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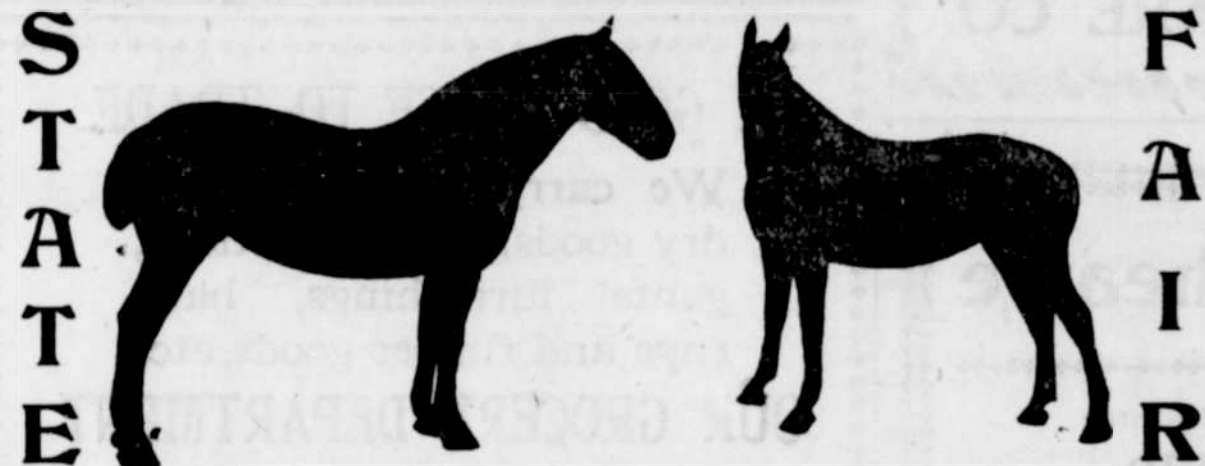
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A. H. Lea, Secretary,

Salem, Oregon

at the front for a little while last winter. Heard from Gus and Win Benham the other day. Both are getting along fine.

You spoke of taking a mechanic's course before joining the army. I think that is a very good thing to do. Did you ever think of joining the navy? If I were you I would look into that a little bit, for I believe that is a much better branch of the service than the army, especially for a young fellow. You will learn quite a bit more there, besides get to travel all the time and see so much more of the world. From what I have seen so far it is the much better branch of the service.

Had a letter from Ernest yesterday; also one from Hugh Laughlin. Tell Kenneth that I will write to him in a day or two. There is some terrible fighting around Chateau-Thierry now and several Red Cross trains come in here every day. Ruth McClellan is only about thirty miles from there, that is if she is over here now, for that is where the unit she belongs to is located.

General Pershing was here

yesterday and I never was so excited as I was for a few minutes. Had a switch to put in in the main line. A train had just come through and there was not another due for one hour, so I had the track torn up when here comes an order: "Clear the main line for Gen. Pershing's special." We sure did move and as it happened his train was late, so had the track ready and did not hold him up. Don't know what would have happened if the train had been on time and he would have had to wait.

Pershing gave a little talk at Bassena and said, "We will either be in heaven, hell or New York by Christmas."

Well, there is not much news, so will close.
Corp. Glenn W. Porter
Co. E, 18th Engrs. Ry., A. P.
O. 705 A. E. F.

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 21, 1918.

Dear Ris:—
Will drop you a few lines tonight and tell you of some of the things I have been seeing around here.

I will send you a pamphlet telling about the church that I

went to see and about the people who used to worship there.

I also went through Independence Hall, saw the Liberty Bell and a lot of relics of George Washington.

There is a little park in Independence Square, also Benjamin Franklin's grave. Saw the building where the first public library, which was built by Franklin; also the Betsy Ross house where the first flag was made. I am sending you a club list to get a picture of the Betsy Ross house, which is explained on the back. I thought it would be nice if you would get twenty of the scholars that go to your school to take a membership at ten cents a piece and present the picture to your school.

There are two pictures on the pamphlet, one showing the house as it is, and the other as they want it to be. They want all the people to share in moving the house, and not one individual. Each one gets a certificate, like the sample, by only paying ten cents. These big pictures can not be bought at any price after the house is fixed over. If you get the picture, it will be

worth framing and taking care of

The park where William Penn signed the treaty with the Indians is only about two blocks from the dock where our boat is. The old elm tree is not there any more, but they have a park to mark the place. I have been at two or three other parks. At one is William Penn's home.

There is sure quite a lot of old time places to see around here.

Well, I think we will be around here until after the first of the month, but you can never tell.

The mail that comes to me from you is never opened until I get it myself, so write lots of news and send the "Mail" as it seems like a long letter itself.

