

I'M STILL IN THE ARMY!

By

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"Look! It's Superman!"

HONOLULU, T. H.—
Whoosh! . . .
And Superman's boss, Sgt. Jerry Siegel, 31-year-old creator of the Nation's No. 1 comic hero and former fellow Stars and Stripes staff writer, whizzed by me, racing to make the ship slated to carry him stateside for his honorable discharge from the Army.

The plump, dark-haired, bi-spectacled originator of America's favorite funny paper great was sleeping (a favorite pastime) at Honolulu's Army-Navy YMCA when his name was called to depart on the next ship.

His co-workers, the writer included, frantically looked all over and finally found him reclining, dreaming up a Superman sequence for six months hence.

We hustled him to the waiting ship so he could get home and continue to entertain his 35,000-000 readers.

KNOWS HIM WELL . . .
Gather around all you Superman followers in Highland Park and this pillar of type will let you in on some inside information on this colorful creator.

For several weeks I've worked with Jerry, chatted with him, dined with him, listened to him explain how his brain child was born, and watched him read comic books by the dozen.

He always has a comic book in his hip pocket.

Jerry, I asked, how did the idea of Superman come to you?

BULLIED AT SCHOOL . . .
"I guess I was kinda bullied at school," he began. "I used to run home right after school and read. I read Man-from-Mars books most of the time. They thrilled me."

"I met my partner, Joe Schuster, in high school and I learned that he was quite an artist and that he could draw science-fiction stuff. We got together, talked the matter over, and decided to start a comic strip. Joe would draw. I would write."

SUPERMAN IS BORN . . .
"One night," he continued, "I was lying in bed counting sheep when all of a sudden the idea of Superman hit me."

"I conceived a character like Samson, Hercules, and all the strong men I ever heard tell of rolled into one. Only more so. I hopped right out of bed and wrote this down and then I went back and thought some more for about two hours and then I got up again and wrote that down."

"That went on all night at two-hour intervals until in the morning I had a complete script."
How did you introduce this character who is as handsome as Apollo, strong as Hercules, chivalrous as Lancelot, and as swift as Hermes?

QUAINT CHARACTERISTICS . . .
"Ah," Jerry said, raising his eyebrows several times in quick succession (a habit of his; he also hums to himself and juggles), "you forgot to mention that Superman can outleap, outfight, and out-sleuth all popular heroes. He has super courage, goodness, and justice."

Yes, Jerry, I know, I said, but how about the trouble you had getting your Superman before the reading public?

LIKES CANDY . . .
"Oh, that was quite a discouraging time," he answered, pulling out a candy bar, one of five in his pocket, and munching on it. (He loves sweets.)

"We got lots of rejection slips for six straight years, but finally we sold some of the strips to Harry Donahoe, a New York publisher. Later Superman caught on. And he's now appearing in 300 newspapers, three magazines, the movies, and on the radio. He really gets around."

HOME FROM THE WARS

Boehm Twins Are Released from Service

The twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Boehm, Green Bay, are again wearing civilian garb. William, former 2nd lieutenant in the AAF, served 3 years, one year as pilot in England. With his wife he is living in Lake Bluff.

His twin brother, Kurt, former sergeant in the AAF, was stationed for 3 1/2 years at Romulus Field, Mich. Married, he is living at Wayne, Mich.

A third brother, Lt. Robert, AAF, is stationed at Guam.

NATIVE OF KRYPTON . . .

Superman, it seems — in case you Highland Park funny-paper-readers don't know this — was the sole survivor of the Planet Krypton and arrived in the U.S. in an interplanetary projectile as an infant. He reached maturity surprisingly fast and became Clark Kent, crack but prissy reporter for the Daily Planet.

Lep, Superman has a girl, Lois Kane. (Jerry has a girl, too — Mrs. Jerry Siegel.)

"We never let Superman, or Clark Kent, embrace Lois, you'll note," Jerry said, smiling. "We're afraid he'll crack her ribs!"

What's Superman's duty in life, Jerry, I queried.

SUPERMAN'S MISSION . . .
"His mission is to go to the rescue of persecuted and deserving people everywhere," Jerry answered quickly. "He's a busy man. There's lots of unfairness in this world."

