

noel

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. PYLES:

Christmas time is near and I am thinking of all of you. I wish it were possible to have all 950 of "our boys", who have been in Camp over the past five years, together this holiday. Those boys are scattered all over the world now, as we get letters from them from everywhere. It not being possible for us to get together in person this Christmas, then we must do the next best thing and be together in a common spirit of Christmas. I have asked Bob to reprint the following little story which is my favorite. I hope you will read it in a solemn and thoughtful mood. To you, your family and loved ones I wish a very Merry Christmas.

Very affectionately,

R. M. Pyles

"THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS" by Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking yourself how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?
But you can never keep it alone.

'Bye now--

Your friend,

Bob

BANKERS' CLUB

Robert Shine—is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Jello—Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Mexixed Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Smyne—Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase — His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. 'Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

Donald Gragg—Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

Joseph Hindley—Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

David Lingo—wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham—Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez—Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen—Grade 2nd, string foot-
ball this year in his school. Says this paper
is really the best of its kind in the world and
he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

BOENA PARK
Roger Lee—Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SOME AND DROP US A LINE.

Dennis Murphy—Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

FROM THE BOYS can't

SANTA PAULA

Barney Gallimore--Is now in the rabbit business in a big way. Has 3 does and 10 baby rabbits. Entered a drawing contest for water conservation posters and won second prize ribbon and five dollars. Bought a jacket with the prize money. Also won a dollar for beans, lemons and oranges in the Ventura County fair. Boy you sure are a winner, even winning third place in our contest. Congratulations.

VENTURA

Richard Salsedo--Wanted to say hello this month and to get his name in the newsletter.

VISALIA

Donald Gragg--Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

LONG BEACH

Joseph Hindley--Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

Harold Fowler--Is now in a Christmas play called "Scrooge". He takes the part of a ghost in the play. Don't take the part too seriously and fade away on us Hal.

Roy Bruyneel--Now at Oak Grove Boys Camp and tells of its fine location in the Angelus National Forest. Says it abounds with nature and all things boys love. Also says he is learning some very valuable things. Good for you Roy.

Bob White--His brother and sister now have some kind of poison ivy and are in bed from it. Bob sent pictures of some of his drawings of the human ear which he got "A" on and they were sure good. If you want them back, along with the drawing of Woody Woodpecker kindly let me know as I would like to keep them.

BUENA PARK

Roger Lee--Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

George Williams--Sent a nice letter to Mr. Pyles thanking him for the camping this summer.

Dennis Murphy--Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

BAKERSFIELD

Robert Rhine--Is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Mello--Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Rexland Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Swayne--Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase--His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

David Lingo--Wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham--Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez--Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen--Made 2nd. string football this year in his school. Says this paper is really the best of its kind in the world and he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SURE AND DROP US A LINE.

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Jack Kelley

Got roughed up a little in a recent game of football. They are't supposed to tackle with their knees are they Jack? Congratulations on your good grades of this past month, and know they will continue. The picture you sent of yourself was really very good, we had forgotten you were so good looking.

Joe Waldrep

Joe bought himself a new car and it only cost \$100.00, a real good buy says Joe. The same month Joe got a \$20.00 a month raise in his present job. So very glad your mother is feeling better Joe.

Vernon Seto

Worked on his contest letter for a week and had trouble finishing it due to the fact that he was working on the Church every night. Thanks for doing this Seto and know that you will be proud of your hand in building the Church when it is finished.

FROM THE BOYS

LOS ANGELES

Larry Holloway--Playing left guard on his football team at Nightengale School. Tells of the fun we had at their halloween party at his school recently.

Kurt Murphy--Wanted the names of two men who helped send him to camp this past summer. Kurt that is a real wonderful thought and I am sending them on to you in a letter. Hope you are in mind writing them a note on how you are getting along.

Robert Ross--Gives a special invitation to us to come visit him at his house. Says the Camp last summer was the most fun he ever had.

Maurice Cason--Gave us a nice compliment our Camp newspaper (patting yourself on the back too when you do that Maurice). Says he has moved into a new home and is helping his folks paint the house.

Henry Godinez--Writes of recent trips his photography class has been taking, went to San Fernando Mission. Also went to Palm Springs for a Southern Calif. Youth Assoc. meeting where they discussed teen-age problems.

Amando Apodaco--Wanted to put in our paper a special appeal to our boys to go out for as many sports as possible as he thinks it does much to make a better citizen out of a fellow. Roses to you for thinking of the boys and wanting to pass something worthwhile on to them.

Jim Rooney--Wanted to report on the fine showing Franklin High made in football this year. At the writing of his letter they had won 3 out of 4 games.

REDONDO BEACH

Darryl Davis--Did'nt get in on the contest because he did'nt know you could use a pet as a friend in the contest. Sorry I did'nt explain it better Darryl. Says he has sold all their goats now and is taking piano lessons.

HANDBURG

Richard Campbell--Had a big halloween party at the Johannesburg Baseball field and the public was invited. It was put on by his grade in school. Each month they put on a Bake Sales for money for "ditch day". I wish you would explain this further Rich.

SANTA ANA

Joe Snell--Went Pheasant hunting and came back with no birds but 20 rabbits. I suggest you go rabbit hunting and maybe you'll get your limit of birds. Looking forward to seeing you and your dad at the meeting we will have in Costa Mesa.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Jack Cantley--Tells us of the football games the B's and A's played at their school. They won both of their last games (which we saw). Jack says too bad they did'nt start winning sooner. Thanks on the report of your grades Jack, we know you will do your best.

PIXLEY

Donald Bowles--Has bought himself a new pair of skates with his hard-earned cotton-picking money. As soon as he got the skates the skating rink moved away. Congratulations to you on your new brother-in-law. Hope your sister has all the happiness in the world.

ANZA

Nelson Olds--Our dish-washing set-up is going to be a little different next year Nelson but want to talk to you personally. Look for me in Anza one of these days.

NEWHALL

Eddie Reinhardt--Says his team got beat 42-0 in their last game but it was a good one anyway. Boy you sure like football to enjoy that game Eddie. The next trip up the ridge-route I am coming by to see you.

SATICOY

Keyes Balderas--Is getting along fine in school and likes especially gym and agriculture. Has a 6' 11" coach in gym. Because of his group doing good in agriculture is going to get a three day trip somewhere.

ARKIN

Winston Carter--Popped corn and made fudge candy on a rainy day last week. Winston says "Next day were we sick".

Contest Winners

JUDGES:

Mr. Tom Cronk, Huntington Beach
Mr. James Serey, Bellflower
Mr. Leonard Graves, Balboa Island

FIRST PRIZE: Henry Godinez, Los Angeles

SECOND PRIZE: Harold Snow, Bakersfield

THIRD PRIZE: Eddie Dickie, Long Beach

Jack Cantley, Huntington Beach

Don Manquum, Ventura

Barney Gallimore, Santa Paula

Joseph Hindley, Long Beach

Charles Haworth, Bakersfield

FOURTH PRIZE: Charles Mello, Bakersfield

Robert Rhine, Bakersfield

HONORABLE MENTION

Warner Jue, Ventura

Armando Apodaca, Los Angeles

Jim Mooney, Los Angeles

Harold Fowler, Long Beach

Richard Castro, Bakersfield

Dale Butler, Long Beach

Jimmy Martinez, Rivera

Walter Schoenhofen, Bakersfield

Richard Campbell, Kandsburg

Jeff Colbert, Bakersfield

Nelson Olds, Anza

Cornelio Hernandez, Bakersfield

Randy Shearer, Los Angeles

Winston Carter, Arvin

Reyes Balderas, Saticoy

Jerry Graham, Bakersfield

Donald Harrison, Bakersfield

Vernon Seto, Ventura

Bob White, Long Beach

Keith Swayne, Bakersfield

THE PRIZES ARE ON THE WAY AND I WANT TO SAY I HAVE NEVER FELT SO PLEASED AT THE WONDERFUL LETTERS ALL OF YOU FELLOWS WROTE IN FOR THE CONTEST. THE LETTERS BEGAN TO REALLY POUR IN AFTER A WHILE AND THEY WERE ALL WELL THOUGHT OUT BY YOU. I HOPE NOBODY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT WINNING FIRST PRIZE AS I CAN HONESTLY SAY THERE WAS A REAL JOB ON THE PART OF THE JUDGES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MADE HONORABLE MENTION AND THE PRIZE LETTERS. ON THE NEXT PAGE WE HAVE REPRINTED SOME OF THE PRIZE LETTERS AND ONLY WISH WE HAD ROOM TO PUT THEM ALL IN PRINT.

INSTALLMENT No. 2

Arriving at the dwellings, past a large corral filled with beautiful pinto horses especially bred by the Navajos, we were happily greeted by an Indian woman. We discovered from her that it is customary for the wife and mother of the family to perform the welcoming function, when guests visit the hogan. The wife is the head of the Navajo house.

Upon entering the hogan we were made to feel at ease immediately by the beaming smile on the face of this Navajo woman. She spoke some words in her native tongue to our guide and interpreter, Mrs. Marvin Walters, wife of the Missionary with whom we had made our early arrangements. These were translated into English for us as a cordial welcome to the land of the Navajos.

Following the exchange of greetings between us, she conducted us to our seats of honor located on sheep skins placed upon the ground on the right hand side of the hogan as one enters. There was a ceremony accompanying this seating arrangement. We were conducted completely around the hogan, beginning at the left and circling about the men, women, and children (sixteen in all) seated facing in toward the fire burning in the center of the room. This was our introduction to the family.

Lois and I commented to Mrs. Walters about the intense heat of the fire, particularly on a day so warm as that; and we were informed that the Navajo Indian's hospitality is judged by the warmth of his fire. It is one of the many strange and ancient customs to which were to become initiated during our stay.

We sat on the sheep skin rugs indicated for us, and crossed our legs under us Indian style, and so became part of the family circle.

At first it was evident to us that we should have some difficulty over the barrier of words, neither they nor us knew each other's language. And even more than that, we were quick to note a shy, retiring manner among them, an extremely bashful countenance in the presence of people of another race.

Mrs. Walters, having come on a two-fold mission, first to perform her usual duties as a nurse to the Navajos, and secondly to act as our guide and interpreter, told us not to worry about the reticence of these people. She said that as soon as they were confident of our friendship, their formal manner would relax into the true cordial, friendliness that was so much a part of their nature.

To put them at ease both Lois and I just sat there cross-legged and smiled pleasantly as various illnesses were reported, medicines dispensed, and shots administered. We tried to appear sympathetic with the youngsters bemoaning these injections; and even went so far as to distribute a few small coins to help ease their anguish. This brought back the smiles to their faces, and we felt sure their responses were heartfelt as our own as a gradual lessening of restraint could be felt by adults and children alike.

At this time we looked up to see an elderly Navajo brave and his woman enter the hogan. We sensed immediately by the family reactions that these were elder members of the family and that they were held in the highest esteem and respect by all other members. They were walked around the hogan and seated next to us. Immediately the old man spoke to Mrs. Walters, who informed us that he was suffering from a severe toothache. I quickly replied to her that perhaps he should collect roots of the plant used by the Navajo medicine men to cure this ailment. Such a plant had been pointed out to me in the area outside the hogan.

There was an immediate chuckle from the Indian, as he informed me in English that the white man's medicine might prove more effective. He then told the others. They all laughed; and he came over and shook my hand. We knew then that we had successfully cleared our first barrier; and the Navajos accepted us as their friends. (To be continued)

PRIZE WINNING LETTERS

1ST. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS WINSTON CARTER"

by Henry Godinez
151½ West Elmyra St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

My best friend is Winston Carter, a boy I met in Camp. Even though I knew him only two weeks I have become to like him very much. Even though I don't see him anymore I still like him very much. The memories of the fun we had together makes me very happy when I am alone. I have learned that it doesn't take long to make a friend.

I like him because of what he is, not because of his looks and how he acts or how he dresses. I like him because he is very helpful and always trying to do his best to make friends. Being with him for two weeks was a lot of fun. I never had a friend that was real friendly. A friend does things with you, when you go hiking he puts his arm around you and sings with you. He also goes swimming and fishing with you and helps you when you are in need of help. But the important thing is that he makes you feel wanted around.

These things I found with the few weeks I was with Winston Carter. I can always call him a real friend.

2ND. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY BUDDY"

by Harold Snow
2400 Calloway Rd.
Bakersfield, Calif.

My best friend is not like most peoples best friend. He is different than my other friends. When a boy goes out of his way to help me, when I need help, I call him my best friend. The unusual part of it is that he is a colored boy. He is not only my best friend but every other boys as well.

Last year he got a good sportsmanship pin in basketball, baseball and football. He was also elected safety chief at our school this year. Last year he was ass't chief. I thought myself lucky to be on his squad this year.

He helps me when I get into trouble at school or when I find a problem in math is difficult. He invites me to play basketball with him when he plays. In shop he helps me on my project when I need someone to help paint or glue or sand it down.

I am very thankful to have a friend I can call on when I need him most.

3RD. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY STEP-DAD"

by Jack Cantley
16071 H. B. Blvd.
Huntington Beach, Cal.

My best friend is my step-dad. His name is Jack Lawrence. He has been my dad since I was three years old. To me he is my real dad. He always treated me as his own, and

when he introduces me to anyone he says "This is my son Jack".

He has taught me to fish and to hunt. When he goes deer hunting he takes me with him. We went to King City year before last. He taught me to shoot the 30-0-6. What a thrill that was. He takes me out deep sea fishing. He always sees to it that I have a good time.

He took me to my first dance. It was a year ago at the Fireman's Ball in Huntington Beach. I was a little slow in getting out on the dance floor but he encouraged me to do so, and now it is a lot of fun. I enjoy showing him off. I don't think a real father loves a son anymore than my step-dad loves me. I miss him very much now, as he is in Alaska. He works with the Civil Service but he always takes time to write me and is always interested in what I am doing.

