

# Park School Teacher Had Wide Training

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## Forest Service, Navy Training Is Useful

By H. KATHERINE SMITH

In the Pacific war theater, where he worked with radar and radio and in the U. S. Forest Service with which he was identified for seven years, Herbert J. Mols gained a broad practical knowledge of the sciences he now teaches at the Park School. Unusual aspects of his experience in the Navy were knowing four admirals and making a six weeks' tour of Southwest Japan shortly after the surrender.



H. J. Mols

The AGC ships, aboard which he served were unknown to the American public during the war, Mols states. Their identity was kept secret because their destruction by the enemy would have been disastrous. For aboard these vessels, made to appear to be transports, all plans for an amphibious attack was made. Such a ship would carry the admiral in charge with perhaps a second assisting or co-operating admiral, essential radio and radar equipment, and maps and plans of the operation. According to Mols, the sinking of an AGC shortly before or at the start of an attack could have reduced the entire operation to a chaotic scramble.

### Saw Life in Japan

He witnessed the atomic bomb destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki within a few weeks of those epochal bombings. In his opinion, the devastation wrought in other cities by repeated bomber raids was as complete as that caused by the atomic bomb.

"The difference was, of course, in the speed of the destruction," he said.

During a six-weeks' cruise of Southwestern Japan aboard the AGC Appalachian under Admiral Oldendorf, Mols had frequent opportunities to go ashore and observe not only the country but the people.

"Nowhere else have I seen so many dirty, ragged, barefoot, uncared-for children with neglected sores, as in Japan," he states. "In Tokyo, I saw rows of men, women and children, sleeping close together on the streets under any protruding ledge that afforded a suggestion of shelter."

"I was a dinner guest in the

three children live at 99 Chateau Ter, Snyder.

From 1936 until he received his commission of ensign in the Navy in May, 1943, Mols was identified with the U. S. Forest Service. In that work, as in his war work, he broadened and deepened his practical knowledge of the sciences.

Tree surgery, landscaping, working with wood are a few of the things he learned in forestry which he passed on to Park School boys, this Summer at the work camp he developed to teach them the fundamentals of such work and give them actual experience with it. Mols originated and headed the popular work camp.

### Served in Pacific

Immediately after entering the Navy, in May, 1943, he was sent to St. Simon's Island, Ga., to learn to use radar. At that camp, he was retained as an instructor. He was flown 12,000 miles to Guadalcanal, and assigned to the ABC Mt. McKinley during the Palau Operation, in order to observe the latest developments in the use of radar and include them in his instruction at the Georgia training camp.

In March, 1945, he again left the training school for the Pacific war theater.

"I was needed there because of the shortage of fighter direction men—men who could interpret the signals of radar, combine them with radio reports, and direct aircraft. During the Okinawa engagement, I served on picket ships that intercepted attacking Jap planes, and later, I was transferred to the AGC Appalachian," Mols said.

In the Pacific theater, Mols knew Admiral Fort, the late Admiral Wilkinson who, after a long and brilliant naval career, was drowned on a ferry that sank in Chesapeake Bay, Admiral Richard Connolly, deputy of Admiral Nimitz, and Admiral Oldendorf who was charged with the invasion of Southwest Japan.

In the radar training camp and at Guadalcanal, Mols formed a close friendship with T. W. Van Arsdale of the Park School faculty. In March, when the former received his discharge and returned to Buffalo to visit his father, he looked up Van Arsdale.

That was the start of Mols' connection with the Park School. In the Spring, he coached baseball and other sports. During the Summer, he organized and conducted the work camp, and when school opens, he will remain in the two-fold job of science teacher and coach of football, baseball and basketball.

When he becomes Park School's first football coach, Mols will realize an ambition cherished since his student days when he played on the Cornell team. All sports interest him. On the golf course, he shoots in the 80s.

He believes he can make science as fascinating as sports to his students.

"The undiscovered and undeveloped possibilities of science cannot fail to challenge youth's eager curiosity," he says. "For instance, most of radar's peacetime use: