

OUR FIGHTING MEN

The December mail brought many letters from former members of the school faculty. Here's one from T/5 Claude "Duke" Walck (12151997) Sports Arena, Camp Stewart, Georgia.

"I've received the paper for the second time and I must say I enjoy reading about the boys. I know very few of them but every now and then a name strikes home. I did my practise teaching at the High School in 1939. Mr. Bomhoff was the man I worked under. Reading the sports news brings back to me the day I took my Flemington team to Scotch Plains and lost to a great team.



"I am the Athletic Director for this camp. I had the pleasure of managing the Post Baseball team to two championships. Our program includes basketball, softball, ping-pong, volley ball, badminton and horseshoe leagues for all the men on this Post. At one time we had over 50,000 men. Our weekly boxing shows drew 200,000 last year, but with the shifting of troops attendance has dropped considerably.

My family live in Fanwood and often send word of some boy I had in class at Scotch Plains. Should any of them read this letter, please drop me a line or two. Mail after 29 months in the Army gets more important every day.

Thanks very much for sending the news and please continue. Best regards to my friends in town."

Here's still another 'faculty' letter. It's from H. F. Baehr, SK 2/G (CB), CBMU 559 A HQ, FPO, New York:

Your recent edition of the Scotch Plainsman has proved to be most interesting as have the others that preceded it. You and your staff are to be complimented on the excellent job you are doing. Since I am on the editorial staff of our unit paper "THE X ISLE", I realize what a big undertaking it is to get out a newsy and interesting publication. The school news was especially interesting to me because of the many pleasant associations and happy times I have had with the students and with faculty members.

A few months ago I noticed in the Courier News Sports section an article about the Scotch Plains Boosters Club. In this issue of the Plainsman I see where the town has put over it's War Bond Drive as well as the scrap drives and many other activities to aid the war effort. As a home owner in Scotch Plains (for just a short while, it's true), I'm proud of the fine showing made. Our operating base was first in the 10th

Naval District in the July War Bond Drive, and we have every reason to believe we will be the first in the one just concluded.

Hello to all the fellows and high school faculty that I know. Thanks again for your interest in our behalf.

2nd Lt. Robt. H. Campbell (0831165)
344th Bomb Sqn., 98th Bomb Grp., APO 520, c/o PM, New York, V ...-mails:

"My first overseas mail call brought me a copy of The Scotch Plainsman in a letter from my wife and I sure was glad to get it. Being a newcomer on the overseas list I can well see how much your paper means to the many who have been over here so long. I'd sure appreciate any fellows located near the 98th Bomb Group, 47th Wing in Italy contacting me if they get time to.

"Like Jimmy Lott I can now claim to hail from both towns and I sign my name in the RED CROSS registers in that manner. We don't get ballyhooed as much as the 8th Air Force but our missions are still plenty rough. Congratulations on a real swell paper. Sincerely, Bob Campbell

Corp. Michael Rossi (12006197), Btry. A, 89 FA Bn., APO 25, c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif., sends us a poem which, because of its length we may find difficulty in using. However, We'll keep it handy Mike to use if space is ever available.

"I have been reluctant to write you in the past as I felt that which I had to say wouldn't be of much interest as I'm really not a known Scotch Plainsman. However, I did feel I could at least say thanks for the many fine copies of The Plainsman that I have been fortunate to receive, so hence this letter.

"Along with this note I take the liberty of sending the enclosed poem which more or less relates some of my experiences coupled with my emotions. It was written by my friend, Cpl. James Oakley, who together with myself and many others, has shared much the same experiences. If ever you have the occasion and the space, I would be ever grateful if you were to publish it in the Plainsman. It would be my way of showing my buddy my appreciation for his fine and sincere efforts in trying to piece together that which we have shared.

"I have been in the Army four and a half years; have been to Hawaii; experienced Pearl Harbor, battled at Guadalcanal, likewise at New Georgia and have also seen Fiji and a few other unmentionables. Other than that Army life has been strictly routine and all of it overseas."

From the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Box 88 B, Iowa City, Iowa, Lt. (j.g.) H. C. Schaible writes,

"I don't know who was responsible for adding my name to the mailing list of The Scotch Plainsman but who ever it was, I sure want to say a sincere thank-you.

It has been six years since I left SPHS to teach and coach in Rutherford. However, I have maintained contact with some of my old boys and I sure

am proud of them. I hear regularly from Lieut. Les Thompson (incidentally Coach, it was Les who asked us to put your name on the list) who must be doing a great job from his English base.

I really enjoy reading the letters the SP boys write to the paper. Great will be the day when this is all over and we can get back and have a grand reunion.

I would appreciate it immensely if you would print my address in the paper with the hope that some of the boys might care to drop me a line."

Former students will be glad for this news from Cpl. R. K. Swetland (A221413) WAC Det. 1385th SU, McGuire General Hospital, Richmond 14, Va.

For a long time I've been wanting to write and thank you for sending me the various copies of your excellent service paper. It truly is most interesting and worthwhile. Each time the paper arrives, I sit down and read it from cover to cover.

I have rejoiced in the promotions received by former students, glories in their personal achievements and read with sorrow of those killed, missing and injured in action. But I'm proud of each and everyone of them and more than happy to be contributing my small bit to this huge war effort. Right now I am again working in a hospital laboratory. The hospital itself is a General Hospital which acts more or less as an evacuation hospital for patients from overseas. Here we get all types of casualties from every part of the fighting front.



Recently we even had a large group of Prisoners of War and you should have seen how the hospital bristled with MP's during their journey with us.

Am in the process of organizing a WAC choir here at the Hospital. We have not entirely deserted the musical field despite the fact I am now a medical laboratory technician.

Thank you again for The Scotch Plainsman. It is indeed good to hear news from home and former students."

Sgt. Chester E. Rumsey (4200000) M.P. Detach., HQ IX Air Defense Command, APO 638, c/o PM, N.Y., writes

"I always look forward to reading my copy of The Scotch Plainsman and after being overseas almost a year, you can realize how nice it is to read news of the old HomeTown at the same time keep track of all the local fellows who are scattered far and wide.

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