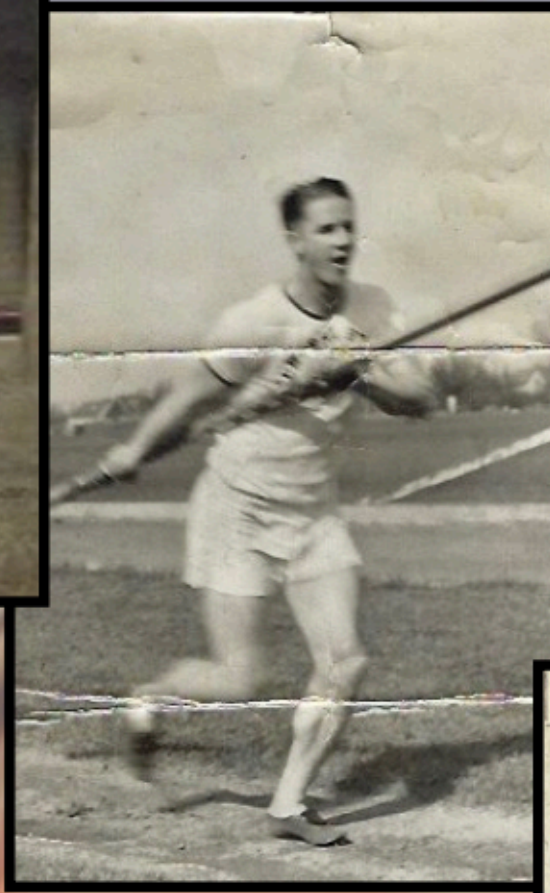




Miss Cassie June Lee and Bruce McMahon attended the football game at East Lansing Saturday.



Bruce McMahon has received his private pilot's license from the government finance C. P. T. program with an all "A" rating.

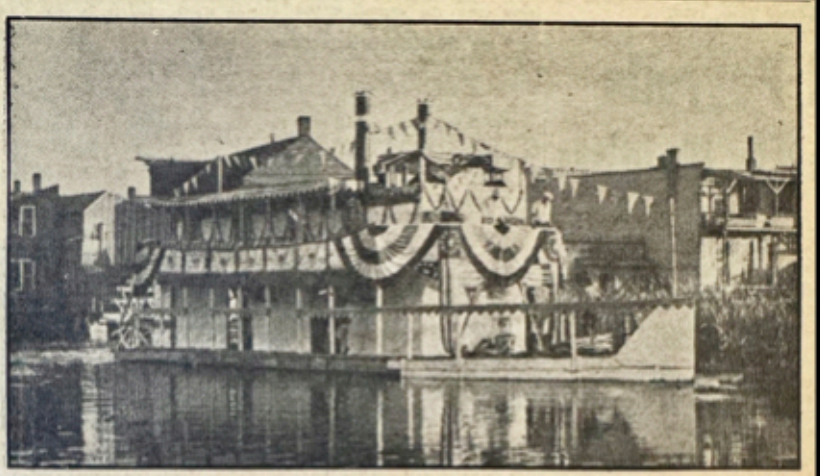
Bruce McMahon, employee of the Lowell Municipal plant, volunteered for enlistment in the Army Air Corps at the Grand Rapids Recruiting station on Tuesday and expects to be notified to report for duty in about two weeks. Bruce made two attempts on Tuesday to enlist. In the forenoon he was rejected because of a slight eye defect but tried again in the afternoon and was accepted.



