

PLEASANT HOME FIGHTER EVADES BOCHE GUNNERS

Following are parts of letters recently received by Mrs. L. C. Armstrong from her son, Frank, who is with Co. H., 322nd Infantry in France.

We are located in a small village by the name of Bisse La Pierre, somewhere about the center of France. Have been here since the first of the month; don't know how long we will be here yet but hope it won't be long. When I was in the states, I was anxious to see France; now I am just as anxious to see the good old U. S. More. I have seen a good share of this country and wouldn't give five acres in the United States for all of it.

You wanted to know if I have seen any German prisoners yet. Yes, I have seen so many that I never pay any attention to them at all any more. That was the first thing we saw when we landed in England, and you will find them anywhere you go, here in France.

Well, I guess Herbert was too late to see the big show before it ended, but at that he was lucky for, take it from me, it was no fun. If nobody likes it any better than I do, there will never be any more war.

As you have asked me so many times to tell you what I have seen, I will try to tell you part of it.

We first landed at Southampton, England; was there only two or three days when we sailed for France; we then landed in Cherbourg, stayed there about a week. That is a very pretty country; it is north of Paris and is in Normandy. While I was there I saw an old castle that was built in the year 892. It covered over an acre of ground and was all built of stone; there was even stone chipped in thin places.

When we left there, we went south. We then stopped at La Gace, near Bourges; stayed there a little over a month. That part of France is a level country and quite swampy, and seems to be populated with a poor class of people. Many of the villages are almost deserted. The one we stayed in was filled up with refugees, and many of them didn't have anything only what was given them.

From there I was transferred into a different division. On that trip we travelled as far south as Lyons and then travelled north to Toul, and as far as Nancy. At Toul there was a large Red Cross camp where they could feed a thousand men in thirty minutes. Toul is a fortified town and has seen many battles in the past, but the Germans never got that far. Nancy is quite a large place and was pretty badly torn up. When we first reached there, things didn't look very pleasant; but it soon got to be a common thing to see buildings blown to the ground. From there, we went to St. Die. That was the first I saw of the war. That front has seen some hard times.

When we left there, we went to Verdun and was there at the wind-up. Things were pretty interesting there but we had the Dutchmen on the run just the same.

Co. H. had one village to our credit at the end.

Before we left there, we visited the city of Verdun. That is a very strongly fortified place. I think you remember the hard battle that took place in 1916, if I remember right. It is built in the side of a mountain and a good part of it is under ground. The whole town is enclosed with a high wall, with a high entrance.

From there we travelled on foot to our present location. Were fifteen days on the road. That wasn't a very pleasant trip, but nevertheless we got here.

What home will be to one who has been over here for awhile. Any time I can plant my feet on the soil in old U. S., I will consider myself at home. I would rather spend the rest of my days in the army in U. S. than as a civilian in France. Where I first landed was in England. Then I said, "The front lines can be no worse than this," but the next was still worse, and every one was worse than the last one, until the war was over, and it was then I found a man never knew what he could stand, and I don't know yet, for I have traveled until I thought I was ready to fall many times, but after ten minutes rest, was ready to go again, and am still well and fat. Those front lines ain't so nice as they might be either. Those Dutchmen were out for meat. They would just play a tune with their machine guns and use artillery for bass, and they had lots of bass too. What I mean, is that the whole thing sounded like the devil was there, but I guess they heard music that didn't sound good either, for they had to do the holiering.

Hope you had a good time Xmas. We had a good time here; the only thing missing was the women. It has been so long since I heard a woman speak English, that I am afraid it will scare me out when I get back. All the Francaise Madamoiselles can say is "non compré." Nevertheless, they are all right in their way but their way don't suit me.

So far, we have had a very mild winter here. Have had no snow yet except just enough to whiten the roofs of the buildings a few hours, but it never stops raining for more than a few hours at a time.

