

My title is the same as a column published in the *Livermore Herald* during World War II. Maitland Henry, who took over the editor's job after the death of his father in 1921, made sure that the citizens of Livermore could follow the tracks of its 600 young men and women in the armed forces. The newspaper was a weekly. The column appeared in every issue. Sometimes it was short; at other times it took up almost a page of the paper. Information for the column came from parents, the war department, military newspapers, and the soldiers themselves.

The newspaper was mailed abroad to those in the military effort. Often they wrote back from places around the world. At this time the Livermore population was about 2,884; just a little country town. One of the effects of the war was to introduce the town's young people to a much wider world view. The *Herald* went to England, France, Australia, New Guinea, North Africa, South America, Ireland, Sicily, China, the South Pacific, Hawaii, Germany, and 36 of the then 48 states.

Many of the men and women were homesick and described their excitement at mail call when receiving their copy of the newspaper. Marine Pfc. Don Scullion often sent cartoons; one showed him reading the *Herald* on a beach, leaning against a palm tree

Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

“Livermore Men and Women in the Armed Forces”

somewhere in the South Pacific. He is so deep into the paper that he ignores the women natives walking by.

From his battleship, Hospital Apprentice Louis Gardella Jr. wrote: “After reading copies of the *Herald* and letters from home, I find myself walking down First Street and out Livermore Avenue to my own home. Yes, a hometown newspaper and letters mean much out here; in fact they keep you going.”

Pvt. Raymond Rehder wrote from Australia, “Did you ever get something you wanted, really wanted? Well, that’s how it is when the *Herald* arrives. I read everything in every issue and hang on to it until the next arrives so I can keep reading it over and over again. It’s just like a long letter from home.”

Stationed in England, Pfc. Galen Canfield said: “Received three *Heralds* yesterday, and al-

ready I have read them over and over, and should anyone point out any article in any of them, I could quote it in full.” Pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber in Italy, Lt. Eldred Chance said, “I have at last received my first copy of the *Herald*. It was the June 2nd issue, and it arrived last week. I can say that for two days after receiving it, I could quote the price of eggs, lunch meat, secondhand cars, and stoves. I didn’t miss a single line, even the legal notices. Since I can’t be home to enjoy civilization in person, the paper gives me a chance to enjoy it mentally.”

Occasionally, service men and women could take some time to describe their new surroundings. Army nurse Florence Cardoso sailed on a hospital ship to Guam and other islands in the Mariana chain in the Western Pacific—“We went into Saipan during the bombing and spent about eight

months there. ... It was no dream island, bad climate, all kinds of bugs, coconuts falling on your head. The only good things were the papayas and bananas.” Raymond Rehder wrote again from Australia, “The birds here are the prettiest I have ever seen. It is surprising to see a big white bird fly by and land in a tree and on getting a closer view of it to see it is a beautiful red and blue underneath.” In Italy Eldred Chance visited several old churches. “The interiors are very beautiful and the stone work and masonry very artistic.” He commented on life there: “The natives think that all Americans are rich. In comparison we are. Just being able to live in a country like America is wealth enough for anyone. ... Everyone rides a bicycle here. Small donkeys about three feet high pull big two-wheeled carts about six feet high. Whole families get into one cart and one

small donkey pulls it about as fast as a baby can walk.”

Of course, these young men and women took their own culture with them. Although no familiar names were in the list of contestants, American servicemen held a rodeo in Norwich, England; more than 10,000 spectators enjoyed the events. Max and Buddy Baer boxed on exhibition tours all over the country for the marines. Vernon “Bud” Christensen, Chief Gunner’s Mate for the Seabees, competed in a rodeo for service men at the Honolulu Stadium in May 1944. Mule riding was an event new to him. The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* showed a photo of Bud just leaving a Hawaiian mule after a rough ride. Keith Anderson, Seaman 2nd Class, was a spectator at the show. Mrs. Jean Distro shared with the *Herald* a photo she received from her husband, Danny. It shows him smiling near a sign on a building at a New Guinea port. The sign says, “Danny’s Barber Shop.”

Thank you, Betty Beaudet, for sharing the clippings of the column with me. Her husband was in one column: Thomas E. Beaudet, Seaman First class, served in the South Pacific. Don’t forget to write to young people you know in the armed services—they really look forward to words from home.

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