

THE POLK COUNTY POST

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(TWICE A WEEK.)

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MYSTIC "C" HERE; PUZZLES MANY

To break the spell of a curse, hoodoo or sign, carry a dead black cat by the tail thru a graveyard at midnight.

The mystic "C" has reached Independence. The startling discovery was made Tuesday morning. In two hours, a number of citizens and half a hundred kids were out hunting for it. They found fifty or more scattered over various sections of the city.

The mystic "C" is a capital C drawn with a lead pencil upon the door casing of residences invariably on the right hand side and the C in most cases has a line drawn thru the center or beneath it. Similar marks have been found on houses in other cities and towns of the state, the significance of which has not yet been determined.

It is causing much uneasiness everywhere and giving the police much worry; not that they fear any sequel of the strange mark, but they have their hands full pacifying those who believe that the sign is one of evil and that they are to be murdered, or their homes burned or something else to happen of a hideous character.

Who is the designer of the mystic "C" and what is it for? Nobody knows with any degree of certainty. But the possible solution and probably the right one is that the marks were placed upon the door jambs by solicitors or canvassers for some purpose of identification for other agents of the same concern. It is unconceivable that the signs have been placed with evil intent; no plot of such proportions could be worked out and not be discovered. All fears are groundless.

The mystic "C" does not appear at all residences in Independence—about one in four is the average, and no reports have been received that any country homes have been marked.

In a nonsensical way there has been much chaffing about the sign. Those "marked" declare that they are to be spared and the others are to be slaughtered while those not marked say they are the chosen ones to remain and the others are to meet their doom.

CHANGE OF CHAIRMAN AT RED CROSS SEWING ROOMS

Mrs. Sherman Hays has resigned as chairman of the Red Cross sewing rooms and has been succeeded by Mrs. C. A. McLaughlin and Mrs. H. Mattison. Mrs. Hays was very proficient in the work and has given freely of her time to the cause for many months. Since she felt that she could no longer shoulder the responsibility, it is fortunate that two such capable and charitable women as Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Mattison have been appointed.

WHEAT YIELD 15 BUSHELS

Wheat is averaging fifteen bushels to the acre in this section, according to reports received by The Post. This is a good yield considering weather conditions this Spring and Summer.

BACK FROM OVER THERE, TELLS ABOUT IT OVER HERE

Dr. Doney, president of Willamette university, delivered a very interesting address in Independence Sunday afternoon to a large body of our citizens. Just back from France, he told of his experiences in war stricken France and what he saw. He reported that the American boys were in excellent spirits, that they were comfortable and cleanly billeted and that moral conditions were good. He praised the Y. M. C. A. very highly and it was thru that organization that both the morale and morals of the soldiers of Uncle Sam were greatly improved. "Y" huts are great preventatives of loneliness and homesickness. He returned to America with a message from the boys that they were all anxious to begin what they are over there for, and start the kaiser back to Berlin. Events of the past few weeks indicate that already they have him and his Hun army headed in the right direction. Dr. Doney's address was one of the best heard in Independence since the great war started; he is very clever in the use of language and he has a dry humor that is much enjoyed by an audience.

Dr. H. C. Dunsmore presided, a place in which he well fits.

COUNTY LEADERS ADDRESS INDEPENDENCE WOMEN

Miss Edna Mills, our county Home Demonstrator, and Mrs. Winnie Braden, chairman of the Polk County Woman's Council of National Defense, spoke to a number of intensely interested listeners at the Isis theater last Saturday afternoon.

Miss Mills spoke especially on Home Economics. She is a clear, capable speaker and is thoroly conversant with the numerous topics she handles. She is ready at all times to assist those who may call upon her for ideas, which will help in stimulating the preservation of food, clothing and other things. The local Council of Defense hopes to organize a class in some branch of the work which will be instructed by Miss Mills.

Mrs. Braden spoke interestingly of the great work being accomplished by the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense. She urged co-operation with the local chairman. She also told of her recent visit to Spokane where the Northwestern conference was held. She spoke of the plans made there for the Y. W. C. A. drive to be conducted in November.

