



I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By
Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz

Wondering

Special to the Highland Park Press

HIGHLAND PARK —

He was just a little bird — a tiny, all-white canary.

He was always singing, always gayly jumping around his red cage; always, it seemed, seeing the brighter, pleasant side of life.

His world was one of song. He chirped away and when Mother switched on the vacuum cleaner, he would try to outsing the horrible, machine-made noise.

And he usually did.

GREETED US . . .

When we took the cover off his home in the morning, he would greet us with a chirp and a song — a song which seemed to say:

"Good morning, I slept well. Did you? I hope this will be a happy day for you. I feel like singing."

And then he'd begin. All day long he'd sing. Sometimes, it seemed he'd swing his notes. At other times he'd work on a song as if he was composing a symphony for birds. His shrill voice would lightly jump from bar to bar, up and down the scale, making beautiful, melodious sounds. You felt good all over when you heard him singing.

PLEASED WITH LIFE . . .

You thought this old world can't be so grim if this little fellow — with his limited horizon locked in a cage among four comparatively gay walls — could be so happy, so pleased with his life, his home, his world.

Mother would often talk to him and he'd answer back — quickly, politely, correctly, pleasantly . . .

Mother and I were wiping the dishes in the breakfast nook, the room he, "Tibbett," considered his home.

WITHOUT A SONG . . .

"Tibbett isn't singing this morning," Mother said.

"No," I answered, glancing up at Tib's home.

Then I saw what had happened. I looked at Mother whose soft, brown eyes were knowing and questioning.

"What's wrong," she said anxiously.

"Mother, Tib is dead," I exclaimed, wishing I could have uttered those fatal words more deftly and with more understanding.

"ARE YOU SURE?" . . .

Mother was touched. Tears clouded her bright eyes. She left the room only to return in a minute, asking:

"Are you sure he's dead? Are you sure?"

"Yes, Mother."

Quickly she went to her cupboard where she keeps old papers and boxes. Back she came with a box — the size of Tib. Then she looked away and left the room.

Trying to be gentle, I clumsily wrapped his cold body in tissue paper and laid the singer to rest in the box.

HARD TO EXPLAIN . . .

And I wondered. I wondered how that Man up there in the bright blue yonder justified this death.

Why had He snuffed the life from this happy singer who saw only the gay and the good? And why does He keep alive haters, killers, dictators? . . .

And so Tib has gone . . . and life stumbles on . . . but not as happily around our home . . . 'cause we miss the cheerful songs of that little fellow . . .

qualifications have been determined he will go to the proper army air forces training command station to begin his actual air crew training.

With assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph H. Bard as principal speaker at the ceremony, two Highland Parkers were commissioned ensigns of the U. S. Naval Reserve in New York City Dec. 14. David D. Worth, grandson of Mrs. Fred D. Silber, of Chicago, and Frank W. McDonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. McDonald, Sr., 802 S. Sheridan, were among the 1023 men receiving commissions.

Cpl. Ralph S. Higgins, who has completed his training as gunner on a B-24 bomber at Gowen Field, Ida., was home for a week recently, reporting to a base at Topeka, Kans., last Wednesday. On Christmas day a large family party was given by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Higgins, 693 Central, at which his grandmother, two uncles, an aunt, and two cousins from Missouri were present. On Tuesday another party was given him by some young friends.

Cpl. Higgins is 20 years old and a graduate of the June, 1944, graduating class.

Lt. (j.g.) and Mrs. George Clark, with their small son, George Spurgeon, spent a part of their 10-day leave at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Clark, Sr., 643 Vine. They left on Wednesday for Detroit, Mich., to visit the parents of Mrs. Clark, the former Anne Spurgeon, after which they will return to New London, Conn., where the lieutenant is an instructor in the Coast Guard academy.

Flight Officer William "Bill" Pomper is home from the B-24 training school at Harlingen, Tex., to spend a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman R. Pomper, 320 Maple. On Jan. 6 he will report to the air field at Stuttgart, Ark.

Pvt. Robt. Knight, who is receiving radio training at Ft. Dix, N.J., is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Knight, 411 Lake.

Lincoln PTA to Present Talk by Mr. Mac F. Cahal

"Health, Fads and Fallacies" is the topic of Mr. Cahal's talk at the first meeting of the new year of Lincoln school PTA, Wednesday, Jan. 3. Tea will be served at 2:45.

