

LEO PURCELL FIRES LAST SHOT OF WAR FOR HIS BATTERY

Portland Youth With the 147th Field Artillery Describes Fighting Along Argonne Front.

HUN PRISONERS VETERANS

Men Who Had Fought Four Years Declare American Soldiers Put Up Best Fight of Any.

Writing on November 24, which was designated in France as Fathers' day for the American troops, Leo F. Purcell, with Battery A, 147th field artillery, writes interestingly of the details of his experience since arriving in France.

"We first went on the line at Toul, and from there to Alaise, where we went into position. In this town there was a large beer hall where we could buy real beer served by German bartenders. We first went into German territory in Alaise. While there I was transferred to a battery of 90s. From Alaise we went to Chateau-Thierry and got in on the big drive there. That was the first big drive made by the Americans, and, believe me, it was some drive.

Town Wiped Off Map "They went so fast that we almost wore out our horses keeping up. You probably read in the papers about the shelling of the town of Veaux by the Americans. Well, they did a good job of it, and it looked worse than if a cyclone had struck it. There wasn't a building in it that wasn't shot to pieces. That was the beginning of the Chateau-Thierry drive. We were on the front for 25 days, following the retreat from the Marne to the Vesle, and from there to Soissons, where our battalion received a citation for distinguished service.

"From Soissons we came up on the Argonne-Meuse sector of the Verdun front. We were on the line there for 50 days, where we were stationed from the start of the drive till the armistice was signed. The hardest battles fought by the Americans were fought on this front, and it was here that the Germans put up the strongest resistance of any place along the front that we have been. They had orders to hold the Yanks to the last man, but they simply couldn't do it. A large per cent of the prisoners here were men that had been in the war for over four years and were considered some of Germany's best troops. They said that the Americans were the best soldiers in the world.

Fires Last Shot for Battery "I fired the last shot that was fired by our battery, although I didn't know at that time that it would be our last. The last position we were in on this front was between the First and Second Infantry. We lay there for four or five days, waiting to put over a barrage. We didn't dare fire a shot during that time, for we were so close that we would never have got out of there. If Fritz had known we were there he would have shot us to pieces, but as it was he was dropping shells among us all the time.

"The old fight is over now, and I'm glad of it, but I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I think we all have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. We are in barracks now in the little town of Marocourt, a few miles from Verdun, and I don't know what will be our next move."

Leo F. Purcell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Purcell of 227 Davis street. A leaflet bearing a word of appreciation from the sailors stationed in European waters addressed to the parents of boys overseas, also to the Y. M. C. A., the K. of C., the Red Cross and to all liberty bond buyers, comes to the national office from W. F. Arnold of La Ping, Or., part of the text of which is printed below:

"The successful termination of the navy's essential and hazardous part in the world war has been made possible only by the support of the folks back home.

"As the smoke clears away the magnitude of our accomplishments is apparent, but whatever credit we have earned we willingly share with you folks at home for your loyalty and never-failing support in helping us keep the stream of on-coming manpower unbroken.

"We of the Base Nine take this means of expressing to you our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation. From the Base Nine Boys, 'The Go-Get-'Em Gang'."

Rev. W. H. Boddy of Parkdale, Or., has a letter from a "Y" secretary at Slemcarey, a spruce camp in Washington, as follows:

"We expected to be out of here by Christmas, but are doomed to disappointment. The fellows are downhearted. We have not seen a fresh apple for many weeks. Can you good people help us to grow a few Oregon apples on Washington spruce trees?"

The letter was handed to Mr. Babson, a Parkdale orchardist, and within a few hours 12 boxes of fine apples were on their way to the boys in the spruce camp.

Albert Sedig, for several years connected with the auditing department of the Hotel Portland, who joined the army soon after this country entered the war and has since been stationed at Raymond, Wash., with the spruce division, spent Christmas with Portland relatives and friends. Mr. Sedig expects to be mustered out of service within the next few weeks.

Auto Breaks Boy's Arm Run down by an automobile, while riding a bicycle at the corner of Eleventh and Yamhill streets, at about 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, Herbert Shaver, a schoolboy, 16 year old, was removed to the Good Samaritan hospital suffering from a broken arm. The boy resides with his parents at 208 Sixteenth street.

