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Monmouth is Located in the Best Section of the Best Valley of the Best State of the Best Nation on the Earth

RETURNED HERO TELLS HIS STORY

Armine Young, Just Back from France Relates Adventures

Back from the battle of Soissons with a wound stripe and two service stripes, Armine Young is probably the first wounded American soldier to return to his home near Salem. He has the distinction of being one of the few survivors of an entire company in the 26th United States infantry that took part in the great July drive. Early in September he was reported missing in action and for a while it was supposed that he had been killed or taken prisoner.

Private Young enlisted in Company L of the Third Oregon at Dallas and went to France with the 162nd infantry, remaining with it until transferred as casual to Company M of the 26th infantry. He was wounded in the shoulder on the fifth day of the battle of Soissons and was in a French hospital from that time until October 28, when he sailed for this country. He landed at Newport News on November 9 on the United States steamship Mercury, with 150 other wounded men, and was sent in three days to a hospital at Fort Snelling. A 30-day furlough was granted him when his arm was sufficiently healed and he came home Tuesday to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Young, who live on their farm between Salem and Independence. He will go to Minnesota to receive further treatment for his wound which severed the nerve controlling three fingers in his right hand.

For five days Young was in the thick of one of the decisive battles of the war.

"On the first morning of the drive," he said yesterday, while visiting friends in Salem, "it was a regular dance for us. That was July 18, but on the 19th our company was shot down to 30 men. Following this I was transferred to another bunch and sent to the front with an ammunition squad of 18 men and two machine guns. Two of us came back, for a shell killed the rest although not a splinter of it struck my companion or me. July 21 opened with a little skirmish in which we made a slight advance, although we had to go through an awful barrage. We made our objective and dug in.

"During the night some of us were drawn off and put in with the 28th infantry, which was trying to hold a small town. The 28th had taken it three times and was holding it when I joined. First we were shelled out and took the town again. It kept going back and forth just that way. On the morning of the 22nd we went after the town again. I was going down a hill and had already fired about 80 rounds when a sniper got me in the shoulder in one hit. That finished me for good so far as the war was concerned. I did, however, get to see the boys take the town for the last time and go up the hill on the other side before losing consciousness."

Private Young was with the 26th infantry a part of the first division from December to July. The last he heard of what was left of the 162nd the men were stationed at Contres.—Statesman.

Private Carl Bingham who has been detailed as draft board clerk in Dallas has been ordered to Camp Lewis, where he will soon be discharged.

Mr. Stombaugh, who has been a visitor in Monmouth for the past two weeks departed for his position of duty at Camp Lewis Thursday.

Dallas Calls Capt. Elkins

Captain W. A. Elkins who spent Christmas with his family, has received a unanimous call to the pulpit of the Christian church in Dallas to succeed Rev. Howard McConnell and it is likely that he will accept. Mr. Elkins was popular and successful as minister of the local church and has many friends here to wish him success in his new charge which may be regarded as a distinct advance in his work.

PARAGRAPHS OF POLK COUNTY

Events of Interest Condensed for Benefit of Herald Readers

Oscar Hayt r was elected president of the Oregon Bar association at its annual meeting in Portland last week. Judge H. H. Belt was elected vice president of the association.

Cyril Richardson of Independence, who has been with the American Expeditionary forces was home for Christmas. He served in the battles of Chateau Thierry, St Mihiel and Argonne, stumbling into the second named affair while lost from his comrades. He was wounded in the Argonne wood while carrying ammunition to a machine gunner, being struck by a bullet which broke the bone of his arm in two places.

Captain Stafrin, formerly of Company L is in command of a battalion on the German frontier.

The influenza situation in Dallas is much improved and the number of new cases has been greatly decreased. Salem seems to be the storm center just at present. Many cases are reported in that city. Because of this, public gatherings there are again under the ban.

The C. V. Johnson Company in Airlie whose property was recently destroyed by fire received insurance money within ten days of the loss.

While traveling in the vicinity of Falls City recently, Father Deneaf of Independence tipped with his machine bottom side up but was uninjured.

A funeral cortege bearing the remains of Mrs. Mary Bronson, passed through Monmouth, Tuesday morning, December 31, 1918. The remains were laid to rest in the Smith cemetery at Lewisville beside her husband who died 10 years ago at the farm home in Lewisville; since which time Mrs. Bronson has lived in Dallas where reside her two daughters, Mrs. H. E. Eakin, and Mrs. J. E. Sibley. The funeral was from Chapman's undertaking chapel. Mrs. Bronson was seventy two years of age. She was the daughter of Isaac and Virginia Dempsey, early Polk county pioneers from Illinois, and was married to D. O. Bronson in 1872. These are their children, William, living at Harrisburg; George, at Lewisville; Charles an attorney at Colusa, California; Blanche and Hattie, Dallas and Hubert who died at the age of 21.