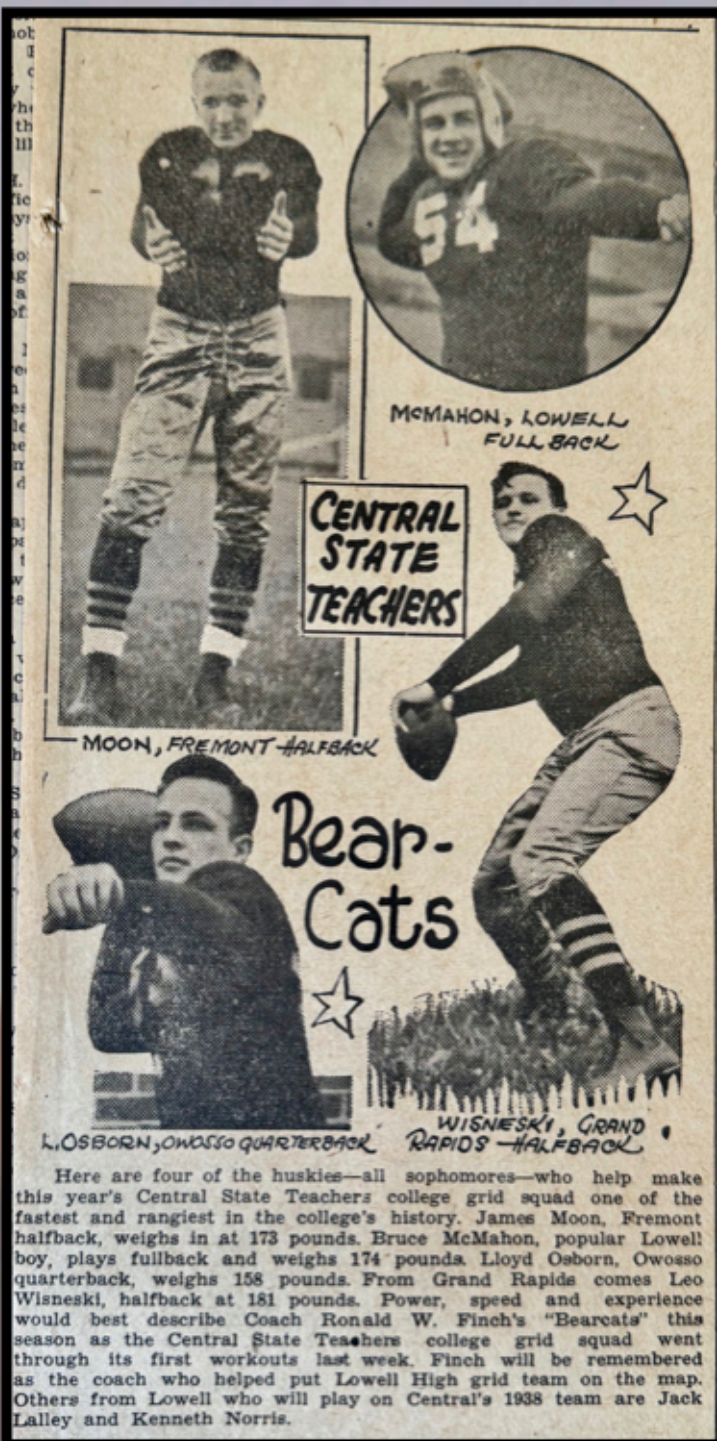
M. S. C. BANQUET
Bruce McMahon and James Green, Jr., were guests at a banquet on Saturday last, given by the alumni of M. S. C. in honor of the one hundred and twenty outstanding High School football players of the state. At the banquet Lowell's football record was particularly stressed.

Bruce McMahon, who has enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps, has been ordered to report to the Santa Ana, Calif., flying school on April 26.

Lowell Showboat II Proved Mecca for Thousands



Above is the gaily bedecked 1933 Lowell Showboat which brought joy to 7,000 visitors on the evenings of August 2, 4 and 5. Below are the interlocutor and endmen who took a leading part in the joyous entertainment. (Reading from left) J. H. J. Stryker, Bruce McMahon, Carlton H. Junceman, interlocutor, and D. McButtler, Frank Newell and Walter Krupp, endmen. (The cuts above are through courtesy of the Grand Rapids Press.)