Well, I hope to be home, or at least in the United States before a great while, but don't have any idea yet when we will start that way. Guess I will just have to be satisfied with this place as long as I am here. Things are going on very well, and I have nothing to complain of. There are a great many boys over here who need to go home before I do, for if I had gone through with some of the

First Camera Click in the Great Paris Peace Conference



This scene pictures one of the most important gatherings in the history of the world. It is the first picture received in the United States of the opening session of the great peace conference in France. This meet was held in the famous clock room in the Palais d'Orsay, Paris. President Poincare of France has just finished speaking from

the chairman's place under the clock. President Wilson (indicated by white arrow) is on the right heading the American commission. Lloyd George and the British commission are on the left. In the center, standing is an English officer—interpreter—reading Poincare's speech in English. The black arrow indicates Premier Clemenceau at the head of the French commission.

LOCAL W. C. T. U. OUTLINE PLANS FOR THE YEAR

Important among the week's events was the meeting of the W. C. T. U. held in the public library on Thursday afternoon.

This was the first meeting of the society since the election of officers in December, and a full outline of the year's undertakings was discussed and decided upon by the many members present.

The able president, Mrs. George F. Honey, who is serving her second year in the office started things moving in a sprightly fashion by conducting a quiz on the ratification of the national prohibition amendment, bringing out the facts of the forty-four states' action in its favor, and the Oregon vote of fifty-three for and three against the measure; also the fact that the Gresham women are well informed on legislative matters pending at Salem. The christian citizenship committee of the local club has always kept the membership up on their toes in all legislative affairs that they might vote on them intelligently.

At the regular business meeting a new office was created yesterday. Mrs. E. A. Leonard taking the position of financial secretary, to lighten the labors of the recording and corresponding secretaries. The treasurer, Mrs. H. L. Wostell was authorized to pay the local union's county and state apportionment from funds in the treasury.

An innovation in the form of a Frances Willard Memorial evening is planned for the near future, instead of the usual afternoon exercises. In this way it is hoped to bring together a representative gathering of Gresham's citizens to honor this noble woman and to acquaint themselves more fully with the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Notice of this meeting will appear shortly in the Outlook.

At a recent executive board meeting held at the home of Mrs. J. N. Clananah the following department superintendents were elected for the year: Mrs. J. H. Metzger, official papers; Mrs. Mary Shoemaker, evangelism and literature departments; Mrs. E. Davidson, flower mission; Mrs. Richard Beadle, medical temperance; Mrs. B. W. Emery, christian citizenship and red letter days; Mrs. E. A. Leonard, cooperation with missionary work; Mrs. H. L. Wostell, scientific temperance instruction; Mrs. Max Schneider, soldiers and sailors; Mrs. J. N. Clananah, mothers' meetings; and Mrs. Elmer F. Goodwin, systematic giving. These women are planning a series of interesting events during the year.

The officers of the local union are Mrs. George F. Honey, president; Mrs. W. B. Emery, vice president; Mrs. J. N. Clananah, recording secretary; Mrs. W. F. Honey, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. A. Leonard, financial secretary, and Mrs. H. L. Wostell, treasurer.

In connection with the action of the Oregon legislature in ratifying the national prohibition amendment without a unanimous vote the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, The state of Oregon adopted prohibition by a vote of over 26,000, and, one year later defeated a proposed wet amendment by more than 54,000; and,

Whereas, Statistics from all parts of the state, show a decided improvement financially and morally, as a result of the dry law, and,

Whereas, As shown by the recent legislative vote, "Ratification" was opposed by three representatives: D. C. Lewis, Kubli and McFarland, of Multnomah county, thus depriving our fair state of being listed on the honor roll of "all white" states. Be it

Resolved, That while we are gratified that the wet strength is reduced from seven members in the last legislature, to three members in the present legislature, we the mothers and sisters of the defenders of our country feel that the confidence of the Multnomah county electors has been misplaced, and that it is the duty of every loyal citizen, in the future, to select only representatives who are known to favor the enforcement of the prohibition law.

Educating Future Voters.
"We hope to receive much valuable information in future issues for our class in Civics," says Elmer F. Goodwin, Principal of the Union High School of Gresham, Oregon.

This statement comes as no surprise to us for from the class of practical, well balanced and up-to-date thinking graduates which that Union High School is each year turning out, it is evident that the study of "dead languages" does not constitute the entire curriculum.—Oregon Voter.