Mrs. Bronson was a gentle woman of much worth, those who knew her best loved her most. Her girlhood days were spent at Rickreall where her parents lived on their homestead. She was deeply interested in Sunday School work in those pioneer days, and with the Poet it may be said of her, "She builded more wisely than she knew."

Her last days before Christmas were spent in arranging and making presents for her grandchildren that she loved so well.

John W. Pember of Minneapolis, who spent Christmas with his family in Monmouth, left this week for the east.

Convene to Consider the Laborer

Transformation of labor from a war to a peace basis is to be worked into a definite program at a Reconstruction Convention called by Governor James Withycombe at Portland, January 9, 10 and 11th. The details for staging the great state-wide conclave are in the hand of Mayor George L. Baker of Portland.

Letters of invitation have been sent to the leaders of every branch of activity in the state. City and county officials, members of the legislature and Federal officials from Washington, D. C. who are in touch with problems to be considered will be among those attending. Industrial organizations, both large and small will be represented and labor, both organized and unorganized will have delegates in attendance to take an active part in the discussion of Oregon's most vital problem.

Through the three days' meeting, definite plans will be worked out to handle the reconstruction problems, which are now facing every state in the Union. It will be the purpose at this convention to work out plans which will eliminate all chance of unemployment, provide employment for the returning soldiers and sailors of Oregon, and also bring about the greatest development of industry throughout the state in history. This development will include such industries as agriculture, shipping, mining, shipbuilding, lumbering, fishing, road building, stock raising, etc. The recognized leaders in each of these lines will attend the convention and participate in the discussion, and definite programs for each endeavor will be outlined before the convention is adjourned.

The reconstruction problem is one which effects the entire state and it is the purpose of the convention to bring together men interested not only in various lines of endeavor but representing all sections of the state, so that a satisfactory state-wide program can be placed into effect.

In sending out the call for delegates, Mayor Baker has adopted the slogan—"It can be done."

Engineer Sumner Ostrom has been transferred from Ft. Columbia or in other words from the fort on the north side of the Columbia to the south. Nearly all of the soldiers at Ft. Canby have been discharged and only 10 are left to look after affairs there. At Ft. Columbia there are still 52 although a great many of the soldiers stationed there have been discharged. Engineer Ostrom has charge of all engineer and signal corps supplies and also the power plant and telephone system. None of the non-commissioned officers have been discharged and there is a tendency on the part of the government to have these soldiers re-enlist for peace duty.

Robert Van Orsdel, who for the past several years has been pharmacist in the Stafrin drug store of Dallas, Saturday purchased the drug business on Court street formerly conducted by the late Carl Manbeck. Mr. Van Orsdel took charge of the business Sunday. The former proprietor died three weeks ago

Thoughtful Consideration of Friends

With the biennial sessions of the legislature the Normal situation comes up for some sort of attention and it is evident that this session will be no exception. Rumors of activity on the part of certain interested individuals have been current for some time. Here is what the Dallas Observer had to say on the subject last week.

According to reports that are being circulated in various parts of the state, there is a movement under way to induce the legislature, when it convenes next month, to remove the state normal from Monmouth to the University of Oregon at Eugene, the institution to occupy a place on the campus there. From what source the proposed measure emanates The Observer is not informed, but in all probability the plan originated in the fertile brain of some Eugene booster, the "promoters" of that city having a burning desire to gobble up everything possible in order to bolster up its waning progress. But regardless of its origin, the legislative assembly may well be depended upon to leave the normal where it is for at no other point in the state could it be as economically conducted, and at no other point in the state could students be better cared for with so small an outlay. Then, too, it hardly seems possible

that the legislature would entertain such a proposition after the recent completion of a splendid new building at the normal, which together with the other structures, would necessarily have to be duplicated at the Lane county seat. There is no cause for worry. Another bill to come from the same group of persons, it is reported, will provide that the graduates of accredited universities shall be eligible for a certificate to teach in the primary and secondary grades of the public schools of the state. These bills, according to later information, are being formulated by a group of women who are said to want to have all the normal school work of the state done through the state university, and who also insist that a person who is graduated from a university should be allowed to teach in the grades. An effort was made at the last session of the legislature to put through a bill allowing university graduates to teach in the grades without taking a teachers' examination, but it was killed when members of the legislature learned that such graduates are certified to teach in high schools of the state, and the reason they are not certified to teach in the grades is because none of their university work has any bearing on the methods of the work done in the grades.—Observer.