Here are four of the huskies—all sophomores—who help make this year's Central State Teachers college grid squad one of the fastest and rangiest in the college's history. James Moon, Fremont halfback, weighs in at 173 pounds. Bruce McMahon, popular Lowell boy, plays fullback and weighs 174 pounds. Lloyd Osborn, Owasco quarterback, weighs 158 pounds. From Grand Rapids comes Leo Wisneski, halfback at 181 pounds. Power, speed and experience would best describe Coach Ronald W. Finch's "Bearcats" this season as the Central State Teachers college grid squad went through its first workouts last week. Finch will be remembered as the coach who helped put Lowell High grid team on the map. Others from Lowell who will play on Central's 1938 team are Jack Lalley and Kenneth Norris.

Five Thulians Initiated Into Organization

Five new members were initiated into the Thulian club Thursday evening, November 11, in the women's commons. The new members accepted were Frank Northway, Hiram Becker, Bruce McMahon, Paul Fahy, and Avery Codden. After the initiation, tentative plans for a program of meetings were made for the rest of this term and the winter term, and refreshments were served.

In an advertisement elsewhere in this issue, Bruce McMahon announces that he has leased the West Side Standard Oil station for a period of one year. Mr. McMahon is the youngest person to be granted a lease by the company. He is assisted at the station by John Lalley. Both are fine young men and deserving of success.

Glendon Swarhout and Bruce McMahon returned to their homes here Tuesday after playing in Jerry Schroeder's orchestra in Charlevoix during the summer season. The rest of the band went on to Chicago after making their last appearance in Charlevoix on Labor Day.

DINE & DANCE
LENA LOU INN
Ada
Chicken - Steak & Seafood Dinners (Special Group Dinners by Reservation)
Dancing Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights
Featuring The Metro's

James Bruce McMahon (1915 - 1998) A lifetime resident of Lowell. Bruce was an all state athlete who played football at Michigan State and Central Michigan universities. He was also an accomplished pilot who performed in air shows throughout the state. In World War II he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's second highest medal for extraordinary courage and skill as well as the Air Medal as one of the leaders of the 306th Bombardment Group, 368th Squadron leader of the B-17 Flying Fortress. Beating the odds. Bruce successfully completed 25 missions, but refused to accept a safer assignment while other pilots that continued to risk their lives. He volunteered to keep flying, leading and completing another 13 missions before the war ended. After four years of service, he returned to civilian life, having achieved the rank of major in the United States Air Force. In addition to his achievements as an athlete and pilot, Bruce was a talented musician who financed his college education by playing saxophone with several well-known bands in the resort areas of Northern Michigan. Later, as owner and operator of the Lena Lou Inn in Ada. He entertained customers by playing both keyboards and saxophone at the popular restaurant. Bruce also performed as an endman in the inaugural Lowell Showboat in 1932. In 1944 he married Margerat Allen, sharing their zest of life with six children Marta, Mike, Susan, Mitch, Kevin, and Laurie and their 13 grandchildren and great grandson for 48 years.



Back Row: Mr. Avery, Nelson Stormzand, Clare Coger, Richard Rutherford, Roman Maloney, John Waters, William Doyle, Robert Lee, Lester Fenning, Mr. Finch.
Third Row: Lewis Houghton, Orison Weaver, Fred Rickner, Richard Houseman, Donald Hartley, William Clark, Richard Baird, Lester Ross, Jack Bergin, Harry Elckhoff.
Second Row: Harold Green, Ralph Sherwood, Willie Wepman, John Lalley, Bruce McMahon, Darrel Burras, James Green, Raymond Dinsen, Richard Court, Clark Morse, Morse Schwacha, William Arehart.
First Row: Bertram Scott, Earl Doyle, James Rosewarne, Clinton Christoff, Gerald Yeiter, Joseph Havlik, Stanley Schwacha, J. B. Hawk, Edward DeVries, Arnold Heskit, John Fonger.





Dog Tags

Props & Wings Pin

Awarded to Academy cadets at the end of their grueling fourth-class year, signifying that they have been "recognized" as upper class cadets.



Pilot Wings



Officer Cap Pin



Captain rank



St. Christopher



War Merit Medal

(Kriegsverdienstmedaille) was a World War II German military decoration awarded to recognize outstanding service by civilians in relation to the war effort.



