

New Zealanders In Search of Friends in U. S.

James Victor Allen

When my brother, Dupree, visited the country of New Zealand, on one of his cruises, in March he sent home one of the weekly newspapers of Auckland, N. Z. The newspapers of New Zealand are quite different from the ones here in the United States. Their newspapers are published in the form of a magazine with an average of 65 pages each issue, which sells for ninepence (18c) per copy.

After reading the newspaper I decided to write to the publishers and ask if they knew of someone who might like to correspond with an American boy. Instead of selecting someone they published parts of my letter in their paper, and in the last five days I have received 26 letters in answer to my request. Their ideas about America are in such a way as we've probably never thought of it. Here are snatches from a few:

Merle Richardson, student in a girls college writes, "I was not in Auckland when the U. S. Navy arrived there, but really it gives us more courage, not that many want any more as people are really wonderful, to have the faith of America behind. I have relations in England and Scotland and I think the people could not be braver. They are wonderful. Here, we have not so much to fear except from the raiders, and if Japan enters the war. Dad is a Sergeant-Major in the Home Guard now. He was also in the last war."

"This term we have started emergency precautions at school. The boarders all have people to billet them if the worst happens. We have blackouts in the mornings as we get up between 5:45 and 7 a. m., so we need the lights. At night we go to bed in the dark. We each have a cake of chocolate and a tin of condensed milk. So far we have only had two practice blackouts. These are so complete that selected teachers, and girls run around with first aid, and also put out imaginary fires. We are to have a night practice soon, I think."

Cynthia McCarty writes: "Please tell me about Texas and everything over in the United States as I am always glad to hear about it and I love the adventure it seems to hold. And as it is helping the United Kingdom I would like to hear as much as possible about it."

Helen Gilmore of Hokitika writes: "Do you really jitterbug as much as they make out? It's considered indecent here and I can't say I like the looks of it much."

"When we went to the pictures P. T. O., the other day we saw the American fleet in Australia and New Zealand. They seemed to be having a great time... especially with the girls!"

Here is part of a letter from a New Zealand Jitterbug from a different island than that above. It is from Miss Lee Utntoagna, who writes: "My one and only music is swing, anything to do with jazz, rythum, or swing, of course you'd know all about swing being in America, where swing was really adopted from."

"I have no time for western songs or Hawilian stuff, but worst of all I dislike classical symphony business."

"It's a pity most people take to classical, instead of wagging heads and feet to swing who cheers us, any day. Still we cannot help that. No one can ever make me take to my dislikes of certain music, I'm sorry to tell you all this brother, but I've really been a person overlooked by others, as a person senseless just because the clash of clarinets (etc.)"

Singers to Meet in Spur Sunday

The Dickens County-Girard Sing Song will meet next Sunday afternoon at the First Christian Church in Spur, beginning at 2 o'clock. This promises to be one of the best singings we have had. We are expecting singers from Dickens, Kent, Stone-wall, Motley, Crosby, King, Cottle and Lubbock counties. You will miss a real treat if you miss this singing.

Don't fail to hear the Pickering family who are daily singers over station KFYO, Lubbock. We have the promise of them being present next Sunday. Be sure to come and bring the entire family.

Fay Middlebrook,
Secretary.

reaches my ears. 'What of it, I'm crazy on swing, and so it sticks out all over me.' In conclusion she says, "So here's to you and swing America with many jazz thanks for an opportunity on writing to you, which I hope you'd get a fair idea of what I'm like."

"Cheeria, with toasts to the jitterbugs, and orchids to the blues. From an enthusiastic jitterbug. Lee Utntoagna."

Lee goes through nine pages of praising America swing. Personally I'm really afraid that if she were here in America she would put a few of our 'rug cutters' in the shade.

Beryle Gulde of Optiki writes: "I am writing because we hear so much about America these days that it makes me feel as if I would like to correspond with someone there and find out about it."

