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Service Notes

The Aleutian Area

April 7, 1944

Dear Friends: Just a few lines to try and give you some idea of the wild life in this area.

The climate here is wet and disagreeable, and blanketed with dense fog the year round, and you can see no trees or brush of any kind, nothing but volcano glaciers and slopes overgrown with tundra or moss grass.

So you can see that this area is so barren that there is no protection here for any kind of wild life like we have back home in Michigan.

The bird life here is not anything like you folks have at home, and you don't ever see any of the species of birds here like you have at home, and I guess you can't blame them for not wanting to come to such a climate as this is.

The most common of all birds here is the big beach raven. He is so big and clumsy that it is really funny to watch him trying to fly or walk on the ground when the wind is blowing. The raven is very tame and not the least bit afraid of anyone. You can always find them around near the mess halls where any scrap of food is thrown out. They will take care of every bit of waste they can get hold of, and if you should happen to leave a case of butter open and one of these ravens can get a chance, you will be just one pound short before you can blink your eye.

The Ptarmigan are about the size of our Michigan pheasant, and in the winter months they turn snow white to make them very hard to see in the snow. This bird, like our pheasant, feeds mostly on what grass and weed seeds he can find above the snow, and is afraid of anything that moves, so you very seldom see them around the camp area, and are the only bird big enough and also good eating.

Along the rough and rocky shore line there lives the Savanna song sparrow. It is a dark gray color and just about the size of our Michigan sparrow, and gives out just about the same kind of a chirp or song as the English sparrow back home.

The water birds here are very scarce. In some of the well protected bays here you can see some European geese, so tame that one can walk along the beach right amongst them and they pay no attention to you. They just seem to be too lazy to get out of your way.

Most common of all is the green winged teal and mallard are sometimes seen here, and a few squaw duck, but none of these so-called water fowl are in any great number. Just a very few. Maybe it's because the water along the shore is so rough and the waves so high that they have no nesting grounds like most water fowl.

The Northern Bald Eagle is a very common bird here. He is mostly black and a white head, and about the size of our so-called chicken hawk back home, and at any time should he become annoyed or frightened in any way he makes a very loud screeching noise. They build their nest along the high rocky cliffs where no one can get near them, and they sure are assy when they want to be.

These are the most common birds in this area. On account of the barren waste and the miserable weather here not much bird life is able to survive as they have very little protection of any kind, and God only knows how they ever did get anything to eat here before the Army moved in.

Yours,

Bob Cairns.

April 6, 1944

Dear Sir:

Once again I've got a change of address. Our trip across was swell and we didn't have a bit of trouble. The country is beautiful but still there is no place like the good old U.S.A. We aren't allowed to say where we're at but later on maybe that will be relaxed.

I hope the paper still reaches me as well as it has in the past. Now more than ever I'll enjoy reading the home town news.

Thanks once again for sending the paper.

Dave Sullivan.

The Commanding Officer of the Army Air Field, Clovis, New Mexico, has announced the promotion of Robert M. Hunter to the rank of Staff Sergeant. S/Sgt. Hunter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Ault, 20117 Mayfield Avenue, Farmington, and entered the service June 26, 1941, at Camp Grant, Illinois.

SCHOOL FINANCES GREATLY CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS

(Continued from Page One)

approximately \$2500.00 for books and supplies for resale, and \$5,000.00 charged to the cafeteria are more or less revolving funds which are self-supporting. The expenditures for business administration which covers the salaries of superintendent and clerical help, printing, general office supplies, and legal and auditing expense, and a total of \$335.00 for Board of Education salaries will approximate \$7,000.00 this year which is slightly under last year's expenditure. Operational expenses are higher due to increased cost of supplies and increased maintenance salaries. Total operational costs this year will approximate \$11,000.00. Auxiliary costs, such as transportation, recreation, health service, cafeteria, will run higher than previously. In a future article, a more detailed analysis will be made of these activities. Insurance charges will remain about the same; while expenditures for capital outlay and maintenance have been increased due to considerable repairs, improvements and painting during the year. The greatest budget increase has been in the cost of instruction. Normally, nearly 70 per cent of a school budget is allotted for direct instructional purposes; although the chief function of all school expense is to contribute to better learning situations. This year, approximately \$61,000.00 will be spent for teacher's salaries, instructional supplies, instructional books and library materials. One might think that \$61,000.00 would be ample, but when it must buy all instructional supplies and pay the salaries of thirty teachers, it is little enough. At the present time, it is estimated that the cash balance in the general fund on June 30th, the close of the fiscal year, may be in the neighborhood of \$27,000.00 which is about \$1,000.00 less than that of last year. Cash on hand at the close of the year may appear to come as a surplus, when in reality it is an absolutely essential cash fund on which to operate the school until tax monies and state aid monies are received later in the year. The school district has little or no income except its primary money, approximately \$5,500.00, until over six months of the fiscal year have passed. If

a cash balance could not be maintained, it would be necessary for the Board of Education to borrow from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 each year until tax monies and state aid are received.

School monies, by law, are required to be kept in three separate funds, the general fund, the debt fund, and building and site fund. The income and disbursements explained above all pertain to the general fund. All tax monies raised for this fund and all state aid and primary money received must be accounted for in this fund and used for instruction and operation of the school.



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News Serial Cartoon

Sunday-Monday-Tuesday, May 14-15-16

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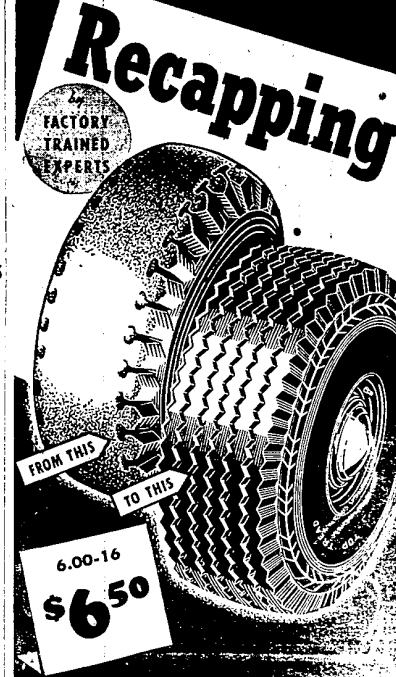
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