Have been intending to write several separate letters, but haven't

took the time, so these will have to do till I do—it's better to write often and not so long letters, isn't it? This place here reminds me quite a bit like Camp Merritt with so many soldiers here. Am sure glad that U. S. is sending so many more over all the time, may get to eat that Xmas dinner at home yet, ha! ha! The big guns firing doesn't bother us in the least, seems like a big celebration at times. At present there is a ball game going on outside and I have to stop and listen a moment sometimes to the excitement. I have received about all your letters so far, although some old ones arrive a few weeks late sometimes, but are all letters just the same.

Haven't received that box that Ina sent yet and am anxiously awaiting it. Did you all get the photos, etc.? Let me know what you received. Gee, some of the drafted men are up at the front now and haven't been over near as long as us—might get there after awhile as we are on our way slowly with our big "toys."

Received Della's and Clifford's letters o. k. and will write lots of letters Sunday. Have another to write yet tonight to "somebody else," so will ring off. Am feeling fine and dandy and enjoying the roughing it fine, although it is not near so bad as some imagine. With love and best wishes to all and hoping everybody is o. k.

Your loving son,
Clyde R. Harold,
Batt "C," 15th Art. (C.A.C.)
A. E. F.

Camp Meade, Maryland.
Aug. 21, 1918.

Mrs. Hill, 1820 Chemeketa St.,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Mother: Well here we are at Camp Meade, and believe me it is some camp. They say there are about fifty thousand men here now and room for more. Mother you should be here, you are so fond of negroes. They are here by the thousands, the regular old black kind. They sure look funny, with their big trench shoes, wrapped leggings, and little trench caps. We had some trip; left Frisco Monday at noon, and arrived here the next Monday morning. Have seen some grand country, but none that I liked better than old Oregon. Went through the Sacramento valley the first day, which is a nice country. Stopped in most of the large towns. Most of the country through Nevada and Utah was a desert, which if not pretty was interesting. Before entering Salt Lake City, we crossed great plains of nothing but salt. It won't even grow sage brush. We got off at Salt Lake City, and paraded around a little. I was really disappointed in the city, as it was not as large as I expected, nor as much. The Red Cross ladies were at the train to meet us, with eats and smokes. Every town we entered gave us a good send off. Never went through a town so small that there wasn't some one to wave us along. We usually got off twice a day for exercise; the rest of the time, we were not allowed to get off. Had a guard at both ends of the car to see that no one got off. Each of us had to stand two hours of the twenty-four. My first two guards was from 3 to 5 in the morning, which was not very pleasant.

The scenery through Colorado was simply grand, which does not half express it. I only wish you could have been along. I know you would have enjoyed every minute; I could sit by the hour and look at such scenery. I don't think Yellowstone Park could compare with some of the gorges we went through. Some of the pillars of rock looked as if they had been carved by the hand of man, they were so regular and perfect. What added beauty to the scene was the river shining in the moonlight, with now and then a little mining town, tucked away among the rocks. If one wanted quiet and rest, that would be the place to go and the air is so fresh and cool.

On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force, France,
July 31, 1918.

Dear Mother and All:

Received Effie's letter of June 25 a few days ago but have moved to a different place since, so hadn't answered it yet. At the present time we are living in our shelter tents, which are not any too large, especially for me, ha! ha! Have our tents pitched on a side hill, and the surrounding country is very beautiful.

Have several springs of nice cold water which makes it seem more than ever like dear old Oregon. Am writing in the large Y. M. C. A. room at present; they also have a large reading room and a very large building that they serve hot cocoa and light lunches and upstairs is used for entertainments. There is something doing every evening. Have been twice so far, once was the night the boys of our battalion furnished the program.

Mark is still with us, although I almost got transferred into a different outfit myself, but kicked so much that they let me come back to my own regiment. The whole regiment is not together at present.

Will close for this time, hoping this finds you all well and that I hear from you soon. I have not received any letters that were written lately.

With love to all.
Your brother,
Claude Surry.

