

THE POLK COUNTY POST

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NUMBER 1

Over the Sun-Set Route To Texas

VIRGINIA SOUTHERN GIVES DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMOUS SCENIC ROUTE

INTERESTING STORY OF SUNNY SOUTH

The South Is a Vast Military Camp and the Hum of Prosperity is Everywhere.

Dear Folks at Home:—As I left Salem I know you thought I was in terribly bad with that Pullman colored porter, after I said I'd learn some new "nigger" stories to tell you when I came home, and so I was, for as he took my baggage to my berth he spoke as if he had "refrigerated" every word with ten cents' worth of ice; but as soon as I could get to my purse I gave him a coin and then his inflections changed considerably, for you know that means everything to them and I wouldn't think of taking a trip without a few extras for the "niggers." And the old rain stick I took, I promised him would be his if it were not raining when I got to San Francisco. It wasn't and I left it on the train for him, so when I'm on that train again I shall expect special service. The next day, Sunday, dawned bright and clear and as I had been over that section of Oregon before in the night every minute of travel in our dear old scenic state furnished an eye feast not to be excelled any place. Many changes were noticeable as soon as we had passed into California. One thing I must mention; a commissioned man from Portland, who hadn't yet got his uniform, had charge of about ten men who he was taking to Vallejo Junction to join the marines. They, too, were in civilian clothes and were making the most of the opportunity to drink something stronger than Bevo, which, by the way, is considered an Oregon beverage outside of the state. When we reached Shasta Springs, this band of ambitious marines couldn't be persuaded to indulge in Shasta water; they saved their capacity for the bars on down the line. There was such a jolly party on we became almost like a large family before we reached San Francisco. The city looked so much prettier than when we were there four years ago. I heartily agreed with Rudyard Kipling that "San Francisco has only one drawback; 'tis hard to leave." However, I left the same evening on the Sun-Set Limited but was only able to get Pullman reservation as far as Los Angeles. I was advised that the limited had 45 minutes' wait in Los Angeles and that there were sure to be cancellations from that place, but when I got to Los Angeles, there had been no cancellations and not a thing I could get, so I waited until the next morning when I was able to get through reservation on the Sun-Set Limited to Houston, Texas. I enjoyed my visit in Los Angeles very much and found the scenic region about the city one of endless charm. Went out to Universal City, but the studios were closed, no screen work going on and a rumor was afloat that there was little probability of work being resumed until the war is over. I also passed Hollywood and had a view of Charley Chaplin's home which from appearances will be spacious and palatial enough to take care of him, feet, mustache and all. Just here I might add that if he had no more ardent lovers than I, the home would never have been under construction. In comparing the two cities, San Francisco and Los Angeles, the former impressed me as having an added life and vivacity which the latter does not possess. Must tell you about visiting the Red Cross headquarters in San Francisco. The day chairman told me that a few days before a feeble old man had come in with a sack on his stooped shoulders. She asked him what it was and he said, "Well, you all asked us to save a

SERVICE LIST NEXT WEEK

The Post will publish its list of boys in the service in one of its issues of next week. There is yet time to add the names of any whom relatives or friends of the soldiers or sailors think we may not have on the list. There may be a few left off but it will be unintentional on our part. We have made every effort to get them all.

slice of bread a day. I've got a sackful saved up and I thought I'd bring it up to you." Out of Los Angeles the country is so thickly settled between towns that it is difficult to determine where the town ends and the country begins. This region of small farms seems to have taken the reproach of loneliness from rural life. The coastal region south of Los Angeles is one vast garden spot, bordered on one side by towering mountain peaks and on the other by broad smooth beaches. Not far out of Los Angeles the city of Pomona impressed me as being very beautiful. It is named and famed for its fruit. It is surrounded for miles by orchards of oranges and lemons, figs, almonds and walnuts. A young lady who had the berth across the aisle from me lived in Pomona. Her father owned a large orange orchard and she gave me some of the delicious fruit which had been gathered that morning. She spoke Spanish fluently and was going to New York to be a censor of Spanish letters. We became good friends and I hope to see her again.

As we came through the famous Imperial Valley many places of interest were passed. The deep fertile soil and the warm sunshine make it possible to raise almost any kind of agricultural product. Most of the land is below sea level and is irrigated by water brought from the Colorado River. At Salton Sea, which came from an overflow of the Colorado River in 1906, the water is now 64 feet deep and the S. P. tracks have been moved several times on account of this overflow. In many places the tops of the telegraph poles can just be seen. Unless there is another overflow it is supposed that this water will evaporate in ten or fifteen years. It was in this section of the country, you remember, that Harold Bell Wright wrote his "Barabed Worth."

