

# JOE GREGORIE TELLS OF SOLDIER'S LIFE IN FAR AWAY INDIA

WRITING TABLETS COST 90 CENTS;  
RAZOR BLADES 16 CENTS EACH,  
LOCAL BOY SAYS

*Mar. 2, 1944*

Joe Gregorie, who is serving with the United States Army in India has written the editor of the Mentor-Democrat a very interesting letter about his experiences in that country.

Joe had just received his first copy of the Mentor-Democrat when he wrote this letter, and, old as it was, he said it sure was most welcome news to him.

But we will let Joe tell you about it in his own words. His letter follows:

Dear Mr. Page:

I received my first editions of the Mentor-Democrat, so thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know I really appreciated getting it.

Of course, the papers were pretty old, but all it said was still news to me. As we can't mention anything about dates, I'll say I was just reading about the Corn Show and where our Eagles took a beating at the hands of the Maroons. (I just sprayed the joint so maybe the mosquitoes will behave for a while.)

It sure is good to be able to read how things are getting along back in good old Jasper. A picture in one of the papers shows some of the business and professional men shucking corn. I'd like to know how much a certain school principal picked.

tor and the various letters, this Goat Man who passed through must have

From what I can get from the Men-been an interesting sight.

I sure enjoy reading about the football games, although the boys didn't win them all. Of course it will be some time before I hear about the basket ball team, but regardless how long it will still be very good news.

The Nu-Kom-I News is sure good to read again, although I don't know many of the students whose names are mentioned.

As for some news of over here, you know many things are secret, so that cuts down our subjects for a letter. The weather, I'm sure, is much better than you are having back there—chilly of a night but very nice during the day.

We have good beds and our chow is O. K., so I don't guess there is much to complain about. I believe I have eaten enough corned beef, Vienna sausages and Spam, that it should be coming out of my ears.

As for the Indians, I guess they're O. K., but most of them have only one idea and that is to "stick some American Sucker about five times what something is worth.

An average five-cent tablet costs about ninety cents or three rupees (a rupee equals 30 cents of our money.) Razor blades are eight annas each (an anna is 2 cents), so we have an excuse for not shaving so often. U. S. Parker fountain pens are all the way from a hundred to a hundred and fifty rupees each.

Labor is very cheap. Many tea pickers get only eight annas a day, but they can live here a week on that much, as their diet is mostly rice.

I better quit for now, so until later,  
best of luck,

Your friend,  
Joe Gregorie.