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Long Distance reminder for Spring

Today and tomorrow and every business day something like four million Toll and Long Distance calls will be going over Bell System lines.

So we'd like to remind you that there's still a wartime rush on certain circuits and ask your cooperation when the operator says—"Please limit your call to 5 minutes."

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Birmingham Airman Uses "Flying Jeep" For Many Purposes To Battle Japs

A 14TH AIR FORCE BASE, China—For flying near and over enemy lines on missions in a plane popularly known in the states as the Flying Jeep, Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Edmunds of 468 W. Lincoln street, Birmingham, Mich., has recently been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Member of a famed liaison squadron in Maj. Gen. C. L. Chennault's Fourteenth Air Force, Sgt. Edmunds was awarded the decoration in a special ceremony held at the west China base by Brig. Gen. Kennedy, commander of a wing of the Flying Tigers.

Sgt. Edmunds is one of the many pilots in this liaison squadron who fly these small two-seated planes—similar to the Stinson 105 in which so many American youths learned to fly—on various missions for the Fourteenth. In addition to roles as couriers and spotters for

Bloomfield Hills Sets Tax Record

Tax payments in the city of Bloomfield Hills this year have been the best in history, according to Norvil V. Farrill, deputy city treasurer, who recently completed his official return to the county treasurer's office.

There was a 100 per cent collection of personal taxes, including both the general city rolls and the county and school tax rolls.

On the city tax there was a collection of 97.6 per cent. The total roll was \$20,608.71 and the amount collected was \$20,051.56. Returned to the county treasurer was \$877.17.

The total of the county and school roll was \$71,492.55 and the sum collected was \$68,867.94. Total returned was \$2,624.61.

The City Commission is now busy studying the proposed new city budget. The budget is expected to be up for preliminary action on May 8. A public hearing is to be called for a later date.

Art and Al Jones Enjoy Five Days Together in England

Dear Mr. Averill:

Perhaps the Eccentric has carried previous stories of Birmingham brothers having met overseas, but even if it has happened before I wish to tell you of my brother's experience—and mine.

Five days after we learned one another's whereabouts (this discovery, itself, a sequence of events, I'll describe in a future column) we were able to meet in London. By a stroke of extremely good fortune, I was sent to Al's base the following Tuesday to cover an assignment for my headquarters. It was there for five days during which time I slept in my brother's Nissen hut along with other members of his crew.

Our visit was one of those things we will look back on the rest of our lives. We didn't much enjoy our being together again, and talking over all the old times, was an experience neither of us will ever forget. There is little recreation on any army base, but the few things we did were done together. That, above all else, made them seem more worthwhile.

We dropped in at the Red Cross Aero Club and played Beethoven and Brahms on the electric phonograph, ate, drank, listened to the radio. We had all our meals together at the mess hall. We attended a "Horse Opera" at the base theater. On Friday night, the toggler on his crew had a birthday, so we went with the crew to a pub in a nearby village and helped him celebrate.

On Saturday we flew a practice mission together, breathed oxygen at 25,000 feet, and laughed at one another when we saw how funny each looked wearing his "rubber face".

We explored the big bomber together, and Al let me operate his turret, the top one, behind the pilot's seat, and explained the new gadgets they didn't have when I was a mechanic at electrician with the Ninth Air Force. His pilot let me handle the controls for about a half hour, and told me how good Al was getting to be "on the stick." Over the practice target, we both hung our noses over the open bomb-bay doors, and watched the blue bombs drop away from us and explode in little puffs far below.

On the way "home" we joked over the inter-com. I was alone in the radio room; he was at his battle station. The earphones crackled, "Engineer to radio room." "Radio room to engineer," I answered.

"Art," came his voice. "What-cha doing?"

"I'm reading an article in Reader's Digest on 'Mental Misfits,'" I answered.

"Hey!" he shrieked. "Is that an insinuation?"

"You can take it any way you want to, Bub?" I assured him. I felt good deep down inside. It was nice to kid with your brother once more.

A couple of days ago, he visited me in London on a two-hour pass.

