

Cpl. Smith Arrives Home After Nearly Three Years as a POW

Misplaced Orders Cause Delay in Arrival Here

"The happiest day of my life" was the day, only a little over three weeks ago, when Cpl. Louis Smith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith of Heppner, walked a free man into Korea's Freedom village after spending 33 months as a prisoner of the Communists in North Korea, he said shortly after having been greeted by his parents and family last Saturday evening in Pendleton.

Cpl. Smith, who has been expected home for well over a week, since he was landed in San Francisco Sept. 10, had caused his family much concern, by his apparent disappearance from the Bay city, but it was not his fault. A mixup in his orders caused his delay in getting home. He was met in Pendleton by his folks and three sisters who had not seen him for nearly four years.

Smith later told that he had been captured at Chosan reservoir near the Yalu river in North Korea when the Chinese Reds broke through allied lines. He was a machine gunner with the 7th division.

For three days his battalion, which was trapped on high ground, fought off the Chinese who outnumbered them 20 to 1. He said it was so cold you could "freeze to death standing guard." Smith had been wounded in both legs and in the back by shrapnel before his capture and he said that the Chinese did not treat him after his capture. After being captured, he said the prisoners were forced to make an exhausting 20 day march with each of them carrying a 60 pound bag of rice. "They seemed more like 200 pounds, though," he said.

Cpl. Smith said he and many other prisoners were marched to the Yalu river where they spent the winter in prison compound camp 5. It was a winter, he recalled, that saw many of the prisoners die from exposure and malnutrition, and in the mornings the bodies would be thrown into a big hole. He remembered the spectacle of seeing 40 bodies being disposed of on one occasion.

He said that at first the Chinese lectured the prisoners every day. "They wanted us to take notes which we finally did because the chow was scarce and we were hungry." He added that eventually the Reds apparently gave up on the project of converting the prisoners to Communism, as the lectures became less frequent.

Smith said that the prisoners called their camp "Death Valley" and that they spent four months there in the severe winter with no blankets and nothing to do but lie on the floor of a mud hut. "Our food was barley, some boiled potatoes and meal balls which looked like birdseed and were tiresome eating."

Smith, who wears stars of 13 major battles, said "This country looks like heaven to me," after spending that much time in Korea. Smith's stay in Heppner was brief, though it was long enough to get acquainted again with his folks and sisters, Hazel, who lives at home, Mrs. Gene Stone, Heppner, and Mrs. Jack Warren of Condon. He left Monday evening for Fort Lewis where he entered an army hospital for a medical checkup. He said Monday that he "felt fine," and if nothing shows up during his hospital stay he will be given a 30 day furlough and will then return for a second check before receiving his discharge from the service. Even though he spent a busy two days while he was here, he found time to buy a new car, something he had always wanted. The three years back pay that Uncle Sam had been saving for him while he was a POW played a big part in the transaction.

Just as happy about his being back home again as Smith was, his mother said "He's just the same as he always was."

And, if he expected to find peace and quiet around home, when he got here, he was badly mistaken. The family's house in north Heppner might as well have been located in the middle of Main street, it couldn't have had any more traffic through it than it had Sunday and Monday as friends and neighbors trooped in and out welcoming him back.

SQUARE DANCE CLUB
Square dance club members are reminded of a square dance to be held Saturday night, Sept. 26 at the Legion hall starting at 8 p. m.



HOME AGAIN after spending 33 months as a prisoner of war in North Korean Communist POW camps is Cpl. Louis Smith of Heppner. Cpl. Smith is shown here in civilian clothes with his parents Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith. He arrived in Pendleton Saturday evening, but only got to stay home for a short time, leaving Monday night for Fort Lewis, Wash., where he will undergo a medical checkup, before being discharged from the service. (GT Photo)

DIVISIONS GIVEN FOR IONE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW NEXT SUNDAY

Plans are completed for the annual flower show to be held at the Ione school cafeteria Sunday, Sept. 27 from 2 to 5 p. m. It is sponsored by the Ione Garden club and the theme for the show is "Autumn Glory." Any amateur gardener is eligible to enter the competition.

Entries will be placed from 8 to 11 a. m. and all entries in the first six sections must be grown by the exhibitor. The sweepstakes ribbon will be awarded to the exhibitor winning the greatest number of blue ribbons.

Garden club officials said that containers will be provided, but that owners of them should mark them with their name.