Mr. Mac Cahal is a lawyer who has been associated with the medical profession in an administrative capacity for 12 years. Formerly an executive officer for a state medical association, Mr. Cahal has, since 1937, been executive officer and general counsel of the American College of radiology, which is the national association of medical specialists in x-ray and radium.

Mr. Cahal talks in a light, interesting and entertaining manner and in his speech will discuss the unscrupulousness of "quacks" and some of the fads and fallacies of food and health of which the average American is victim.

Warn Retailers Against Forgers and Thieves

Merchants and housewives are warned to be particularly careful about cashing checks for strangers during the holidays. According to Chief Kopp, nearly 1,000,000 checks are mailed daily by the government, and about 8,000,000 go each month to dependents of men in service. These checks are sometimes stolen from hall and porch mail boxes, endorsements forged and the checks cashed at the expense of un-alert retailers.

YWCA CALENDAR

- Tuesday, Jan. 2 — Nursery school opens.
- Wednesday, Jan. 3 — 8:15 p.m. Business meeting of S.G.O.
- Thursday, Jan. 4 — 6:15 p.m. Friendship club dinner meeting.
- Saturday, Jan. 6 — 9:00 p.m. Saturday Evening club regular meeting.

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"This is the year that for you waits, Beyond tomorrow's mystical gates."

Perhaps no other holiday is so widely celebrated in the various countries of the world as New Year's day. How old this custom is we shall probably never know, but we have proof that three thousand years before Christ the Babylonians celebrated "The Zalmuk," a New Year's festival which lasted for eleven merry days.

Although the New Year has not always begun on the first of January, it has usually been associated with merrymaking and festivities.

In France New Year's day is the important day of the year, when wooden shoes are placed on the hearth, when gifts are exchanged, and theaters and cafes are filled with joyous people.

From Scotland comes the old custom of the wassail bowl, and the old-time tradition of "first-footers," finds throngs of people on the Scottish streets at midnight each carrying a box of cakes or other goodies, so as to insure his host a bountiful year, should he be the first to enter his house. "Burning out the old year" was observed in England by building huge bonfires to which everybody contributed a bit of fuel. Occasionally one also finds the old custom of opening up the doors of the houses at midnight, to let out the spirit of the old year and to invite the spirit of the new year to enter.

In China New Year's day is a day of friendship, a day in which they not only pay their social debts, but their financial debts as well. Every house must be swept and cleaned, every person dressed in holiday clothes, and furnished with preserved fruits or ornamental packages of tea to give to friends.

In some parts of our own South, New Year's day is also a day for friendship, a day to exchange calls and to renew acquaintances. Great preparations are made for these receptions, and the home is an "open house" for those who wish to enter.

A new year is about to begin. It will bring joy, it will bring sorrow to every one of us. No matter what it brings, however, let us give it our best. And so, Happy New Year to all!

FEATURE FORUM AT FRIENDSHIP CLUB MEET

A dinner meeting of the Friendship club was held at the Y.W.C.A. on Thursday evening, Jan. 4, at 6:15. The dinner was followed by a forum on the subject, "The Returning Veteran and We People at Home." Mrs. Theodore Fischer led the forum. Assistants were Mrs. J. O. Clarke, Mrs. Warren Danley, Miss Laura Cross, Miss Clara Nord, Miss Aileen Member and Mrs. Danaver.

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Public Service Company Awarded Victory Plaque

For its outstanding record in the encouraging of victory gardens and home food preservation during the 1944 season, the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois has been awarded the 1944 Victory Garden plaque, highest honor of the National Victory Garden institute.

The awarding of the plaque, which was based on number of company and home gardens, size of company plots, acreage, pounds of food grown, cost of operation, promotional and advertising support, will take place at the Blackstone hotel in Chicago on Jan. 11 when Lester J. Norris, chairman of the institute will present the award to Britton I. Budd, company president.

More than 2,000 company employees — approximately one-half of the entire personnel — planted and harvested victory gardens on company plots, neighborhood vacant lots and in back yards under the company's 1944 garden program which was directed by Arthur F. Senior.

GEORGE EKDAHL RESIGNS LINCOLN SCHOOL POSITION

George Ekdahl, physical education director at Lincoln school, has resigned his position there to accept a post in Lake Forest school and community recreation. He will be succeeded by Vincent Vizebecke, B.S., of Virginia, Minn., who will assume his new duties in Dist. 108 on Jan. 3.

Mr. Vizebecke has for 10 years been associated with the Virginia schools as instructor of physical education. He received his training at the universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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