

COMMUNITY



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

Boyfriend turns to booze, drugs after baby's birth

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a big problem with my boyfriend. We had a baby five months ago, and since then he has changed drastically. He previously had a problem with addiction, but had a handle on it. He told me the baby was powerful motivation. My pregnancy was blissful, and he was attentive and caring.

I know babies are stressful, and ours had colic, so we had many nights filled with screaming. I do most of the work with the baby. I quit my job to be a stay-at-home mom and nurse him. The only time my boyfriend takes care of the baby is for me to take a shower. He has been drinking every night and now he's doing marijuana as well. He is pretty funny when he's high, but I don't trust him to take care of our son when he's that way. He is also addicted to his phone.

When I try to tell him how I feel, he gets defensive. He accuses me of "trying to start problems." He also lies about his addictions. I only recently found out about some of his lies, and now I'm having a hard time believing anything he says. This is not how I wanted my life to be. This is not what I wanted for our baby. I'm trying to decide whether it's better to put up with it or leave. I'd have to get a job and find child care. The thought of my son in daycare makes me sick, but so does being treated this way. Please advise me. -- TROUBLED NEW MOM

DEAR MOM: Face it. Your boyfriend has backslid, and you can no longer trust him to be truthful with you. Your problems will never be resolved if they can't be discussed without contention. Start looking for reliable day-care for the baby and for a job. If you do, you will have a head start on the inevitable. If you and this man separate, he will be legally responsible for contributing to his son's support. It may also be the "jolt" he needs to get straight again.

BRIEFS

Food distribution scheduled

Ohio University's Heritage Community Clinic, located at 16 West Green Drive in Athens, will hold a community food pantry distribution this Sunday, Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Food recipients must meet eligibility guidelines. For more information, please call 740-593-2432.

Columbia Township Trustees to meet Friday

The Columbia Township Trustees will meet at the firehouse on Friday, Jan. 20, at 3:30 p.m. to approve the 2023 Appropriations.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise: I enjoy your column in the Pasadena Star News. I'm responding to the person who recently offered the excellent idea of keeping a sleeping bag/warm blanket in the car for an emergency, especially if one lives in colder climates. Even in the more southern parts of the country, temperatures can get dangerously cold at night.

I'd like to add a suggestion to also keep at least one "space blanket" (also known as a mylar or emergency blanket) in the car. Their design reduces the heat loss in a person's body, which would otherwise occur due to thermal radiation, water evaporation or convection. Their low weight and compact size before unfolding make them ideal when space or weight are at a premium.

They can be easily stored in a first aid kit and in the glove compartment. And they are inexpensive, usually between \$2 to \$5. Most camping stores, stores that carry camping supplies and big box stores have them readily available.

A few years ago here in SoCal, we had an unusually frigid cold snap that killed plants. I have a container garden and wrapped the plants in space blankets, and they are all still thriving! — M.T.S., Monrovia, California

THROWBACK THURSDAY

Marion Crawley Radioman — Part Two

BY JOHN HALLEY
Messenger Photo Editor

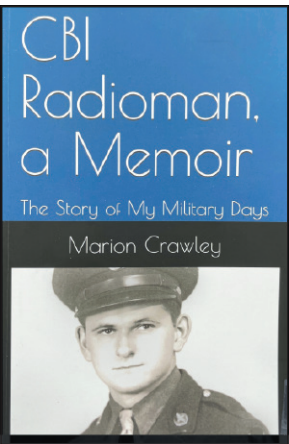
This article is a continuation of the adventures of Athens resident, Marion Crawley, during his time in the Army Air Corp during WWII.

Marion was a Florida farm boy and he rarely got off the farm. After high school, he went to Nashville, Tennessee to learn about the printing industry and to learn to use the linotype machine.

Up until the moment he joined the Army Air Corp, he hadn't seen much of the world. But after that moment, everything changed. Without a doubt, Marion enjoyed the change. Throughout his travels, he made the most of every situation the army set before him. And the military allotted him generous leaves in between dangerous assignments.

While still in the states, he was trained as a radioman in a special 'top secret' capacity. They were not allowed to utter a word about the mission under penalty of court martial. But, while not in training, his crew was allowed to see the sights.

While on the west coast, Marion took in a tour of Paramount Studios. He even spent some time at the famous Hollywood Canteen. This was an establishment made exclusively for servicemen and featuring many actors and actresses and other Hollywood types to serve the servicemen. It wouldn't be unusual



to see Bette Davis and Rita Hayworth serving doughnuts to soldiers.

On the east coast, in New York City, Marion and his buddies spent an exciting evening at the Zanzibar nightclub. There they saw a peg-legged dancer and Cab Callaway and his Orchestra. (no doubt, Cab played his signature song, "Minnie the Moocher.") Overseas, the sight seeing and entertaining was a little more unpredictable.