I am thankful I have him for a father and friend.

3RD PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY MOTHER"

by Donald Mangum
301 West Flint
Ventura, Calif.

My best friend is my mother. She takes care of me in every way. She provides me with food, clothing and shelter.

She gives me love and affection and if I need it she punishes me to. But no matter what I do, my mother always tells me how much she loves me so I always try to be good.

I have a paper route and my mother will help me with it. When I go on a trip with the Police Boys she takes care of it for me. She encourages me in my clubs and school work and in every thing I do. She works in a hospital at nights.

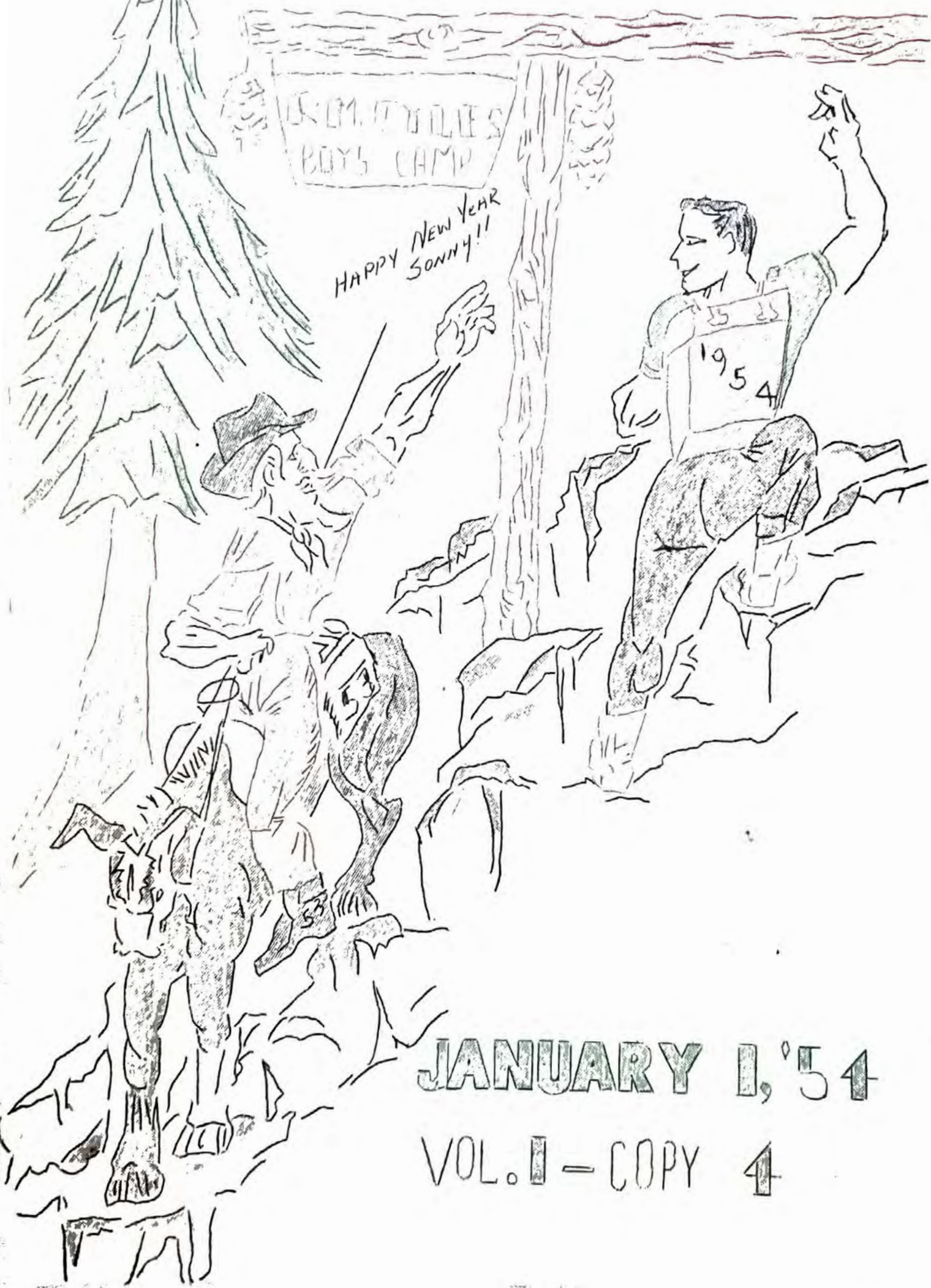
She takes my friends and I on trips and picnics and swimming and they can come over to my house anytime.

I have a lot of friends, Mr. Pyles, Bob, Bennie, Sgt. Rude, Lt. Strickland, my grandpa and others but my mother is my best friend.

SORRY NO MORE ROOM FOR ANYMORE.

We had a little motto in the first newsletter that said "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer someone else up". Lets add to it and say "The best way to have a real friend is to be one". I hope you will look around you and see your friends, give them a chance to be one to you and then love them, help them and cherish them for they are more precious than all the gold in the world. We cannot compliment you boys enough on the fine job you did. Thanks.

NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 1, '54

VOL. I - COPY 4

noel

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. PYLES:

Christmas time is near and I am thinking of all of you. I wish it were possible to have all 950 of "our boys", who have been in Camp over the past five years, together this holiday. Those boys are scattered all over the world now, as we get letters from them from everywhere. It not being possible for us to get together in person this Christmas, then we must do the next best thing and be together in a common spirit of Christmas. I have asked Bob to reprint the following little story which is my favorite. I hope you will read it in a solemn and thoughtful mood. To you, your family and loved ones I wish a very Merry Christmas.

Very affectionately,

R. M. Pyles

"THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"
by Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking yourself how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?
But you can never keep it alone.

'Bye now--

Your friend,

Bob

BANK OF INDIA

Robert Shine—is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Jello—Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Mexixed Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Smyne—Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase: — His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. 'Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

Donald Gragg—Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

Joseph Hindley—Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

David Lingo—wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham—Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez—Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen—Made 2nd, string foot-
ball this year in his school. Says this paper
is really the best of its kind in the world and
he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

BOENA PARK
 Roger Lee—Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SOME AND DROP US A LINE.

Dennis Murphy—Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

FROM THE BOYS can't

SANTA PAULA

Barney Gallimore--Is now in the rabbit business in a big way. Has 3 does and 10 baby rabbits. Entered a drawing contest for water conservation posters and won second prize ribbon and five dollars. Bought a jacket with the prize money. Also won a dollar for beans, lemons and oranges in the Ventura County fair. Boy you sure are a winner, even winning third place in our contest. Congratulations.

VENTURA

Richard Salsedo--Wanted to say hello this month and to get his name in the newsletter.

VISALIA

Donald Gragg--Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

LONG BEACH

Joseph Hindley--Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

Harold Fowler--Is now in a Christmas play called "Scrooge". He takes the part of a ghost in the play. Don't take the part too seriously and fade away on us Hal.

Roy Bruyneel--Now at Oak Grove Boys Camp and tells of its fine location in the Angelus National Forest. Says it abounds with nature and all things boys love. Also says he is learning some very valuable things. Good for you Roy.

Bob White--His brother and sister now have some kind of poison ivy and are in bed from it. Bob sent pictures of some of his drawings of the human ear which he got "A" on and they were sure good. If you want them back, along with the drawing of Woody Woodpecker kindly let me know as I would like to keep them.

BUENA PARK

Roger Lee--Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

George Williams--Sent a nice letter to Mr. Pyles thanking him for the camping this summer.

Dennis Murphy--Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

BAKERSFIELD

Robert Rhine--Is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Mello--Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Rexland Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Swayne--Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase--His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

David Lingo--Wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham--Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez--Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen--Made 2nd. string football this year in his school. Says this paper is really the best of its kind in the world and he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SURE AND DROP US A LINE.

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Jack Kelley

Got roughed up a little in a recent game of football. They are't supposed to tackle with their knees are they Jack? Congratulations on your good grades of this past month, and know they will continue. The picture you sent of yourself was really very good, we had forgotten you were so good looking.

Joe Waldrep

Joe bought himself a new car and it only cost \$100.00, a real good buy says Joe. The same month Joe got a \$20.00 a month raise in his present job. So very glad your mother is feeling better Joe.

Vernon Seto

Worked on his contest letter for a week and had trouble finishing it due to the fact that he was working on the Church every night. Thanks for doing this Seto and know that you will be proud of your hand in building the Church when it is finished.

FROM THE BOYS

LOS ANGELES

Larry Holloway--Playing left guard on his football team at Nightengale School. Tells of the fun we had at their halloween party at his school recently.

Kurt Murphy--Wanted the names of two men who helped send him to camp this past summer. Kurt that is a real wonderful thought and I am sending them on to you in a letter. Hope you are in mind writing them a note on how you are getting along.

Robert Ross--Gives a special invitation to us to come visit him at his house. Says the Camp last summer was the most fun he ever had.

Maurice Cason--Gave us a nice compliment our Camp newspaper (patting yourself on the back too when you do that Maurice). Says he has moved into a new home and is helping his folks paint the house.

Henry Godinez--Writes of recent trips his photography class has been taking, went to San Fernando Mission. Also went to Palm Springs for a Southern Calif. Youth Assoc. meeting where they discussed teen-age problems.

Amando Apodaco--Wanted to put in our paper a special appeal to our boys to go out for as many sports as possible as he thinks it does much to make a better citizen out of a fellow. Roses to you for thinking of the boys and wanting to pass something worthwhile on to them.

Jim Mooney--Wanted to report on the fine showing Franklin High made in football this year. At the writing of his letter they had won 3 out of 4 games.

REDONDO BEACH

Darryl Davis--Did'nt get in on the contest because he did'nt know you could use a pet as a friend in the contest. Sorry I did'nt explain it better Darryl. Says he has sold all their goats now and is taking piano lessons.

HANDBURG

Richard Campbell--Had a big halloween party at the Johannesburg Baseball field and the public was invited. It was put on by his grade in school. Each month they put on a Bake Sales for money for "ditch day". I wish you would explain this further Rich.

SANTA ANA

Joe Snell--Went Pheasant hunting and came back with no birds but 20 rabbits. I suggest you go rabbit hunting and maybe you'll get your limit of birds. Looking forward to seeing you and your dad at the meeting we will have in Costa Mesa.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Jack Cantley--Tells us of the football games the B's and A's played at their school. They won both of their last games (which we saw). Jack says too bad they did'nt start winning sooner. Thanks on the report of your grades Jack, we know you will do your best.

PIXLEY

Donald Bowles--Has bought himself a new pair of skates with his hard-earned cotton-picking money. As soon as he got the skates the skating rink moved away. Congratulations to you on your new brother-in-law. Hope your sister has all the happiness in the world.

ANZA

Nelson Olds--Our dish-washing set-up is going to be a little different next year Nelson but want to talk to you personally. Look for me in Anza one of these days.

NEWHALL

Eddie Reinhardt--Says his team got beat 42-0 in their last game but it was a good one anyway. Boy you sure like football to enjoy that game Eddie. The next trip up the ridge-route I am coming by to see you.

SATICOY

Keyes Balderas--Is getting along fine in school and likes especially gym and agriculture. Has a 6' 11" coach in gym. Because of his group doing good in agriculture is going to get a three day trip somewhere.

ARKIN

Winston Carter--Popped corn and made fudge candy on a rainy day last week. Winston says "Next day were we sick".

Contest Winners

JUDGES:

Mr. Tom Cronk, Huntington Beach
Mr. James Serey, Bellflower
Mr. Leonard Graves, Balboa Island

FIRST PRIZE: Henry Godinez, Los Angeles

SECOND PRIZE: Harold Snow, Bakersfield

THIRD PRIZE: Eddie Dickie, Long Beach

Jack Cantley, Huntington Beach

Don Manquum, Ventura

Barney Gallimore, Santa Paula

Joseph Hindley, Long Beach

Charles Haworth, Bakersfield

FOURTH PRIZE: Charles Mello, Bakersfield

Robert Rhine, Bakersfield

HONORABLE MENTION

Warner Jue, Ventura

Armando Apodaca, Los Angeles

Jim Mooney, Los Angeles

Harold Fowler, Long Beach

Richard Castro, Bakersfield

Dale Butler, Long Beach

Jimmy Martinez, Rivera

Walter Schoenhofen, Bakersfield

Richard Campbell, Kandsburg

Jeff Colbert, Bakersfield

Nelson Olds, Anza

Cornelio Hernandez, Bakersfield

Randy Shearer, Los Angeles

Winston Carter, Arvin

Reyes Balderas, Saticoy

Jerry Graham, Bakersfield

Donald Harrison, Bakersfield

Vernon Seto, Ventura

Bob White, Long Beach

Keith Swayne, Bakersfield

THE PRIZES ARE ON THE WAY AND I WANT TO SAY I HAVE NEVER FELT SO PLEASED AT THE WONDERFUL LETTERS ALL OF YOU FELLOWS WROTE IN FOR THE CONTEST. THE LETTERS BEGAN TO REALLY POUR IN AFTER A WHILE AND THEY WERE ALL WELL THOUGHT OUT BY YOU. I HOPE NOBODY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT WINNING FIRST PRIZE AS I CAN HONESTLY SAY THERE WAS A REAL JOB ON THE PART OF THE JUDGES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MADE HONORABLE MENTION AND THE PRIZE LETTERS. ON THE NEXT PAGE WE HAVE REPRINTED SOME OF THE PRIZE LETTERS AND ONLY WISH WE HAD ROOM TO PUT THEM ALL IN PRINT.

INSTALLMENT No. 2

Arriving at the dwellings, past a large corral filled with beautiful pinto horses especially bred by the Navajos, we were happily greeted by an Indian woman. We discovered from her that it is customary for the wife and mother of the family to perform the welcoming function, when guests visit the hogan. The wife is the head of the Navajo house.