When we reached Arizona, the temperature was quite summery. We all got off and got sun-baths and talked to the picturesque Indians who were at the stations selling baskets, pottery and beaded ware. At Yuma the conductor called our attention to a sign on a garage which read, "Free gasoline every day the sun doesn't shine." At Tucson, the largest city in the state, we side-tracked for several minutes for troop trains to pass. We had a jolly bunch of service boys on our train who got off to salute the others and have a meal with the Red Cross ladies who had prepared to furnish the troops. The sharp appetites. The Government allows them 50 cents a meal. Well, I never laughed so much as when I happened to be at the table on the diner with two of them, and they looked over the menu, trying to find something for 50 cents. Finally they despaired, one saying to the other, "We might as well go; we can't get even a peach for 50 cents." Right here I might add that I was chagrined because I had such a ravenous appetite all the way when everything was so high. Around Tucson, irrigation is carried on chiefly by pumping. In all the region about Tucson, especially along the Santa Cruz River, are vast prehistoric ruins. We passed through Steins, New Mexico, about two o'clock in the morning. It has only 120 people and the next morning the conductor told us that about 20 of them were standing near the station waiting seemingly for nothing but he thought a hold-up was in sight. However, I was glad we were fast asleep and knew nothing of it. I never knew then that I had left Salem on train No. 13, but if we had been held up, I would have blamed it all on the 13. Deming, New Mexico, in the Mimbres Valley, is the center of a great cattle raising, farming and mining region. When we crossed the Rio Grande, which rises among the mountains of Colorado, forms

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The Polk County Post Makes Its Debut

Today, Tuesday, March 26, 1918, The Polk County Post begins publication. It will be issued on Tuesdays and Fridays, twice a week, a worthy representative of the interests of Independence and this section of Polk county. Independence has needed a newspaper of this kind for a number of years so it can stand among its sister cities of the state and be counted. The intellectual and commercial standing of a town is rated in recent years by its newspaper or newspapers. A poor newspaper in a town does more to injure that town than a bevy of unprogressive merchants. Independence is entitled to and deserves a paper they need not be ashamed of when among strangers. The future will show that they will never have to apologize for the Post.

Clyde T. Ecker will be the editor of the Post and for the benefit of recent arrivals in this section, we will say that he has been managing editor, editorial writer, paragrapher, sporting editor and dramatic critic on a number of the leading daily newspapers of the country.

J. F. Currie, who owns a half interest in the Post, served many years in the newspaper vineyard of North Dakota very creditably and successfully. Coupled with his natural talents for newspaper work, he is an expert printer, equal to any in the state.

Then, Virginia Southern will be with us. As a society writer and critic of dramatics, she has always had first place wherever she has engaged in her self-chosen and beloved work.

Then there will be a dozen or more others to assist and each and every one of them is very enthusiastic. They will make a very creditable showing.

The Post appears a month behind its schedule because of the non-arrival of its materials and presses and this issue is printed upon the Observer press at Dallas. Outside of a few miscellaneous articles, the Post will be new and will be one of the most complete and modern newspaper offices in the state. It will be equipped to do all kinds of printing and there is no excuse for any job of class being sent to Portland. The Post can do it and do it cheaper. There is one grade of work we cannot do and that is the smeary mis-spelled, gawky, broken type pieces of printing one sees quite frequently. If you want that kind of work done, of which the average person is ashamed, you will have to go elsewhere.

The Post has an Intertype typesetting machine which is one of the best of its kind. It has many recent improvements not found on the average machine. It cost more and is worth more than any machine in the county.

The Post will have a Babcock Despatch press which has a capacity of running 3,800 papers per hour. As far as we can ascertain no other newspaper office, outside of the cities, has one like it or as good. Then besides the press there is a folder which as its name indicates folds the papers after they are printed.

The total value of the Post equipment is over \$4500.

SOLDIER BOY CAMPED ON HISTORIC GROUND

Cambridge, Mass., March 16.—Dear Mother:—I will try and tell you of some of the historic points of interest hereabouts.

Last night my post was over ground marked by a tablet as the spot where 1200 Continental troops mustered before they marched to the Battle of Bunker Hill. Just a few rods south of this is the Washington Elm. It is a fast dying old elm under which George Washington took command of the American troops. Desperate attempts are being made to keep it alive, but I think it will soon die.