"Bob, my brother of 25, is a carpenter, but is now in the 3rd. Echelon in Egypt. He wrote home last week (we hadn't heard from him since February) and he said he had been to Greece and he had returned to Egypt. He said the temperature in the shade, in Greece was 109 degrees sometimes, so it must have been very hot for those who were not used to it. My brother Trevor is in the Home Guard now. He has to drill and practice at night after being in the jeweler's shop all day. Victor has joined the fire brigade in Whakatane, after taking a course of ambulance work. Doris and Mary are both nurses."

This letter shows that not only this family but others as well in England, etc., are giving their all for their country and it shows what probably some of us will be doing in the near future.

Part of another reads as follows: "I have just got this weeks news, and although rather late on receiving it you can imagine my joy to spy your name with the word America adjacent to it, as well as the topic you are interested in."

In the other letters they ask about my different subjects; about the cowboys, the west, etc. so you see they really have a far-fetched idea of us here in the United States.

Anyone desiring the name and address of a boy or girl between the ages of 14 and 16, one girl age 12, please see me and I shall be glad to give one or two to you because I am unable to answer all of them myself.



DR. W. C. GRUBEN, O. D.
JEWELER & OPTOMETRIST
SPUR, TEXAS

AAA Reports on Range Conservation

Elimination of prickly pear, mesquite and cedar led the field on a basis of acreage affected under the 1940 range conservation program, M. C. Puckett, state AAA committeeman and ranchman from Fort Stockton, has announced.

These practices, which include the eradication of light, medium and heavy infestations, the AAA official said, were carried out on a total of 2,453,203 acres with ranchmen clearing 1,697,136 acres of prickly pear, 133,483 acres of mesquite and 622,584 acres of cedar. The elimination of lechuguilla was carried out on 67,107 acres.

Eradication practices carried out in connection with deferred grazing included elimination of noxious weeds, brush, bitter weeds and rodents on 273,985 acres.

"Approximately 83 per cent of the 22,173 ranches cooperating under the range program earned payments of \$300 or less," Puckett pointed out. "Of this amount, 77 per cent were

paid \$200 or less."

Other range building payments distributed to the remaining 3,719 ranches in Texas were from \$300 to \$10,000, the maximum payment allowed under the conservation program.

A resume of the range program indicates ranchers signed 79,076,380 acres with a grazing capacity of 4,878,132 animal units and a range-building allowance of \$6,480,913 under the 1940 program. The total of range payments earned by Texas ranchers was \$5,275,120 with \$172,766 representing increases in payments to 16,908 ranches. Under the AAA program, payments of less than \$200 are increased according to a graduated scale.

A total of 589,179,190 linear feet of listing, furrowing and chiseling rangeland was reported. These practices included furrows containing 60 square inch cross sections with dams and furrows with 60 square inch cross sections without dams. The remaining furrows were smaller with 32 square inch cross section. Contour ridges of 5,816,501 linear feet were used on 136 ranches.

Other widely-used practices were

the construction of 9,116 earthen dams or reservoirs in which 15,308,011 cubic yards of dirt were moved and 558 spreader dams containing 1,893,764 cubic yards of dirt. Ranchmen also built approximately 2,000 miles of fireguards and 1,350 miles of spreader terraces.

For the purpose of giving a more even distribution of range water, 2,127 wells were drilled to a total depth of 562,390 feet. Of this number, 1,981 well containing 500,073 linear feet had casings of 4 inches or more in diameter. The remaining 146 wells had casings of less than 4 inches in diameter.

Natural reseeding of rangeland by deferred grazing was carried out on 5,323,873 acres and 2,889 ranches while artificial reseeding and sodding were done on 1,892 ranches and 151,749 acres. On the 1,781 ranches carrying out artificial reseeding 974,478 pounds of various grass seeds were used.

Other practices carried out for payments were: the construction of 20,947 cubic yards of concrete or rubble masonry dams for 241 structures; 27 natural watering places in soil or gravel, 8,694 cubic feet; 24

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watering places in rock in which 5,291 cubic feet of rock were moved; the planting of 940 acres of trees on 12 ranches; and mowing 330,648 acres of noxious plants on 1,089 ranches.

