

A Visitor's View of Gorgas

By WILLIE WHITSIT

GORGAS is a lively little village, situated on the Warrior River, and those who have had the pleasure of visiting there once, always want to return, for a glad hand is extended by all with whom they come in contact. Surrounded by fragrant flowers and beautiful vines is a pretty little guest house which, though simple in its architecture, is cozy, attractive and delightful to visit.

One of the most important features in Gorgas, to the mind of the writer, is the spacious dining hall which is so well managed by a most capable dietitian, who, when the call is given for serving meals, is always there with her sunny smile and jovial disposition, and by her cheerful and inimitable manner, makes all the boys realize how fortunate they are to have her. That person is none other than Mrs. Lena Mitchell, who not only has charge of the dining room, but serves in the capacity of matron, seeing that the guest house is kept in order, and attending to such other household duties as are necessary to keep things in "apple-pie order."

On top of the hill overlooking the camp is the Gorgas School, a modern structure which was completed about two years ago. The principal of this school is Mr. A. I. Waldrop, who is assisted by a corps of excellent teachers. In addition to his work as schoolmaster, Mr. Waldrop takes an active part in athletics, and the result of his work compares favorably with larger schools. He works with untiring energy with the Scouts, and is a genial companion to all the young boys of the camp, all of whom love and respect him.

The home for the boys is very comfortable and convenient, having 14 bedrooms, a living room, two bathrooms and a large porch. The reception hall is used by the members of the "Bachelors' Club," a fraternal order which was organized about a year ago. A number of visitors from the Birmingham office were invited to be present at the first meeting after its organization, and witnessed the initiation of the candidates for membership, and the writer, being one of the guests, well remembers how Mr. Hutchins and others, after having been blindfolded and taking the solemn vows, walked so proudly across the hall on a rug made especially for the "tenderfeet." We hope the treatment was not too severe, and

that all have fully recovered from the electric shocks which were so joyously given by the charter members, so painfully received by those joining, and so thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators.

Last, but by no means least, Gorgas has a most wonderful steam plant. The success of the work is due in a measure to the untiring efforts of the Superintendent, Mr. C. O. Lineberry, who has the hearty co-operation of every employe in the camp. The writer cannot

give a detailed description of the mechanism of the plant, but it might be said that the two symmetrical smokestacks (shown in cut), towering above the plant some 250 feet, seem to stand as sentinels, as it were, evidencing the fact that steam power is always available, and assuring the people of Alabama, as well as some of her sister States, that whenever the waters are low, the Steam Plant stands in readiness to give the steam supply needed to carry on the great work.

