

I'M STILL IN THE ARMY!

By

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(Official U. S. Army Correspondent)



(Special to The Highland Park Press)
Fritz Bahr, Philosopher

PEARL HARBOR, T. H.—
Recently my editor, Mr. Lester Olson, wrote an article about Mr. Fritz Bahr, one of Highland Park's best loved citizens, for the Florists Exchange Magazine. I thought the article was excellent and that it gave a beautifully accurate word picture of a philosopher who says Yes to Life.

After reading the article I suggested to Mrs. Olson that she publish it in her own newspaper. But, being a modest person, she declined. So I thought, if I could get her permission, I'd like to use the column this week to quote passages from her article. Okay, Mrs. Olson? Fine. Here goes...

"The face, framed by soft white hair, is rugged, with lines etched by the experiences of nearly 73 full and well spent years. Yet one is instantly impressed by its kindliness. Geniality and patience show in the firm lips. Humor gleams in the twinkling brown eyes, and a stranger would not guess they are sightless.

"Yet, in the truest sense of the word, Fritz Bahr... is a far keener observer than the average person. Wishing to visualize a strange object he will say: 'Bring it here — I want to see it.' And see it he does, through his capable, sensitive fingers. He observes a stranger through the sound of his voice, his footfall...

FLOWER WORLD PRIZE WINNER...

"He sees those treasures, his flowers, as he works among them... Competing with foremost florists he has been awarded, among other prizes, two silver trophies. His pansies, probably the most publicized of his contributions to the flower world, were awarded the bronze medal, top award, four successive years at the Chicago Flower Show...

"It was 57 years ago that he landed in New York City, a stalwart young immigrant of sixteen, speaking little English, but endowed with the capacity for learning anything and everything this great land had to offer...

"But ever at the back of his mind was the urge to have a business of his own and it was his belief that the West offered greater opportunities. Consequently in his 21st year he arrived in Chicago. Here, glancing through a daily newspaper, he saw an advertisement for a private gardener at the Highland Park estate of Elisha Gray, of telephone fame. The job, he decided, was just what he wanted.

LOYAL HIGHLAND PARKER

"Mindful of the importance of a favorable first impression, he polished his shoes that night, but unfortunately he placed them too near the stove in his little hotel room, and next morning he discovered a hole burned through the toe of one of them. The whiteness of the sock beneath was startling.

"But the situation was elementary compared to some he had overcome in the past. With the shoe polish he administered a complete blackout to the toe of his sock and made the trip to Highland Park on schedule. He took care, however, to keep his best foot forward during the interview and he secured the job. Thus began his career in Highland Park.

"Always a progressive and loyal citizen, Mr. Bahr later served his hometown as a public official for eleven years, but when in the prime of life, falling vision forced him to retire...

IN THE NATION'S SERVICE

Thomas Brown, R, 3-c, Now In Philippines

Victory in the Pacific found Thomas W. Brown, radioman 3/c, USNR, son of William Brown of 353 Bloom street, Highland Park, attached to the 7th Fleet PT squadron 12 on the island of Samar, in the Philippines.

Brown spent 13 months in the Pacific and participated in 39 combat patrols.

Before coming to the Philippines, Brown's squadron was at Hollandia, in New Guinea, after leaving the States. During the New Guinea operations the squadron accounted for 69 Jap barges, five planes, and two submarines, for which they received the Presidential Unit Citation.

Brown came into the navy in September, 1943.

BRAVELY FACES MISFORTUNE...

"Characteristically, instead of allowing himself to be dependent on others, he literally bent over backwards to be self-reliant, serving his own needs, developing new powers, remaining a pillar of strength to those weaker than himself...

"Cheerfulness has always been his dominant trait. Neither cloud, rain nor snow have the power to depress him now... His capacity for action is amazing. His favorite expression upon retiring has always been: 'I wish it were morning so I could go to work.'

"Not the least of Mr. Bahr's triumphs is that of parenthood. His six children, all substantial and respected citizens, revere him as a father. He made their childhood bright. No small pleasures were overlooked. Not a circus did his four boys and two girls miss, with all the trimmings thrown in. And usually as many more young friends or neighbors were guests on these occasions. Men and women still speak of the fun they had as children, with the young Bahrs and their father. Always a lover of good music, he brought his brood up on Ravinia opera.

ANNIE BAHR, MONA GRANT...

"Widowed now for fifteen years, his care and affection have yielded big dividends, for the devotion of these one-time children is a matter of common knowledge. Nearly all are associated with him in floriculture. But just recently his life was saddened by the loss of his son, George.

"Especially close to him are his two daughters — Annie, whose originality is best shown by the fact that, although a matron of years' standing, she is still known, and always will be, as 'Annie Bahr'; and Mona Grant, more on the dignified side, as befits the wife of one of the town's leading bankers. There are seven grandchildren.

HIS PHILOSOPHY...