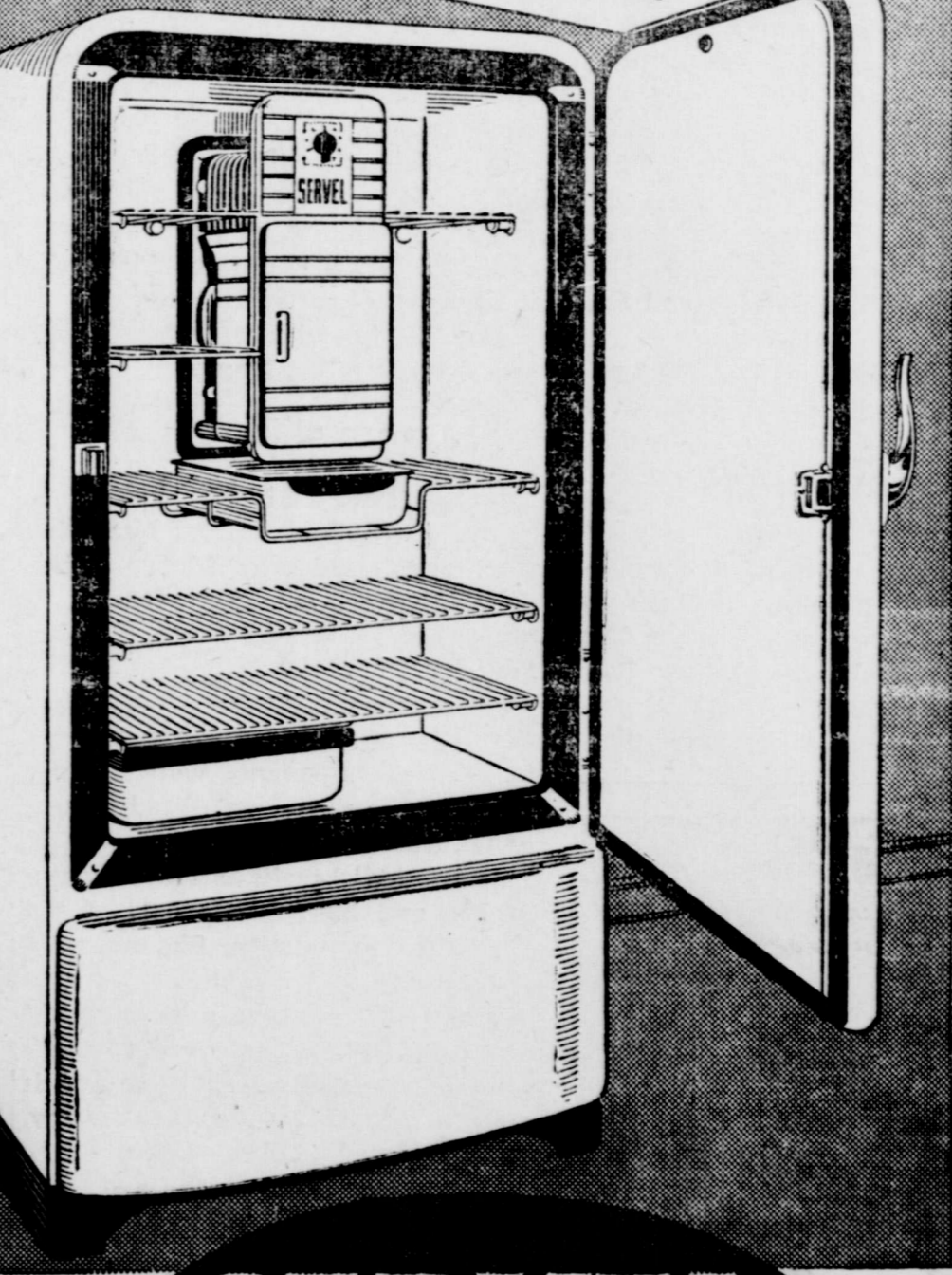
Joe Graham left Tuesday en route to California.

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