

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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BERT CYR WRITES FROM OVERSEAS

Telling of the Camps and Life on Battlefields of France 23rd Engrs. Praised.

Creuses, France, Dec. 5, 1918.

My Dear Mother:

I returned to camp yesterday and found a bunch of letters awaiting me, one from Mable, Evelyn and you. I received the money-order from Mable and dad and really I didn't want you folks to do anything like that as I really didn't need it. Nevertheless, I greatly appreciate your gift and want to thank you very, very much, and tell Mable I will write her in a few days. I had a letter from Elmer yesterday. It was written before the censorship was relaxed so I don't know where he is at. I was in camp for Thanksgiving dinner and certainly had a very nice meal. I was stationed at "Gironville" about five miles out of Commercy last week. I was at Verdun last Sunday. The battlefields there are certainly a wonderful sight. I suppose you have wondered where I have been since I left Laurel, Md. on Jan. 20. We went to Hoboken, N. J. Sailed on 23d. Arrived in Brest, France, Feb. 5 to St. Nazaire. Left on 20th for Toul. Arrived 23d at Boncu, camped about two months at Mandres, where we were just two days as the dutchmen shelled us out. One shell went through the kitchen. One night we had our gas masks on forty-five minutes, the longest I ever had mine on. We built a camp about three miles back, named it Central Park, where we remained until Sept. 12th. We visited Nancy, Toul, and Commercy from there. I was on Mont Sec. the same morning after it was taken from the Hun. Rufus Hoover and Roy McGee were up there but I was sent back the following day to Toul, so I missed them. From there we moved to Beaumont, then to Apremont, then to Corneville, to Varnville, to Gironville, to Creux, our present location. There was nearly three thousand on the boat I came over on. It was formerly a German boat, "Frederick the Great." I was at Nonsard, about three miles back of the lines when the armistice was signed. I am enclosing a clipping from our weekly paper, concerning our return to the U. S. A. I would like to send you folks something for Christmas but it is a hard job to send anything and at present we are some distance from a place to buy anything. I will try to buy something for myself with your money-order as soon as I get into a town. That may sound funny, "a town," but where we are is all in ruins. Hoping this reaches you all as well as it leaves me, in the best of health.

With love and best wishes to all,
BERT.
Co. "C" 23d Engrs., American E. F. A. P. O. 747.
A happy and prosperous New Year to all.

Clipping Sent With Above Letter.

Here is the Highwayman's logical conclusion regarding the part we shall play in the grand finale of this war: The personnel of the Twenty-third is admittedly higher than that of any other organization over here. That means that we would be the most valuable lot of men to return to America to assist in the vast work of reconstruction. We are ready to start NOW, fully equipped. As a regiment we are a very presentable lot for the hungry eyes of the home folks to rest upon. We are virtually relieved of all duty hereabouts. We are mobilizing. Therefore, the prospect is that we are slated to be under way with an early shipment bound for God's Country. Still this is a lowly opinion. If the dope is wrong, the Twenty-third Engineers would not be upholding their splendid reputation should they betray the slightest sign that they were not game to stand by and await their orders.

Boys Are Happy

At about the unholy hour of 1 a. m. Wednesday, the pleasant dreams of a number of Springfield's citizens, who reside on Second street were shattered by the sound of a number of masculine voices rendering the sweet strains of "K-K-Katy." Keep

the Home Fires Burning," and numerous other war time melodies. From the sounds we should judge that the party was made up of about ten of the younger set of this city. The beautiful tenor of one late returned soldier blended well with the bass notes of a member of the S. A. T. C., who has also been discharged. The rest of the company were high school boys, who should not indulge in such late hours.

The boys were undoubtedly returning from an evening's frolic in which a few members of the fair sex took part. We wish to thank the boys and to also add that we hope it will not be the last time they will give us such a rare treat. Springfield has sorely missed the young men, who used to enlighten the place with their songs and pranks.

France Mourns For Roosevelt

Newspapers Pay Eloquent Tribute to Typical Great American

PARIS, Tuesday, Jan. 7. — "The sudden and premature death of Roosevelt will be felt in France as a genuine national loss," declared the Petit Journal. The phrase seems to sum up the sentiments of all the morning newspapers on the death of Colonel Roosevelt.

The Gaulois, the royalist organ, says: "This paladin of the heroic ages was at the same time the most far-sighted of modern statesmen. He carried the American sword which has been victorious and he showed his country the way when it was still groping."

"Humanity, justice and law," says the Figaro, "were not for him mere respectable entities, but familiar realities to be accepted always and unhesitatingly."

Quotes Colonel's Farewell Words
Stephen Lauzanne, in the Matin, quotes Colonel Roosevelt's farewell words to him, when he recently left the United States, as follows:

"I have no message to send to France. I have given her the best I had. If over there you speak of me, tell them simply that I have but one regret, that I was not able to give myself."

