

## EVER MEET A "DRAGONBACK"?

Jan. 13, 1944



Ever see a Dragonback?

Do you know what a Dragonback is?

We do - - now - - since we've met M. E. "Chappie" Chapman, who is one.

"Chappie", accompanied by Mrs. Chapman, was here this week for a few days visit with Newton relatives and friends before going to Dallas, Texas where he will give up the life of "Flat Tops" and begin a course in naval aviation.

Since this unpleasantness with Japan started, Yeoman Chapman has had a lot of experience aboard aircraft carriers that he will not soon forget. He was a member of the crew of the ill-fated Lexington when it was sent to bottom by Japanese dive bombers, and since that unhappy experience has served on a similar craft of the U. S. Navy in the Pacific waters.

"Chappie" earned the title of "Dragonback" by virtue of having crossed the equator and the International Date Line at the same time and place, and a certificate he carries, proving this achievement reads:

"Draw near and keep silent for you are in the presence of M. E. Chapman a Dragonback, who in November, 1943 met with King Neptune and the Golden Dragon at the mystic center of the sea."

It carries the name of his ship and other information which "Chappie" thought it best to keep secret for the time being.

When asked if he wouldn't be about the right size for a tail gunner, Yeoman Chapman replied: "Maybe so, but the thing I am starting out for is the training that will enable me to ride in the driver's seat."

"Those who know "Chappie" can imagine what a strange delight he will have in meeting some of the Yellow Nips who blasted the Lexington from under him - - provided there are any of them left when he has completed his pilot's training.