

ELMIRA
NEWS

Catholic Courier

SOUTHERN TIER
NEWS

Boys in Pacific Will Be Better Catholics on Return, Chaplain Tells Sodality

By Staff Correspondent

One hundred forty members and guests of the Sodality of Our Lady of St. John's Church heard Lt. John V. Loughlin relate some of his experiences as a Chaplain with the Marine Corps in the South and Central Pacific war area, at the Sodality's Ninth Annual Banquet held in the Mark Twain Hotel Feb. 2.

Stationed in the South and Central Pacific war area for eighteen months, Father Loughlin told of the many difficulties experienced in conducting services during his first few months in that area. At times it was impossible to say Mass if the shell fire was heavy, he said. Frequently Father Loughlin's altar was a jeep top, or a pile of ration or ammunition boxes.

He told of the midnight services at Christmas. Mass was said out of doors and anyone who had a lantern was asked to bring it along so the men could read their prayer books. Candles were placed in rows and served a two fold purpose. First for mass and second for protection in case of an enemy raid during the services. The Japs didn't show up on Christmas even but they broke up a movie the following night.

There were practically no chapels in the area when the Americans first went there but gradually more were built by the men, with plenty of cooperation from the officers. There are many Catholics among the natives, Father Loughlin told the Sodality. At one community on Tinian, he said, a Jesuit Missionary who with some nuns and brothers had been working among the natives for several years until the Japs took over the island. They told Father Loughlin that the Japs had treated them well.

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and had served them from the danger zone, but would not permit any religious services. However, since the arrival of the Americans, services at the missions are back on schedule and the Nazis are working among the children, giving them religious instruction.

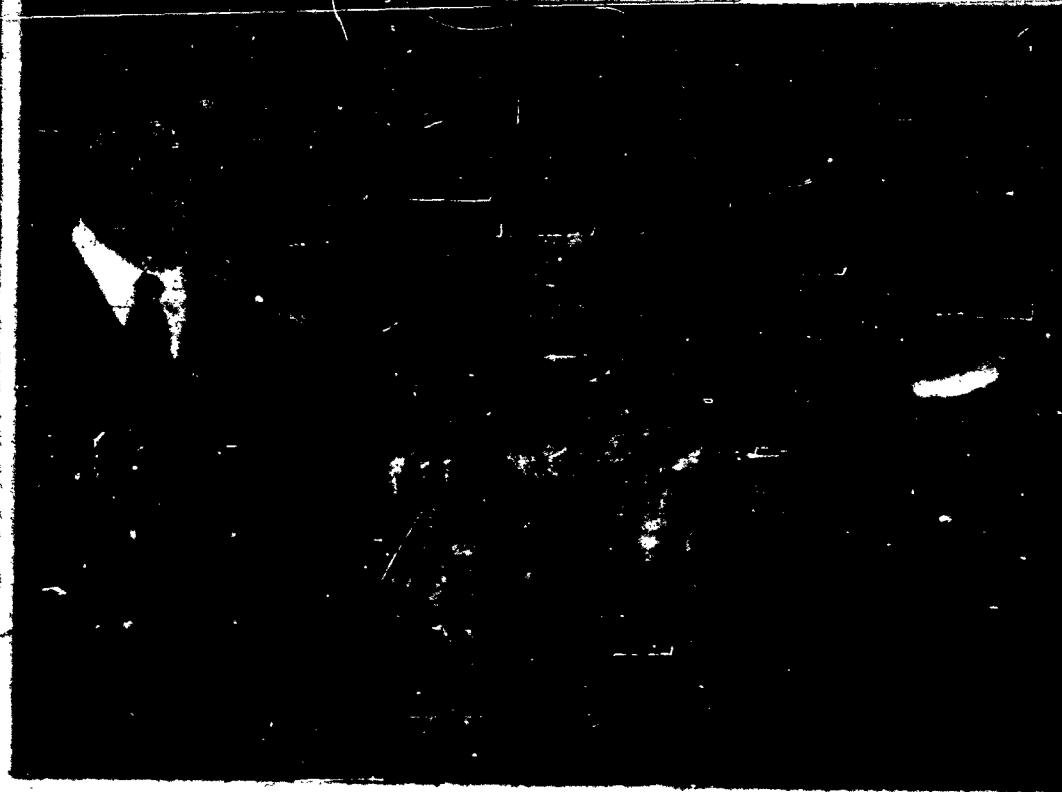
Father Loughlin recalled that supplies are quite a problem to the Chaplains. Christmas day at St. Patrick's Church in Manila, was quite a contrast to his chapel at Tinian, he noted. He had two candle sticks which he carried along for months, lighting them only before the communion and Corin-

unction. Wine was another problem and was used only at the Communion. When Father Loughlin's successor arrived he had a large supply of candles and wine and was most extravagant, even leaving the candles burning after Mass. After serving him at Mass the first day, the altar boy came to Father Loughlin and said: "Father he is saying Mass wrong!" The boy was so used to the unorthodox way of saying Mass that he had forgotten about the regular way.

The men receive the sacraments at every opportunity and each time a man goes to confess the Chaplain gives him a card bearing his signature and telling the date that the man went to confess.

