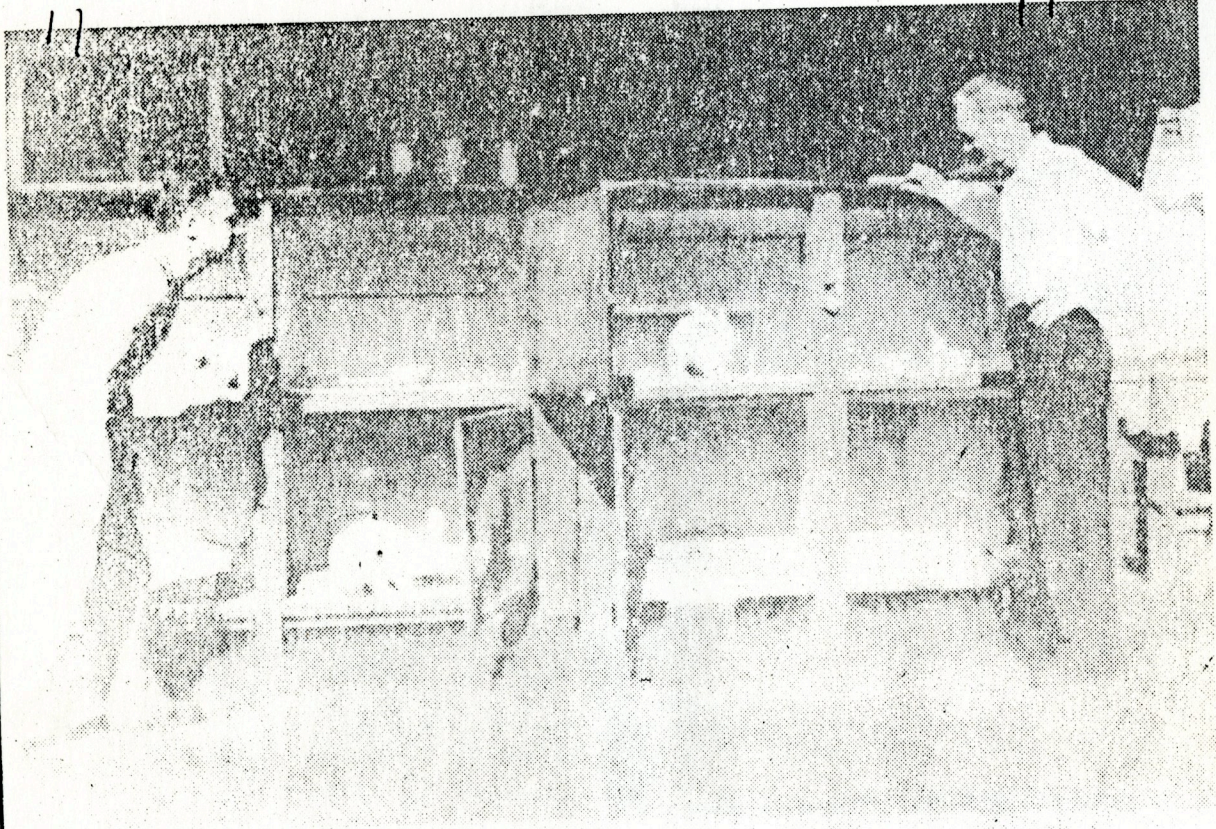


Date: 2.27.77



POW rabbit hutch at Clinton being shown by a prisoner, left, to Opie Ellis, Sr. during World War II.

Stories On POW Camp

When we started last week to write about the German prisoner of war camp which was at Clinton during World War II, we knew there would be a response, but could not anticipate just what it would be.

Over the years, we have heard many stories of the camp and the prisoners and it was some of these that we intended to relate — and will.

Now those stories are increasing as readers call to tell more what they remember.

Opie Ellis Jr., furnished a picture of his father, Opie Sr., talking with one of the POWs in front of a rabbit hutch which the Germans had in camp. They raised rabbits for food.

The senior Ellis was in charge of a work crew and knew many of the men quite well.

One of them copied a Kipling poem for him in Old English script — a real work of art — that is still a framed memento at the Ellis home.

BUT MRS. ALBERT FREATHY of Clinton has one of the Most interesting of all the POW stories.

She and Mr. Freathy were on a tour in Europe, going down the

The Weekender

By Carl McIntire
Sunday Editor

Second Of A Series

Rhine, arriving in Mainz on a Saturday evening.

The next morning they wanted to take a tour of the city, but found that on Sunday there were no "Grey Line" type tours available. They asked the desk clerk at the hotel for advice and he suggested they call a taxi and take their own tour.

A Filipino couple, standing nearby while the conversation with the desk clerk was going on, overheard the proposal of a taxi trip and asked if they could go along, sharing the expenses.

They all agreed and the desk clerk called a taxi.

AS THEY BEGAN the trip, Mrs. Freathy noticed that the cab driver was taking more than a casual interest in her and was a bit wary when, at the first stop, he began to question her.

"Where are you from?", he asked. She told him she was an American and he told her he knew that — but he wanted to know, "what state do you come from?"

At this point she was not sure it was any of his business, but he kept asking and she answered as he pried out the information that she was from Mississippi "Oh What town?"

She told him "Jackson" ... and after a pause added, "well, not really from Jackson, but a suburb, Clinton".

WITH THAT, the man's face lighted up and he smiled and exclaimed, "that's where I was a prisoner of war.. the people there were so kind to me....they even took me into their homes".

He had spotted Mrs. Freathy as a possible Mississippian by her Southern drawl and after learning that she was from Clinton he acted like an old friend.

The Freathys and the Filipino couple had an unusual tour of Mainz that day, at very little expense, as the ex-POW went out of his way to return the kindnesses he had experienced while in the Clinton camp.