There were some places that were just too awful to visit. In Marrakech, Morocco, the city was full of garbage and tough looking beggars. The streets ran with the bubonic plague, typhus, and 30,000 prostitutes. Marion was smart to stay away from this one. (Remember, we are talking about a guy who hardly left his Florida farm. Thanks to the U.S. Army, Marion was able to see the world.) In India, he traveled in a rickshaw, rode an elephant, and attended a religious burial ceremony. In China, he observed women with bound feet. It was as if, a grown woman was walking around

on baby's feet. Also in China, the crew ate water buffalo steaks and listened to 'Tokyo Rose' on the radio.

Of course, all these extracurricular activities were in between the main objective of this 'top secret' crew, which was to train for and implement the radio-controlled Azon Bomb. There were many, many hours spent in testing this new equipment. This bomb was a brand new invention, designed to guide a thousand pound bomb to its target.

An operator guided it with a joystick within the B-24 bomber. Everything was going well with the intense training until they received word from the upper brass that the entire Azon bomb mission was to be scrapped. The crew walked over to the planes to see that all the Azon antennas were destroyed. (That's life in the Army) This was a great disappointment to the ten crews assigned to the Azon bomb mission.

No one was able to dwell on the bad news for long because the crews were busy with new bombing missions using traditional bombs. Sometimes they hit their targets and sometimes they didn't. The crews felt that they could be more accurate using the Azon equipment. But life went on. Later the former Azon crews were assigned to deliver gasoline to another base. It was a dangerous mission to fly over Japanese lines, to deliver gasoline.

Then a certain major

came from Fort Dix to Marion's base in India to check on the status of the Azon bombing mission. When he found out that the project was scrapped, he quickly went into action to remedy the situation. Soon, the officer that was in charge of making the decision to scrap the project was relieved of his command and sent back to the states. The Azon team was back in action! Their first mission using the radio-controlled equipment came quickly. The target was an important bridge in Burma.

A quote from Marion's book describes what transpired. "Controlling the bomb from right to left with the smoke from the flare, Frank made a perfect hit. We saw the bomb flash, then felt the jar a few seconds later as it exploded. We made circle runs to drop each bomb, each being a success.

As soon as all of the smoke cleared from the target, we saw that almost all of the bridge was gone. The Azon bomb had done its job and proven its worth. We and all other Azon crews saw a new type of warfare coming in. We were forerunners of a new scientific warfare." We will skip a week, next week, but will return with more adventures. This book is available at the Little Professor Book Store in Athens.

If anyone has any memories or comments about Marion Crawley, please drop me a note. I will add it to my notes.
John Halley. jhalley@athensmessenger.com

SEND US YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents of Southeast Ohio are encouraged to send their community news items to The Athens Messenger. **Items can be submitted by email to community@athensmessenger.com or to 9300 Johnson Rd. Athens, OH 45701**

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| • Birth announcements | • Non-profit events and fundraisers | • Scholarship information |
| • Engagements | • Awards and honors | • Business news (e.g. noteworthy company promotions) |
| • Weddings | • Military/service member news (e.g. - basic training graduation) | • Scouting news (e.g. Eagle Scout certificates, Girl Scout awards) |
| • Wedding anniversaries | • Free public events (e.g. - job fairs, clothing drives) | |
| • Card Showers | | |
| • Church events, services & concerts | | |

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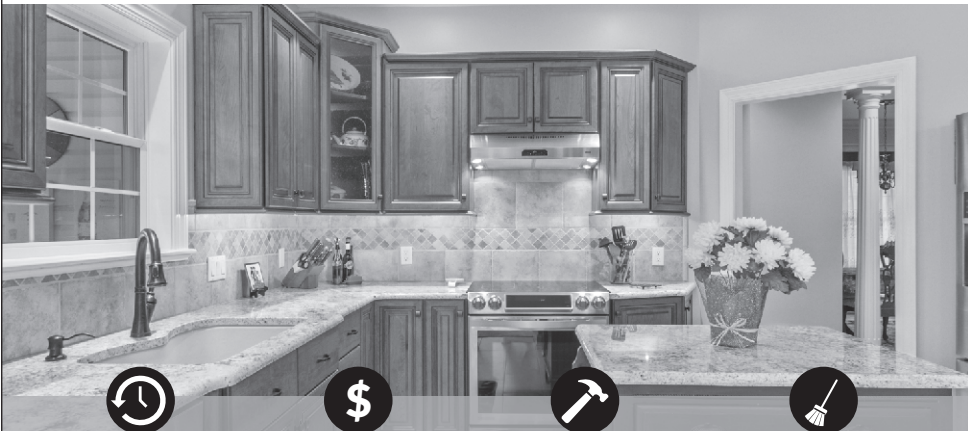
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