

# COMMUNITY

## Teenager sports skivvies in front of strangers

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what to do about my 18-year-old niece. She walks around the house in her underwear. She's been doing it for the last two or three years. It wouldn't matter, I suppose, if it were just in front of immediate family living there, but she also does it in front of workmen, the cleaning women, answering the door, going out to get the mail, etc. I'm really disgusted. I spoke to my brother (her father) briefly about it. His response was, "She lives here." Is there anything I can do or say to get her to keep herself a little better covered? -- MODEST IN MASSACHUSETTS



### Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

there is. If her family doesn't object to her walking around the house in her underwear, that's their prerogative. But "someone" should remind your niece that doing it in front of workmen, household staff and the mail carrier is disrespectful to them. How their neighbors feel about it is anyone's guess, but if she's built like Jennifer Lopez or one of the Kardashians, they may be enjoying the view.

DEAR MODEST: Yes,

### HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise: Like so many of us, I too have downsized and/or realized our daughter doesn't want all of our "stuff." So, before I get rid of things that have sentimental value to me (in yard sales and things of that nature), I take a picture and put it in my "smile folder" on my computer. I realized that it wasn't touching the items that brought me joy, it was seeing them and the memories they evoked. So I can look at the pictures and still have the memories. — Rebecca M., Westfall, Pennsylvania

#### GIFTS FOR THOSE DOWNSIZING

Dear Heloise: For Betty, and the rest of us seniors, who are downsizing and have clutter:

Family and friends want to give gifts, and they feel weird about coming emptyhanded on birthdays and holidays. We solved this problem in our family by only giving out consumables like gift baskets of food or a special treasured sweet. You could even give tickets to a movie or another favored event. — Marj Casswell, via email

#### TUB SAFETY HINT

Dear Heloise: I have a safety hint for seniors taking a shower in a tub. Step into the tub — before turning the water on. It makes it easier to secure your footing that way. I enjoy reading your column in the Winchester Star, in Winchester, Virginia. — Penny, via email

#### PHONE SCAMS

Dear Heloise: As a daily reader of your column (in the Press-Enterprise in Riverside, California), I feel compelled to pass on this information.

I received two separate calls asking for donations — to help support our police officers and another to support those who have breast cancer. I listened very carefully this time (since I receive such calls often), and I heard the person say very quickly, "... and the politicians who support our cause." Since, I do not send money to politicians, I was wondering whether the donation was actually going to help the cause or if it was really going to the politicians, who they do not name.

So, I reply that I cannot help them at this time and ask to have my name removed from their call list. They said they would. We seniors need to be careful with where our money is going. Thanks for your ideas and sharing other ideas and hints from your readers. — Kathy Varga, Riverside, California

### THROWBACK THURSDAY

## Marion Crawley Radioman (Part 3)

BY JOHN HALLEY  
Messenger Photo Editor

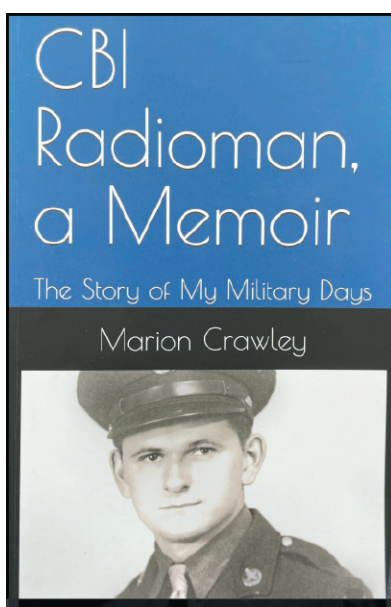
This will be the final episode of Marion Crawley's adventures during WWII, based on his book, "CBI Radioman, A Memoir".

The longtime Athens resident is known locally for his involvement in the Boy Scouts and the local amateur radio club. He was also a linotype operator at the Athens Messenger when the Messenger was located on West Union Street.

But before those Athens days, Marion spent several years in the US Army Air Force as a radio operator. He was on countless bombing missions in the China/ Burma/ India Theater. In previous installments of these military days, we found out about his involvement with a 'top secret' bombing invention using a radio-controlled bomb. The operator could steer the bomb to its target. It was known as the Azon Bomb.