The Temps says:
"The man who has disappeared so prematurely will be not only one of the greatest figures of his time, but the incarnation of one of the greatest stages in America's management of public affairs, both internal and external. . . . For the historian he undoubtedly remains the first American statesman who directed his country in two directions, apparently divergent, but really parallel—interior reform and world policy."

The Journal Des Debats concludes its sketch of Colonel Roosevelt as follows:

"No man raised the morale of the American soul to a greater height by insisting more on the necessity of sacrifice, but a sacrifice intended not to be a vain sacrifice, for the great ends which humanity holds before us. It is in this way that the great fighter, on entering into eternal repose will have deserved lasting glory and the supreme gratitude, not only for his own country, but of the whole world."

Defeat Bolshevik Army
WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.— Loyal Russian troops operating under the authority of the Omsk government, have defeated a large Bolshevik army, capturing 31,000 prisoners and large quantities of war materials, according to a telegram from the Omsk authorities to the Russian minister at Stockholm. The message as printed in the Swedish press was received today at the state department.

The telegram said the third Bolshevik army of 10 regiments had been shattered and that the loyal troops had advanced beyond Kama and Nont and were pursuing the enemy toward Glasov. Booty captured included armored trains as well as large quantities of war materials and reserve supplies.

Wants Springfield Property
Anyone wishing to exchange Springfield property for a coast ranch of 80 acres, with 10 acres improved and balance in timber would do well to call at the News office.

Tales of the Telepaphone

Last week the News received in a neat box from the Edison Laboratories one of the most marvelous pieces of mechanism ever devised by the brain of man.

It is a thought transmitting and recording machine, commonly known as the telepaphone. We installed it for the reason that the ordinary methods of obtaining news was too cumbersome. This little machine was advertised to do it quicker, easier and more accurate than by any other means of extracting information from folks who shut up like a clam shell when we try to find out things.

We tried it out last Monday for the first time and it started with every promise of making good on what the ad said about its good points.

There is a little book of rules that comes with the machine that tells you how to work it, and also explains under what conditions it will not work. It seems that the thing is a little more than human, or rather "material," because it is more or less susceptible to psychic phenomena. When it is aimed at folks who permit their minds to dwell upon ethereal matters, it sometimes slips its trolley and scrambles the chain of thoughts.

When you hook it up to the telepathic channel of somebody who is on speaking terms with a glorious hereafter and attempt to pry into the secrets of their individual ego, the machine makes a buzz that says "line's busy."

The machine will not record the thoughts of a superior intellectual being, nor will it respond when hooked up to a "nut," as the device with nothing to work on records nothing. We tried it on ourselves first and the agitator failed to agitate. There was nothing in the book that told us what "class" we were in, and we are not disposed to argue the matter. There was no response from Frank DePue, either. So we were obliged to put him in the doubtful column.

To get connection with anyone, all you have to do is to concentrate your thoughts of him (or her) on the receiver and this sets the range-finder in motion, which creates a series of telepathic waves that travel until they find the same brand of waves that emanate from the cranium of the one you are thinking about. This works about on the same principle of a Yale lock and key and the telepathic circuit is completed when the two meet. Simple, isn't it?

Since writing the above we have discovered another rule in the back of the book which tells us what "class" we are in. While the information is not exactly flattering, it is better than having any doubts about it.

The machine worked fine with Charley Swarts' flow of mental perambulation until he cut his thumb with a butcher knife, when the recorder began to sizzle, and we had to shut it off.

We got opposite results, however, with Doctor Emery, as the "busy buzz" gave us the high sign.

We tried it on the First National but he was out to lunch, so we had to figure it up and see if there was an overdraft.

A random connection with the B-K mill office resulted in blowing out two fuse plugs and fracturing the pulmonary valve stem. We don't know what was going on over there but the agitation was fierce.

In trying out the range-finder, it became hooked up with an old maid in West Springfield, and recorded a dislocation of the left ventricle northeast of the diaphragm.

We couldn't get anything satisfactory out of Brother Ingalls, at his office, but later on when he got into his car, the recorder did some execution that amazed us. We can't understand how Ingalls' intellectual train can run along so peaceful like when it is on the company's job and then perform the stunts it does when it is aboard the auto. Apparently there is something wrong with Ingalls' car and it has gone to his head.

We have always looked upon Mr. Ingalls as a genial, whole-souled Christian gentleman. Not until we witnessed the ebullient record of our telepaphone when directed his way, as he rode in his car, did we ever have occasion to modify this impression. Be it said to his credit, however, that he exercised an admirable self-control by not voicing his emotions whenever the occasion arose. But his thoughts as recorded are numerous and lurid.

As cars go, we don't suppose the Ingalls car behaves any worse than any other gum-shoed devil of the same nativity. But he "thinks" it does, because he labored under the delusion that when he bought that brand new contraption that his transient troubles were at an end. He expected nothing better from the old wheeze he coaxed around the landscape for a long while. He endured its lapses until downright rebellion threatened to break up his happy home, then he skimmed for quite a while and raised his own potatoes and turned his cuffs until he saved up enough to buy the new boat. Naturally his disappointment has been keen over the behavior of the new ideal, and even a minor infraction of rules prescribing the demeanor of a well-bred machine ruffles his sunny disposition, arouses his ire and upsets his mental poise. After gazing upon his calm exterior, it is hard to associate him with a brainstrom engendered by the mad caprices of a 1918 Vixen. But the tell-tale record of a good man gone wrong is written by the marvelous little telepaphone.

The German war office told a few tales, Annanias was a little careless about the truth, and even the editor of a respectable family journal like the News sometimes purveys facts after putrefaction has set in, but when the stylus of an irrepressible little device records a telepathic message that reads "f--t--t--t", we are bound to believe it, though shocked at the thought of the manipulator of the Ingalls car.

CHRISTMAS IN HONOLULU

Mrs. R. H. Miller, of this city, has received the following interesting account of how Christmas is observed in Hawaii from her daughter, Imogene, who resides in Honolulu.

"Christmas in its true meaning is commemorated by almost the entire world; and under the starry banner of the United States of America it is kept in the manner we keep it here, from frigid Alaska to southern seas, from Atlantic to Pacific and westward to the gateway of the Orient. It is interesting to know how the season is spent in those delightful islands of ours in the Pacific, where snows never blanket the earth in immaculate silence, nor wintry blasts provide whistling accompaniments to jingling sleighbells.

"In Hawaii and Samoa Christmas day is observed just as it is in the states, insofar as the contrast in climate and customs allows it. Only perhaps in remote parts of the Philippines are there a few spots whose inhabitants have not been reached and taught the Christian way of keeping Christmas; only a very few places where a homesick American girl teacher throws herself amid the lacy ferns in some sunlit glade, and adds to the lacy chatter of a little brook her

teary remembrance of plum pudding, turkey and cranberry sauce.

"The natives of Hawaii have long since adopted, in a measure, the New England customs of celebrating Christmas. They go to their lovely picturesque churches in the morning and the afternoon is given over to visits among neighbors and friends, costume parties, and giving of gifts, the latter being confined mostly to simple presents for the children, a practice which might well be adopted by the mother country.

"In one city, Hilo, one may have the unique pleasure of having Hawaii and New England at the same time. For directly above the town stands the regal mountain, Mauna Kea, 14,000 feet high, and which is perpetually snow-covered. With a little persuasion and much obvious clinking of silver, the natives will go up and return with a cart load of honest-to-goodness snow. Thus one may have a lively (and necessarily speedy) snowball fight, and retire to the shade of a sheltering palm to cool off! No prettier sight can be imagined than Mauna Kea at dawn on Christmas morning. One's first impression is of a balmy June day, then the startling contrast of the snow-covered mountain directly above, and the swiftly

moving band of dawn changing the sunrise tints from purple to blue, pink and finally to gold, as the sun appears in blinding brilliance.

"In Samoa, the day has more of an European air, as have most of the civilized customs adopted by these islanders. Every city of three or four thousands has a queen, unmarried, who has a retinue and holds court in a primitive fashion, but none the less interestingly. She is the official hostess to visitors within the gates, and presides at all civic functions. At court people are seated according to rank, and their cases are heard with dignity and great ceremony. Christmas is one of the red letter days, and is a gala affair, indeed, consisting of a continuous round of concerts, dancing, "tun-tunming" and feasting. Usually the afternoon is devoted to the exchange of gifts, this occasion being under the personal supervision of the queen, who sees that everybody is satisfied, and not infrequently she confiscates a gift that is not in keeping with the donor's means, or her own idea of the fitness of things. The day is one of many pleasures crowded together in riotous confusion, but it is very doubtful if the natives get the real significance of the occasion which they are commemorating. This is a failing much in evidence in more civilized communities, however, so one cannot be too hard on Samoa."

LETTER FROM OVERSEAS

The Following Letter from Roy Cairns to His Parents Gives Interesting Facts.

Vitrey, Haute-Soane, France, Nov. 27, 1918.

Dear Folks:
Well, tomorrow is Thanksgiving but I don't think it will seem much like a real Thanksgiving day. We will probably have something extra to eat but having to wade around in the mud with your mess kits, it won't seem much like sitting down to a table at home.

We are now stationed at Vitrey which is about 20 miles from the old front, and I expect it is as close as we will get. I would kind of like to go up and look over the battlefields but there is nothing to go for now and I am getting anxious to get back to God's Country, so they can't send me home too soon to suit me.