Upon entering the hogan we were made to feel at ease immediately by the beaming smile on the face of this Navajo woman. She spoke some words in her native tongue to our guide and interpreter, Mrs. Marvin Walters, wife of the Missionary with whom we had made our early arrangements. These were translated into English for us as a cordial welcome to the land of the Navajos.

Following the exchange of greetings between us, she conducted us to our seats of honor located on sheep skins placed upon the ground on the right hand side of the hogan as one enters. There was a ceremony accompanying this seating arrangement. We were conducted completely around the hogan, beginning at the left and circling about the men, women, and children (sixteen in all) seated facing in toward the fire burning in the center of the room. This was our introduction to the family.

Lois and I commented to Mrs. Walters about the intense heat of the fire, particularly on a day so warm as that; and we were informed that the Navajo Indian's hospitality is judged by the warmth of his fire. It is one of the many strange and ancient customs to which were to become initiated during our stay.

We sat on the sheep skin rugs indicated for us, and crossed our legs under us Indian style, and so became part of the family circle.

At first it was evident to us that we should have some difficulty over the barrier of words, neither they nor us knew each other's language. And even more than that, we were quick to note a shy, retiring manner among them, an extremely bashful countenance in the presence of people of another race.

Mrs. Walters, having come on a two-fold mission, first to perform her usual duties as a nurse to the Navajos, and secondly to act as our guide and interpreter, told us not to worry about the reticence of these people. She said that as soon as they were confident of our friendship, their formal manner would relax into the true cordial, friendliness that was so much a part of their nature.

To put them at ease both Lois and I just sat there cross-legged and smiled pleasantly as various illnesses were reported, medicines dispensed, and shots administered. We tried to appear sympathetic with the youngsters bemoaning these injections; and even went so far as to distribute a few small coins to help ease their anguish. This brought back the smiles to their faces, and we felt sure their responses were heartfelt as our own as a gradual lessening of restraint could be felt by adults and children alike.

At this time we looked up to see an elderly Navajo brave and his woman enter the hogan. We sensed immediately by the family reactions that these were elder members of the family and that they were held in the highest esteem and respect by all other members. They were walked around the hogan and seated next to us. Immediately the old man spoke to Mrs. Walters, who informed us that he was suffering from a severe toothache. I quickly replied to her that perhaps he should collect roots of the plant used by the Navajo medicine men to cure this ailment. Such a plant had been pointed out to me in the area outside the hogan.

There was an immediate chuckle from the Indian, as he informed me in English that the white man's medicine might prove more effective. He then told the others. They all laughed; and he came over and shook my hand. We knew then that we had successfully cleared our first barrier; and the Navajos accepted us as their friends. (To be continued)

PRIZE WINNING LETTERS

1ST. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS WINSTON CARTER"

by Henry Godinez
151½ West Elmyra St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

My best friend is Winston Carter, a boy I met in Camp. Even though I knew him only two weeks I have become to like him very much. Even though I don't see him anymore I still like him very much. The memories of the fun we had together makes me very happy when I am alone. I have learned that it doesn't take long to make a friend.

I like him because of what he is, not because of his looks and how he acts or how he dresses. I like him because he is very helpful and always trying to do his best to make friends. Being with him for two weeks was a lot of fun. I never had a friend that was real friendly. A friend does things with you, when you go hiking he puts his arm around you and sings with you. He also goes swimming and fishing with you and helps you when you are in need of help. But the important thing is that he makes you feel wanted around.

These things I found with the few weeks I was with Winston Carter. I can always call him a real friend.

2ND. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY BUDDY"

by Harold Snow
2400 Calloway Rd.
Bakersfield, Calif.

My best friend is not like most peoples best friend. He is different than my other friends. When a boy goes out of his way to help me, when I need help, I call him my best friend. The unusual part of it is that he is a colored boy. He is not only my best friend but every other boys as well.

Last year he got a good sportsmanship pin in basketball, baseball and football. He was also elected safety chief at our school this year. Last year he was ass't chief. I thought myself lucky to be on his squad this year.

He helps me when I get into trouble at school or when I find a problem in math is difficult. He invites me to play basketball with him when he plays. In shop he helps me on my project when I need someone to help paint or glue or sand it down.

I am very thankful to have a friend I can call on when I need him most.

3RD. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY STEP-DAD"

by Jack Cantley
16071 H. B. Blvd.
Huntington Beach, Cal.

My best friend is my step-dad. His name is Jack Lawrence. He has been my dad since I was three years old. To me he is my real dad. He always treated me as his own, and

when he introduces me to anyone he says "This is my son Jack".

He has taught me to fish and to hunt. When he goes deer hunting he takes me with him. We went to King City year before last. He taught me to shoot the 30-0-6. What a thrill that was. He takes me out deep sea fishing. He always sees to it that I have a good time.

He took me to my first dance. It was a year ago at the Fireman's Ball in Huntington Beach. I was a little slow in getting out on the dance floor but he encouraged me to do so, and now it is a lot of fun. I enjoy showing him off. I don't think a real father loves a son anymore than my step-dad loves me. I miss him very much now, as he is in Alaska. He works with the Civil Service but he always takes time to write me and is always interested in what I am doing.

I am thankful I have him for a father and friend.

3RD PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY MOTHER"

by Donald Mangum
301 West Flint
Ventura, Calif.

My best friend is my mother. She takes care of me in every way. She provides me with food, clothing and shelter.

She gives me love and affection and if I need it she punishes me to. But no matter what I do, my mother always tells me how much she loves me so I always try to be good.

I have a paper route and my mother will help me with it. When I go on a trip with the Police Boys she takes care of it for me. She encourages me in my clubs and school work and in every thing I do. She works in a hospital at nights.

She takes my friends and I on trips and picnics and swimming and they can come over to my house anytime.

I have a lot of friends, Mr. Pyles, Bob, Bennie, Sgt. Rude, Lt. Strickland, my grandpa and others but my mother is my best friend.

SORRY NO MORE ROOM FOR ANYMORE.

We had a little motto in the first newsletter that said "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer someone else up". Lets add to it and say "The best way to have a real friend is to be one". I hope you will look around you and see your friends, give them a chance to be one to you and then love them, help them and cherish them for they are more precious than all the gold in the world. We cannot compliment you boys enough on the fine job you did. Thanks.

noel

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. PYLES:

Christmas time is near and I am thinking of all of you. I wish it were possible to have all 950 of "our boys", who have been in Camp over the past five years, together this holiday. Those boys are scattered all over the world now, as we get letters from them from everywhere. It not being possible for us to get together in person this Christmas, then we must do the next best thing and be together in a common spirit of Christmas. I have asked Bob to reprint the following little story which is my favorite. I hope you will read it in a solemn and thoughtful mood. To you, your family and loved ones I wish a very Merry Christmas.

Very affectionately,

R. M. Pyles

"THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS" by Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking yourself how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?
But you can never keep it alone.

'Bye now--

Your friend,

Bob

BANKERS' CLUB

Robert Shine—is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Jello—Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Mexixed Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Smyne—Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase — His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. 'Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

Donald Gragg—Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

Joseph Hindley—Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

David Lingo—wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham—Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez—Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen—Grade 2nd, string foot-
ball this year in his school. Says this paper
is really the best of its kind in the world and
he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

BOENA PARK
Roger Lee—Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SOME AND DROP US A LINE.

Dennis Murphy—Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

FROM THE BOYS can't

SANTA PAULA

Barney Gallimore--Is now in the rabbit business in a big way. Has 3 does and 10 baby rabbits. Entered a drawing contest for water conservation posters and won second prize ribbon and five dollars. Bought a jacket with the prize money. Also won a dollar for beans, lemons and oranges in the Ventura County fair. Boy you sure are a winner, even winning third place in our contest. Congratulations.

VENTURA

Richard Salsedo--Wanted to say hello this month and to get his name in the newsletter.

VISALIA

Donald Gragg--Says one of his 3 rather well-traveled brothers is now home. He has another in South Carolina and one in Germany. Don wants to do as his brothers have done and join the armed forces one of these days.

LONG BEACH

Joseph Hindley--Tells of his fathers misfortune to have a broken leg and arm. We are very sorry to hear of this Joe and hope he has a quick set on the bones. Glad you got to see Mrs. Klayborne in town.

Harold Fowler--Is now in a Christmas play called "Scrooge". He takes the part of a ghost in the play. Don't take the part too seriously and fade away on us Hal.

Roy Bruyneel--Now at Oak Grove Boys Camp and tells of its fine location in the Angelus National Forest. Says it abounds with nature and all things boys love. Also says he is learning some very valuable things. Good for you Roy.

Bob White--His brother and sister now have some kind of poison ivy and are in bed from it. Bob sent pictures of some of his drawings of the human ear which he got "A" on and they were sure good. If you want them back, along with the drawing of Woody Woodpecker kindly let me know as I would like to keep them.

BUENA PARK

Roger Lee--Says he gets up at 3:30 A.M. on week-days to deliver papers. Has a new bicycle and is paying for it out of his earnings on the paper. Sure proud of you Roger.

George Williams--Sent a nice letter to Mr. Pyles thanking him for the camping this summer.

Dennis Murphy--Both Denny and his mother wrote us the very nicest letters. Denny now has a dog named "Sally", a cat named "Pixie", 2 pigs "Jaguar & Mercedes", 7 ducks, 8 chicken, a pet rat and a 10" turtle. What is the name of your backyard "Denny's Pet Shop"?

BAKERSFIELD

Robert Rhine--Is playing on his high-school football team this year. Plays right guard. Now has two bloodhounds who have pups and 2 of them are for sale. Put your add in this paper next month Bob and perhaps you will have some takers from some of the boys that read this paper.

Charles Mello--Says he and his brother are going to play in a talent show at Rexland Community Center. Says they got some real gone songs. How gone Chuck? Good luck to the two of you.

Keith Swayne--Says his rabbits are real fine and next year is going to enter them in the Kern Co. Fair. Keith the same people who were in charge of the camp last year are going to be this year. That is Mr. Pyles and 20 members of the Board of Directors.

Robert Braase--His grandmother wrote and said Robert is now in Saudi Arabia. Hope she will send us his address there as he is the first of our boys to move to some other country and I know he would have much to tell us of interest from there.

David Lingo--Wanted to enter the contest but didn't send in his letter in time. Dave next time get it off right away and you won't be caught by the time.

Jerry Graham--Saw Joe Miller (formerly of Buena Park) in a cotton field picking cotton. They made friends and he says "You should have seen the cotton fly". Says he and his sister are helping out the family as his folks are sick. You know Jerry how very wonderful that is and I know you will grow up to know the value of money and learning to make your way in the world.

Cornelio Hernandez--Marched in the Armistice Day parade and got real tired he says. Is now a Buck Private but is due for his P.F.C. real soon. Hope you make it Corny.

Walter Schoenhofen--Made 2nd. string football this year in his school. Says this paper is really the best of its kind in the world and he doesn't have any trouble understanding it.

OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THOSE FELLOWS WHO ARE MAKING THIS PAPER A SUCCESS BY CONTINUING TO WRITE US SOME NEWS. THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T WRITE THIS MONTH OR SEND IN A ENTRY IN THE CONTEST DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN NEWS COMES UP BE SURE AND DROP US A LINE.

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Jack Kelley

Got roughed up a little in a recent game of football. They are't supposed to tackle with their knees are they Jack? Congratulations on your good grades of this past month, and know they will continue. The picture you sent of yourself was really very good, we had forgotten you were so good looking.

Joe Waldrep

Joe bought himself a new car and it only cost \$100.00, a real good buy says Joe. The same month Joe got a \$20.00 a month raise in his present job. So very glad your mother is feeling better Joe.

Vernon Seto

Worked on his contest letter for a week and had trouble finishing it due to the fact that he was working on the Church every night. Thanks for doing this Seto and know that you will be proud of your hand in building the Church when it is finished.

FROM THE BOYS

LOS ANGELES

Larry Holloway--Playing left guard on his football team at Nightengale School. Tells of the fun we had at their halloween party at his school recently.

Kurt Murphy--Wanted the names of two men who helped send him to camp this past summer. Kurt that is a real wonderful thought and I am sending them on to you in a letter. Hope you are in mind writing them a note on how you are getting along.

Robert Ross--Gives a special invitation to us to come visit him at his house. Says the Camp last summer was the most fun he ever had.

Maurice Cason--Gave us a nice compliment our Camp newspaper (patting yourself on the back too when you do that Maurice). Says he has moved into a new home and is helping his folks paint the house.

Henry Godinez--Writes of recent trips his photography class has been taking, went to San Fernando Mission. Also went to Palm Springs for a Southern Calif. Youth Assoc. meeting where they discussed teen-age problems.

Amando Apodaco--Wanted to put in our paper a special appeal to our boys to go out for as many sports as possible as he thinks it does much to make a better citizen out of a fellow. Roses to you for thinking of the boys and wanting to pass something worthwhile on to them.

Jim Rooney--Wanted to report on the fine showing Franklin High made in football this year. At the writing of his letter they had won 3 out of 4 games.

REDONDO BEACH

Darryl Davis--Did'nt get in on the contest because he did'nt know you could use a pet as a friend in the contest. Sorry I did'nt explain it better Darryl. Says he has sold all their goats now and is taking piano lessons.

HANDBURG

Richard Campbell--Had a big halloween party at the Johannesburg Baseball field and the public was invited. It was put on by his grade in school. Each month they put on a Bake Sales for money for "ditch day". I wish you would explain this further Rich.

SANTA ANA

Joe Snell--Went Pheasant hunting and came back with no birds but 20 rabbits. I suggest you go rabbit hunting and maybe you'll get your limit of birds. Looking forward to seeing you and your dad at the meeting we will have in Costa Mesa.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Jack Cantley--Tells us of the football games the B's and A's played at their school. They won both of their last games (which we saw). Jack says too bad they did'nt start winning sooner. Thanks on the report of your grades Jack, we know you will do your best.