So sold on Superman's character, Jerry tries to be like him. The chubby, cheerful, ex-sergeant is a clean-cut man, a milk drinker, and a lover of children.

MAKES LADS HAPPY . . .
"One day some boys came to my home," he said, "They had heard that Superman lived there. When I went to the door they said, 'We want to see Superman.' I didn't want to disappoint them, so I dashed into the house and brought out Superman's red boots, blue tights, and flowing red cape."

"I explained that Superman was away at the time, but that he had left these clothes. That seemed to please the boys and they went away happy."

One of the highbrow, debunking magazines called Superman "an expensive form of therapy for unhappy children."

HE'S A GOOD GUY . . .
This, I feel, is rather unfair. Superman is a good guy. He's out to right the nation's wrongs. He's full of whimsy and light banter. He's never permitted to destroy property. He never kills. And the only weapons he uses are his fists.

A gallant, up-standing man, if you ask us.
Jerry, who comes from a very modest family, had little as a youth and as a young man. Now he has built himself, with the aid of Schuster, an ever-growing business.

It always amused us that Jerry, a sergeant, earned five times as much as the combined salaries of Generals MacArthur and Richardson, top brass in the Pacific, and Jerry's No. 1 bosses.

FAVORITE FOODS . . .
Jerry's favorite foods are steak, turkey and lots of vegetables. He loves movies, Benny Goodman's and Carmen Cavallero's music, convertible cars, historical and biographical books.

He also likes to tear paper into little pieces and roll them into small pellets which he has tossed at several of his co-workers in his typically playful way.

SHY AND SENSITIVE . . .
So . . . the next time you Highland Parkers hear "Whoosh" (a news-reel recording, by the way, of a bomb exploding in the Spanish war and a 50 mile gale) on your radios, and hear the announcer say, "Up in the Sky! Look! It's a Plane! It's Superman!", think of Jerry, a shy, sensitive fellow — and the papa of your favorite comic hero.

Rankin Twins Back In Civilian Ranks

James and Leslie Rankin, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Rankin Sr., 627 Vine, are back in civilian again. James, who until last December 11, ranked as BM 1/c, USNR, was in service 3 1/2 years, and was for 20 months stationed in Africa, Sicily and England. He is now employed in Houston, Tex., and is staying with his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Keech.

Former Lt. (jg) Leslie, naval aviator in the U. S. Naval Reserve, also 3 1/2 years in service, was released to status of inactive duty as of January 23. He served for the last six months with the Naval Air Transport service in Hawaii. He is now home with his wife and two children, Sandra Lee, aged 17 months, and Robert Russell, born Dec. 11, at 2243 S. Sheridan, and will start work with the Public Service Co. on Feb. 3.

Thomas Strenger Home; Mary Jane Recovering

Thomas P. Strenger, shipfitter 1/c, of the Seabees, arrived from Okinawa this week, a leave having been arranged by the Red Cross in order for him to be at the bedside of his four-year-old daughter, Mary Jane, who was stricken with meningitis last week.

The little girl, now in the Evans-ton hospital, is staging a remarkable recovery, and is expected home from the hospital some time next week.

Strenger arrived via the USS Ticonderoga, one of the "magic carpet" ships. He will be separated from service Feb. 1. The family lives at 132 S. First.

U. S. VICTORY BONDS BUY THEM . . . KEEP THEM!

Sgt. Whitt N. Schultz Conveys Glad Tidings From Honolulu

Sgt. Whitt N. Schultz, stationed here these many months in far-off Honolulu, is the recipient of good news. But let him tell it himself:

"Good news came to this sergeant this week. Yep, I learned that I'm eligible for discharge Feb. 7 in Chicago. Of course the Army is always a bit slow and blundering, so I guess I'll not doff olive drab until late February. Surely, though, by March 1 I should be a civilian and in Highland Park. I pray so. I might get there sooner if I fly home. I'm going to suggest to Army Air officials that they let me fly home and I'll write a feature story about the trip. This, of course, is tentative."