Classes for judging will be as follows:

- Section I—annuals, asters, 1 bloom; marigolds, dwarf, 3 blooms; marigolds, African, 1 bloom; petunias, single, 1 spray; petunias, double, 1 bloom; zinnias, giant, 1 bloom; zinnias, dwarf, 3 blooms; alysium, 5 blooms; cosmos, 3 blooms; any annual not listed, 1 bloom or spray each; collection of annuals, 1 bloom or spray each.
- Section II—Dahlias, class: cactus 1 bloom; decorative, 1 bloom; single, 1 bloom; miniature, 2 blooms; specimen, 1 bloom; collection of any variety of color or type, 1 bloom.
- Section III—gladioli class: baby, 1 stalk; large, 1 stalk.
- Section IV—perennials class: roses, 1 bloom; delphinium any type, 1 spray; Michaelmas daisy (autumn asters) 1 spray; geranium, 1 stalk; blackeyed Susan, 1 spray; any perennial not listed, 1 bloom or spray.
- Section V—Chrysanthemums class: fall, 3 blooms; summer, 1 spray; exhibition, 1 bloom.
- Section VI—begonia class: tuberous, 1 bloom.
- Section VII—arrangements class: all one color in same color container; arrangements with figures; mantle; vegetable or fruit; twin; coffee table; green; dry; all one kind.
- Section VIII—Children's flower arrangements.
- Section IX—collection corner, example: racks, relics, insects, wheat, birds, and freak plants.

A silver tea will be held in connection with the show.

State Committee to Push Beef Sales

A statewide committee to promote the sale of beef during the fall period of heavy cattle marketing and low prices has been announced by the Oregon Cattleman's Association.

Bill Southworth of Seneca, chairman of the committee, said an intensive campaign is being planned to create the demand needed to absorb the surplus beef.

Named on the committee were: Bill Southworth, Chairman, Seneca; Carson Adams, Junction City; L. L. Clark, Portland; Roger Dumdi, McMinnville; Charles A. Evans, Independence; Walter H. Fisher, Oregon City; Don Hotchkiss, Lakeview; Kent Magruder, Clatskanie; Irvin Mann, Sr., Stanfield; Albert Powers, Coos Bay; J. F. Short, Redmond; Lowell Steen, Milton-Freewater; J. H. Tippet, Enterprise; Marion Weatherford, Arlington; Harry I. Stearns, Prineville; Herman Oliver, John Day; Herbert Chandler, Baker; William Kittridge, Klamath Falls; and L. T. Woody of Grants Pass.

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, Oregon State Grange, Oregon Farmer Union and Chambers of Commerce in Oregon's principle cities are being asked to join in the program.

More than 200 persons, representing 30 organizations and communities were present to express their desires as to which dam they would rather see constructed. A high dam has previously been authorized by congress, but the heavy opinion favoring the lower structure is expected to influence the engineers planning.

The hearing authorized by a special congressional resolution was conducted by Col Thomas H. Lipscomb, district engineer of the corps of engineers of the army. State representative Tom Allen was floor chairman.

Some 30 representations, both written and oral, were made at

the hearing. They came from representatives of the towns of Arlington, Boardman, Irrigon and Umatilla; the Oregon Wheat League, the state fish commission, several port commissions, four Indian tribes, several navigation companies, Washington Public Utility Districts, county courts, several chambers of commerce, including the Portland chamber, and other interested groups and all followed the same theme that the low dam would be

the most beneficial without drowning out anywhere near as much good land as would the high dam. The extra height on the high dam, it was pointed out, would be used for flood control only when needed, but the back water at such times would inundate a much larger area than would the low dam, yet would be used only infrequently. If the high dam were constructed, all of Irrigon would be flooded, as would the

town of Boardman and Irrigon and part of Umatilla. Backwater from the low dam would inundate only a part of Arlington and the other towns, and not necessitate nearly as much highway and railroad relocation.

Col. Lipscomb stated at the conclusion of the hearing that the "Decision as to which of the two dams will be recommended will be made as rapidly as possible to insure the development of the region between the John Day

and McNary dams." He added that he was well pleased by the interest shown by residents of the areas and that it was not the policy of the corps of engineers to tell the people what they wanted.

Morrow county was represented by William Garner, mayor of Boardman; Battle Rand and Harry Smith, Irrigon, county judge Garnet Barratt and commissioners Russell Miller of Boardman and Ralph L. Thompson, Heppner.

Patrons will be permitted to select whom they wish to do the work, subject to the city's inspection. No charge will be made for connecting with the sewer lines within one year from the date of this notice, provided the sewer line does not have to be broken into. All cost for the installation and any damage to the sewer line, shall be borne by the owner.