PIXLEY

Donald Bowles--Has bought himself a new pair of skates with his hard-earned cotton-picking money. As soon as he got the skates the skating rink moved away. Congratulations to you on your new brother-in-law. Hope your sister has all the happiness in the world.

ANZA

Nelson Olds--Our dish-washing set-up is going to be a little different next year Nelson but want to talk to you personally. Look for me in Anza one of these days.

NEWHALL

Eddie Reinhardt--Says his team got beat 42-0 in their last game but it was a good one anyway. Boy you sure like football to enjoy that game Eddie. The next trip up the ridge-route I am coming by to see you.

SATICOY

Keyes Balderas--Is getting along fine in school and likes especially gym and agriculture. Has a 6' 11" coach in gym. Because of his group doing good in agriculture is going to get a three day trip somewhere.

ARKIN

Winston Carter--Popped corn and made fudge candy on a rainy day last week. Winston says "Next day were we sick".

Contest Winners

JUDGES:

Mr. Tom Cronk, Huntington Beach
Mr. James Serey, Bellflower
Mr. Leonard Graves, Balboa Island

FIRST PRIZE: Henry Godinez, Los Angeles

SECOND PRIZE: Harold Snow, Bakersfield

THIRD PRIZE: Eddie Dickie, Long Beach

Jack Cantley, Huntington Beach

Don Manquum, Ventura

Barney Gallimore, Santa Paula

Joseph Hindley, Long Beach

Charles Haworth, Bakersfield

FOURTH PRIZE: Charles Mello, Bakersfield

Robert Rhine, Bakersfield

HONORABLE MENTION

Warner Jue, Ventura

Armando Apodaca, Los Angeles

Jim Mooney, Los Angeles

Harold Fowler, Long Beach

Richard Castro, Bakersfield

Dale Butler, Long Beach

Jimmy Martinez, Rivera

Walter Schoenhofen, Bakersfield

Richard Campbell, Kandsburg

Jeff Colbert, Bakersfield

Nelson Olds, Anza

Cornelio Hernandez, Bakersfield

Randy Shearer, Los Angeles

Winston Carter, Arvin

Reyes Balderas, Saticoy

Jerry Graham, Bakersfield

Donald Harrison, Bakersfield

Vernon Seto, Ventura

Bob White, Long Beach

Keith Swayne, Bakersfield

THE PRIZES ARE ON THE WAY AND I WANT TO SAY I HAVE NEVER FELT SO PLEASED AT THE WONDERFUL LETTERS ALL OF YOU FELLOWS WROTE IN FOR THE CONTEST. THE LETTERS BEGAN TO REALLY POUR IN AFTER A WHILE AND THEY WERE ALL WELL THOUGHT OUT BY YOU. I HOPE NOBODY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT WINNING FIRST PRIZE AS I CAN HONESTLY SAY THERE WAS A REAL JOB ON THE PART OF THE JUDGES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MADE HONORABLE MENTION AND THE PRIZE LETTERS. ON THE NEXT PAGE WE HAVE REPRINTED SOME OF THE PRIZE LETTERS AND ONLY WISH WE HAD ROOM TO PUT THEM ALL IN PRINT.

INSTALLMENT No. 2

Arriving at the dwellings, past a large corral filled with beautiful pinto horses especially bred by the Navajos, we were happily greeted by an Indian woman. We discovered from her that it is customary for the wife and mother of the family to perform the welcoming function, when guests visit the hogan. The wife is the head of the Navajo house.

Upon entering the hogan we were made to feel at ease immediately by the beaming smile on the face of this Navajo woman. She spoke some words in her native tongue to our guide and interpreter, Mrs. Marvin Walters, wife of the Missionary with whom we had made our early arrangements. These were translated into English for us as a cordial welcome to the land of the Navajos.

Following the exchange of greetings between us, she conducted us to our seats of honor located on sheep skins placed upon the ground on the right hand side of the hogan as one enters. There was a ceremony accompanying this seating arrangement. We were conducted completely around the hogan, beginning at the left and circling about the men, women, and children (sixteen in all) seated facing in toward the fire burning in the center of the room. This was our introduction to the family.

Lois and I commented to Mrs. Walters about the intense heat of the fire, particularly on a day so warm as that; and we were informed that the Navajo Indian's hospitality is judged by the warmth of his fire. It is one of the many strange and ancient customs to which were to become initiated during our stay.

We sat on the sheep skin rugs indicated for us, and crossed our legs under us Indian style, and so became part of the family circle.

At first it was evident to us that we should have some difficulty over the barrier of words, neither they nor us knew each other's language. And even more than that, we were quick to note a shy, retiring manner among them, an extremely bashful countenance in the presence of people of another race.

Mrs. Walters, having come on a two-fold mission, first to perform her usual duties as a nurse to the Navajos, and secondly to act as our guide and interpreter, told us not to worry about the reticence of these people. She said that as soon as they were confident of our friendship, their formal manner would relax into the true cordial, friendliness that was so much a part of their nature.

To put them at ease both Lois and I just sat there cross-legged and smiled pleasantly as various illnesses were reported, medicines dispensed, and shots administered. We tried to appear sympathetic with the youngsters bemoaning these injections; and even went so far as to distribute a few small coins to help ease their anguish. This brought back the smiles to their faces, and we felt sure their responses were heartfelt as our own as a gradual lessening of restraint could be felt by adults and children alike.

At this time we looked up to see an elderly Navajo brave and his woman enter the hogan. We sensed immediately by the family reactions that these were elder members of the family and that they were held in the highest esteem and respect by all other members. They were walked around the hogan and seated next to us. Immediately the old man spoke to Mrs. Walters, who informed us that he was suffering from a severe toothache. I quickly replied to her that perhaps he should collect roots of the plant used by the Navajo medicine men to cure this ailment. Such a plant had been pointed out to me in the area outside the hogan.

There was an immediate chuckle from the Indian, as he informed me in English that the white man's medicine might prove more effective. He then told the others. They all laughed; and he came over and shook my hand. We knew then that we had successfully cleared our first barrier; and the Navajos accepted us as their friends. (To be continued)

PRIZE WINNING LETTERS

1ST. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS WINSTON CARTER"

by Henry Godinez
151½ West Elmyra St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

My best friend is Winston Carter, a boy I met in Camp. Even though I knew him only two weeks I have become to like him very much. Even though I don't see him anymore I still like him very much. The memories of the fun we had together makes me very happy when I am alone. I have learned that it doesn't take long to make a friend.

I like him because of what he is, not because of his looks and how he acts or how he dresses. I like him because he is very helpful and always trying to do his best to make friends. Being with him for two weeks was a lot of fun. I never had a friend that was real friendly. A friend does things with you, when you go hiking he puts his arm around you and sings with you. He also goes swimming and fishing with you and helps you when you are in need of help. But the important thing is that he makes you feel wanted around.

These things I found with the few weeks I was with Winston Carter. I can always call him a real friend.

2ND. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY BUDDY"

by Harold Snow
2400 Calloway Rd.
Bakersfield, Calif.

My best friend is not like most peoples best friend. He is different than my other friends. When a boy goes out of his way to help me, when I need help, I call him my best friend. The unusual part of it is that he is a colored boy. He is not only my best friend but every other boys as well.

Last year he got a good sportsmanship pin in basketball, baseball and football. He was also elected safety chief at our school this year. Last year he was ass't chief. I thought myself lucky to be on his squad this year.

He helps me when I get into trouble at school or when I find a problem in math is difficult. He invites me to play basketball with him when he plays. In shop he helps me on my project when I need someone to help paint or glue or sand it down.

I am very thankful to have a friend I can call on when I need him most.

3RD. PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY STEP-DAD"

by Jack Cantley
16071 H. B. Blvd.
Huntington Beach, Cal.

My best friend is my step-dad. His name is Jack Lawrence. He has been my dad since I was three years old. To me he is my real dad. He always treated me as his own, and

when he introduces me to anyone he says "This is my son Jack".

He has taught me to fish and to hunt. When he goes deer hunting he takes me with him. We went to King City year before last. He taught me to shoot the 30-0-6. What a thrill that was. He takes me out deep sea fishing. He always sees to it that I have a good time.

He took me to my first dance. It was a year ago at the Fireman's Ball in Huntington Beach. I was a little slow in getting out on the dance floor but he encouraged me to do so, and now it is a lot of fun. I enjoy showing him off. I don't think a real father loves a son anymore than my step-dad loves me. I miss him very much now, as he is in Alaska. He works with the Civil Service but he always takes time to write me and is always interested in what I am doing.

I am thankful I have him for a father and friend.

3RD PRIZE

"MY BEST FRIEND IS MY MOTHER"

by Donald Mangum
301 West Flint
Ventura, Calif.

My best friend is my mother. She takes care of me in every way. She provides me with food, clothing and shelter.

She gives me love and affection and if I need it she punishes me to. But no matter what I do, my mother always tells me how much she loves me so I always try to be good.

I have a paper route and my mother will help me with it. When I go on a trip with the Police Boys she takes care of it for me. She encourages me in my clubs and school work and in every thing I do. She works in a hospital at nights.

She takes my friends and I on trips and picnics and swimming and they can come over to my house anytime.

I have a lot of friends, Mr. Pyles, Bob, Bennie, Sgt. Rude, Lt. Strickland, my grandpa and others but my mother is my best friend.

SORRY NO MORE ROOM FOR ANYMORE.

We had a little motto in the first newsletter that said "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer someone else up". Lets add to it and say "The best way to have a real friend is to be one". I hope you will look around you and see your friends, give them a chance to be one to you and then love them, help them and cherish them for they are more precious than all the gold in the world. We cannot compliment you boys enough on the fine job you did. Thanks.

ABOUT THE COVER

Our unusual and we think extra good "New Year's" cover was done by none other than our own Bob De Frietas. Bob was a camper in 1952 and was a Jr. Counselor in camp last summer for 8 of the 10 weeks. I know all of Bob's many friends and all our campers who didn't get to know him will join with us in thanking him for the fine job he did this month. I know that his feeling for the camp is revealed in the smile he placed on the face of the 1954 camper as he goes through the gate to the Camp of his dreams.

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Jack Kelley--

Tells us he is enjoying metal shop this year and doing well in it. Jack proves it by sending as a Christmas present a very excellent metal ash tray. Thanks Jack and if you have any book ends for sale Lois and I would like to buy them.

Vernon Seto--

Asked us for Willie Hill's address: Here it is--911 P. St., Bakersfield, Calif. Sorry that it didn't get to you in time for you to send him a Christmas card.

Sandy Macdonald--

Is now a Submarine Sailor on the USS Pomfret (USS 391). He says it is great and he loves every minute of it but wants us to be sure and send his copy of the Newsletter on board. So be it Sandy.

Willis Hill, Jr.--

Writes us all is well with him and that he puts in his application to work in camp next summer. You bet Willie.

Joe Waldrep--

Tells us of his good job and of his new car and talks of plans for next summer. We hope to see you soon Joe. Thanks to your mother for her nice card.

Bob Bodley--

Was recently in a Tulare Rodeo. Rode his bronc all the way and was thrown by his steer 2 seconds before the whistle. Ride em cowboy.

Frank Sekeris--

Home on leave from the Army but didn't get to visit with everyone he wanted to see. Maybe next time Frank we will get together.

FROM THE BOYS

LONG BEACH

Eddie Dickie--Wrote to tell us that last month he didn't receive his copy of the newsletter. I sent it right away Ed and apologize for the slip up. I understand some of the boys are keeping all copies in a folder so they will have a complete set of them at the end of the year.

Roy Bruyneel--Mrs. Bruyneel wrote of the great fun and pleasure the entire family got out of reading the Newsletter. Makes us real happy.

Harold Fowler--Received a new train for Christmas and helped old Santa Claus 20 hrs to earn it. We saw the nice plywood countryside Hal set around the train. This proves you have real engineer possibilities Hal.

Joe & Jr. Herrera--Send their entire families regards and wished all of us with the Camp a real fine New Year. The same to you boys and your fine mother and grandmother and sister.

ALAMEDA

Terry Drummond--Is now moving to Hawaii. He will send us his new address and some news when he arrives. Wants to know how his favorite horse "Roany" is doing. Fat as a pig Terry.

LOS ANGELES

Arthur Yoshida--Has moved to a new address in L.A. and sends it on to us. Says he reads all the news of the campers every month. Good luck in your new home "Chief Firewater".

Francisco Erives--Frank says he hopes that vacation time will hurry as he wants to hurry back to camp if possible. Sends along a real nice picture of himself which will go on the bulletin board Frank.

Joe Gutierrez--Says his brother Richard is in the hospital. Sorry as we know how much Rich hates to be in bed. Please send us your new address when you move little Joe.

Henry Godinez--Invited us to his photo salon display, sorry we couldn't make it Henry. No the Indians don't speak Spanish as we tried a little on then and "Nothing" happened.

INGLEWOOD

Buddy Seeders--His mother wrote and gave us his new address in Woodland's Hills. She said Buddy himself would write next month.

OXNARD

Larry Holderby--Wrote a nice long letter of his football experiences this year. Larry made 1st. string J.B. and his team came in second. No Al didn't have much luck with his team this year Larry but wait until next as his material is going to be much better.

SATICOY

Bernard Cobos--Was sorry that he didn't enter the contest but was very glad for those who won. He now works for his uncle taking care of his flowers.

JOHANNESBURG

Gordon Muma--Explained the Randsburg Halloween party set up that I asked about last month. Thanks for the nice things you said about the paper.

VENTURA

Don Mangum--Was very proud of his 3rd. prize he won last month in our contest. Has a new bike for his paper route.

FROM THE BOYS con't

SANTA PAULA

Barney Gallimore--Says he has been sick and not up to writing much lately. However he and his family are really proud of his winning the fishing kit as a prize and have nearly worn it out showing it to others. He says he will share it with his younger brother. We are very proud of you Barney and just keep up the good work.

BAKERSFIELD

Walter Mince--Asked of Lois and Betty did they have anyone to help them with the washing when he left camp this summer. They said yes, but they missed old Mince.

Jeff Colburt--Jeff tells of reading the letters that some of the boys wrote on the "Friend" contest and thinking that he had the wrong slant on it. Jeffk you did fine and know that next time you will win the prize.

Robert Raymond--Wrote us a nice long letter to wish us a Merry Christmas and telling us of the many things he felt about the Pyles Camp. Robert we are really glad to know that you are still cooperating with other people and doing your best to get along with your fellow man. This was truly a wonderful letter.

COSTA MESA

Joey Becker--Joey is moving. To where and when we are 'nt sure Joey, from you letter to us so be sure and give us a long one with the new address on it.

Douglas Murphy--Doug writes telling us he is still waiting for something of news nature to show up so he can write about it. Keep looking Doug and thanks for sending this letter to us.

Larry Smith--Tells how he and his brother Don talk about the camp all the time. Their favorite memory is overnight camping so he says.

Richard La Combe--Says he is sorry that he could'nt make it to the get together we had in Costa Mesa but his girl was having a party and he had to go. We understand Rich and the other boys tipped me off that you might not make it. Thanks for the letter.

Howard Smith--Asked for some more pictures of himself with Mr. Magruder and Mr. Green. They are being developed now Howard and you should get them soon. On the "Needles" pin, read the article in this issue of the Newsletter.

Gay Warren--Tells of being on the "All-Stars" football team this year in his town. Gay gives us the names of his favorite teachers in his school. Hope they like you as well Gay, and know they do.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BOYS FOR
THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTMAS CARDS THEY SENT
US- - -

Larry Holderby
Eddie Dickie
Joe & Jr. Herrera
Walter Mince
Kenny Nelson

Monty Nelson
Nelson Family
Jeffrey Colbert
Lanny Holloway
Bob White
Richard Gingras
Joe Mendez
Clem Martinez
Dennis Ferrington
Jack Kelley
Richard La Combe
Harry Henslick
Donald Harrison
John Clark
Denny Murphy
Murphy Family
Steve Barela
Bill Marumoto
Leo Vigil
Richard Moreno
Robert Ross
Vernon Seto
Bob Bodley
Edward Carlos
David Chaparro
Richard White
Eddie Gonzales
Art Yoshida
Sid Thompson
Roy Bruyneel
Raymond Powell
Sand Macdonald
Harold Fowler
Joey Becker
John Davidson
Stephen Denning
Warner Jue
Winston Carter
Billy Donahue
Donahue Family
Carlton Farmer
Don Gragg
Richard Castro
Victor Chaparro
Eddie Caballero
LeRoy Hornbeck
George Williams
Mrs. Williams
Ronald Jesolva
Jack Cantley
Manuel Villa, Jr.
Pale Unzinker
Charles Haworth
Joe Waldrep
Mrs. Waldrep
Joe Snell
Richard Chaparro
Billy Akers
Richard Wolfe
Walter Schoenhofen
Frank Sekeris
Roy Lee Clark
Roy Browne
Sam Amesquita
Willie Hill, Jr.
Eugene Bolton
Donnie Salsedo
Link Perle
Reyes Balderas
Robert Raymond
Harl Buckridge
Armano Apodaco
Donald Harrison

46

CHRISTMAS CARD SENDERS—con't

Kenny Gaynes
Douglas Murphy
Dan Cantreras & Family
Vining Barker & Family
Renaldo Vela
Keith Swayne
Barney Gallimore —and 4 unsigned cards.

Mr. & Mrs. Pyles have not sorted their cards at the printing of this Newsletter but wanted to personally thank those kind enough to send the many fine cards to them.

COSTA MESA PYLES CAMPERS GET TOGETHER

Boys who attended Pyles Camp during 1952 or 1953 met to discuss old times and see movies at the Costa Mesa Boys Club on the evening of December 3rd.

The meeting was planned and postponed twice before we finally reached a proper date when most of the boys could attend. The end result was very fine as 12 campers and 4 adults enjoyed pictures, refreshments and a real gab session on this occasion. We were all guests of the Costa Mesa Boys Club and their director Al Spencer, who served ice cream. One of the boys mother Mrs. Donahue cooked 10 dozen cookies for the meeting and as a final treat Mr. Spencer opened the Coke machine and we all had cold drinks.

Those attending were: Don Smith, Ruben Perez, Joe Snell, Howard Smith, Larry Smith, Dennis Ferrington, Richard Lamb, Rueben Smith, Mike Hayes, Douglas Murphy and Charles Balesie. Joe Snell's Father, Mr. Spencer, Rod McMillan and myself were the adults present.

It was agreed that this was really a pepper-upper and the boys wanted to do something similar during the Spring. All went home full and happy.

WHAT ABOUT A NEEDLES PIN???

Last summer, towards the end of camp, several groups of campers made the strenuous and adventuresome climb to the top of Needles (tall mt. just South of Lloyd Meadow Camp). It was discussed among the fellows at that time that a small lapel pin should be designed for them to wear to show that they had made the big climb. I think that there were some 50 boys reached the top, or just beneath the look-out tower and I am sure if we had scheduled more climbs earlier more of the boys would have made it.

I do not have sufficient evidence that all the boys want this pin, so cannot take this proposal to Mr. Pyles until I hear from you boys. If you who made this climb will write me your thoughts on this subject, and those of you who did'nt and might go back this summer and make the climb, I will present it to Mr. Pyles and his Board for their approval or disapproval. So this coming month be sure and write what you think and enclose a design for the pin if you have any talent for drawing. Thanks.

ABOUT COOKS IN CAMP

Mr. Pyles is looking for some more adults for Camp cooks. This does not mean that Bob Nyhuese or Red will not be with us this summer at all for they are as much a part of the Camp as the Pine Trees. However it does mean that we are interested in finding some man, man and wife, or woman who might cook in some of our other back country camps.

Perhaps you, who knows the camp so well, might know of such a person or persons who can cook, who loves boys, who have good habits and who might want a job for three months this coming summer in the mountains. If you know this person or persons have them write us at this address and we will follow-up on the contact. Gracious.

FISHING POLES ALL SET FOR SUMMER

The Boys Camp purchased over a month ago some 30 Calcutta Bambo poles to be made up into fishing poles for both back-country and Lloyd Meadow trout fishing. About this time Mr. Pyles held a fare-well party for seven faithful employees who were retiring at the age of 65 and more. He asked these men, who knew all about the Camp and several had helped him build it, if they would like to make up these poles into real fishing gear for the boys this coming summer. Three of these men, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Di Maggio and Mr. Minkler volunteered to do this job. They were helped by Mr. Culley, another employee of Southwest Exploration, and the result is excellent. They have made long poles with serviceable guides and tips and reels for your use in the deep, hard to get to holes in the Big Kern and they have made shorter poles with similar attachments for the Lloyd Meadow Freeman Creek fishing. We all join together in expressing our thanks to these very fine men for giving their time that boys might enjoy themselves more on a mountain stream this coming summer and other summers to come.

ABOUT THE NAVAJO STORY ON THE NEXT PAGE

I wish to personally thank Tom Cronk, Mr. Pyles private secretary, for the excellent reproduction of the Navajo Story as I told it to him over these past couple of months. He and I were undecided whether we should print the rest of the story in this one issue or not. After reading his copy I said "Lets go, for I think the boys will be interested to read it right through, even though it is over 3 pages long." I hope I was correct and you will read the rest of this interesting adventure in our lives.

46

FINAL INSTALLMENT

From the moment we established the sincerity of our friendship for these people we were able to make known to them our interest in their problems and our desire to help them if it were possible for us to do so,

They responded warmly to our many questions regarding their origin, religion, occupations, education, social structure, tribal customs, and way of life. Not only did they tell us about these things, but they showed us examples and introduced us to many other Navajos who did the same.

Our preliminary research carried on prior to making the trip had revealed that anthropologists had not definitely established the origin of the Navajos; however, here at the reservation, we learned through stories from the Indians themselves that, according to the folklore handed down to them by word of mouth from generation to generation, they are descended from a Mongolian tribe of Eastern Asia. The story goes that the ancestors of these Indians had set out in small open boats many hundreds of years ago to cross from Asia to the islands now known as Japan. Heavy winds blew them far off course, and after many days afloat in the vast Pacific Ocean they landed on the western shores of the North American continent.

Being by nature a pastoral and nomadic peoples, they wandered about this new land and finally ended up in the Great Plains region of what is now the United States. Here they raised sheep, a sturdy variety called Navajo Sheep, which are able to survive on very little grass and water. They used the wool of these animals to weave clothing, blankets, and rugs. The last two of these items have gained world-wide recognition as the famous Navajo blankets and rugs, and are made today exactly according to the same processes as they were in the long years past.

Another skill developed early by the Navajos was that of working silver and mounting the turquoise, sacred stone of the tribe, in bracelets, necklaces, and other pieces of jewelry. This, too, has been handed down to the present day Navajos; and has proved to be one of their main sources of income. Lois and I were told that the Navajos consider turquoise to be a sign of good luck if looked upon first thing each morning. Of course, we purchased a key chain containing a piece of turquoise; but whether or not the superstition is true I am going to keep a secret.

In visiting with these fine people, we found out that the Navajos are not a communal people; that is, they do not live in communities such as we know them. They prefer to have their own separate dwellings located on large acreages of land; where they can graze their flocks, raise their horses, and cultivate their small patches of corn. This does not mean that they do not like each other, it only indicates that they enjoy the opportunity to be close to nature and to appreciate the land which furnishes them with sustenance; for these vast arid, acres are all that the white man has left them.

The family unit as such is bound closely together through the matriarchal system, the wife and mother being the head of the family. Yet the Navajos have a strong feeling of patriotism for their Indian nation; and it is not at all unusual for families to travel many, long miles to visit one another.

Remembering the fun I had in my own boyhood fun playing cowboys and Indians; I was prompted to ask about the early struggles between the Navajos and the white man. These people related the stories to me of the Navajo fighting with Kit Carson, and their desperate efforts to retain the lands they considered rightfully theirs as the Navajo nation, and their eventual defeat and the treaty signed by the last of their great warrior chiefs, whose name was Hoskanini. (note: I have spelled the name of this man as it sounds since I do not know the correct spelling.) History books will tell you the details of these incidents.

FINAL INSTALLMENT (continued)

We were informed that the Navajos carried on many battles in self defense between themselves and other Indians, and themselves and the early white settlers. As warriors they were as fierce and feared as the Apaches; but they were not a cruel people in war. They did not believe in the use of torture and other forms of inhuman treatment of prisoners and victims. They never exterminated any of their enemies; even though they put many to death, they always left a few in the belief that it was sinful to take away all of any one thing.

In their struggle for self-preservation they were forced often to make raids on the Mexican border, where they would take cattle and sheep to keep from starving. They later did this same thing to the pioneers, and as a result caused fighting. To us this sort of thing appeared to be stealing, but to them it was believed to be right to take the things they needed to keep alive from those who had more than they needed.

After traveling around the reservation for some time across open country dotted with squaw wood and greasewood shrubbery, mesquite, yucca plants, and a sprinkling of juniper trees; and visiting with many of the Navajo families, we suddenly became aware of the fact that there were no old maids in any of these families. The reason for this, we discovered, is that the Navajo practices polygamy; that is, he marries more than one wife at a time, a custom long ago outlawed by the government of the United States. He keeps separate hogans for each of his wives and their families.

The houses, or hogans, are usually built of juniper; and there is a separate hogan for living in summer and in winter. The winter hogan is about ten feet in diameter at the base and tapers to a rounded top. Juniper boughs are used for framework and these are chinked with juniper bark, mud and water. In the very center of the top is a hole left open for lighting and ventilation. The ground is used as a floor and this is covered with the woolen Navajo rugs and blankets, upon which are placed the hides of sheep used for sleeping.

The summer hogan is similar in structure to the winter hogan, except juniper branches replace the boughs, and it is not chinked nor is there any hole in the top. The whole building is somewhat loosely constructed in order to afford ventilation.

The only artificial lighting in any hogan comes from the fire which burns in the center of the floor.

Bathing in bathtubs or by shower as we know it is not practiced by the Navajos. Rather they have a process more nearly like the steam baths of the Orient. These are taken in what they call the "sweat hogan". It is built similar to the winter hogan without an opening in the top, and with a somewhat smaller base, being only four or five feet in diameter. Each of these hogans is individually owned. A large fire is built just outside the hogan and fed to an intense heat. An earthen container of water is placed in the hogan and large heated stones, heated over the outdoor fire, are carried in by sticks and placed in the water, thus creating steam. A heavy blanket is placed over the doorway, and the Indian undresses and lies down upon a bed of juniper bark, where he is cleansed through a process of perspiration induced by the steam and heat. He stays in this "steam bath" for as long as two hours, and upon completion of the steam treatment, he hurries outside and immediately jumps into a container of cold water, or rolls in the fine reddish hued sand which he then rubs off leaving his body cleansed of impurities and his skin smooth and shining. By Indian standards the Navajos are considered to be a clean people.

FINAL INSTALLMENT (continued)

During our several days' association with these people we were impressed with their personal cleanliness, even though there was an odor of sheep about them continuously. This is to be expected because they are so close to their sheep and because the clothing they wear is made of unprocessed wool, and the skins of sheep are used for bed coverings, bed pads and floor rugs.

We observed that the doorways in all of the hogans faced to the East, and upon inquiring were told that the old Navajo religion is based on polytheism, which means the worship of many gods. One such god is the coyote, and another is the sun. It is worship of the sun god that causes them to build the doorway toward the east; for it is a sin for the sun to rise before dawn and sweeps and cleans her hogan, so that it is spotless by the time the rays of the sun reach into the doorway.