"That's all for this time. I'm right busy, have three men working with me answering and editing the hundreds of letters reaching me weekly. It's fun and great experience."

Three Salyards Back In Civilian Ranks

Pfc. Stanley Salyards, brother of Mrs. Edgar C. Hayes, 518 Midlothian, was recently separated from service at Ft. Sheridan after serving 42 months in the army. Four months in the Pacific area, he contracted a tropical ailment from which he is now recovered.

John, a brother, 3 1/2 years a marine, is employed by the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. in Skokie since his release. Clyde, former marine hospital apprentice, and discharged earlier this month, is living with his wife and daughter, Karen, 2, at 216 North, Highwood. He served 18 months in the Pacific theater.

Robert Gifford Home From Pacific Theater

Among the numbers of Uncle Sam's nephews arriving home to take up the thread of civilian life is "Bob" Gifford, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Carleton Gifford, 825 N. St. Johns, who was separated from service last Friday at Camp Grant.

Bob left to join the army during his sophomore year at University of Illinois, and served for "two years and fifty-one weeks"; 21 months of which time was spent overseas in Australia, the Philippines and Japan.

He says his one year in Australia was "okay." During that time he became a "Red Cross Commando," but found nothing to menace his bachelor freedom, although it was different with about 5% of his comrades. While in Australia he met Richard Moran and Dick Markell of Highland Park, and Dan Nanni of Highwood.

During his 6 months in the Philippines he met Al Fiore, of Highland Park. Bob considers the weather in the Philippines too hot for comfort. The aircraft boys had done a good job on the part of Japan where he was stationed for a short time.

Ruddy and cheerful as ever, Bob says he is undecided as to his future plans.

T. Sgt. Allan Gerkin To Be Discharged Soon

T/Sgt. Allan Gerkin, of Highland Park, is one of 678 high-point army veterans the navy is returning to the States from Pearl Harbor, for discharge. The men are aboard the USS Refuge, a hospital ship of the "magic carpet" fleet. This ship left Yokohama, Japan, Jan. 7, and is scheduled to arrive in Seattle about Jan. 27.

Capt. Raymond Bartleman Returning from Tokyo

FIFTH AIR FORCE, TOKYO— Captain Raymond C. Bartleman, whose wife and two sons live at 595 West Park avenue, is returning to the United States under the army's readjustment program.

A son of Mrs. R. W. Bartleman, 12727 Elm St., Blue Island, Capt. Bartleman was inducted in January, 1942, and was commissioned 2nd lieutenant upon completing the Quartermaster Officer Candidate school at Camp Lee, Va., in July, 1942.

Prior to serving with the occupational 5th air force in Japan, Capt. Bartleman participated in the Philippines and Ryukyus campaigns. He has been staff quartermaster for the 5th air force command, which supplied and maintained the fighters and bombers of the 5th air force.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he was employed by the John Sexton Co. in Chicago before entering the army.

Nardini Released After 18 Months in China

T/5 Angelo Nardini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Caesar Nardini, 306 Highwood, ended his two years in service at Camp Grant, recently, after returning from 18 months in the China-Burma-India theater of war.

In service two years, his overseas duties consisted in conveying gas and ammunition from India to China, and helping to construct the world's longest pipe-line between the two places, later serving with a quartermaster trucking company in Shanghai, China.

He is married and has a 10-year-old son, Alvin.



Killing the "Outlet Octopus"

Our hero has the right idea :: the "Outlet Octopus" has to go :: but the solution isn't the one — it's adequate wiring.

Maybe yours is still just a baby Octopus . . . but it'll grow unless your wiring is adequate. Not only are "double plugs on double plugs" unsightly but they are also dangerous. Think of those flimsy wires behind the plug, they just aren't built to carry such a load.

Avoid slow heating and inefficiently operating appliances. Adequate wiring means no more dimming lights . . . no more "Outlet Octopuses." You'll have plenty of convenience outlets . . . and no more "steps in the dark"—multiple switches will light your way ahead.

In your present or future home, plan to have adequate wiring so your new electric appliances will serve you better. Talk over adequate wiring with us or your electrical contractor today.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS