

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1967

### About Blackwater, From Vietnam

To the Editors: Enclosed are excerpts from a letter to my parents written by my brother, Fred, from Vietnam, concerning his views on the Blackwater Lake.

"It's beginning to rain quite frequently here. It rains so hard that you have to be able to tread water to get anywhere. Our tent isn't in the best location. When it rains, we have a little river running through it. Ditches have been dug, sandbags piled high, but the river still flows.

"If it only takes five days for packages, I'll bet that food would get here without too much trouble. Food like cookies, brownies, nothing really too sweet, for we have a problem trying to keep teeth in shape as it is. Not that the Army doesn't have facilities for repairing teeth, it's just that the water is so bad, it takes a while to build up enough courage to brush them.

"I don't care for the new lake, but there is little I can say and less yet that I can do to stop it. Seems to me that this current trend toward the 'leisure life' is getting a little out of hand, when you have to destroy half a town's heritage to make an area for city people to have a good time. People live in the country to get away from the crowds, noise and apathy that exist in all cities. They go without the night life, the higher paying jobs, the department stores and supermarkets and the other benefits that city life can bring, to be able to breathe fresh air, live on their own land and lead an uncomplicated life with their neighbors and friends that have been around for years. Seems to me, that in trying to bring the country to the city people, they get the benefits of both areas, while the country people wind up with the disadvantages of both. Doesn't seem quite fair to tear the 'guts' out of a town to make some guy a place where he can paddle his boat. They ought to clean up the stench and filth of the rivers and lakes that already exist, before they make the Blackwater into another Merrimack or Connecticut River.

"I don't begrudge a man a vacation, but it seems to me he wouldn't have that good a time knowing that beautiful homes had been destroyed and a lot of nice folks tossed out on their ear. At least that's the way I'd feel, 'cause I'm a country people."

"Wish that I were home so I could say my two cents worth. If there is any kind of vote to be made, how about sending an absentee ballot to Vietnam.

Love to all,  
FRED

Fred has lived in Webster, New Hampshire since he was eight years old and is now a Lieutenant in the First Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

Home means a lot to any soldier at war and they, just as anyone else, deserve the right to say their "two cents." The proposed lake would swallow half of Webster and change all of it. Fred knows the stench of a filthy river — one is running through his tent right now. The Blackwater is a fresh, clear stream — let's keep it that way.

KAREN RICHARDSON

Webster.