Dated Sept. 24, 1953.
Signed J. O. Turner, mayor.
The only work remaining to be done at the disposal plant is the landscaping called for in the contract and the city recently made arrangements with the contractor, The Atlas Construction company, to take over that part of the work itself. It has been decided to install a sprinkling system on the grounds before the grass is planted. The area is all fenced and leveled, and the remainder of the work will be done this winter so that the grass can be planted next spring.

While final figures are not yet available, members of the council feel certain that the total cost of the plant and sewer system would not run over the total cost of the two contracts accepted. There was leeway in the sewer contract with Charles R. Schmiedeskamp company for extra charges should an extra amount of rock be encountered, but changes in the plans during construction resulted in savings which are expected to hold the final cost down to the contract figure.

During the afternoon a program will be put on by officers who have missed attending past Pomona meetings.

Sewage System and Disposal Plant Completed, in Operation

Work Started On Repair of Heppner Streets

Work was started Wednesday morning by Leslie Harris, Pendleton paving contractor, on resurfacing and sealing more than 22 blocks of Heppner streets.

Some of the streets, which suffered the worst from the digging necessary during the laying of the sewer lines, will be completely rebuilt, while others will receive only one or possibly two lifts, or layers, of surface coating.

Patching of pavement where streets were broken into during the laying of sewer laterals will not be a part of the job, as that is part of the sewer contract and is now being done by the contractor. It is expected to take several weeks to complete the job.

Savings Bond Sales Climb in County

Total state-wide sales for the first 8 months of the year are just short of \$20 million, an increase of 37 percent over the corresponding period of 1952. So far this year, the county has sold \$147,034 in bonds against a quota for the entire year of \$227,440.

Cpl. Smith, Family Get Reunion Dinner

Cpl. Louis Smith, recently released Korean prisoner of war, and his parents and entire family enjoyed a reunion dinner at the home of his sister, Mrs. Gene Stone last Sunday. The party, being on the women of three Heppner churches.

Mrs. Olive Hughes will leave Tuesday for Tillamook to attend the annual county assessors meeting.



WHITE WATER boiling from power house at Pacific Power & Light company's Yale hydroelectric project signifies start of operation of region's newest power plant. Nestled at the foot of massive Yale dam on the Lewis river in southwest Washington, the new plant will add 125,000 kilowatts to generating capacity of the area. Electronic impulses beamed by microwave from Pacific's 100,000-kilowatt Merwin plant 12 miles downstream control much of Yale plant's operation.

Morrow Bulls Rate High at Cattleman's Baker Show and Sale

Morrow county made an excellent showing at the recent Baker bull sale sponsored by the Oregon Cattleman's association. It was reported this week. In the strongest class, Frank Anderson's bull was judged champion and five other county animals placed high in that and other classes.

In the strongest class, February and March yearlings consigned by Allen Hughes, placed second, followed by animals entered by Bernard Doherty and Herb Ekstrom.

Permits to Hookup To be Issued Slowly

Heppner's new sewer system and sewage disposal plant was placed in operation last week, after nearly a year of construction and officials indicated Wednesday that the rush had already been started by residents to get hooked into the lines. 30 permits have been issued for hookups.

Scout Fund Drive Started Today

The drive to raise funds for the Heppner Boy Scout program got underway this morning when five team captains, their workers and drive chairman La Verne Van Marter met for a kickoff breakfast at O'Donnell's cafe.

Chamber Favors Construction of Low John Day Dam

The Heppner-Morrow county chamber of commerce went on record Monday favoring the construction of a low dam on the Columbia river at the site commonly known as the John Day damsite.

Pomona Grange To Elect Officers At Ione Saturday

Morrow county Pomona Grange will meet Saturday, Sept. 26 at Ione with Willow Grange, it was announced this week by officers.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ernsdorff will spend Friday in La Grande where he will attend the Eastern Oregon hospital meeting.

Low John Day Dam Unanimous Choice at Hearing

It was practically the unanimous belief of all persons and organizations present Wednesday at the Arlington hearing that the 255 foot, or low, John Day dam should be built on the Columbia river. The hearing was held by the Army Engineers to determine the desires of the persons in the affected areas.

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The disposal plant has been practically complete for some time, but it was only last week end that the final laterals were laid completing the sewer collection system so that a complete test could be made of the installation before it was put into use. City superintendent Victor Grohens said that while the contractor is still laying a section of line in the new Barratt addition, it will not delay use of the main lines. He added that there is still a considerable amount of street cleanup work, grading and pavement patching to be done by

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