The water supply is limited in this semi-desert land, and the Navajos have suffered many hardships due to severe drouth in the past years. Water is piped into this area from a distance of seven miles and is pressured by gravity flow. From his ancestors the Navajo has learned the location of every spring on the reservation, many of which have never been found by the white man.

Washing for the family is done individually and by hand, using soap made from the root of the yucca plant along with some soap purchased from time to time at the trading post. Here again the use of water is limited, and almost prohibitive.

Before they became captives of the white man, they were able to move about freely and to hunt wild game with which to provide themselves with sufficient meat; but now they are restricted to hunting on their reservation, which long ago was depleted of the wild life so vital to their existence.

Their diet consists primarily of corn, and is the original Indian multi-colored corn. Most Navajos grow some corn, and store it in a "storage hogan" for use during the winter. The corn plant, itself, differs from that which most of us have seen. It is from a foot to a foot and a half in height, and the ears are about eight inches in length. This kind of corn plant was nurtured and developed throughout the generations especially to survive the drouth conditions and sub-standard soil prevailing on the reservation.

Flour, obtained by barter of blankets and other hand-made items at the trading post, supplements the diet of corn. Also coffee is a favorite beverage and a can of it will be found brewing in almost every hogan. It is considered a gesture of hospitality to be able to offer a friend coffee to drink. The flour is made into a kind of fried bread.

Adverse economic conditions have left the Navajos with little money with which to purchase the necessities of life; and it is rare to find meat on a Navajo table any more, unless their food supply has become so low that it is necessary for them to kill one of their wool-bearing sheep for food.

But in the face of all their misfortunes, they are a happy people, finding relaxation in the simple games, stories, singing and dancing that costs them nothing. They have little of worldly good, and ask only for help in finding food, for undernourishment has ravished many of them and tuberculosis and respiratory diseases are prevalent, claiming many lives each year.

There are many more interesting things to tell you about the history and the present day living of these unusual people, whose way of life is steeped in the custom and tradition of their forefathers; but we are saving much of this information to tell in stories around our campfires this coming summer.

AMONG THE NAVAJOS

By: Bob McAdams as told to Tom Cronk

FINAL INSTALLMENT (concluded)

And we have a surprise in store for the boys, who will be our guests this year; for the Navajos were much interested in the Pyles Boys Camp, and as a result of the friendship we have established with them, two Navajo Indian boys have accepted our invitation to spend the summer visiting with us at camp. One of these boys is the great, great grandson of the last Navajo chief, Hoskanini. He and his friend, who are away studying at special schools conducted for Indians this winter, send greetings to all of our campers and are looking forward to telling us about the manners and customs of their people, when they join us at the Pyles Boys Camp in June.

This concludes the account of our two-week trip to the Navajo country. Lois and I hope you have enjoyed it and learned something of the ways of the Navajo Indians.

* * * * *

THE YEAR IS OVER! MANY OF US ARE PROBABLY THINKING THAT WE DID 'NT DO SO GOOD WITH IT. OTHERS OF US ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING A MUCH BETTER JOB WITH THE COMING ONE. I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL TRY TO BE A BETTER MAN AND LEADER, AND I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME IN THAT PLEDGE. THE WORLD NEEDS BETTER PEOPLE AND ITS UP TO JUST SUCH AS YOU AND I. I FEEL KINDA LIKE I ALWAYS DID AROUND THE LAST CAMP FIRE JUST BEFORE YOU WENT HOME NEXT DAY. IT WAS A SAD FEELING TO KNOW THAT YOU WOULD 'NT BE THERE THE NEXT NIGHT. HOWEVER LIFE MUST BE EVER CHANGING AND WE ALWAYS HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF GOOD THINGS. AS YOU READ THIS NEXT LITTLE SONG OR PRAYER IMAGINE WE ARE AROUND A REAL CAMPFIRE HUMMING THIS TOGETHER:

By the blazing council fire's light,
We have met in fellowship tonight,
'Round about the whispering trees
Guard our golden memories.
And so before we close our eyes in sleep,
Let us pledge each other that we'll keep
Camping friendships, strong and deep,
Till we meet again.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bob

Pyles Camp Newsletter



April 1, 1954
Volume 1 - Copy 6

EASTER

'Resurrection and Ascension'
GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE
24th. Chapter
Verses 1-10

1. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.
2. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
3. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
4. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
5. And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?
6. He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
7. Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.
8. And they remembered His words.
9. And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.
10. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

WHAT DO THE MAILS SAY??

THE OLD COUNSELORS WRITE

Sandy MacDonald, USN--Sandy is now off his submarine and in Sonor School in San Diego. Sandy say the fellows on his Sub. nicknamed him "Rackets" when they found out that he was going to get some shore duty. Mr. MacDonald (pardon me Seaman 1st. class MacDonald) says he is ready to go back to sea on anything that floats. Sandy sends a special hello and thanks to all the boys from the Camp who wrote him on the Sub and sent him Christmas cards. Good luck and good sailing Sandy.

Bill Marumoto-Whittier College--Bill gives us all a pat on the back for the Newsletter and comments on some of the items of last month. He also enclosed some little quotations that he has picked up and made up which you will read later in the Newsletter. He says his grades in college are 'nt as good as he should do but he is trying to bring them up to what he should accomplish. Knowing you Bill we think you will make it.

FROM ALL OVER CALIF. OUR BOYS WRITE

ARTESIA:

Bob White--Has recently moved to Artesia and sends us his new address. Says he now has a dog and 800 chickens. Bob wants to help out any way he can and promises to send in something each month to the Newsletter. We will be expecting to hear from you Bob.

BAKERSFIELD:

Harold Snow--Hal won't give up on wanting to be a counselor this summer in Camp. Hal, I'm sorry and I hope your determination will be carried over into all your life. You'll get what you want most in this world, may it be the best things. Glad your team won some games this year and maybe next year you'll win them all. We always thought "next year we'll win them all", so maybe it will be true with your team.

Jerry Graham--Jerry, the camper who went over the cliff last month, sent us another letter this month by his mother. One of his arms isn't healing very good but the hopes are still very high that it will be alright also. His home-room teacher comes in every other day and helps him on his lessons. We will put in the paper when Jerry makes it back to school and the arm heals. Stay in there Jerry. Henry hopes to hear from you.

James Abney--Jim wrote us after a couple of months and seems to be doing fine. Gives us his address in terms of how to get to see him as he lives in the country. Its a promise Jim. Pleased to hear of your high-jumping and broad jumping abilities. Lots of fences and ditches out your way to practice on isn't there.

Argil Sipe--Gives us the news that his dad and uncle have found a way to make him light as a feather. Is it the trick of your taking a deep breath while they lift you in unison? We tried a trick like that in camp last year where four boys lifted a large boy out of a chair with their little finger. If your little 5 months old brother keeps growing he will lick you one of these days. Twenty pounds, wow! Bet you are plenty proud.

Cornelio Hernandez--Wrote twice this month. Once to tell us about a sickness he had and another when he got better. Corny is due to be sick again for he didn't take his jacket to school one day when his mom told him to and it got rainy and bad and he got soaked. Now you know why they say "Mom knows about those things". Thanks for the real good job of writing you are doing and hope you get the Newsletter on time next time.

Lale Elliott--Finally wrote us after nearly doing so for some time. Dale has been working in the bakery and has'nt had much time for writing he says. That is the best reason you could have given Dale. I know what your brother means when he says he does'nt know where he is sometimes in the South Pacific. There is lots of water and not much land in that side of the world. Our congratulations to your sister and best of luck to them in their married life.

LONG BEACH

Richard Ross--Is now settled in his new home and very happy. Wants some pictures of him if we have any in the files. We don't have any in the files Rich but I think Al Irvin and Lois have some of you. Why don't you write them: 1614 Pacific Drive, Corona del Mar. Your wonderful poem is later in the Newsletter. Thanks Mr. poet.

con't

Roy Bruyneel--Roy has graduated from a Boys Camp where he made a very good record. He was senior maintenance boy in camp and speaks very highly of the things he learned there. Roy also visited with us the other day and we had lunch together and a real good old-time visiting.

Dennis Belk--Curley Belk says he finally did it. He wrote. We nearly dropped dead Curley. Says Mr. Klaybornes kids go to the same school as he does in Long Beach. Be sure and read the article on Mom and Pop and Mary Ann and Frankie. A very good letter Dennis.

LOS ANGELES

Henry Godinez--Henry wrote twice this month. Below par for Henry but as he says he is very busy. Henry sends us clippings of his name in the Examiner and a book of awards, that we might use for camp. Keep up the good work Henry.

Frank Erives--Frank got the surprise of the year. He got his letter in athletics in school. Had a happy time after it was over voting Victory letters for some of the other fellows. None of the B-7 got letters last year but they cleaned up this year. We are very proud of you Frank.

George Salata--George writes for the first time but gives us good news of his activities. George is now Pres. of A-9 class in Nightengale Jr. High. Ran for school Student Body President and came in 2nd. Was master of ceremonies at a pin-presentation of the school. You amaze me my friend and on top of these things you have the best teeth in school. Well Smiley keep up the good work and we'll run you for Governor in 1970.

PORTERVILLE

Carl Willets--Now holding down a regular job besides going to school and going over to see Joe Waldrep in Visalia. He says he and Joe had a fine time of it and Joe showed him around the skating rink he works in.

RIVERA

Clem Martinez--Clem made his letter in football this year. He played first string center on his team. Congratulations Clem boy.

SATICOY

Reyes Balderas--Reyes has been writing very consistently and should get the prize of the year for it. Says he saved up \$16 from his work on the golf course and put it in the bank. Very fine my friend.

TAFT

Virgil Holt--Got a good letter again this month from Virgil. Virgil has a job on newspapers and gets up at 5:00 A.M. He has been corresponding with a lady who helps support the camp each year. He says she has helped him out lots and is glad he has been writing. So are we Virgil.

TPRRANCE

Carlos Santoya--Carlos has survived the cold he wrote about last month. Asks about Jerry and his injuries. Thanks for the design for the pin Carlos but we didn't have enough to make a go of it.

VENTURA

Jack Kelley--Jack sent us very nice book ends in metal which had a design of Abraham Lincoln on them. We shall always cherish them Jack.

SUNSET BEACH

Ernie Burrows--Ernie has moved back to the beach from Los Angeles. He came by to see us first thing and sorta checked in. We sure were glad to see you Ernie and hope you'll be around a good while.

WHITTIER

Ken Nation--Ken writes us of his memories of wonderful meals, hiking, swimming and fishing in the cold mt. streams. He relates his memories of campfires and camping out. He plans to go to the mts. this summer and is collecting camping gear looking forward to it. You are going to fool around and be a mountain man.

WILMINGTON

Ronald Jesolva--We have had a time getting Ronnie's mail to him but think we have the problem licked now. Sorry about the jobs in camp Ronnie but, as the article I wrote last month says, there just isn't enough to go around to all the fellows. I know how you fell though. Hope to see you soon.

BILL HARUNOTO'S SAYINGS:

"Quitters never win; winners never quit."
 "Always do right; you will please a few people and amaze the rest."
 "What you do today holds your future tomorrow."
 "Respect for the law is deeper than obedience to the law."
 "No one can give you better advice than yourself."
 "Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with a few."
 "He is most cheated who cheats himself."
 "Success is a result, not a goal."

Most of these Bill made up himself. Thanks Bill and I know all our boys will read them with thoughtfulness. I know I did.

KLAYBORNE TO BE AT UPPER CAMP THIS SUMMER:

About 1/3 of you will remember Mom, Pop, Mary Ann and Frankie Klayborne who helped out at the Upper last summer for nearly a month. This year they will spend the entire summer there to cook and host all the boys who go through.
 Welcome Klay, Margaret, Frank and Mary Ann and I know all the boys will join in a real joyous feeling to have you with us the whole summer.

SNOW IN THE MOUNTAINS:

Every year Mr. Pyles, Darwin and their advance party look with wondering eye toward the snow-pack that begins to pile up on the mountains in March and April. For you see they begin to go in around the middle of May with the pack-trains and if the snow is too deep then they must shovel off the trails for the mules to go through. This year so far it looks like shovel and from talk down here at the "Lease" there will be many willing hands to help get the mules in if necessary. This year, who knows?

OUR OFFICIAL CAMP POEM BRINGS FORTH:

Earning His Pay
 by: Richard Ross

A boy in school on a lazy Spring day,
 Can't keep up with the lessons for a picture
 of a mountain camp gets in the way,
 So on with the test.
 Lets hope his grades are the best,
 So he can earn in good styles
 A trip once again to Camp Pyles.

ABOUT THE COVER THIS MONTH:

As you undoubtedly noticed, we have a beautiful cover this month. In comparison to the one I did last month it is terrific and shows the artistic woman's touch. For this we are indebted to Mrs. Doris Neal, one of Mr. Pyles secretaries, and wish to express our real thanks to Doris for this good job.

FIFTY LETTER WRITERS TO GET MR. PYLES PICTURE AND NEWS ARTICLE:

The first fifty letters we get this month will be sent Mr. Pyles picture and news article on the camp that appeared in our local paper here recently. This was a very good article on Mr. Pyles and the camp and we would like for all to have one but only have 50 copies. So if you want something for your scrap-book along with a good picture of Mr. Pyles you better get the letter in right away.

ON THE NATURE ARTICLE THIS MONTH:

I realize that many of the parents read this newsletter and therefore I wish to apologize in advance for this article on snakes. I suppose about 100% of all women have a deathly fear of snakes so you mothers and sisters better not read any further. For some strange reason however about the same percentage of boys think this is the most interesting subject of all. So after this apology we do it!

