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SOLDIER LETTERS

Speake Wounded in France
Somewhere in France,
Sept. 30, 1918.

Mr. A. S. Coutant,
Grants Pass, Ore.

Dear Friend:

Received your letter of August 1, with the ten dollar draft enclosed. Well I have seen active service and received a slight wound in the right hand but not serious. I am in the base hospital at the present time. Well, war is sure hell. When you hear the bullets whizzing all about you and the big shells bursting over your head you have a queer feeling that one can hardly express.

Some of the boys were shot up awful bad. We were advancing on an open field with no protection at all, only when we lie flat on the ground. I had my gun shot out of my hand just before I was shot in the hand. After I was shot in the hand I thought it was time to keep my head down.

The wounded soldiers are sure cared for in first class shape in the hospitals by the Red Cross. We get plenty to eat and a good bed to sleep on with plenty of cover and good medical care.

Well, I hope the war will be over before long and I will be back to good old southern Oregon. I hope you have a good crop this year. I wish I was there to help eat some of the peaches and prunes. I would like to write you more, but it is getting late and I will close. Give my best wishes to Mrs. Coutant.

Yours sincerely,

PVT. FRANCIS SPEAKE,
Co. D, 109th Infantry,
American Expeditionary Forces,
France.

Note: Previous to coming to Theview Ranch Mr. Speake was a miner at Placer. He was taken in the selective draft of July 1st, and went to Camp Lewis, and was assigned to the depot brigade. Evidently Speake let it be known that he was a good rifle shot for he was shifted straight way to Camp Kearney, where he qualified in rifle prac-

tice before August 1st, and by the middle of the next month was in the hospital with a wound. It does not take forty years to make an American into a soldier.

Worth Hamilton Writes
Sept. 26, 1918.

Dear Folks:

Well, everything is going fine and dandy as usual. Am still at same camp and still find there is plenty of work here. Have been having lots of rain here lately, makes one think of Oregon weather. Our mess sergeant, (he is a corporal like myself) is an Oregon boy and we have great times arguing with the other soldiers from the East in this outfit about the superiority of Oregon over the Eastern States. We usually win out.

They say it gets very cold here in mid winter, but I am not worrying as we are all well provided with good warm clothing.

Am trying my best to master the French language, but find it slow work. Of course I have a dictionary, besides I am always asking the French working under me the meaning of certain words and phrases, and the French word for different objects. Most of us American soldiers will find it hard to keep the French words out of our talk when we reach home.

Visited a French vaudeville theater last night. It cost one franc and 75 centimes, (35c). Enjoyed it very much as it was slightly different from American vaudeville. There was an orchestra there which played mostly American airs, as most of the audience was American soldiers. The singers sang in French. There was a couple of dancing acts, a shadow artist and two acrobatic acts, all of which were good.

It don't take long for the French to learn that American soldiers have money. All sorts of fruit stands, postal card and souvenir stands have sprung up all around the camp. Everything is very high, for instance, an egg costs 7 cents, three oranges sell for one franc, 20 cents, and two or three tomatoes for the same price. A good meal at a restaurant costs from 5 to 8 francs (\$1.50).

We are extremely proud of our soldier comrades at the front who have been making such a big name for the American army. None of us have any doubt as to the outcome of the war. Besides we all have the feeling that the folks back home are behind us as never before. It's almost a certainty though that the war will last through the winter, but think Germany is on her last legs now.

Intend to stay in labor bureau this winter if possible, but in the spring would like to transfer to some active outfit at the front. Have sent in a request to transfer to some active outfit at the front. Have sent in a request for a furlough for 6 days and traveling time. Am planning to visit Nice, if my money holds out. Possibly my next letter will tell you about my trip.

Haven't received a letter from home for over a month, so my advice to you is the same as yours to me, don't forget to write.

Well, as usual everything is O. K. in every way.

Love to all,
WORTH.
CORP. J. K. HAMILTON,
Labor Bureau, P. O. 722,
2 M. C., A. E. F. France.

"Lights Out, Plane Overhead"
Oct. 5, 1918.

Dear Folks:

Haven't any mail from you folks since the middle of last month but there have been a few letters come to the company. One from Mac Dickerson, who is over here, says that we were in the same town together once, and that Marshall is over here. Would have enjoyed seeing him.

Am writing from the same camp as before, but we were nearly moved the other morning. In fact we were all packed up and ready to go when orders came to remain.

Have been on road work day times for the last few days. There are some of the boys working nights, but it is getting so cold that I rather prefer sleeping nights and being on the job day times.

We are still sleeping in pup tents and it gets pretty cold before morning, especially when there is a white frost on the ground and on the trees where a fellow sticks his head out to see how the weather is.

Rode up toward the front with Walter Weckler yesterday, and had a big talk with him. He was at Vancouver at the same time I was and arrived at Camp Meade just after I left, but did not get over here until some time after I did.

Had a little talk with Ray Stretchberry the other night and he is ready for the war to end the same as I am.

Classified Advertising

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FEED and Livery Stable—Hay and grain for sale. Red Front Barn, Peter Gravin, Prop. 16

FOR SALE—40 tons first class alfalfa hay, baled, at the barn. C. D. Woolverton, Rogue River, Oregon. 25

FOR SALE—5 head of milch cows, also light team, wagon and harness. Will sell separate if wanted. Address Branch Bros. Transfer Co. Phone 315-J. 10

FOR SALE—Maxwell truck in excellent condition, little used, exceedingly low price. See it at the Grants Pass Hardware Co. 13

TO RENT

FOR RENT—A partly furnished 5-room house. 724 N street, key next door. 071f

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WANTED

WANTED—Farm help. Steady jobs, good pay. River Banks Farm. 1f

WANTED—An elderly lady or couple to board and care for, in modern home, quiet, pleasant surroundings. Inquire 725 South Seventh street. 10

WANTED—Man in country wishes to purchase second hand wheel. State price and where can be seen Friday. Address No. 1866 care of Courier. 09

LOST

LOST—In or near Grants Pass on the Ashland road two large iron rings that hold tires on car. Finder communicate with T. J. Gow, Ashland, and receive reward. 09

STRAYED

STRAYED—Bay mare, weight about 900 lbs., and bay colt nearly two years old, both wearing bells, strayed from my place on Evans creek. Reward for information leading to recovery. Thos. Oden, Rogue River, Ore. 11

ESTRAYED—There came to my ranch about two weeks ago two head of cattle, as follows: 1 Holstein, three-year old, left ear under-cut, branded Q; 1 blue roan two-year old, branded F circle, both ears undercut. Owner can have same by proving property and paying expenses. H. M. Starr, phone 398-J. 10

MISCELLANEOUS

JITNEY SERVICE—Any where, any time. Phone Mocha Cafe 181-R. Otto J. Knips, Residence 149-Y 238

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Train 2 lv. Waters Creek 3:00 p. m.

All trains leave Grants Pass from the corner of G and Eighth streets, opposite the Southern Pacific depot. For all information regarding freight and passenger service call at the office of the company, Lundburg building, or phone 131 for same.

He has been doing practically the same thing I have over here.

The Salvation Army, Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. are all doing good work here. Especially the former, and I can tell you I'll never pass up a melting pot again as long as I have a nickel to give to them. They are sure doing wonderfully well, for the help that they receive through donations.

We had a typical Rogue River valley autumn day today. It started out foggy, which raised about 10 o'clock after which it was warm, but not hot, and there was a cool breeze blowing.

They have called lights out, plane overhead.

Lots of love,
WALLACE.
BEN. W. COUTANT,
Co. A, 23rd Engineers,
American Ex. Forces, France.

Envelopes at the Courier Office.

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A. A. WITHAM, M. D.—Internal medicine and nervous diseases; 302 Corbett Bldg., Portland, Ore. Hours 9 a. m. to 1 p. m.

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BLANCHARD & BLANCHARD, Attorneys. Albert Bldg. Phone 256-J. Practice in all courts; law board attorneys.

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