Public Stenographer TYPING LETTERS STATEMENTS

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Birmingham Youth Makes Pictures Of Marines On IWO

ABOARD A COAST GUARD MANNED LST, two Island (Delayed)—With the invasion of two islands—one of the toughest in American fighting annals—under his belt, Jack W. Papsun, Coast Guard combat photographer, who hails from Birmingham, Mich., is looking forward to "getting on with the rest of it and get the job over with." Papsun, photographer's mate third class, USCGR, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Simmons of 1025 University drive, Birmingham.

Papsun was serving aboard a Coast Guard-manned LST and went into the beach aboard Army-manned ducks which carried assault troops on invasion day. As a result, he got some top rate action shots of the assault waves being carried in through the raging surf by other ducks and LCV (P)s.

"The hardest part of the whole operation was the last 100 yards before hitting the beach," Papsun said. "The sun was terrific and we were rolling into ten to fifteen feet breakers which were laying down a heavy mortar fire which raised hell with our formations."

Once ashore, Papsun stayed with a Marine artillery reconnaissance party which had come ashore to look over positions for setting up their artillery when the LSTs were able to beach. Papsun is now a veteran seafaring man, having served on a 400 boat in the Atlantic, and aboard a Coast Guard-manned attack cargo ship which has traveled all over the Pacific.

A graduate of Birmingham High School, he was employed as a lineman by the Michigan Bell Telephone company prior to his enlistment. He plans to attend the University of Michigan where he wants to study synthetic. For participating in the Iwo Jima invasion, Papsun is authorized to wear a battle star on his Asiatic-Pacific campaign bar.

Killed In Action

Pfc. Robert L. (Bob) Clement, Jr., former Birmingham youth, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Clement, now reside at Mt. Clemens, was killed in battle on the German battle front, March 24. He was serving with the 17th Airborne division and had been overseas only a few weeks. Pfc. Clement attended the public schools of Birmingham and had a year at the military academy at Gainesville, Ga.

He returned to base last night. I was climbing the stairs to my room on the top floor yesterday morning, after being on duty all night. As I started up the last flight of steps, I heard him putting about the room, whistling one of his best loved tunes.

For just one delicious moment, I almost felt I was home again.

Yours very sincerely,
CPL. ARTHUR L. JONES, JR.

W.A.P. John Fishing Picture Shown To Navy Men on Guam

The following letter from Lt. Don Egbert, former city manager of Birmingham, to W. A. P. John mentions a fishing picture which was shown recently at the Birmingham theater in this city and also shown to the men in war service on Guam, where Lieutenant Egbert has been stationed for some time.

The picture was one which Mr. John assisted Van Campen Heiler make for distribution through Warner Brothers.

Dear Mr. John:

I was very agreeably surprised during the show the other evening to hear the announcement that the pilot of the boat was "WAP John."

The picture being shown was a sport short showing fishing in Lake St. Clair. They show only two small mouths and Muskies.

This place is a far cry from Birmingham and the kind of fishing shown in the movie, although they do have some fishing of sorts here. The natives go out only in outrigger canoes wading off shore for their fishing, and boats are hard to get for fishing purposes.

There have been a few chaps from Birmingham on this island in the Marianas, but as far as I know there are only three of us left here now.

The picture was shown in an open air theatre with a canopy of blue tropical skies. The skies were criss-crossed occasionally with searchlights and the sound track was competing with airplanes for attention.

Will be seeing you in Birmingham before too long and some small mouth fishing will claim my attention immediately after my return.

Sincerely,
Lt. D. C. Egbert, USNR

Seed potatoes should be cut into block pieces about the size of a small egg rather than wedge shaped pieces.

ALL NEWS-COPY must be in the Eccentric office by 9 o'clock each Wednesday morning for publication that week. This advance in "deadlines" is caused by wartime manpower problems. adv:fr

Announcement

THE **WELDING SERVICE CO.**

HAS MOVED FROM THEIR FORMER LOCATION AT 920 E. MAPLE TO NEW QUARTERS AT **1315 So. Woodward**

Across from Mints Ice Cream Co. CONTINUING WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL AND GOOD WORKMANSHIP

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The rest of the week we will open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

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