THEIR PLACE IN NATURE

When we use the word conservation we mean more than just conserving the trees and the fish and the soil. We mean helping conserve the balance that nature has established so that all animals can exist in their wild state in the forests. The whole history of the building of our country is filled with mistakes we made in killing off some species (that is kinds) for some reason or other. We now have Fish and Game departments who help advise us on these matters but we all need to do our part in helping conserve all animals to maintain this balance of nature. In the forests each animal, each reptile, each bird and each fish fit into a pattern of living. By man killing off, without regard for the results, these living creature he throws the pattern off keel so that other animals cannot survive or that some survive too much and destroy crops, cause disease and other damages.

The lowly snake plays a part in this great drama. His part in destroying insects, slugs, rodents (rats, mice) is very great in nature. He is more important than even the lizard and toads for he gets his food, not on the wing but in the hiding places. Because a very few are poisonous it is the mistaken idea that they should all be killed. To do this is wrong. However every boy should learn to recognize the dangerous ones from the non-dangerous ones and to know something about their life history and what makes them tick. For this reason we are writing this article this month.

WHAT MAKES SNAKES DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ANIMALS

Of course the most different thing is the poison apparatus but we will take that up later in this article.

Snakes like fish have lost their legs, yet they live and breath on land. There are sea-snakes and water snakes but they still breath like land animals. A snake has only one lung which extend along the elongated body. This long body with its many ribs and muscles gives the snake speed, even without legs. The heart also is a long organ and unlike any other animals. Because it has no arms to hold its prey while it chews off a bite it must swallow it whole. Therefore nature has given to a snake a elastic jaw. This enables the snake to open its mouth very, very wide and take in a animal much larger than itself (like a gopher). There are no eye-lids so the eye stays open even when they sleep. The snake can focus his eye with great ease. The ears are gone and its hearing apparatus is his tongue, which darts in and out of a small hole in his mouth. This is not a stinger but he is only listening. They have no taste, which is not surprising since they swallow their food whole. The walls of the stomach, like a dogs, is equipped with cells to shoot strong acids into the food they swallow so that they can digest it. Perhaps because this little thing, a snake, is so different is why it is so interesting to many people who like to study things of nature.

WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNG

Snakes have two different ways of birth for its young. By egg-laying and by giving birth alive. About half the snakes bear the young alive and half are egg laying kinds. The three species we have around the Camp bear their young alive. The number of young vary from 10 to 20. There have been cases where 72 were born to one grass snake. Soon after they are borne or hatch they begin to fend for themselves.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE

Snakes, like other wild things, must depend upon their protective coloring to protect them from their enemies. Some of the major enemies are the skunks, the hawks and eagles and the members of the weasel family. Therefore they make their homes where it is easy to hide and not easy for entrance for one of these enemies. Rock ledges with chinks in them make a good place. Under old stumps and logs make another. Snakes are cold blooded creatures and cannot stand cold weather. Therefore they love the sun, if not too hot, and like the rocky ledges for sunning. In the heat of the day they will venture in the cool forests because there they will find animals to catch and some escape from the intense heat of the rock ledges. However at night they will go again into the ledges. Because it is very cold in the night, in the mountains, they

con't

do not go out hunting like a snake will in lower altitudes where it is warm in the night. Therefore on a night hike there is little danger of stepping on a snake. At Pyles camp the activity of the snakes is confined mostly to the middle of the day when it is warmest.

KINDS OF SNAKES

We have around 30 different kinds of snakes in California. This is small number compared to the over 200 kinds I knew as a boy in Texas. Of these 30 kinds there is only one poisonous one and he is fairly scarce. According to Dr. Howard Hill of the L.A. Museum, who has made a study of snakes in this region, there are the following species in Southern Calif:

Brown Blind Snake
Calif. Rosy Boa
Western Ring Neck Snake
Western Yellow Racer
Red Racer
Calif. Stripped Racer
Pacific Patch-nose Snake
Western Faded Snake
San Diego Gopher Snake
Desert Gopher Snake

Spotted Night Snake
Calif. King Snake or Coral King
Mountain King Snake
Pacific Garter Snake
California Garter Snake
California Lyre Snake
Long Nose Snake
Pacific Rattlesnake (poisonous)
Rubber Snake
Klamath Garter Snake

The Rattlesnake, Rubber Snake, Klamath Garter Snake and the Mt. or Coral King Snake are the only species we have in our Camp area. At least they are all I have observed, perhaps this year we will find another kind. Here is a little more information about them in detail.

RUBBER SNAKE

This snake is a member of the Boa constrictor family. He is very small but still kills his prey by squeezing them to death. He is very harmless to humans and mild tempered. I have kept one in captivity as long as 3 months in another Camp. His head is very small and can hardly be told from his tail. When you hold him in your hand he coils up into a tight ball that looks like a rubber ball, hence the name. He burrows in the earth. There is one on lower Freeman Creek.

KLAMATH GARTER SNAKE

Many have seen this snake in and around camp. He is not a water snake as many mistake him for but a water-loving garter snake. A part of his diet is fish and especially little fingerlings just out of the hatchery, so we have outlawed him. One was caught steeling some of our fingerlings out of our pond. They can be told by the yellow stripe down the back and the olive-gray to dark black body. There is a small white dot in the middle of the head which tells a garter snake from any other.

MT. OR CORAL KING SNAKE

This is an unusual snake in that it is our killer of Rattlesnakes and should never be killed himself. This snake has a brilliant pattern of black and white rings, split with red. This snake lays eggs for its young unlike the other snakes. About 90% of its diet is rattlesnakes.

PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE

This is the only poison snake in California. There are four kinds of poison snakes in the U.S. and some states have all four of these kinds, so we may consider ourselves fortunate. This is a medium size (about 36" average) snake of definite coloration. His body has black blotches on a greyish brown background. The blotches are not diamonds but oblong bars running around the body slightly but not meeting on each side. This snake has a black slash marking behind the eye and going to behind the head. We have found up to 15 rattles on a snake. This does not determine the age but only the number of times he shedded his skin, which might be 2 or 3 a year. This snake has a bad disposition and whether because of the altitude or not is more dangerous than those found lower down in the valley.

1-1-19

1-1-19

Poisonous

Non-poisonous

Poisonous

Non-poisonous

BEHAVIOR

Because a poison snake knows he has the ability to inflict a serious and stunning wound to an enemy, he will likely stand his ground, coil and prepare to strike. The non-poison snake almost with exception will run and seek to hide and take advantage of his color protection. The exception is the Hog-nose snake which will spit and try to look like a ferocious snake, even tho very mild and harmless. We do not have them in Calif. so the exception does not count.

Poisonous

Non-poisonous

By using these identifying marks, even without hearing the rattle, you will not be tempted to pick up the wrong kind of snake. Do not trust a Rattlesnakes rattles for he might have lost them in a battle with a hawk or some other way. Our rattlesnake must coil before he strikes but don't depend on this either. Stand still and observe the above characteristics closely. The teeth of course will not be seen except during the strike but the others, especially the behavior and head shape can quickly be noticed.

FIRST AID AND TREATMENT FOR A BITE

Very few people are bitten by snakes, and even fewer fatally. Nearly 1000 boys have been in our camp and no one has been bitten yet, yet the boys go not on beaten paths but in places where snakes frequent. However it is only common sense to always be on the look-out for the Rattler. The best First-Aid is caution and good eye-sight. We are putting this treatment into this study because by your use of it one day you may be able to save a life, perhaps your own.

1. Do not run for it pumps the blood to the heart faster. The same is true of using stimulants.

2. Apply a tourniquet, made of a shoe-lace or handkerchief or other material between the bite and the heart. Loosen this every 10 minutes to prevent gangrene.

3. Sterilize the skin or instrument and make a quick, 1/4" incision in each fang mark with a sharp knife or razor blade.

4. Suck and spit; not allowing the poison blood to get into the mouth.

5. Continue suction and keep moving tourniquet up as swelling progresses.

6. Get to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible, continue suction.

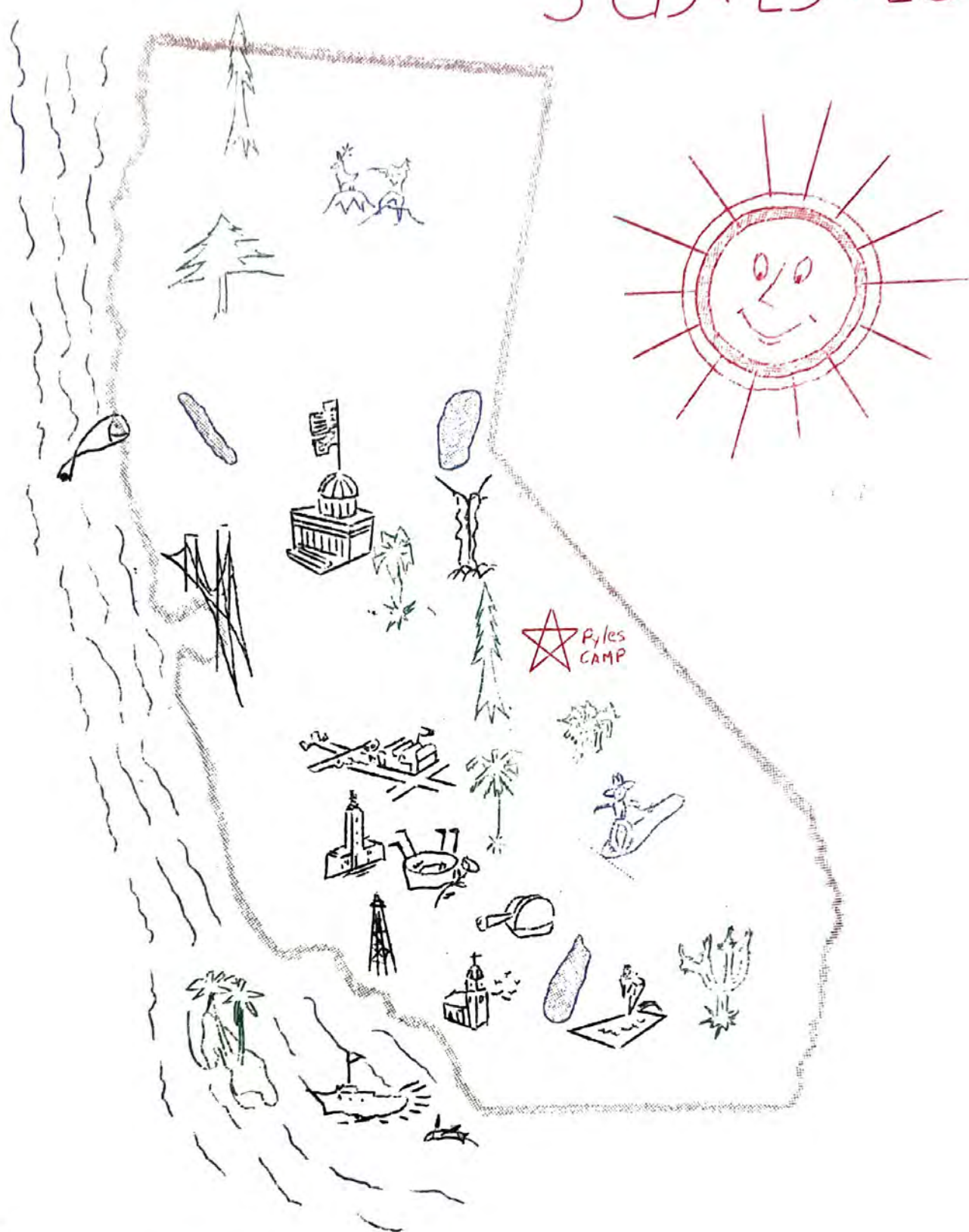
7. If anti-venin is available have an experienced person administer it to the bitten person.

8. Keep patient as warm as possible to prevent shock while continuing suction. Continue 15 hrs. if necessary.

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED AND WILL PROFIT ON THIS SHORT DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIGHT BE MADE A LONG SUBJECT AND WILL LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SERIES OF NEXT MONTH--BIRDS. So long----

Bob

California Welcomes
SUMMER



Pyles Camp Newsletter

May 1, '54 Vol. 1 copy 7

CAMPERS NEWS !!!!!

FLOYD BLACKBURN, BAKERSFIELD, writes that he has finally settled in Bakersfield after having lived in Arkansas and Riverside, Calif. We sure are glad you got settled Floyd and back in Calif.

JOE SNELL, SANTA ANA, writes that he spent some of his Easter vacation sleeping in a pup tent outdoors. He is interested in buying a sleeping bag. I wrote you about a place I thought you could get one pretty reasonable but just yesterday found out a place you could get one for \$3.95 which is the most reasonable price I have seen this year. If interested let me know Joe.

WILLIE HILL, JR., BAKERSFIELD, writes that he won't be able to make it to camp this summer. We will miss you Willie boy but are knowing your desire to do your best in school and our thought will be with you.

EDWARD JANECEK, NORWALK, writes that he only recently moved to Norwalk and has been quite busy since arriving there. Wants to say hello to all his old camp buddies.

CARL WILLET, PORTERVILLE, writes that he has been busy working, going to school and getting ready for summer. Says they need rain up his way very bad. Hope it is a warm rain Carl to melt off our snow to get into camp.

BOB WHITE, ARTESIA, writes that he enjoys the newsletter very much. We are sorry to hear that Bob has had trouble with his chickens, but says he has three baby ducks and a dog to make him forget his chicken trouble.

RICHARD ROSS, LONG BEACH, writes that he is to have some of his science work in the Science show in the Los Angeles County Museum in Exhibition Park.

His work is called "Elements in Action" so we are hoping Dick comes out with a prize. Good luck and congratulations for getting it in.

BILL AKERS, ALPAUGH,--writes that he had to lose a week of school because of the building being condemned. We hope your new building is earth-quake proof and will take the shaking you people get Bill. Will see you the 23rd. Better write if this is o.k. for sure.