Fort Winfield Scott, Aug. 24, '18
Dear Friend Alice and Family:
I will try and answer your most welcome letter I received the other day. I am glad you are well. I am sorry to hear that William was sick. I wrote him a letter the other day. I also wrote to Russell. He is in France and is at Pauillac Gironde, France, Air Station. He says he likes it fine over there. Well, maybe we will be going before long. We all took the overseas examination yesterday and all passed but two out of the company. Well, you said you was canning lots of stuff. When you are eating some of it, think of me, and that I might be over there eating hard tack. What is Alva doing, running the place? Has he got himself a girl? I heard once that he had one in Portland. You wanted to know what I had to do in the army. I am in the Coast Artillery Corps, we drill with rifles in the morning, from 8 o'clock till 9, then we drill with the big guns, 37 feet long, takes 279 pounds of powder, and the shell weighs 1042 pounds. How would you like to hear it go off? There are 29 men on the gun crew, besides the rest in the Range Section and extra men. That is fine drilling. Then in the afternoon, from 1 until 2 o'clock we get all kinds of exercise to keep us limbered up, and from 2 until 3 o'clock we have company drill, the whole company marching together, and from 3 until 4 o'clock we have regimental drill, seven companies drilling together. We also have guard duty to do. I just got off from guard duty. You are on two hours and off four hours, but in the night when you are off by yourself, they are pretty long. Sometimes you are on for 24 hours and when you get off guard they turn you lose to go where you want to for a day. We only perform guard duty about every ten days here. Well, I am going to have my picture taken next week and I will surely send you one. I would like to see all of you and if we do have to go before long, I am going to rty and get a furlough and come up and see you and go down and see Elsie. They are granting some now for 15 and 20 days. Well, tell Alva I will write him a letter next time. I wish you would send me your picture. Well, I will close for this time, hoping to hear from you soon and I will see if I can't do better next time. I don't know what to write or say. If I could talk I could tell lots. So good-bye from your loving friend

George M. Street
9th Co., San Francisco, Cal.

On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force, France,
July 31, 1918.

Dear Mother and All:

Received Effie's letter of June 25 a few days ago but have moved to a different place since, so hadn't answered it yet. At the present time we are living in our shelter tents, which are not any too large, especially for me, ha! ha! Have our tents pitched on a side hill, and the surrounding country is very beautiful.

The state of Kansas is about what I expected. The crops didn't look any too good, and I missed the mountains.

Missouri, Ohio and Illinois are all grand states and the crops looked fine. They were something like Oregon, with their rolling hills, covered with timber. Saw some real old Dakota corn in Missouri, which seemed to be their main crop, also lots of negroes. Some queer little cabins along the river where you could see Old Black Joe sitting in the shade smoking.

Stopped at Kansas City at midnight, thinking we were to get a much needed bath, but something went wrong and we didn't get it until we reached St. Louis. There they marched us to the Y. M. C. A. where we took a plunge. You can't imagine how dirty we were. Did not always have plenty of water on the train, even to drink, but I sneaked a bath one night after all had gone to bed. St. Louis is sure some town. We were there over an hour. All places of any note we got off and showed off. Stopped at Columbus, and Pittsburg. The Philadelphia paper gave us some blow, told of us being all six feet tall, and how well trained we were, and other nice things; don't know who slipped them the dope, but know it was not I.

The ladies in all these places met the trains, in their Red Cross uniforms, most of them society dames, with diamonds as big as door knobs. Am sorry to say that some of the fellows were ungrateful of the treatment they received and thought they should have had more, but you will find that class of people everywhere. Pittsburg is a big dirty city, never saw as many dirty men as was seen around those great foundries; but no matter how dirty, they came running out of all the doors to give us a wave; also the engines whistled.

It took eight trains, of sixteen coaches each, to take us, so you see we made quite a string. We left about two hours apart, but at times through the mountains we could see the one ahead, and the one behind us.

We didn't go through Washington but are to go there tomorrow and parade. I don't know if I will get to shake hands with Wilson or not. One nice part of the trip, we were nearly always close to a river, although the Missouri and Mississippi were very dirty as they have had some heavy rains.

We are only thirty minutes ride from Baltimore, but have not been there as yet, only as we came through. Didn't have to drill this afternoon, being Wednesday, but got good and warm this morning, the weather here is hotter than we are used to. I think the first day I have off I will explore this camp and see how big it really is. Don't know how long we will be here, but think I will like it as well as any large camp, though it is not as nice as the Presidio. We haven't the Club here that we had there, and the Y and canteens are so crowded one can hardly get in.

Good-bye, with love,
—Max.

The best that the Germans can say about their military maneuvers at present is that they have a retreat expert in charge.

Many a young fellow whose greatest desire a year ago was for a good tennis score is now fired with the ambition to get his man.

"Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well." No one can say that the aircraft scandal is not a thorough and complete one.

Senator Lodge says, "Germany must be beaten to her knees." He is right: the attitude of prayer would be a most appropriate one for Germany—prayer not for victory, but for the forgiveness of sins.

Taking into account food conditions in the enemy countries, we have no doubt that "cabbages and kings" are getting better acquainted.

"Work or fight." Congress does both over most of the bills offered for its consideration.

It is said that a "river of whiskey" whose estimated value was nearly \$3,000,000 was burned in Kentucky. In that particular case it appears not to have been a difficult matter to "set the river on fire."

War times are wonderfully developing. Which of us has now the same mental attitude that he had a year and a half ago? And which of us would willingly go back to his former one?

Uncle Sam has built several thousand miles of railroads and miles of docks and wharves in France for the uses of his army. In one city he has established a bakery that turns out a million loaves of bread a day; in another the largest refrigerating plant in the world. There is nothing too good for Uncle Sam's boys.