

OUR BOYS WITH THE COLORS

News Letters, and Stories of Our Soldiers and Sailors in France, In the Training Camps, On the High Seas, and Everywhere Gallant American Fighters Are Found.

Alvin Deetz of Portland, a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Deetz of South Paradise, left this week for Camp Lewis to join the colors. He is the third son of the Deetz family, to go into the service. He was married last year to a daughter of C. C. Knutson of Aurora (Route 2). He has a brother Edwin Deetz in France, with the Oregon troops. Another brother Jonas Deetz, died of wounds received in action, in June of this year.

Allan McDonald, an 18-year old soldier boy, writes (July 1) from Headquarters Detachment, 66th Field Artillery Brigade, A. E. F., at a city in Southern France, to his "Dear Auntie Van" (Mrs. J. S. Vandeleur) one of the nicest letters that has come into the Observer office. He writes, in part: "We are quartered in a pretty little town—pretty, yes, but very "tired-looking" like so many other French towns, and no wonder, after all these years of war. The people are very hospitable to the American soldiers and that makes everything much more pleasant. On Sunday one of our military bands gives a concert in the plaza and this usually draws a very cosmopolitan audience—soldiers and sailors of many countries, those of the European nations in all the glory of their brilliant uniforms, which stand out very prominently against the olive-drab background of the American uniform. Last Sunday I attended an opera given for the benefit of the French wounded. The music was very fine—I am sure you would have enjoyed it. The singing and the artistry of the leading characters were enchanting.

Our travels have been very pleasant and interesting. Southern France where we are located at present is rich with old ruins of both Roman and Briton, connected with these wonderful remnants of the early ages are legends and stories that tax the imagination.

One thing that we from Oregon notice is the good roads. The splendid hard surfaced roads that cover the country like a net work make an impression with the boys that will count for better roads when they get home again.

I am thinking of you often. It's mighty nice to get letters from the folks at home. With best regards from Sunny France. Allan McDonald.

Will Keil who is in the 63rd U. S. Infantry at the Presidio, San Francisco, California, writes his parents Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Keil that he getting along fine and likes it there very well. He is a fine young fellow that will get along anywhere, being able to adapt himself to conditions.

Ed. Graves was here yesterday on business. He has not heard from his son John P. Graves in France for some time, except a couple of books of post card views of Tours and Nantes, near which places his Aero Squadron is supposed to be. Gordy Fredrikson is another local boy who has not been heard from in some time.

Paul Blaschke has written from St. Louis, Mo., that he is on his way to some eastern camp. Letters from George Damm at Camp Kearney indicate that he may move soon also. Will Damm is still at Camp Lewis.

Letters from all three of the Miller boys in France were received by their parents Tuesday. All were well when they wrote—June 29. Letters were received by the same mail from Fred Kerr and Fred Ehlen who are in other parts of France.

Mrs. V. VanVleet has just received a card from her cousin Chas. Chapman of headquarters Troop, 91st Division U. S. Cavalry that he has arrived safely abroad and is now a part of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Edgar White is still at Kelly Field, Texas. He writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. White that 50 more medical men are coming, which means a move for some of those already there. "Nine squadrons Aero men are going across within a few days,—I guess about the 10th. That will take quite a few of us. Here's hoping I get out of this part of the country soon. The sand storms are fierce here. The wind blows away our clothing, bath towels, underwear, etc., and you never see them again. I lost two suits of underwear that way.

To the Aurora Auxiliary:—I wish to thank the Auxiliary for the package I received some time ago. I appreciated it very much. It makes one feel good to know those at home are doing all they can to make it pleasant for the ones over here. I was more than glad to learn that dear old "Dutch town" went over the top in the Third Liberty Loan. We are having lovely weather here at present. It is a great country but I suppose we will change our minds this winter, from what the boys who were here last winter tell us, but we are all willing to take a chance at anything—once. Very truly, Fred H. Kerr. Bat. E., 65 Art. C. A. C., A. E. F. France June 29, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Eberman have received several interesting letters from their son Floyd Eberman who is now on the great lakes completing a course of training in the navy. There is plenty of both work and study. He writes in part: "We dropped anchor last night off Pt. Iroquois on account of the fog. When the fog lifted there were 25 boats like this one anchored within a couple of miles, so you can imagine how many boats are carrying ore. This one clears about \$10,000 a week, gets close to \$1.50 per ton. The old price a few years ago was 40c a ton and they had to unload it by hand with shovels. "I don't have to stand any watch so all I do is study and my work. I still sleep twice a day, but I study from 12 to 6. We had a visit from an Ensign yesterday at the Locks and he seemed well satisfied with our books. We will be on two more trips so that will put us off about August 15 or 17. I am just about through with my note book and am spending most of my time reviewing. We have to memorize most of International pilot rules."

"Later we learned that we will get off August 11. We have plenty of time to study now so we ought to be in good shape for the final "dash" at Chicago. The farmers here are right in the middle of their harvest as we pass through the rivers. Nearly everything is spring grain here—and a poor crop. I think I must be 20 pounds heavier than when I left. It has been 8 months since I joined."