At one point the whole mission using this new technology was scrapped. Then it was reinstated and the Azon crew went on to one successful mission after another. One of their biggest and most important missions was to destroy the Bridge on the River Kwai in Burma. This is the same bridge that was featured in the 1957 award winning Hollywood movie of the same name. British and American prisoners of war and Burmese civilian prisoners were forced to build this huge bridge for the Japanese invaders as part of their attempted conquest of Burma and China.

The conditions for this construction project were horrific. Prisoners died of diseases, heat stroke, and just plain cruelty by the Japanese. It was estimated that as many as 16,000 POWs died during the construction of this bridge. It was known as the 'Death Railway' and the pride of the Japanese. There had been a number of attempts to blow



up the bridge by British and American bombers. All missed their target.

At some point, there was a 'top secret' plan to use the high tech Azon bomb and the Azon bomb crew. Marion was a part of this mission. The planes had to fly at a very low altitude on their way to the bridge in order to avoid Japanese radar. Approaching the bridge, at only 300 feet, they were easy targets for ground artillery. The plane's gunners took their position. Marion was in charge of opening the bomb doors. All at once, Japanese guns were fired from below, followed by American return fire from above. Then bombs were dropped from several planes. Then the smoke cleared, the crews could see that the mission was successful.

The Bridge on the River Kwai was no more. Research shows that the Royal Canadian Air Force was also involved in this raid. On the way back to base, Marion's plane got into trouble. A bullet from the enemy had taken out the plane's lights and its IFF (Friend or Foe radio system). If a plane were to come toward the base without identification (using the IFF radio signals), the plane might be thought as an enemy plane. Marion was in charge of this

big problem. Marion's plane, without the IFF signal, was 'challenged' by the ground station at home base.

That means that Marion had to return a coded message to the ground station within 30 seconds. He mustered up all his courage and recalled his earlier training and got his coded message out just in time. Marion noted: "This was the quickest code I had ever done in my life." It was later found out that a Black Widow aircraft was sent out to intercept an unidentified plane. That unidentified plane was Marion's plane. There were many more successful missions after that. The war in Europe had ended. Marion and the Azon crew had finished their mission and headed for the States. Marion was at his home on leave in Florida when he heard about the bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The war with Japan was over. Marion received several medals for his service and left the USAAF, October 1945. At this point, Marion started his civilian life. He got a job, got married, and started a family. At another point in time, he wrote his WWII memoirs.

The memoirs are now in book form (Thanks to his daughter Daisy) and are available at the Little Professor Book Store in Athens. The book has 333 pages of incredibly detailed descriptions of life during a horrific war eighty years ago. This farm boy saw incredible sights in exotic cities in days that have passed and will never be seen again. He saw life and death and lived to tell about it. And fortunately for us, he lived to write about it.

I want to give a special thanks to Marion's daughter, Daisy Franz, for putting this book together. 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

### BRIEFS

#### Nelsonville American Legion serving breakfast Saturday

NELSONVILLE — A breakfast of pancakes, sausage links and scrambled eggs will be served this Saturday, Feb. 4, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Nelsonville American Legion Post 229. Eat in, carry out or for in town delivery, call 740-753-9084.

#### Benefit for cancer patient happening Saturday

A benefit for Nelsonville resident, Christina Barker, who is in the final stages of cancer, will be held Saturday at the Cutler Community Center, located at 4550 Two Mile Road, Cutler, Ohio, starting at 1 p.m.

Some of the activities at this benefit will include gospel singing, a pot luck dinner, bake sale and an

auction. Admission to this benefit is free.

For more information on the Benefit for Christina Barker contact Amanda Mayle at 740-336-5272.

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## ATTENTION FIREFIGHTERS

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Sokolove Law is currently investigating cases nationwide involving **pancreatic, kidney, testicular, thyroid, bladder, breast, liver, colon/colorectal and prostate cancer, as well as leukemia and lymphoma** after occupational exposure to firefighting foam.

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