Home After 38 Missions Over Europe



Capt. Bruce McMahon reached home last Saturday, after 38 missions over occupied Europe and Germany in a flying fortress, and his relatives and friends were both happy and proud to welcome him. Bruce is not much inclined to talk about his exploits, but his decorations speak for themselves. He has received the Air Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross with four oak leaf clusters.

During his 38 missions he has had many close calls, flat holes and shot-up uniforms became commonplace, many members of his crew have been injured and killed. He has had four different fortresses shot up to such an extent that they were consigned to the scrap pile.

He came home by boat from Scotland and says it's much rougher on the water than flying over it, as he did on his way over. He will report to Miami, Fla., after several weeks with the home folks.

Bruce says he is glad to be home but cannot feel joyful when he thinks of his buddies who will never return.



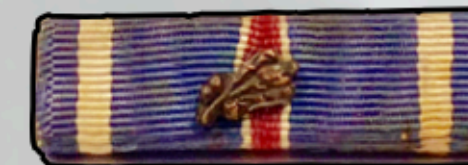
Air Medal

The Air Medal (AM) is given to military personnel for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight; awards may also be given to acknowledge single acts of merit or heroism.



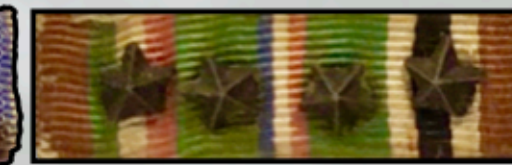
Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross Medal (DFC) is an award that is bestowed upon any officer of enlisted personnel of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes themselves in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight."



Distinguished Flying Cross Ribbon

Is an award that is bestowed upon any officer of enlisted personnel of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes themselves in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight."



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon

WW II (ACM) is granted to personnel who served one year of consecutive duty between December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946 and within the continental borders of the U.S., as well as to those who served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty outside the borders of the U.S. but within the American Theater of Operations.



American Campaign Ribbon

WW II (ACM) is granted to personnel who served one year of consecutive duty between December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946 and within the continental borders of the U.S., as well as to those who served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty outside the borders of the U.S. but within the American Theater of Operations.



Air Medal Ribbon

The Air Medal (AM) is given to military personnel for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight; awards may also be given to acknowledge single acts of merit or heroism.



Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster

the Oak Leaf Cluster device is used to denote subsequent awards of a particular military decoration.



Bronze Service Star

Is a military decoration attachment denoting participation in military campaigns

Santa Ana Army Air Base SAAB

Santa Ana , California

**PRELUDE
TO VICTORY**



... from here



... to there!



Santa Ana Army Air Base (SAAB) was a huge classification and preflight center on the west coast where new Aviation Cadets were indoctrinated into military life. They were given rigorous medical exams and numerous aptitude and physical tests to determine whether they were best suited to be pilots, navigators or bombardiers. Once their classification had been chosen they entered nine weeks of preflight training. Courses included military training, physical training, and academic instruction in such subjects as maps and charts, mathematics, Morse code, military courtesy and customs, military hygiene, naval and aircraft identification, organization of the ground forces, physics, and safeguarding military information.

Soldiers of the Sky . . .