"Appearing in the foreword of 'Fritz Bahr's Commercial Floriculture,' now in its fourth revision and commonly known as the 'Grower's Bible'... we find his philosophy of life. He speaks of the mystery of the Cineraria, possessing within its tiny seeds the dormant power to develop and produce hundreds of plants, bearing their myriad blossoms — and endless array of shades and color combinations, hardly two alike, and adds:

"I cannot look at these flowers and think of the seeds they come from without realizing how little we actually know about the phenomena of Nature and all the hidden forces behind her... To be gardeners, to enjoy and appreciate the chance to work among living plants, should help to make us better men, with a higher conception of our responsibilities and duties in life, a keener realization of life itself, a greater consideration for the rights of all our fellow-men and a deeper sense of gratefulness.

"One near to him has remarked: 'He can always find something good in the worst of us.'

Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz Realizes Another Dream

Ever since he joined the service, Cpl. Whitt Schultz has had a yen to be included on the staff of STARS AND STRIPES. But when he was tagged for BRIEF — well, that was right nice, too. Now, with BRIEF about to fold, Whitt has been wondering what to do with the spare time he will find on his hands. And just here comes a summons to serve on STARS AND STRIPES. It seems that every time we turn around we have something to congratulate Whitt about.

By the way, this brings about another change of address for the many friends who wish to write to the corporal, and whose letters give him much pleasure. Here it is:

Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz
STARS & STRIPES, Newspaper Bureau
APO 958, C/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

Gumbiner Back in Suburban Wastepaper

The former Sgt. Larry Gumbiner, 424 N. St. Johns, is happily back in civilian life, taking charge of the Suburban Wastepaper Co., which was operated by his father, Dan Gumbiner, during the 37 months that Larry spent in service.

Of this time, about 16 months was spent in the Aleutians and the remainder in Alaska, where, as sergeant he had charge of patrolling the Alaskan highway.

This highway, Larry states, is good for about 8 months of the year, but thawing causes mud to the depth of four feet or more. He speaks of much prospecting for gold going on in Alaska in the vicinity of Fairbanks.

Benson Brothers Home From Wars

Robert Benson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Benson, 1412 Pleasant, was separated from the service earlier this month at Sioux Falls, S. D., with 87 points to his credit. Veteran of service in Italy and North Africa, with the AAF, he arrived in the states two months ago.

Lt. John, his brother, is home on a terminal leave of 27 days, at the end of which he will report to Chanute field for discharge. A veteran of the European conflict, as pilot of a B-26 Marauder, he has 140 points. During his 69 missions overseas he won the Air Medal with 12 clusters, and wears 4 battle stars on his ETO ribbon.

Pvt. Robert D. Moran Assists Dischargees

During the war, it was the foot-slogging infantryman who played a big but glamorous part as the backbone of the army, but now, with demobilization in full swing, it's the clerk at the separation center who does the behind-the-scenes job which will mean speedy success for the army's last and biggest task — discharging its soldiers back to civilian life.

At the Fort Sheridan separation center, which was one of the first five established in the country, the number of men discharged each day depends largely on the number of trained and highly specialized clerks who handle the tremendous volume of records which must be completed before a man gets his discharge.

The separation center clerk has to possess skills and receive training which mean as much, or even more, to the success of his job as the ability to handle a rifle meant to the infantryman.

Pvt. D. Moran, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Moran, 367 Laurel avenue, is a member of the incoming records section which initiates processing of dischargees. He entered the army August 30.

The man being discharged never sees most of the clerks who do the bulk of the work in helping him to get out, but it's this clerk whose efficiency plays a major part in the success of the army's demobilization program.

Joseph Cameron Now Aboard USS Long Island

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC — Joseph William Cameron, 29, aerographer, 3/c, USNR, of 659 Michigan avenue, Highland Park, is a crew-member of the navy's first escort aircraft carrier, the USS Long Island, now employed in returning planes to the United States and returning dischargees under the navy's demobilization program.

Cameron, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henry Cameron, of the Highland Park address, is one of the ship's weather men who calculates the "fair and warmer" possibilities of the hours ahead. Every half hour, while on watch, he makes an observation, makes upper air soundings, and enters the information on the weather charts.

His brother, Don, navy flight engineer, is stationed at Alameda, Calif. Former S/Sgt. Tom, of the paratroopers, veteran of European warfare, recently received an honorable discharge from service.

RECEIVES DISCHARGE

Hospital Center, Camp Carson, Colo. (Special)—Pvt. Delmar L. Jacobs, husband of Mrs. Imbi Jacobs, 291 Laurel, recently received his discharge here under the government's current demobilization program.

Cpl. Athol Bell to Get Army Discharge

Capt. Athol E. Bell, who has been spending a 10-day delay en route with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bell, 522 Lincoln, has left for Hot Springs where he will receive an 80-day recuperative furlough and honorable discharge. His wife, Viola, accompanied him.

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GARNETTS

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