Just across the street from the tree is the oldest church in the state. It was actually occupied by American soldiers during the Revolution. It is still in good condition. I attended church there last Sunday. A Congregational service. Isn't it a rare treat? Just imagine sitting under a roof that sheltered the revolutionists!

Just south of Harvard Square is the spot where Lafayette was welcomed to America. I sleep over the ground where Oliver Wendell Holmes was born. In fact wherever one goes may be found a tablet or a monument marking some famous spot. A short ride by street car will take me to "Old North Church", Lexington and Concord, Fenial Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed, or to Plymouth Rock.

Well, Mumsy, I must break off here and write to Harry. I will be going on my little beat soon with my trusty gun on my shoulder. There are guards every few feet around here. Thank Goodness, the

EDGAR SEELEY WRITES THAT HE'S NOW IN ENGLAND

Edgar J. Seeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Seeley, who was on board the Tuscania when it was torpedoed off the north coast of Ireland, has written his parents that he is now in England and adds that the climate is very similar to that of Oregon. He made but brief mention of the disaster and his father thinks that the young man didn't even get his feet wet. That he boarded a life boat without mishap and was rowed ashore.

THIRD DRIVE FOR BOND SALE TO COMMENCE SOON

All is in readiness for the Third Liberty Loan drive which commences on April 6. A systematic mode of campaign has been worked out which will make it possible to visit every home. Each and everyone who is to assist in selling the bonds knows exactly what he or she is to do and where to do it. Such a system as has been adopted will simplify the work greatly.

Everyone who has any savings or who is financially able to do so is urged to invest in the Liberty Bonds. It is a duty they owe to their country at this time to come to its rescue. It is not advised that anyone should deprive themselves of necessities in order to buy bonds but it is expected that a liberal portion of the amount spent for luxuries should be invested.

weather is good. It snows and rains but is warm and not bad as I expected.

HUGH MILLER.

CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription price of the Post will be \$1.50 a year which will include both Tuesday and Friday issues. This \$1.50 must be paid in advance in all cases and there will be no free subscriptions for anyone. Then each and every subscription will be stopped at the expiration of the time it is paid for.

If you have already subscribed or somebody has subscribed for you, the date of expiration will follow your name on this issue of the Post. If there is no date after your name it indicates that you are receiving a sample copy only. Some who are not subscribers will be sent the Friday issue but after that no one will receive the Post unless it is paid for.

For the benefit of those who may find it impossible to visit our office within a week's time we have inserted a subscription blank on page 4. By filling this out and bringing or sending it in you can receive the paper until it is convenient for you to call and pay for it.

MEETING TO PROMOTE "WAR GARDEN" IS HELD

In the interest of "war gardens," a meeting was held at the Isis Theatre yesterday afternoon. Mrs. K. C. Eldridge, president of the Civic League and one who takes great interest in the matter, was delegated to take the initiative in forming an organization to promote and encourage the planting of gardens wherever possible. At the meeting much interest was taken by those present and a committee was appointed to stimulate interest and arouse people to "do their bit" in the way of garden making.

JACK LONDON STORIES

The Post has arranged for the publication of several of Jack London's stories. Each will be begun on Tuesday and concluded on Friday of each week. The first one appears in this issue.

Greatest Battle of War Is Going On

THE GERMANS ARE MAKING SUPREME EFFORT TO WIN THE WAR.

HUNS TRY TO BREAK THE BRITISH LINE

All Civilization Stands in Waiting For News of This Mightiest German Offensive

The greatest battle of the world's history is now going on and the entire world is standing in its tracks awaiting the results.

The Huns are attempting to break thru the Western front of the Allies and have attacked at a point occupied by the British army. While the British have been forced back in many places, the line has not been broken. Thousands have been killed. Ally guns tear the "massed formation" attacks of the enemy but by sheer force of numbers they come on.

Every American is up on his toes "rooting" for success and the defeat of the Huns. It seems to be generally considered that it is Germany's last effort. If the West line holds, it is the beginning of the end.

ROAD MAKING EQUIPMENT BOUGHT BY COUNTY COURT

Dallas, Or.—A big new three ton auto truck arrived in Dallas this week from Portland, purchased by the Polk County Court for road work. Several other pieces of road machinery have been purchased by the officials with a view to beginning work as soon as the weather permits.



MAE MARSH Goldwyn Pictures

LOCAL FAVORITE WHO AGAIN APPEARS IN INDEPENDENCE SHE WILL BE SEEN AT THE

ISIS THEATRE

Wednesday Evening,
April 3—Next Week