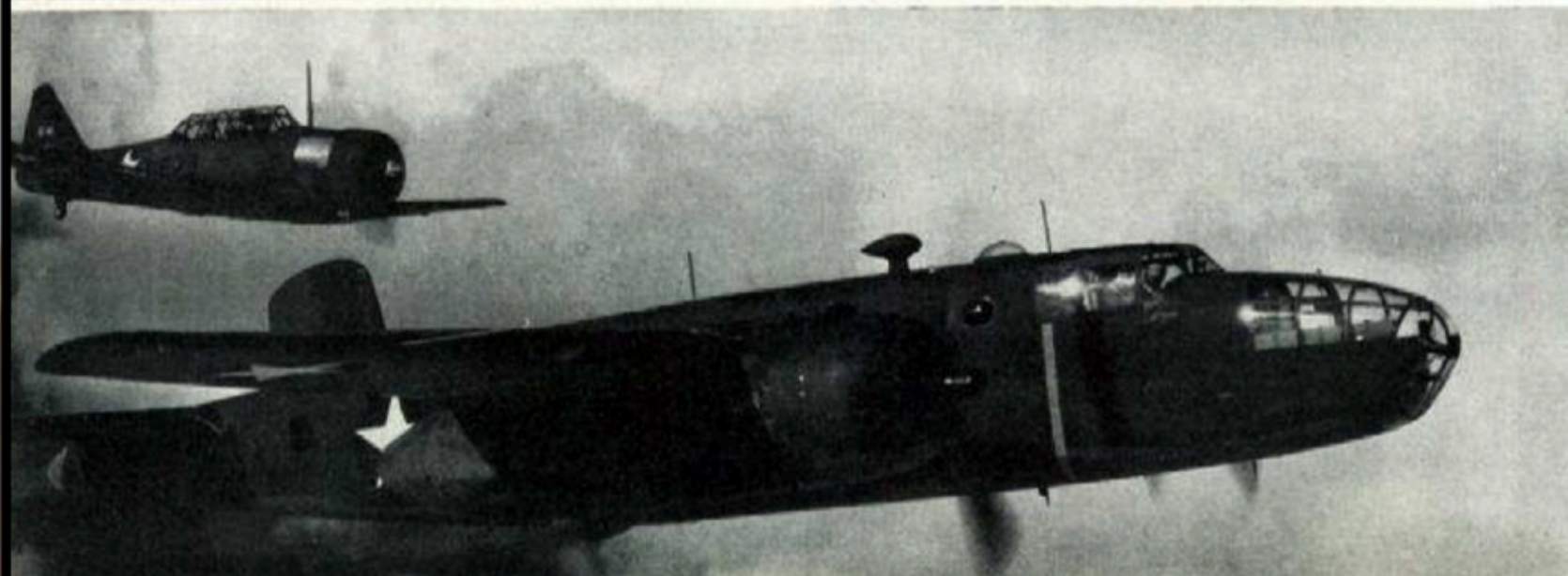
PREFLIGHT makes soldiers of future Army Air Forces flyers.



Primary flight training is the fledgling's bridge from earth to sky.



Basic training, in a more powerful ship, adds greater flying knowledge to fundamentals already mastered.



ADVANCE training in bigger planes polishes the future pilot.

Transition pilot training, in sky giants, readies newly-commissioned flyers for positions as bomber commanders.



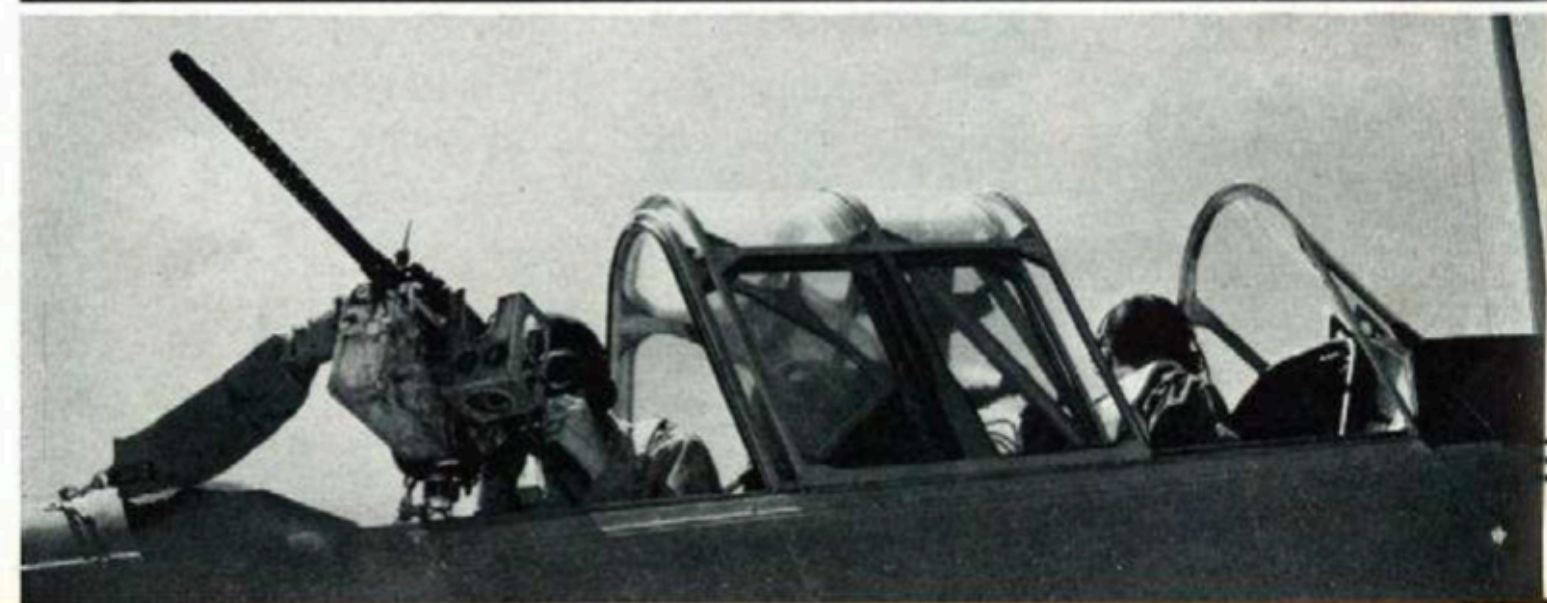
NAVIGATION is taught in Hudson bombers—classrooms of the sky.