1:46 A. M., July 31. Weather fair, sky clear, wind easterly, compass Ex S-S-E—that's the way we enter it on our log book. We also put down the time we pass light houses and the distance off. We do this by "Bow and Beams" bearing. We have some methods that are very simple and some that are not so simple. Anyway, after I get back to the farm, I'll be able to hold it on the "true course". By taking soundings and "bow and beam" bearings, I'll be able to keep off the shoals. Tell Dad I can tie more knots than he ever heard of and that I can splice a rope so he can't find it."

Jos. Erbsland has been quite ill the past two weeks.

Frank Sperr was here from his home south of Aurora Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Sloper of Butteville were visitors here yesterday.

John McCormick aged about 70, died at his home at West Woodburn Tuesday night.

F. L. and H. J. Miller made a business trip to Portland yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Jos. Graham was here yesterday from Butteville shopping at the Aurora stores.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Giesy were among the Marks Prairie people here shopping yesterday.

Felix Isaacson is doing war work on the Blosser farm where he is helping Otto Blosser with the harvest.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sadler and little daughter Peggy returned this week from a 10 day trip to the Oregon Beaches.

Mr. and Mrs. Urbin Kirk of St. Paul and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McCormick of West Woodburn were dinner guests at the home of Mrs. J. F. Kerr Sunday.

Sam Brown was in the city Monday from Gervais completing arrangements with Will-Snyder Co. for the handling of Evergreen blackberries here.

Third Liberty Loan Payments Due

Subscribers to the Third Liberty Loan will please take notice that the final installment is due not later than August 15, 1918.

No notices will be sent by mail by this bank.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Canby, Oregon.

Town Topics

Mrs. George McFarland was among those in the city Tuesday.

Mrs. U. S. Armstrong was among those shopping in Aurora Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pugh Jr. were among those in town Tuesday on business at the Aurora stores.

Mrs. Thos. McRae was here Saturday shopping from her home west of Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Mills were shopping Saturday at the Aurora stores.

George Ziegler was up from Barlow Monday to visit friends and transact business.

H. H. Deetz and son were among the recent visitors here from the Needy section.

Arnold Christen, of Hubbard, passed through town Monday on his way home from Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Widstrand were in the city from the Rural Dell neighborhood Tuesday shopping.

John Marks was here Tuesday to bring in Isaac Boles who was returning to Brooks after a visit at the Marks home.

George Atkinson, a Y. M. C. A. Secretary at Fort Stevens, was here Friday to visit his sister-in-law, Mrs. Clara Atkinson.

Mrs. H. H. Smith and little son Harold were here Saturday from Portland for a few hours to visit Mrs. George Wurster.

The Portland hog market broke all records Monday, top hogs selling strong at \$19.00 to \$19.50 per hundred. Prime steers sold at \$11.75 to \$12.75, valley lambs at \$12.50 to \$13.50, and calves at \$3.50 to \$11.50.

The George Case threshing outfit burned last Thursday at the Whitney place west of Hubbard. Considerable grain was burned also. The loss was not learned, but it is reported that no insurance was carried.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Thamer were among the East Butteville people shopping here Saturday. Others also here on business were Geo. X. Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. Will Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beeke, and John Murray.

Among the Clackamas county boys who left Tuesday for Camp Fremont, California to join the National army was Ed. Albert Grindland of Barlow, a brother of Mrs. Emery Howe of this place. He was one of nineteen to go.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Van Wanning of Albany were here Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Grover. Mr. Van Wanning is Southern Pacific agent at Albany, and was formerly in the government service in the Philippines at the same time that the Grovers were.

The Skookum Social Club, an organization composed of Masons and Eastern Star members, will give a social dancing party Saturday, evening, August 17 at Cone's Open-Air Pavilion in the Oak Grove. The public is cordially invited.

"State pen buildings are rotten" says a newspaper headline. The same suspicion prevails in regard to the management in the minds of many.

A pretty-seven-starred flag hangs in the window of the Union Hill school house, telling all passers by that Union district has seven boys in the service of their country—something of which the people of that district may well be proud even though it causes the heart strings to tighten in the homes they have left.

There is considerable speculation over just how the government will handle telegraph and telephone charges when it is in full control and operation. It is probable that sooner or later telegraph stamps will be provided to be affixed to messages before they are sent. This plan has been in use in the Philippines where the telegraph and telephone lines have been under government control for several years. There can, of course, be no stamps for telephone conversations, but this probably will be handled by an advance monthly or bi-monthly payment with automatic cutting off of the instrument when the time is up.

Joe King returned Monday from a trip to Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Miller have moved to the vicinity of Oregon City.

W. A. Jones is very ill again at the home of his father T. B. Jones, at Salem. His illness is a relapse from a former severe attack of Malarial fever. Only the family are permitted to see him.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mrs. O. O. Cone and Mrs. S. A. Sexsmith were here from Donald Tuesday. The latter were making arrangements for a dance by the "Skookum Social Club," at Cone's Pavilion, at Donald, Saturday evening, Aug. 17.

