

That he took his job altogether too seriously, he did impress me as a very fine officer. Had we been able to enjoy the pleasures of the nearby city, he might even have been popular. Recreational facilities at the base ^{were, incidentally, not, or nearly so.}

Well, along towards Christmas time the situation improved with the word that everyone was to get some leave either over Christmas or over New Years. Though it meant getting a little less time off, I chose the first leave because of invitation to Christmas Eve dinner at the Charlie McGeebees and Christmas day dinner at the Schepplins. Asked to bring along two friends ^{for good}, I got Dave Kersting and "Hap" Langstaff, and at both parties we were treated like kings and enjoyed ourselves and our turkey immensely. A trip up the bald dome of Stone Mt., made possible by Dave's ancient Chevrolet, gave us a good look at the countryside on "Boxing Day." Shortleaf ^(?) pines and red soil were

CHRISTMAS
DINNERS

STONE MT.

TWO NEW
BIRDS

predominant ^{almost} every where, and I found some more new birds - brown-headed nuthatches and a Carolina wren.

UNUSUAL
ADVENTURE

A rather unusual adventure occurred on our return to the base that night. Having missed a turn somewhere but not being sure just where, we stopped to inquire at the first house that still had lights on on the first floor. I happened to be the one to get out and knock on the front door. A man's voice said, "Come in," so I started to ^{push} open the door, when all of a sudden it was yanked open from the other side, and a large figure emerged muttering a curse, and before I could even open my mouth, had slugged me in the face and slammed the door. My friends were piling out of the car in the meantime, but I persuaded them, humiliating as it seemed, that discretion, especially as the man might have been going after a gun,

was the better part of valor, and so we beat a hasty retreat eventually finding the base. I've always wondered who if anyone that man thought I was, though if he had hit me elsewhere than on the cheek I might have done more than wondered.

We left N.A.S. Atlanta early in January, and our only regrets were that we had seen so little of the city, glimpses of which ^{had} made it seem more than pleasant. As for the base, I don't believe I ever passed a code test there, though it's fair to say we were given more chances to do so towards the end of our stay ~~there~~.