

# Chilled Wine and Warm Hearts Await P.O.W.

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By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

There is a bottle of champagne in the Abbott home on Rensterville Road in Alloway, N. J., that has been chilling there since October, 1968. It will be opened when Maj. Joseph S. Abbott Jr. of the Air Force returns home from North Vietnam some time soon.

"John was shot down on April 30, 1967, and reported missing in action, but I knew he was alive and would be back," Mrs. Joan Abbott explained yesterday from her Salem County home. "That's why I bought the champagne and have kept it waiting for him. We learned in 1969 that he was a prisoner."

Mrs. Abbott said her seven children were excited and also waiting for the return of their father, one of four prisoners of war from the metropolitan area. The North Vietnamese are releasing ahead of schedule in the next few days.

The Abbott children are Joanie, 16 years old; Dorothy, 14; Joseph, 13; Daniel, 12; Elizabeth and Charles, twins, 10, and Matthew, 6½.

"Matthew was a week old when John left for overseas Aug. 24, 1966," Mrs. Abbott said.

"I'm sure he'll be excited to see the baby."

In addition to taking care of her children, Mrs. Abbott has been driving 50 miles each way daily for nearly two years to go to the Philadelphia School of Nursing and is scheduled to graduate in June.

Also awaiting the return of Major Abbott are his father and mother, sister and brother, who all live near him. Now 38 years old, Major Abbott joined the Air Force in 1955 after spending two years at the University of Virginia.

Other homes in the metropolitan area, including the dairy farm of J. Bertram Milligan in Annandale, N. J., are preparing for the return of released P.O.W.'s.

Capt. Joseph E. Milligan, 31 of the Air Force is expected to return to the rural life in Annandale in Hunterdon county.

"Joseph was born on a farm and I know he'll be glad to be back in the country," Mrs. Emma Milligan, his mother said. "He majored in animal husbandry at Rutgers University before graduating and joining the Air Force in 1965. He plans to make farming his career."

Captain Milligan, a Phantom fighter pilot, was shot down

May 20, 1967, and reported missing in action. In April, 1970, he was reported a prisoner of war.

"I thank God very much for answering my prayers," was the comment of Mr. Joseph Crecca, a widow, of 318 Ampere Parkway, Bloomfield, N.J., in Essex County at the news that her son, Capt. Joseph Crecca Jr., 31, of the Air Force, was being freed.

Captain Crecca, who graduated from the Newark College of Engineering in 1962, joined the Air Force in 1964. He was shot down in November, 1966, and reported a prisoner in January, 1967. His mother said she had received letters from him in prison in which he said he was treated well.

Elation was the reaction of Mr. John J. McManus and his wife, Kathryn, of 26 Pond Place, Babylon, L.I., at the news that their son, Capt. Kevin J. McManus, 30, of the Air Force was being released.

The Long Island couple learned of their son's pending return from his wife, Mrs. Mary Jane McManus, who lives in Washington. The parents have not seen their son since 1965.

**DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIES!**