

After a While 'Officers Start to Look Human'

Trainee's View of Army Life: You Get a Little Lonely at First

(This article was written by Mac Bowe of the Mercury staff at San Jose, Calif., and is reprinted in the Journal as it appeared in the March 15, 1966, issue of the Mercury. The item concerns Nysan Michael (Mike) McGinnis, son of Glenn and Faye Mettlen McGinnis, and as told to Bowe it gives the youth's impression of a recruit's beginning days in the U.S. Army. Mike is now a corporal. Toward the end of the story it tells of his being engaged to a girl near his home town. She is Darlene Dowdry, whose mother resides in Baker.)

FORT ORD — "When you first get in the Army you think officers are beasts—inhuman."

Tall Michael McGinnis smiled. The 21-year-old buckaroo from Nyssa, Ore., has completed his basic training and is assigned to the reception center of the Army's big West Coast training center.

"By the time you finish basic (eight weeks basic training) you realize those officers are people just like you and me," McGinnis drawled.

McGinnis finished the "long, long" basic training, coping with the usual problems of a civilian thrown suddenly into military life. He faced some unusual problems too.

"My biggest problem was learning how to communicate. I'm a loner. I spend all my summers on the range alone . . . breaking horses and herding cattle. I didn't know how to talk to people when I first got here.

McGinnis' first impression of the Army when he stepped off the bus at the reception center here was a drill sergeant, the soldier with the old-fashioned campaign hat who took charge immediately.

It is an impression which is still with McGinnis. Everywhere he goes he sees drill sergeants—by his own admission—"the best soldiers there are."

McGinnis' first four days in the Army were taken up with "reception" or processing the new recruits.

The first thing was a 15-minute lecture telling the re-

cruits what to expect during those first days.

Then came masses of tests, preliminary issues of clothing and bedding, shots, pills, assignment to a 48-man platoon and talks on the various phases of military life.

These include regulations pertaining to visitors, military courtesy, facilities offered by the Red Cross and a talk by the station chaplain. Lectures on recognizing various diseases, including meningitis follow.

On the third day of processing the recruits receive a partial pay of \$25 for cigarettes, toilet articles and other necessities.

More tests and tentative classification into jobs to which recruits will be assigned after training complete the final day.

Finally, on the fourth or fifth day, recruits are taken to their company areas.

Training starts almost immediately with drills, lectures on military courtesy and physical training.

"It's hard at first to get used to the discipline," McGinnis said. "Especially if you've been used to making your own decisions."

By the end of his first week, McGinnis was getting his introduction to basic rifle marksmanship. Ultimately he reached the "marksman" category.

McGinnis had a headstart in many categories of training. Overnight hikes for a man used to spending his time on the range were no problem.



MIKE MCGINNIS
... Interviewed by Newsman

"It took me days, however, to learn how to run. I've spent most of my life on horseback. I had to work for days to get into condition to run."

Running is important, too.

Take the gruelling bayonet course where recruits scamper over walls, leap ditches and run across pits on logs all the time lunging with their bayonets at dummies.

Qualifying time is 3 minutes, 15 seconds.

"That's the longest time and the longest course there is," McGinnis said.

Then there's learning how to crawl under low - strung barbed wire, infiltration courses and drill, drill, drill.

"The Army?" McGinnis asked. "Oh, it's a good life. Sometimes I think it's just one big jumbled mass of confusion but then maybe it's just me who's confused sometimes and doesn't understand."

Recreation is pretty restricted during basic training and consists generally of television, games, books or whatever can be devised in the company area.

That's because "basics" are restricted to company and training areas to reduce the possible spread of meningitis. Two years ago the disease swept through the base, striking 95 soldiers or people possibly connected with the military.

Since then, by medical treatment and a restricting movement of men, the Army has practically eliminated meningitis at Ft. Ord.

There are no leaves during the first eight weeks.

"You get a little lonely," said

Rural Reporter Tells Recent News In Oregon Trail

By Alberta Tyner

OREGON TRAIL—David and Marilyn Smith of Halfway arrived March 15 to spend spring vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Byers. The children's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith, arrived Friday and were weekend guests. Sunday dinner guests in the Byers residence were Mr. and Mrs. John Sommers of Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Farmer.

March 17 evening guests in the Klaas Hart home were Messrs. and Mmes. Klaas Laan, Luit Stam and Minard Hart.

Dorothy Shaw and Nina Lowe called Monday on Mrs. Minard Hart. The Hart couple visited Sunday afternoon at the Blaine Hooper home in Boise.

Scouts Take Fishing Trip

Nathaniel Ashby took members of Boy Scout Troop 438 to Owyhee reservoir on a fishing trip. They left Friday and returned Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dail and family visited Wednesday evening of last week with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Farmer.

Billie Viers of Coos Bay visited March 17 with Colleen Brown. Mrs. Glenn Brown and Eugene attended the Reece-Corak wedding and reception Saturday evening.

Ethel Lay of Payette and Frances Kratzburg are now residing at the former L. G. Holmes place.

Mrs. Alfred Adams and Richard visited March 17 at the Wayne Adams home in Payette.

Guests in Seuell Home

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Seuell of Connell, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Seuell and Lois of Big Bend and Mrs. Edith Whipple were Saturday dinner guests in the Woodrow Seuell home. The M. C. Seuels were overnight guests.

