

He drives a 2½ ton G.M.C. truck.

He mentioned that the natives were very interesting, and in that connection writes: "The old women smoke cigars, the young ones wear pretty dresses, but no shoes and the little kids don't wear any pants. Most of their houses are made of bamboo. They wash our clothes for us for a reasonable price and do a good job of it.

"The cocoanuts are very plentiful and occasionally we see some bananas and sugar cane. The natives raise water buffalo, chickens and pigs. In many cases the chickens live with the natives."

Bob said that mail is a better morale builder than a beer rations so let's write the boys and tell them about home. Thanks Joe for letting us read your letter.

Lt. Lloyd R. (Pop) Chandler has reported to Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island, for re-assignment after visiting his many friends in Oregon.

Sgt. Lester Tolvstad, U.S. Air Corps of Hobbs, New Mexico, stopped in La Grande recently enroute to Oregon City. He is changing engines and superchargers on B-17's. Quite a contrast to running a roller on Paving Crew No. 5. He spent the day calling on old friends.

Sgt. Bernard H. Gruis, son of Edward Gruis (of the La Grande Shop) is a member of the 701st tank destroyer battalion, a Fifth Army unit which has been in combat almost 500 days in the Apennine Mountains in Italy.

An official Fifth Army announcement says in the 10 day period from May 25 to June 4, 1944, the battalion destroyed 29 tanks, a battery of 210 millimeter howitzers, 30 vehicles and two self-propelled guns between the Anzio beachhead and Rome.

It is one of the first United States

tank destroyer units to have fired on German tanks and has fought with troops of eight Allied nations.

Pfc. William Thomas Orr, former employee of the Highway Department, has been overseas for more than a year and a half, and is now stationed in the Admiralty Islands, where he is serving with a portable surgical hospital unit. His wife and daughter reside in La Grande.

Sgt. Joe M. Devers, Jr., with the Army Signal Corps, was a recent visitor in Salem, being on furlough after nearly two and one half years of service in North Africa, Corsica and Italy. He has now reported to a re-assignment center at Columbia, South Carolina, accompanied by Mrs. Devers. Mr. Devers, chief counsellor for the Highway Commission, advises that his boy stayed close to home during the furlough and enjoyed every minute of his visit.

Yeoman 3/c Birdie Hebel, formerly with the Highway Department, is understood to be enjoying her service in the Waves. She is stationed at San Francisco and besides her regular duties is acting as an art director for a magazine published in the interests of the Waves activities.

Lt. (j.g.) John R. McCullough, son of C. B. McCullough, Assistant Highway Engineer, is reported on board the destroyer U.S.S. Overton which saw recent action at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines. Lt. McCullough had hoped to be furloughed this spring, but expects that recent developments will preclude such freedom due to "prior commitments."

Major Herbert B. Glaisyer, Jr., with the U.S. Army Air Corps at Williams Field, Arizona "dropped in" on his  
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