

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.

Mrs. Ida Grimes, formerly of Heppner was visiting with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Case over the weekend.

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.

Sewage System and Disposal Plant Completed, in Operation

Permits to Hookup To be Issued Slowly

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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

the contractor. This work is now going on but it will not delay use of the sewers.

In a statement below, mayor J. O. Turner served official notice to the public that the system was now in operation and outlined the necessary procedure to be followed. Permits will be issued to each person before they will be allowed to tie into the line, and the ordinance requires that the city inspector must pass on the job before it can be used. Permits are being issued only as fast as the inspector can handle the job. There will be no charge, other than the cost of the permit, for hooking in, if the installation is made within one year. After that time the ordinance calls for a special hookup charge.

Notice Given
Following is the notice prepared by mayor Turner:

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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.

Pomona Grange To Elect Officers At Ione Saturday

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The meeting will start at 10 a. m. and will be followed with a dinner at noon. Election of officers for the coming year will be a major point of interest to members.

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

Chamber Favors Construction of Low John Day Dam

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A resolution, favoring the low dam over the proposed higher structure was passed unanimously by the group and copies of the resolution were prepared for presentation Wednesday at the public hearing in Arlington which was called by the Army Engineers. Discussion indicated that the members felt the loss of most of the irrigable farm land around Boardman and Irrigon, by flooding, should be high dam built, was not necessary nor desirable.

Speaker for the meeting was H. C. Reed, Heppner school superintendent, who told of the problems to be faced in bringing the local schools up to date.

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