Jeanie Seuell, who is attending college at Corvallis, and Peggy Seuell, a student at Monmouth, are spending spring vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Seuell and family.

Mrs. Allen Benoit and Brian were Saturday guests in the Ed Tyner home.

Mrs. Marvin Udlinek and children called March 15 on Karen

McGinnis, who is engaged to a girl near his home town. "My people are a little far away to visit."

Eventually, years and years after those first days at the reception center, graduation day arrives.

Company after company is massed on the battalion parade grounds. Many of the recruits are wearing their "greens" for the first time.

Here awards are passed out. McGinnis received highest overall training score award for his company.

Then, to the tune of marches, the "graduates" pass in review past battalion commanders and usually the post's commanding general.

McGinnis?

"Oh, I might 're-up' if I can make buck sergeant by the time my two years are over. The Army's a pretty good life if you can get some rank."



"The lines actors like best are the ones in front of the box office."

ATTEND FUNERAL RITES

Mrs. Chet Bowns, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Malloy returned Saturday evening from Canyonville where they attended funeral services for the latter's brother, Guy McGee.

VISIT IN BEAVERTON

Mr. and Mrs. Vic Haburchak and family visited several days last week with a niece, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weber and family at Beaverton.

VISIT NYSSA PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rhodes and Susan and John Beckham left Sunday for their home in Milton-Freewater after several days' visit with Mrs. Rhodes' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Boydell and other relatives.

Wiggins at Ontario. Mrs. Eugene Orr and children were March 16 guests of Mrs. Udlinek.

Girls Attend Youth Rally

Jeanie and Patty Neely left Friday afternoon to attend a youth rally in Garden Valley, Idaho. The rally was to promote the Pioneers for Christ club. The girls spent Friday evening in the Charles Hartwick home and returned Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Adams were Sunday dinner guests at the Thurman Hill home in Apple Valley. Mrs. John Reffett spent Saturday in the Adams residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Holmes took their son, Jerry, to the Don Royse home Friday to attend Brad's ninth anniversary party. Jerry spent the weekend with Brad.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Udlinek visited Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gammel at Parma. Mrs. Udlinek was a March 17 caller in the David Savage residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richesin and family visited Friday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ekanger and family in Caldwell.

College Students Arrive to Spend Spring Vacation With Area Relatives

By Helen Hoffman

BUENA VISTA—Miss Evelyn Cleaver, a student at Kinnman Business university in Spokane, arrived Sunday morning to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cleaver and family. The Cleavers were Sunday dinner guests at the Taylor Phillips home near Parma. Evelyn returned Monday morning to Spokane.

Miss Mary Jo VanZelf recently arrived home from Eastern Oregon college in La Grande to spend spring vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William VanZelf.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Besendorfer and infant son of Portland and Miss Ann Cleaver, who attends OSU in Corvallis, arrived Friday morning to visit the women's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cleaver and family. The Besendorfers returned home Monday morning, while Ann plans to return to Corvallis today (Thursday).

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hoffman drove to La Grande on March 16 to get their daughter, Glenda, a student at EOC. The Hoffmans were accompanied to Baker by Mrs. Guy Tanner who visited an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Wright. The foursome returned home that afternoon.

Party Honors Kim Cleaver

A birthday party honoring Kim Cleaver on his fifth anniversary was held Monday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Cleaver.

Sunday afternoon guests at the home of Mrs. Edith Whipple were Mrs. Virginia Rookstool, Jeanie, Kathy, Marvin and Patti Seuell.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nesbitt of New Plymouth were Sunday afternoon callers at the home of their niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Goodell Jr. and family.

Dean Sappe was a recent overnight guest at the Alva Goodell residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richesin and family visited Friday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ekanger and family in Caldwell.

Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Cheldelin visited Sunday evening at the Sherman Wilson home in Apple Valley.

Returns From California

Mrs. Lester Cleaver recently returned home from San Francisco where she attended a workshop on juvenile protection. While in the Bay area, Mrs. Cleaver also visited her brother, Captain Nathan Orr and family at Beal Air Force base.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Knowles and family of Oakridge arrived March 14 to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Knowles, other relatives and friends. They returned home Sunday, March 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hiatt and family of Ontario visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Mancel Bishop and family.

Mrs. Guy Tanner and Mrs. Alzina Salter of Adrian were in Nampa and Caldwell Friday. While in Nampa, they called on Mrs. Lydia Ricks, a former resident of Adrian.

Mrs. Sillonis Honored

Mrs. Edith Whipple was co-hostess for a pink and blue shower given Friday at the Woodrow Seuell home in honor of Mrs. Mike Sillonis. Mrs. Whipple was also a Saturday evening dinner guest of the Seuell family.

Rick, Ronnie and Kathy Norland of Caldwell stayed with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stephen and family, while their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Norland, traveled to Madras to get his mother, Mrs. Martha Norland, who had been visiting at the Grover Findley home.

The Lester Norland family, Mrs. Martha Norland, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stephen and family were Sunday evening guests at the Eugene Stephen residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Day of Adrian were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mrs. Blanche Hoffman. Mrs. George Folkman called last week on Mrs. Hoffman.

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