Mrs. Braden is carrying on a number of patriotic duties in a most admirable manner.

No Post next Tuesday.

Belligerent Evergreen Blackberries

(From the Portland Oregonian.)

There are tons upon tons of wild blackberries now ripening in the woods of Oregon, according to the news reports, along with other tons of delicious fruit which ought not to be permitted to go to waste. Picking evergreen berries, however, is likely to prove a disappointing job to the novice. It calls for experience, high stragetical talent and special preparation.

An ideal outfit for the berrypicker would be a suit of mail, fashioned to cover every part of the body except the finger tips. The evergreen is the best protected berry in all Nature. The vine is not only thickly studded with powerful thorns, but these barbs are so cunningly arranged that they catch their victim going and coming. If, luckily, one is able to thrust one's arm into the bush and seize the ripe fruit of one's desire, one is sure to find a score of obstacles to recovering the arm again. One steps to the right and is involved in a hopeless tangle underfoot; he stoops and is caught by the hair; he tries to stand again and is enmeshed from head to foot. It is no uncommon experience to be snagged in a hundred places at once in an evergreen blackberry patch.

The harvesting of this berry is especially commended to young men who are expecting service overseas. One who has picked a few gallons will make nothing of all the German btrbed wire entanglements between Soissons and Berlin.

CITY POETESS SPENDING VACATION AT BUENA VISTA

I am down on the farm for vacation And it rivals your mountains or beach.

You may talk of your fine recreation, And rave of the mermaid "peach,"

But out here there is room and there's scenery;

There are fresh air and sky, and spring beets;

There are cabbage and ham and a beanery,

And wonderful sleep—and such cats!

There are calves and young colts and a swine herd;

There is buttermilk right from the churn;

There are fresh eggs, the gay, warbling songbird;

There's apple pie done to a turn! There is chicken so tender a-frying, And biscuits gold brown piping hot—

Farewell, stupid muse! I am flying To get my full name in the pot!

GRACE E. HALL.

(Miss or Mrs. Hall of Portland, a composer of very clever verse, has been enjoying the benefits and comforts of country life at Buena Vista recently.)

TWO YOUNG LADIES ENLIST AS U. S. STUDENT NURSES

Misses Pauline Stapleton and Ora Pauline Fenton have patriotically answered their country's call for student nurses. Both these young ladies have enrolled in the preferred class thereby signifying their willingness to go where they are most needed. Independence people are proud of these young ladies for the U. S. Student Nurse Reserve is the equivalent for women of the great National Army training camps for soldiers. These girls are capable, intelligent, responsible and of good high school education. They are of sound health, of the real "comrade" type and we highly commend them for choosing a profession that has always been honorable but never so honorable as it is today.

The work of enrolling student nurses was given over to the Woman's Council of National Defense. Polk county's quota is ten, Independence three, tho it might be well to remember that Independence already has two professional nurses doing service on foreign soil and another is to follow soon, which is not a bad record.

BOYS MUST REGISTER

All boys, who have reached the age of twenty one since June 5, 1918, must register for military duty August 24.

YOU RASSLE THE BEAR

The Post has commenced to receive communications (un signed) regarding the Sabbath question. Now we are reluctant to open our columns to a discussion of the controversy; instead we suggest that those who are bound to argue go right to the Baptist church any night, look the lecturer square in the face and say: "Mr. Preacher Man, I'm a son-of-a-gun from Showme, Missouri; Z!!!! xg-k-gff q—!! wwm-xx?" and other questions to that effect, and we're betting a last year's bird's egg against two pounds of sugar that in thirty seconds there'll be a beautiful "something doin'" started.

Since the kaiser went on a rampage over in Europe, its been mighty hard to keep one day, and if the question is not settled when the war is over, we will offer a compromise to the effect that both the washed and unwashed be allowed to keep both days.

