

# H. M. Honey

## Has Souvenir

### Preserved Head

*June 2, 1943*

Former Newton Man Here From  
Panama After Several Years in  
Panama and South America

H. Maynard Honey, former resident of Newton, was here Saturday greeting friends and acquaintances, after six or seven years in the tropics. He was carrying with him the shrunken head of a "head hunting" Indian, which he had obtained in Bolivia when he was employed by a mining company there.

It was about the size of a man's fist but was complete in every detail, including a bushy head of jet black hair. The lips were sewn together and the eyes were closed, but otherwise it looked just as though it was alive. Even the expression was that of a smiling man.

The trophies, which probably have some religious significance for the Indians, are made by cutting off the head of some Indian from a neighboring tribe, removing the skull, while carefully preserving the fleshy parts, and then shrinking them with hot sand, meanwhile handling it to preserve its shape.

#### **In Panama**

Maynard has been in Panama for the past year or two, where he was engaged in repair work on destroyers and other vessels of the United States Navy, which required overhauls after service at sea. Previous to that he was employed by an oil company on an island off the coast of Venezuela, and by mining companies in Bolivia.

He now speaks Spanish fluently and rattled off a phrase to prove it. "You pick it up after you're there a while," he said. "My verbs are lousy for I never took a lesson and I sometimes use a present tense verb when I should have used a past tense, but I speak it without having to think about it."

He expressed the opinion that the Pan-American highway won't be completed for six or seven years after the war is over. It follows the mountains for hundreds of miles, making construction expensive and difficult, he said. "I drove from Panama City north to the Costa Rican border 350 miles. In Panama the road was good, for the United States Army built it, but in Costa Rica it was a narrow crooked road, covered with gravel."

Since arriving in the United States he has been notified by his draft board in New York to report for service.

Sergeant Wayne Lytle, who was wounded in North Africa, has received a medical discharge as a result of his experiences. He has been in the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky, off and on for several months.