Mrs. Joaquin Miller was a week end guest at the home of Mrs. J. F. Kerr. She has just received news of the safe arrival of her husband in France. He will be remembered as assistant here a couple of years or so ago to Geo. Miller the S. P. Agent.

M. S. Widdows of Barlow is now in charge of the Ziegler warehouse, for W. H. Lucke, of Canby, who has the warehouse rented. He has had considerable experience in warehouse work and customers will receive fair and courteous treatment.

Miss Hulda Giesy of Menlo, Wn., and Miss Florence Gerwig of Portland, who have been visiting the family of R. W. Zimmerman, were here yesterday, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Weibert. They left last night for their homes.

Among those in the city yesterday were Mr. and Mrs. V. Van Vleet of Hubbard, J. J. Sperr of Portland, Mrs. S. Jory of Meridian, John Schwabauer and sons of Fargo, John Lettenmaier of Hubbard, Wm. Steinbach of Union, and Ed. Graves of Macksburg.

A letter from A. L. Gaukse, now at Krem, N. D., but formerly of this place (at Marks Prairie) says crops are fair in some parts of North Dakota, but poor in others. There has been much rain there the past month, and the weather is hot.

G. J. Taylor, editor and owner of the Molalla Pioneer, left Saturday for California, where he goes into training for service at Stanford University. Mr. Taylor's paper will be in charge of his son, Walter, who has been connected with the mechanical department for several years.

Ernest Feller, who was arrested at Bend to prevent his leaving the state with his small son, was supposed to be enroute to California. A divorce suit pending against him. The technical charge of larceny by bailee merely served the purpose of detaining him as he was driving a mortgaged car.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. White were recent Portland visitors to meet McRae, the Oregonian correspondent who has just returned from France. He had met Ira White not long ago and brought a message to the home folks. McRae praised the Third Oregon band highly.

Ben F. West is chairman of the committee which has in charge the annual picnic of the Iowa Association of Oregon. The picnic will be held August 17 at the state fair grounds at Salem. All former Iowa people are urged to attend. There will be sports, speaking and music; and an old fashioned supper at 6 p. m.

Henry Zimmermen of Aurora has been selected from among those who volunteered from Clackamas county for a two month's course in mechanics at the Benson Polytechnic school at Portland as a preparation for service in the army. He with 11 others, will leave August 16. Young Zimmermen is a fine young man who should make good where ever he goes.

Ben F. West, county assessor, has been named as a member of the executive state central committee. The other members are C. G. Huntley, of Clackamas county; Roy D. Smith, of Hood River county; S. S. Smith of Jackson county; Dr. T. W. Harris of Lane county; W. Smead, of Morrow county; D. W. Dunne, of Multnomah county; Hugh McCall, of Union county; and R. L. Conner of Yamhill county.

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Additional Editorials

TAXING GASOLINE

The proposed tax of 2 cents a gallon on gasoline is justified so far as it affects those who ride for pleasure. In so far as it is a tax upon essential industry, it has little merit. The automobile is the farmer's errand runner, the business man's delivery assistant, the physician's daily means of transportation, the contractor's inspection agency, the chief means of delivery between railway and the producer or consumer. Truck lines are becoming more important means of transportation every day. A tax on gasoline so used is like a tax on hay and oats. But the line of demarcation between the pleasure-riding-use-of-gas and the use of it in industry and commerce is so indistinct that the problem is not easy. Part of the day the farmer's machine may be used in a purely industrial sense, and the rest of the day in pleasure riding. So, also with the automobiles of many others. Hence the proposal to lay a blanket tax on gasoline used in pleasure-machines and tractors alike.

The average country newspaper finds it difficult to please everyone—and if it is wise it will not try, because it is impossible! If it refuses to condemn what some individual or group thinks wrong, it is termed a coward. If it speaks plainly about public evils, it is called a disturber. It is expected to grind the other fellow's axe—at the paper's own expense; and to regulate its opinions to suit its patrons. It finds pretty nearly everyone knows how to run a newspaper better. But no one ever suggests any means of inducing delinquent subscribers to pay up. None of these problems worry the Observer, however, because it conducts its news columns for its subscribers alone, printing all the local news it can get, but it runs its editorial columns to suit itself, hoping, of course, that its readers may approve,—or continue to read until they see the light!

C. S. Jackson, as state director of the war stamp campaign constantly appeals to the country press for aid; but C. S. Jackson, as publisher of the Portland Journal, cannot conceal his hostility and hatred for the country newspapers which refuse to accept him as the dictator of their political policy. His initiative bills aimed at the country newspapers are dripping with his venom. While the prices charged for public printing have always been reasonable and only affected one or two newspapers in the county, Jackson's initiative bills reduced the price of all legal notices below the cost of production. Only his wealth and his animosity have made these unfair bills possible.

Relations with Mexico seem to be improving. A pro-Ally has just been placed in charge of the Mexican government newspaper organ, El Universal. There is less friction about oil and other concessions, and German influence in Mexico City seems on the wane. Much of this is attributed to the recent tour of 30 Mexican editors all over the United States.

The state of Washington has joined the ranks of the states which forbid the teaching of German. Its order includes all schools, public or private, elementary or high schools. The order was made at the request of the state council of defense.