via satellite broadcast.

Smith, 22, a senior at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, was chosen to sing the anthem Saturday before the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

"There were three of us that tried out and I got picked," Smith said matter-of-factly during an interview Monday from Annapolis. "That's not so much except that they're going to televise this in Saudia Arabia where the troops are."

A 1987 graduate of Galion High School, Smith is the son of Fred and Mary Sue Smith, 767 Briarwood Drive. He's a midshipman first class at the prestigious academy.

Smith, who is president of the 100-member Men's Glee Club there, was picked by the club director to perform for the Army-Navy tilt.

He and his brigade will form a 90-bus convoy Saturday morning for Philadelphia and march onto the field about 1¼ hours before kick-off, just after the Army.

Dressed in full military uniform, Smith

said his part Saturday will be a breeze compared to the roles of U.S. soldiers who are sweating it out in the desert.

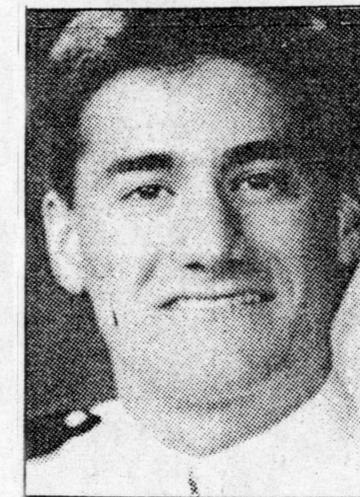
Besides, he has had plenty of practice.

Smith sang the patriotic song for the Navy-Delaware game Nov. 17 and routinely performs it at basketball games and as a member of the Barbershop Quartet and Protestant Chapel Choir.

The Glee Club often includes the song during appearances in Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis, as well as on tour around the country. In the spring, the group even traveled to London, Naples and Rome on a 12-day tour.

In high school, however, the song was just "kinda' something you sang," Smith said. "But the first day I put on a uniform, I came to appreciate what it's all about."

The Galion native has been involved in support groups for soldiers assigned to Operation Desert Shield and has been sending much-appreciated goods overseas.



MICHAEL SMITH

tional football rivalry.

"I can just imagine what they're going through over there," Smith said. "And knowing the kind of life they must be leading."

Besides preparing for mid-term exams next week, Smith and his classmates are wrapped up in the whirlwind of Army-Navy week, a tradi-

"It's getting pretty exciting around here. That's the fun of it."

Smith's parents are making the trek to Philadelphia Friday and will join the expected 50,000 in the stadium at game-time. They will spend most of the weekend with their son.

Smith, a football, wrestling and track star at Galion, also was a four-year member of the GHS choir and the Showtunes. He has four brothers.

He will graduate in May and then head to Pensacola, Fla., for aviation training. He eventually wants to pursue a career as a navigator.