LEGS OF MUTTON, 20c At Frank L. Smith's, 228 Alder street. Chops of Eastern Oregon mutton... 20c Indeed, they're good shoulder mutton... 15c Breast veal... 15c Mutton stew... 13c Loaf veal chops... 20c Roast veal... 20c Pork chops... 30c Pork sausage... 20c Pork hocks... 20c Smith's own make of bacon... 40c 1/2 lb salt pork... 20c Pickled pork... 30c Smith's right choice round steak... 25c Sirloin steak... 20c Porterhouse... 30c Smith's choice oven roast beef... 25c Pot. roasts... 15c Plate beef... 15c Boiling beef... 12c Hamburger at 18c Pure lard... 20c Shortening at 18c Frank L. Smith's is 228 Alder st.—Adv.

Officials Find No Trace of Murderer Of Marshfield Man

Marshfield, Dec. 27.—Although county and town officials have worked since Wednesday to discover clues which might lead to the apprehension of the murderer of Julius Brennan, nothing important has yet developed.

It has been ascertained that Bracke drew \$150 from the bank Tuesday and that at midnight on the night of the murder a whiskey-laden launch carrying the murdered man lived. Bracke, it is alleged, has been trafficking in liquor, and it is believed he was murdered for a cache he was believed to have had. An inquest was held Thursday and a postmortem examination made, showing the cranium to be fractured from ear to ear. There was a complete brain concussion.

Portland Attorney Recovers From 'Flu'

George W. Joseph, Portland attorney, of 269 East Sixteenth street north, is recuperating rapidly from an attack of influenza which has kept him at his home for the last two weeks. He was with the late Frank Bolland, former Portland steamship man, when he died December 13 from influenza. Mr. Joseph was taken down with the disease the Sunday following. His attack was severe and he had a high fever for some time but he is sufficiently recovered to allow him to return to his work Monday.

Oregon Girl Marries

Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 27.—The Lewis county auditor late Tuesday afternoon granted a marriage license to Clarence Watson of Memphis, Tenn., and Doris Fischer of Roberts, Or.

Realty Board Will Discuss Building Code With Council

Approval of a new building code governing the erection of residence property in Portland will result in improving housing conditions in the city, according to officials of the Portland Housing corporation. The code has been submitted to A. L. Barbur, commissioner of public works, and will be discussed at a meeting of the commissioner with representatives of the housing corporation and the Portland Realty board at a meeting scheduled for January 9.

Requests for changes in certain sections of the code made at a meeting Thursday afternoon by E. B. McNaughton, representing the realty board, resulted in the postponement of the conference. The new code is patterned after one in effect for several years in Minneapolis, modified to suit local conditions.

ANOTHER CARLOAD OF HOOD RIVER APPLES \$1.00 Per Box THE APPLE HOUSE 115 SECOND ST., NR. WASHINGTON

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO FITTING MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S CORSETS TOMORROW—THIRD FLOOR. New Year's Cards, A Kodak Year, Meier & Frank Co., Sweets, All Charge Purchases.

Year-End Sales Continue All Over the Store

Men's and Young Men's Suits \$24.85. Adler-Rochester Hickey-Freeman Society Brand. There Are All Styles in This Sale and Sizes for All Men. Boys' Knicker Suits \$9.85.

Shirts \$1.39. Just Step Inside Our Morrison Street Entrance for These. 150 DOZEN OF THEM IN ALL FOR RAPID CLEARAWAY.

Neckwear. Two Special Lots Special at \$2.95. Real Filet Collars, Georgette Crepe Sets \$2.19, Drape Veils.

Hats. FOR ALL HEADS WE HAVE PLENTY OF. Hats for every head, hats for every style preference.

Sale of Boys' Suits at \$5. Women's Petticoats for \$2. Mr. F's Lower Price Downstairs Store.

A Phenomenal "Choice of the House" Sale

Any Suit, Coat, Dress or Skirt in Our Entire Lower Price Downstairs Store Stocks Hundreds of Fine Garments for Women, Misses and Children in One of These Groups

\$5. Illustration of a woman in a dress.

\$10. Illustration of a woman in a dress.

\$15. Illustration of a woman in a dress.

An Absolute Clearaway—Nothing Reserved—No Phone Orders, No Approvals, No Exchanges—All Sales Must Be Final. At \$5, At \$10, At \$15. A Good Assortment of Sizes to Begin With, But as the Demand Is Sure to Be Enormous We Advise Early Selection.