We have been transferred to trench artillery but are still casuals. We expect to be transferred into permanent organizations and sent home with them and it is thought that we may all be on our way home by Christmas but it is hard to tell.

We have pretty nice quarters here although it is awfully muddy outside and we have to wade around in it everywhere we go. I had first class passage on the train coming from Angiers as did all the other Sgts. and we had a real pleasant trip but the rest of the men were pretty badly crowded in box cars, in which they ship most of the American soldiers in France.

Now that they are not so particular about censoring the letters I can tell you a little more about our trip. We left Camp Merritt, via Hoboken, on board the S. S. "President Grant." There were about 6000 soldiers on board besides the ship's crew so you can imagine the size of the ship and also how crowded it was. We had quite a pleasant trip. The water was awfully smooth except one day we had a storm and it was quite rough. However, I didn't get seasick. We were 12 days making the trip. We landed at Brest, France, but over two detachments were detailed to unload the boat so it was two days before we got on land. We stayed at Brest two days then moved to LaDugreniere, near Angiers, where we stayed about a week and now we are here.

Well, it is just about time for retreat so I will have to hurry up to the barracks as I am down to the Y. M. C. A.

Lovingly,
ROY.

Replacement Btry., Trench Arty. Center, American E. F. A. P. O. 903.

Woman's Statement Will Help Springfield.

"I hated cooking because whatever I ate gave me sour stomach and a bloated feeling. I drank hot water and olive oil by the gallon. Nothing helped until I tried simple buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Ad-ler-I-ka." Because it flushes the ENTIRE bowel tract completely, Adler-I-ka relieves ANY CASE sour stomach, gas or constipation and prevents appendicitis. The INSTANT action is surprising. M. M. Peery.

SCHOOLS TO OPEN MONDAY, JAN. 13

Every Precaution to be Used To Protect the Children. Work to Go Ahead.

The regular meeting of the Springfield School Board was held on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at which time it was decided to open school next Monday, Jan. 13. The influenza epidemic, it is felt, has nearly subsided, according to the report of Mr. Gordon, local quarantine officer.

"Patrons of the school, however, are requested to continue to use every precaution against a new outbreak of the disease," said N. A. Baker, Superintendent of Schools.

"Pupils who have had the influenza recently should not be started to school unless danger of relapse has passed and all danger of spreading the disease is over. This information should be ascertained from the attending physician. Also, parents are requested not to send pupils who have heavy colds. The school buildings are being thoroughly disinfected, and every precaution will be used at school to prevent any pupils contracting the disease there.

We believe that most of the pupils will be able to return to school on Monday. This, of course, is very desirable, in view of the fact that so much time has been lost, in order that teachers and pupils may proceed with the advanced work as rapidly as possible.

Time lost by the enforced vacation will be divided between the two semesters and the school year extended at least one week in the spring. This is being done in order that students may not lose credit for the year's work."

Will Hold Examinations

An examination in the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible, for high school credits, is to be given at the high school building next Friday, Jan. 10, according to announcement of Supt. N. A. Baker. This is a state-wide custom, and was originated by State Superintendent J. A. Church in order to stimulate a systematic study of the Bible.

The examination is open to any student who has made a systematic study of the Bible at Sunday School or elsewhere. One-half credit will be given to any pupil who successfully passes the examination in the New Testament and one-half credit for the Old Testament, thus making it possible for a student to earn one credit toward high school graduation.

The examination in the New Testament will begin at 9 o'clock a. m., and the one in the Old Testament at 1 o'clock p. m.

A number of students are expected to take the examination.

Eighth Grade Examination

Uniform State Examinations for eighth grade pupils will be given on Thursday and Friday, January 16 and 17 in districts where the pupils have met the requirements according to the schedule on the back of the envelope enclosing the questions. Teachers having pupils for this examination should send in the application blanks at once. Another eighth grade examination will be given February 6 and 7. Questions will be sent only for pupils who have met requirements and for whom application for questions is made.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERVISOR

Here From Idaho.

Mrs. Della Clark arrived here from Nampa, Idaho, where she has been visiting her brother, Frank, and family for the past three months. Mrs. Clark will visit her son, Will Clark, and family and also her sister, Mrs. Libby Johnson, of Albany, for the next two months and then will return to her home at Alexandria, Indiana.

Returns From Camp Jackson.

Nicholas Lamberty, son of Mrs. M. A. Rowe, returned from Camp Jackson, Carolina, Wednesday evening. Mr. Lamberty has received his official discharge and will remain here for a few weeks and will then either locate in Portland or Seattle.

Quick Cure for Croup.

Watch for the first symptoms, hoarseness and give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy at once. It is prompt and effectual.