BOMBARDIERING is climaxed by night missions in silver bombers.



GUNNERY training is now given bombardiers and navigators as well.



Thursday, May 21st, 1942

Lowell Ledger

Honored at Farewell Party

A farewell party was held at Lone Pine Inn on Tuesday night for Jack Lalley who left Wednesday for Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where he will receive his training as physical instructor for aviation cadets in the Army Air Corps. Those present were Bob Lalley of Lapeer, Bill Lalley of M. S. C., Katherine and Anna Lalley of Grand Rapids, Mrs. John Lalley, Mrs. Margaret Delehanty and James McMahon.

Monday, May 25th, 1942



Dear folks,
All we've been doing is riding & more riding. The heat is terrific. Expect to arrive Santa Ana about noon Wednesday. Passed a lot of troop trains going east. There are about 180 men on this train.
All my love,
Druce

James B. McMahon
Cadet
Amarillo, Texas (Pop. 60,000). Wholesale transportation, petroleum, helium and Federal government hub of a fast-growing region, larger than Pennsylvania in area. Nearby is the world's largest natural gas field.

On the train:
POST CARD
Mr and Mrs. F. J. McMahon
Lowell, Michigan

REMYON & AMARILLO
TR 24
MAY 25
PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

DISTRIBUTED BY MCCORMICK CO., PHOTOGRAPHERS, AMARILLO, TEXAS
GENUINE CUPERTON POST CARD (REG. PAT. OFF.)

UNITED STATES ARMY
Thursday

Dear Kitty,

Well this is the second day in camp and I think its going to be all right. Of course they aren't selling beer here and there aren't many hostesses around but, the foods good, the climates swell and the work isn't tough. If I can only pass my physical I'll really be on my way. Heres an outline of a days work---

- 5:30 arise to reveille
- 5:45 Beds made (right too!) report to roll call.
- 6:00 Dismissed, clean up tent.
- 6:30 Drill
- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:00 Classes (Some classes after 7:00)
- 9:00 "
- 10:00 "
- 11:00 "
- 12:00 Rest
- 1:30 Dinner
- 2:00 Drill
- 3:00 "
- 4:00 "
- 5:00 Rest
- 7:00 Supper (at)

(OVER)

Well, I've got to hit class so I'll sign-off- I'll write again -

My address:
Aviation Cadet James B. McMahon
Squadron 52 S.A.A.B.
Santa Ana, California

INCOMING OFFICERS
LET'S ENLISTED MEN
REPORT HERE