DARRYL DAVIS, REDONDO BEACH, says that he recently made a trip to Seminole Springs. Also he is helping with a new rumpus room in their house. Hope you get your car fixed for the Soap box derby and make a good race of it.

FRANK ERIVES, LOS ANGELES, says that he has a job in the evenings. Good, good. Frank its hard for me to advise you definately on the best way for you to go back to camp because we must leave that up to the juvenile people who select boys. I could only say that if you contact the man who sent you last year and he has an opening then you might get it. I know how much it meant to you and quite a few others but I also know you'll want as many boys as can to get this experience. Good luck.

RICHARD GINGRAS, LONG BEACH, says they now have an increase in their family of cats. They have four small kittens and would like to find a home for them as soon as they are big enough to leave Smokey, their mother. If anyone wants a kitten then Dick's address is 413 Harding St., Long Beach.

VIRGIL HOLT, TAFT, writes the snake article was very good and he took it to school with him. Thanks Virg.

JACK KELLY, VENTURA, says that he has little time to write because he works until 10:30 at night. Quite a long day after going to school and all, but it is well worth it, right Jack. I'll have trouble getting you to sleep this summer at that rate.

VERNON SETO, VENTURA, says he is going out for track. Best of luck Seto.

WINSTON CARTER, ARVIN, writes that he has no news to tell but wanted to be sure and get the article of Mr. Pyles. Many boys did Winston and glad you got one too.

DON BROWN, TAFT, seems to be very busy. Has a paper route and gets up very early in the A.M. Has 20 rabbits, 17 of them babies. Glad you wrote Don.

JOE HINDLEY, JESSE LEAL AND TONY LEAL, thanks for the Easter Cards.

ERNIE SAWYERS, VENTURA, wrote a fine song. We'll use it this summer Ernie.

KURT MURPHY, LOS ANGELES, wrote twice this month. Says he and his mother read the newsletter together each month and she is as proud of the camp as he is. That is wonderful Sonny and we are as proud of you as can be.

JOE WALDREP, VISALIA, says he would like for Harl Buckridge to write to him.

BILL MARUMOTO, SANTA ANA, paid us a visit here on the lease the other day during the Easter holidays. Bill in good health and good spirits and work-hard to keep up with his studies. College isn't easy says Bill.

THANKS TO THOSE THAT WROTE AND THOSE WHO SENT FOR MR. PYLES
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

BIRDS

parts of



MAN AND BIRDS

Man's life has been closely tied to and connected with birds ever since there's been man. We know by reading literature and history how important our forefathers considered the birds. The ancient Latins would not undertake a war or any great undertaking without consulting with a wiseman who read the future of the undertaking in the entrails of birds. The Stork was considered a good-luck bird and brought good-luck on the people who lived in the house it roosted on. The ducks and geese of Rome acted as watchdogs for the people and sounded the alarm when strangers would come near. The Migratory Quail of the Bible saved the lives of the Israelites as they journeyed back and forth in the desert. Columbus in his discovery of America used the birds to guide him toward land. The Penguin furnishes food for the explorer in the antarctic and has many times saved their lives. The Franklin's Gull is credited with saving the crops of the pioneers in the Utah region and a golden monument is made to them there. The Indians of this country and South America believed in the sacredness of some birds. The Spaniards built Mexico City on a spot where they saw the sacred Eagle with a Snake in his mouth, even though it was in the center of a marsh. Our own symbol is the Eagle. The Navajo's consider the little blue bird as sacred today, as we found out in our recent visit with them.

Today birds are trained to catch fish, as the Comorant of Japan. Some are trained to catch small animals as the Peregrins and Falcons. Birds have been trained and domesticated to supply us the essentials of life. The chicken that lays the eggs of today came from the wild jungle fowl of Africa. The tame goose and ducks and guinea hen all came from wild birds of the forest and jungle. Feathers of birds have played an important part in our life through the years. Down for pillows and plumes for hats and ornaments were used almost solely some years ago. Not many years ago our wild game birds were necessary for food for the settlers of this country. Today we have game shooting that furnishes a large percentage of the sport shooting in the United States. Our sportsmen shoot ducks, geese, wild pigeons, quail, doves, grouse and pheasants not to mention many smaller groups. The department of game management carefully controls the taking of these birds to such an extent that it is not going to kill out our species. Besides these important facts on man and birds there still is the relation that birds have to the control of our insects and parasites in our crops. The colors and habits and songs of birds are the source we always have before us to remind us of the perfection of nature in the wild. Even in the cities just to observe the flight of gulls, pigeons and sparrows brings to mind the perfection of these small but highly important groups of nature's children.

HOW TO IDENTIFY

Scientists have studied birds over the years and many of them have set up systems of identifying and classifying birds. Some have done it by the dividing of birds into their habits, their colors, their living places, their principle food, their size and many others. From my reading I have found that most of them now agree on some basic families which will follow. Learn these families and you can trace a bird down easily in a bird book.



LOONS

Large swimming and diving birds; tails short; legs set far back. Four toes; 3 front ones fully webbed. Bill is sharply pointed, higher than wide. Larger than most ducks and shorter necks than geese.



PLOVERS, SNADPIPERS, SNIPES

Long-legged shore birds. Mostly small. Bill usually conical, long and soft; nostrils opening through slits in bill. Generally 4 toes; hind toe raised and short. Sanderlings and plovers have only 3 toes.



GREBES

Smaller swimmers and divers. Tail lacking; legs far back. Four toes with thin skin flaps (lobes) and with flattened nails. Bill slender, pointed; higher than wide. They are poor flyers but expert divers. Hold neck stiff when alarmed.



GULLS and TERNS

Mostly light-colored marine birds. Wings long, narrow and pointed. Bill hooked (gulls) or pointed (terns) with nostrils opening into slits that go through bill. Four toes; hind toe small and not webbed.



HERONS and BITTERNS

Long-legged wading birds. In flight, feet extend beyond tail but neck is pulled in. Bill straight and sharp; skin between eye and bill bare. Four toes, scarcely webbed or not webbed at all.



PIGEONS and DOVES

Small headed birds with slender bills, grooved at base; and with nostrils opening through a bare fleshy area at base of bill. Legs short. Four toes: all on the same level. Hind toe as long as shortest front one.



DUCKS, GEESE and SWANS

Swimming birds with distinct tails. Legs centered. Birds walk well compared to grebes and loons. Four toes: front 3 webbed. Bill broad and flat, often with "teeth" along the edge (see picture). Upper bill ending is short with a "hook".



CUCKOOS

Long, slim birds with slightly curved bill. Tail long, feathers not stiff or pointed central tail feathers longest. Four toes: 2 in front: 2 behind. The road-runner is in this family and has long slender legs for its running.



HAWKS, EAGLES, VULTURES

Large birds. Bill strongly hooked; feet powerful, claws long and curved. Vultures differ in head being bare and with nostrils connected with hole in bill. All are high soarers and locate their prey in this manner.



OWLS

Bills strongly hooked. A swelling at the base is concealed by feathers. Toes with large curved claws: Entire leg feathered. Eyes large and immovable in puffy, feathered "face". They fly in a soft, noiseless flight.



GROUSE, QUAIL, TURKEY

Land birds which scratch for their food. Bills short and stout. Feet heavy, strong: hind toe short and raised. Wings are short and rounded, with stiff feathers. As soon as they are hatched they are able to shift for themselves.



NIGHTHAWKS

Birds with large heads, small bills and wide mouths. Bill usually with bristles at base. Feet small; middle toe long and comb-like claw. Feathers soft, dull-colored. Their protective coloration blends in perfectly with the ground.



CRANES, RAILS, COOTS

Marsh birds flying with neck extended and feet dangling (as rails); wings rounded. Four toes, unwebbed, (except coot which has lobes). Middle toenail without comb like margin (see herons). Patch between eye and bill is feathered.



SWIFTS

Small swallowlike birds; bill small with no bristles at base. Mouth very wide. Wings slender and very long, reaching beyond tail; tail with 10 feathers in it. They fly in a bat-like manner and feed on insects, hence the wide mouth.

how to identify - con't



HUMMINGBIRDS

Tiny birds with bill slender and needle-like---longer than head. Feet small, weak. Feathers on back usually shiny green. This is the smallest of all birds and has the ability to fly backwards at will.



WOODPECKERS

Climbing birds. Bill strong pointed, with bristles at nostril. Tail feathers stiff and pointed. Four toes: 2 in front, 2 in back; rarely 3 toes, 2 in front and 1 in back. Insect eaters with shock-absorbant bills.



KINGFISHERS

Head large and crested. Bill long, strong, pointed. Feet small and weak. Four toes; 2 of the 3 forward toes joined for half their length. The belted Kingfisher is the only one we have in California.



PERCHING BIRDS

The largest bird family or group we have. They are land birds, mostly small, with 4 toes--all on the same level, never webbed. Hind toe as long as middle front toe, used for perching. Tail with 12 feathers. Most small birds in this group

PLEASANT BOYS CAMPERS WILL NOT ONLY HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME IDENTIFYING BIRDS BUT WILL LEARN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THEM THAT WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO HELP PRESERVE THEM AND KEEP THEM COMING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. IT WILL FORM THE MOST INTERESTING AND WHOLESOME HOBBY A BOY COULD HAVE. HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT HELP:

ATTRACTING BIRDS BY FEEDING-----

Birds were here long before people fed them--and they will continue to feed and care for themselves. But if severe storms completely cut off the food supply of winter birds, large-scale cooperative efforts are sometimes essential to save them. It's another story if you want to attract birds to a particular place during winter--as your own yard or window. Then feeding will help. Feeding means more than scattering scraps of bread around. Find out the best way to build feeding stations. Set them near shrubbery to give birds shelter. Place lumps of suet in wire containers for creepers, chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers. Small grain (sunflower seeds, hemp, millet, and canary seed) will attract seed eaters. At a window station you can observe the birds as they feed.

ATTRACTING BIRDS BY WATERING-----

Birds need drinking and bathing water just as much as they need food. A watering place will attract more birds during warm months when wild food is available. Birds like moving, shallow water. A trickle of water running into a one-inch pan with gravel on the bottom is excellent. Nothing elaborate is needed. An old bucket with a drip hole hung over an old baking pan will do as well as any elaborately constructed cement pool.

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH COVER AND SHELTER-----

Birds need cover for protection against wind, cold, and enemies. The best kind of cover for birds is shrubs and vines that provide food as well as a place to hide. Plants that look attractive to us are not necessarily attractive to birds. Native plants that retain their fruit in winter are best. Nesting boxes are seldom satisfactory unless they are built with a specific bird in mind. A box for a wren must be very different from one for a flicker. Get complete instructions and follow them. Build a box that can be easily cleaned and used year after year. Don't place boxes too closely; three or four nesting boxes to an acre are usually enough. Most birds set up their own "territory" and will keep other birds out.

I HOPE YOU HAVE LIKED THIS NATURE SUBJECT THIS MONTH AND SOME OF YOU WILL WRITE ME AND TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TAKING UP THIS HOBBY. I CAN HELP YOU WITH SOME PLANS OF FEEDING STATIONS AND SHELTERS I HAVE.

camp opens june 12

MORE BOYS THIS YEAR-----

Mr. Pyles and the Procurement Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that there be 297 boys taken into Pyles Camp this year instead of the 240 that has been taken each summer before. They approved this and the plans for the selection of the boys was made. To take care of the extra boys on the trip up to camp, Mr. Pyles purchased a new bus which will hold 27 boys per trip with plenty of room to spare. Those boys who are coming back this year will welcome the extra room. Boys will be in groups of 9 instead of 8 as last year.

ALL SUPPLIES READY FOR FIRST TRIP IN-----

Basic food supplies have been purchased and are waiting in a storage room at Southwest Exploration Co. for the first trip up to Camp. Mr. Pyles has had 2 men working on saddles, ropes, pack-bags and slings, bridles and all the gear for the mules and horses. They are now ready, well oiled and cleaned. All fishing gear and supplies are waiting. A few last minute details will be attended to and then the first trek up to the high country will begin. Mr. Pyles plans to make the first trip in on the 14th. of May. All supplies will be moved in on the mules, the mares and the horses. FORTY-FOUR TONS of it.

PYLES CAMP WELCOMES THREE NEW SELECTING AGENCIES-----

This year three new selecting agencies will send boys into the Pyles Camp. We wish to welcome Judge West, of Orange Co. Judicial Department and his associates who will help select some boys from Orange Co. We wish to extend a welcome to Judge Stockton of Kern County Judicial Department and his associates who will send boys from Kern Co. and near regions to Bakersfield. We also wish to welcome a entirely new community into our fold. This is the town of Coalinga which is the other side of Bakersfield toward the north-west. To Chief Griffith, Capt. Quinney, Mr. Wrinkle and Mr. Jim Chescheir our heartiest welcome.

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS YEAR-----

Over the past 5 years Mr. Pyles and his associates have built up this Boys Camp until now it is classed equal or above any Camp in America for its convenient facilities yet retains the ruggedness of a real Mountain Camp. This has taken lots of work boys, and many men and man hours went into it. Still this summer will see some minor constructions to further make it the top.

see you this summer OR next year

This is the last issue of the Newsletter until next fall as I am sure you all realized. This is sad to me because even though some of you didn't write, I knew you were hearing from us and the camp and this made me feel we were pretty close together. If I don't see you this summer in Camp I will promise to send you a post-card from there if you drop us a line in Camp. Just address it Pyles Boys Camp, Springville, Calif. and I am sure they will put in our box. Perhaps we'll see you this summer but if not you must remember your place is being taken by another deserving boy who will be having the wonderful time you had and I know you unselfishly would want others to have the same experience you had. May God Bless and keep you.

Your friend,

Bob