County Agent Turned Down

At the meeting of the Polk county court held in Dallas Saturday afternoon the budget for 1919 was passed without a dissenting vote. A number of taxpayers from over the country were in attendance at the meeting and some little effort was made to have the court retain the services of a county agriculturalist, but a vote of the assembly decided contrary. The court immediately transferred the money that would have been set aside for the salary of the agent to the road fund and ordered the amount spent in spreading gravel on the roads where most needed. In the budget the total expenses of the county for the coming year are figured at \$256,020, and as the receipts will be somewhere near \$24,000 the amount to be raised by taxation is \$232,020.

ALIENS ALLOWED MORE LIBERTIES

Restrictions Placed as a War Measure Are Now Lifted

By order of President Wilson, upon recommendation of the Attorney General, all regulations imposed on German alien enemies of both sexes, except Regulations 9, 10 and 12 of the Proclamation of April 6th 1917, are discontinued on and after December 31st, 1918.

Regulation 9 provides that no alien enemy shall depart from the United States until he shall have received such permit as the President shall prescribe, or except under order of a court, judge or justice under Section 4069 and 4070 of the Revised Statutes.

Regulation 10 provides that no alien enemy shall land in or enter the United States, except under such restrictions and at such places as the President may prescribe.

Regulation 12 provides that an alien enemy whom there may be reasonable cause to believe to be aiding or about to aid the enemy, or who may be at large to the danger of the public peace or safety, or who violates or attempts to violate, or of whom there is reasonable grounds to believe that he is about to violate any regulation duly promulgated by the President, or any criminal law of the United States, or of the States and Territories thereof, will be subject to summary arrest by the United States Marshal or his deputy, or such other officers as the President shall designate, and to confinement in such penitentiary, prison, jail, Military camp, or other place of detention as may be directed by the President. As noted above Regulations 9, 10 and 12 continue in full force and effect, and all German and Austrian aliens are still subject to the regulations quoted. By the same order all prohibited and restricted areas, such as the water front and armory zones, are abolished and all passes and permits heretofore required for such zones are likewise abolished. The power to arrest any German or Austrian alien enemy considered dangerous is, however, retained, and all such aliens now arrested or interned shall remain in detention, and all paroled enemy aliens must strictly observe the terms of their parole until discharged. All operators of waterfront facilities within the District and State of Oregon are hereby notified that all waterfront regulations are by this order abolished from and after December 25th, 1918. G. F. Alexander, U. S. Marshal, Oregon.

Raymond Newman who is visiting with his grandmother in Newberg, spent Christmas at home.

CAMPING OUT IN THE HOME

Mishap to Pump Forces Normal To Take a Longer Vacation

With modern appliances, water, and a quantity of it has grown to be an important essential in every house and just how important is only appreciated by people who are suddenly deprived of it. Owing to pump troubles, Monmouth was on short water rations for four or five days of the week just past and many had to resort to various devices in order to carry on the regular household work.

Very many people have the water system attached to their cooking stoves and can not have fire in the stoves when they have no water. Some cooked on the heating stove and some had to prepare meals for several days over the coals of an open fireplace.

Some depend on hot water for heating and they also were among those disturbed by lack of water, among these being the dormitory in which five students had just recovered from the influenza.

The trouble was caused by the large pump which had been driven for over a year without having the plunger leathers renewed. The work of lifting the pump began Saturday and lasted two days and when the work was about done it was found that it would have to be done over again. Two more days passed with the city depending on the small pump for water and when finally the work was completed it was found the yield of water was not a great deal more than before repairs were started.

While the water in the well is low it is evident that the pump is not lifting all there is to be had and the services of an expert are now being sought to put the pump in shape to do capacity work.

Because of this fact it was decided to postpone the opening of the Normal for one week and under the direction of President Ackerman notices have been mailed to all students naming January 13 as the date of opening.

Following a period of deficiency in rainfall which now has extended over a year, the springs which feed the wells in this portion of the valley are all short but it is hoped to find enough to keep us in running order.

One of the things which may spring out of the present water shortage is connection with the water system of Independence. The feasibility of this connection is now being figured out.

Collected His Wages

Samuel Shanklin, who was an engineer on the road to Airlie when it was a narrow gauge affair, was a visitor in Monmouth this week. At the time he left the road the company owed employees considerable money. Mr. Shanklin was in Airlie when he heard the prospect for being paid was poor. Without saying anything he went out, fired his engine and took it over the narrow gauge to Portland and held it there until he was paid, being the only employee of the road to get all that was coming to him.

Hugh Halleck, after a two week's visit with relatives has gone to Eugene where he is attending the military high school.

The hotel is reported to have changed hands again, Mr. Newlon having sold it back to W. W. Strong. It has been found difficult to obtain a cook and the dining room is closed at the present although transient lodgers are cared for with A. E. Alderman as manager.