



TIMMY TRIES TRUMPET: Timmy, four-year-old son of Pte. Gerald McKnight, tries the trumpet his dad brought home from the Japanese prison camp. All the three Winnipeg Grenadier sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McKnight, 785 Valour road, are now home. Shown are: Cpl. Melville, Pte. Elmer, Timmy and Pte. Gerald. Monday evening Melville and Gerald came home.

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Dinah Favorite with Japs

Reunited McKnights Played in Prison Orchestra

The Japs had a good word for Dinah, say the three McKnight boys, now reunited with their parents at their home at 785 Valour Road.

Two more Winnipeg Grenadier sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McKnight, Cpl. Melville and Pte. Gerald, arrived home Monday evening. Pte. Elmer, known for his song writing, came home on Oct. 19.

With three other inmates, the McKnight boys organized an or-

chestra in the camp. Eventually the unsmiling Japs indicated their approval. They submitted request numbers.

"They always asked for Dinah," Melville recalled. "They liked it jazzed up." The orchestra would blow the hot jazz to their deadpan captors, who sometimes joined in with their off-key harmony—in Japanese.

"Apparently it was a favorite song in pre-war days," Elmer put in. "One interpreter would often chime in after a few drinks of saki.

"The Japs also put in a bid for sentimental melodies, calling for My Blue Heaven and Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley.

"The Japs kinda put up a howl about our instruments at first," Melville related. "But they let them go through. Every time they saw them they looked them over. They were thinking of melting them down for the metal."

The twins, Gerald and Elmer, played the trumpet. Melville played the saxophone. Two other Winnipeggers, Johnny Matheson and Doug Morrison, contributed with the trumpet and trombone.

Special permission was required each time the orchestra practised or gave concerts for the camp. In one camp they had to leave their instruments in the administration hut and the Jap would blow the horns, spoil the reeds.

In a particularly benevolent mood the Japanese commandant gave them permission to broadcast through Yokohama. Elmer's song, "I'll Never Say Goodbye

Again, was picked up by the C.B.C. and made known from coast to coast.

The boys are thinking of continuing the band in Winnipeg. However, Elmer will have to remain in a sanatorium several months to cure his slight tuberculosis state. Gerald lost his right index finger from an infection in the camp.

Their home is gay with reunion, decorated with many bouquets of flowers to their happy parents. Another son, Rex, was at home, too.

The brothers said they were fortunate to remain together during imprisonment. Their parents still could not realize they were all back home.

Gerald is the married son and his son Timmy, who will be five next month, did not find him at all strange.

He wanted to try his dad's trumpet. Somehow or other his three fingers went to the valves.

"He's right in the groove," smiled his dad.