SERVICE FLAG OF 4 STARS DEDICATED BY CATHOLICS

A service flag bearing four stars was dedicated at the Catholic church Sunday night. Rev. Father M. J. Denlof delivered a very patriotic address full of logic and good advice. It is only owing to an unfortunate circumstance that there is not a fifth star on this service flag in honor of Father Denlof. He was obliged to give up the duties of chaplain because of illness which necessitated an operation from which he is now recovering. When again he has regained his health, he probably will go back into the army. A proficient French scholar, he would be of great aid to the boys of a regiment on the other side. The stars represent Captain Harry Ord, in France, Corporal Elmer Davis, in California, and James and Joseph Oberson, in Washington.

FAMILY PARTY IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

A pleasant gathering at the Damon home Tuesday evening celebrated the natal day of Mrs. L. Damon. An excellent dinner with plenty of repartee and reminiscences made the evening enjoyable. Covers were placed for Mr. and Mrs. Homer Smith and Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Locke of Salem and Mr. and Mrs. L. Damon. Mrs. Damon was the recipient of several birthday gifts.

The Huns are still going towards Berlin.

Lieutenant Ralph Floyd is missing in action. His father gets wire this P. M.

HAS TWO NOMINATIONS

Thomas W. Brunk has received the Democratic nomination for two offices—representative from Polk county and representative from the Polk-Lincoln district. It is understood that Mr. Brunk will accept the Polk county nomination.

CHAIN UP ALL THE COPS, MAKE WAY FOR HILDA HOPS

Portland, Aug. 13—Friends and hop pickers—I'm the maiden who in picking hops puts in the leaves and all the tops. I'll take my turn in flaps and flops and be with Lee or Mack till the season stops. Suppose this year we won't be bothered by fresh male wops, they're over yonder where—sure wops. Look for me soon with bed and mops—I mean everybody except the cops. This is the place—here I stop and scratch my name,

HILDA HOPS.

P. S. To Lee and Mack: You don't need anybody to see that the wire drops, this year we'll go right over tops.

CITY CHARTER COMPLETED; READY FOR VOTERS' O. K.

The committee which has been drafting a new charter for the city of Independence, completed its work last week and the council will submit it to the voters at a special election.

INDEPENDENCE HIGH WILL START SOON

Rumors concerning the Independence High School and its teachers have been promiscuously floating around for the past ten days and where they started from is as mysterious as the "C" epidemic. Among the stories heard is that the high school will not be opened this fall; another that the pupils will all be sent to Monmouth; a third that the teachers already selected for places on the faculty have resigned.

The Independence High School will start in September, and will be standard in every way and will have a well qualified corps of teachers, and according to a member of the board, several pupils from outside the district will enroll in Independence.

A principal has not yet been selected, but a choice will be made within a very short time. After the principal has been selected, the other teacher will be chosen. Those already elected, have accepted and there has been no resignations.

"EYES OF THE WORLD" IS A REAL FILM EVENT

Few novelists have made and maintained the position accorded Harold Bell Wright, whose works have averaged nearly a million sales each. A further tribute was paid him in the selection of his story, "The Eyes of the World," for screen dramatization by the Clune Film Producing company, the concern which produced "The Birth of a Nation," and "Ramona." This picture comes to the Isis theater on Friday night, August 23.

The tribute lies chiefly in the (Continued on Page 3.)

THE WELL KNOWN STAR,

Douglas Fairbanks

IN "A MODERN MUSKETEER"

Many of the scenes were taken in the Grand Canyon of Arizona, and the work of the acrobatic star on lofty peaks, 8,000 feet above the sea level, and along the precipitous canyon will thrill any audience. In one of the scenes he climbs up the side of the canyon on a rope with Miss Marjorie Daw hanging to his neck. In addition to its sensationalism and great scenic beauty, this photoplay is replete with intensely humorous situations.

EXTRA—Harold Bell Wright's "EYES OF THE WORLD" Coming. See Ad on Page 3.

ISIS THEATRE

Sunday, August 18

SATURDAY NIGHT'S "BLUEBIRD"
MONROE SALISBURY and RUTH CLIF-
FORD in "THE GUILT OF SILENCE."