Father Loughlin said that the Chaplains usually work with the First Aid station during a battle.

Home From Duty with Marines



A MARINE GREETING is given Navy Chaplain John V. Loughlin, home to Elmira, after arriving with the U. S. Marines to the South Pacific where he was recalled the Chaplain of Mass. Serving Father Loughlin at St. John's Sodality dinner Feb. 7 were the Rev. Theodore J. Wierwille, pastor; Father Frank M. Kehoe, Sodality director; Mrs. Wierwille, pastor; Captain and Mrs. Markham Flynn, Room

Pestiferous Award Of Purple Heart

CORNING — Mrs. Anna Carter Gothic of Painted Post received the Purple Heart as a posthumous award to her husband, Pvt. William Gothic, who was killed in action in Germany, Nov. 22.

Pvt. Gothic was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fay Gothic of 210 W. Water St., Painted Post.

OUR TURN

"We want more over here a spiritual temple wherein to glorify him in our hearts," Father Loughlin said.

Private cemetery for burials, Bay War Cemetery State and George today.

HIGH SPOT PERFORMANCE
Star Corps members bid for a group of war veterans' standard preparations in continuing the history of the much-feted corps. In the 20th edition which ends St. Florian was shown and carried into her bier.

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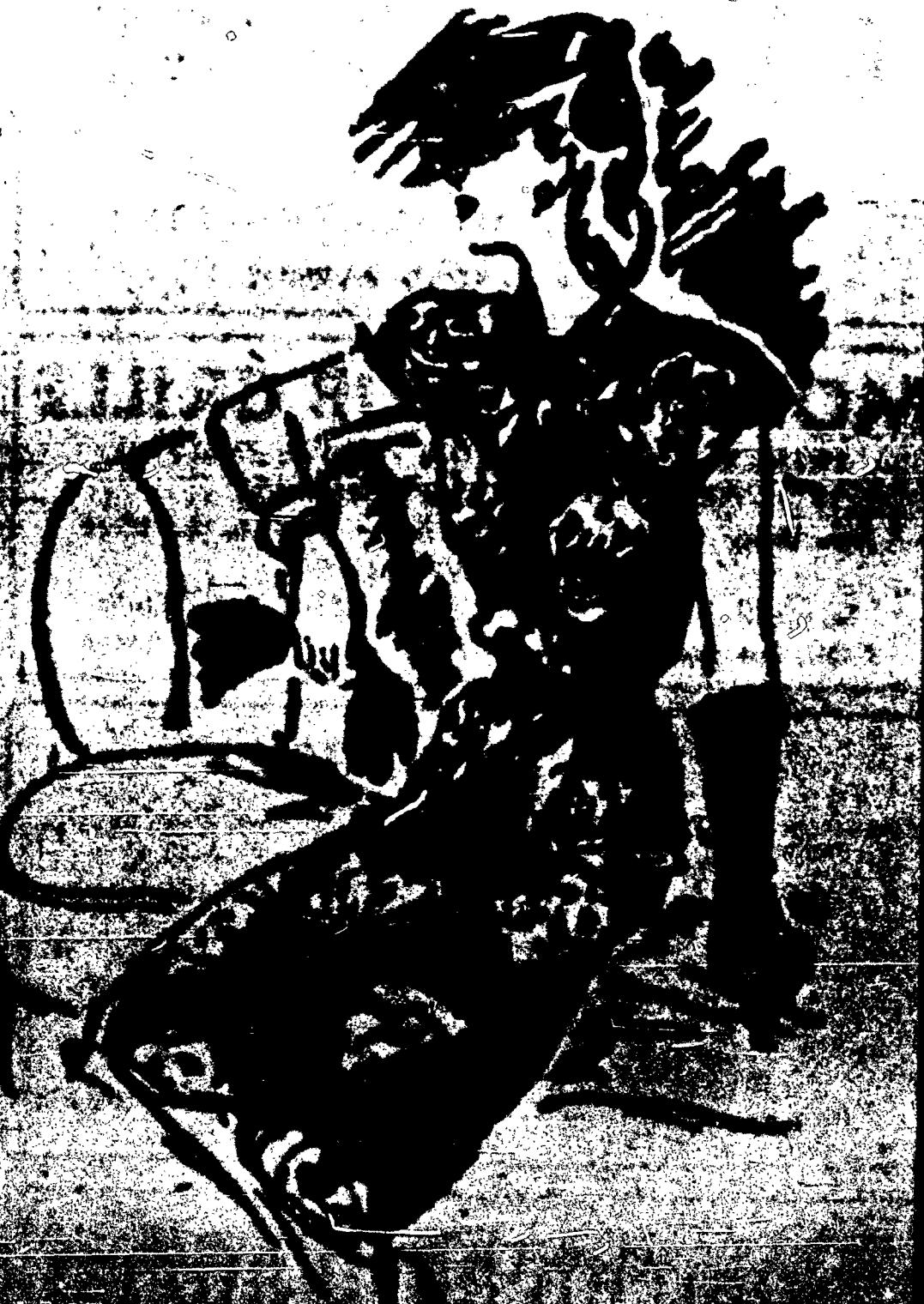
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