

Genesee News, Sept. 17, 1943

BILLY EMERSON IN MEDICS TAKING HIS BASIC IN TEXAS

It's easier for Billy Emerson to smile than write a letter, we know, and how we appreciate hearing from him and his love for the Lone Star State. He writes from Camp Barkeley while learning to roll pills as follows:

“Dear Pete:

“I should have written you sooner, but so far I haven't had anything of interest to write about.

“I will be here for 11 more weeks taking basic, and after that I probably will go to an army hospital some place to be forgotten about until the rest of the boys clean up the fighting. Then again, after I get out I may go to a port of embarkation for more training, and then shipment to some war theatre for active duty. I may get anything, Pete, but believe me, anything will be alright, just so I get out of Texas.

“I wouldn't trade a teaspoonful of Idaho for the whole state of Texas. When I was at home I never realized how beautiful a country I lived in. When I get my discharge I am coming to Genesee and I won't leave the city limits unless I am forced to.

“As far as the medical corps goes it is a pretty nice place to be if you are out of gun range of the front lines, but if you are close to the actual fighting it isn't so hot. You see, we medical men are not issued guns. Pleasant thought, isn't it. Running around through the front lines with a box of aspirin in one hand a stretcher in the other. Well, if I get within an awful welt on one's head with my litter.

“You know Pete, I think I would really like the army if I was any place but here. Texas is a nice place to be from, but an awful place to be in. Maybe I'm in the wrong part of Texas, or maybe it is just fun to tell everyone how you wish you were home. There is something funny tho, because there are boys here from almost any

state you can think of, and they all want to go back to their home state and have no part of any place except home.

“I think school has started up there, hasn’t it? If it has I’ll bet there are a few boys that would like to trade places with me, Texas and all. I read in the paper about your new teachers. Well, if they are as good as the ones we have had in the past they will be about the best.

“Shucks, Pete, it’s just like I said at the first of this letter, I haven’t anything to write about. I could tell you how I hate Texas all day and most of It would be a lot of propaganda. I am satisfied, and whether I sound like it or not, I wouldn’t be any place but right where I am for anything. I am with a swell bunch of guys from all over the country, and I really like the life I lead.

“Thanks for the paper, Pete, and thank the Legion for me. I get the News regularly, and when it comes I sit down and read everything in it, even the advertisements. It’s really swell of you guys to send it, and some day maybe I’ll get the chance to do something for you.

“I believe you have my address a trifle wrong Pete. It is 60th Bn. Instead of the 6th.

“Bill.”

“P. S.: Remind Dan that he owes me a letter. I imagine he has been busy working, but tell him to write a magazine when he gets a little spare time.”