PRINCIPAL GOODWIN OUTLINES EXCELLENT COURSE IN AGRICULTURE AT HIGH SCHOOL

The Department of Agriculture at Union High school is the newest department of the school. Classes in vocational agriculture, under the Smith-Hughes Act, were started about three months ago and, although there have been many interruptions on account of the closing ban against Spanish influenza, the work is now progressing nicely and promises to become an important factor in the school. About twenty-five boys are taking work in Plant Husbandry and Animal Husbandry, the two divisions of the subject.

Two double periods of ninety minutes each are given to class work in the forenoon of each school day and during the afternoon of each school day the instructor advises with the boys concerning home projects of which mention will be made later in this article. Students taking vocational agriculture must carry at least two subjects in the regular courses of study, which is in accordance with the Act under which instruction is given in high schools. It is gratifying to see the constantly increasing interest of the boys in this subject. We believe the "Back to the Farm Movement" will find a solution in the vocational agricultural schools of the country.

Our equipment at present is as follows:

1. Fifteen hundred bulletins on various subjects.
2. Twenty books on special agricultural topics. The school library furnishes many additional books for this department.
3. Balopticon with electrical and acetylene attachments for visual instruction at the high school and other schools in the vicinity.
4. Agricultural tools necessary for tillage of the soil on our own plots.
5. Hot beds and cold frames for outdoor laboratory.
6. Many free exhibits from different parts of the country showing in a practical way a variety of commodities of interest to the boys.
7. Seeds of different varieties to be furnished by seed companies of Portland at wholesale prices for educational purposes. Commercial fertilizers will be furnished free by seed companies for field tests.
8. Incubator loaned for instructional purposes.
9. Milk tester and full equipment for testing whole milk, skim milk and cream.
10. Many maps, charts, etc.
11. Artificial gas, oil burners, chemicals, etc., for making experiments and tests.
12. One-half acre of ground adjoining school buildings for an ideal home garden.

It is the plan of the Department to use this ground this year for the following purposes:

1. Ideal home garden furnishing vegetables the entire year.
2. Showing a good crop rotation.
3. Making variety tests on potatoes.

In this Department of the school as in the other departments of Home Economics and Manual Training, students are taught to "count the cost." Profit and loss accounts are kept in all project and other work, since the success of farm life is measured to a great extent in dollars and cents shown as profit.

The work of this Department and Manual Training are closely related. At this time boys interested in both departments are making dry feed hoppers for poultry, cement troughs for hogs and dairy milk record sheet boards. It is the purpose of these departments to loan the hog trough forms to farmers desiring the same. Many other practical devices for farm projects are being worked out in the interest of community life on the ranch. In this way the school hopes to become more closely connected with the home life of its patrons. A little later classes for adults will be formed, and night classes if desired. It is the purpose of the school to become a real community center where

farmers may meet occasionally for discussion of agricultural and economic subjects under the direction of the instructor of vocational agriculture and other instructors connected with the Federal government or Oregon Agricultural College.

The school hopes soon to own its own printing plant when it will issue plant and animal project bulletins and other agricultural news of vital importance in the columns of its monthly magazine, The Argus.

All of our boys have home project work under direction of this department. The instructor visits their homes occasionally and makes suggestions. The work is not confined to the Union district, since many of the boys live in Fairview, Boring, Pleasant Valley, Rockwood, Lusted and other outside districts.

The projects vary with the inclination of the students. They include:

1. Poultry.
2. Pigs.
3. Sheep.
4. Dairying.
5. Crops, principally potatoes.
6. Rabbits, etc.

This Department desires to work in cooperation as far as possible with the County Agent and County Club Leader, since all working for a common object,—better farming—the best results will be obtained for the people of the community.

AGRICULTURAL AGENT PLANS BUSY YEAR WORK

S. B. Hall, Multnomah county agricultural agent, has returned from the annual conference of county agents at Corvallis full of enthusiasm for the year's work to be inaugurated through his office.

The work this year will be conducted on a pre-war basis, the need of emergency work in speeding up production being of course less urgent now. There will be more demonstration work on better practices in farming. Of particular importance will be the tests of new varieties of grain, potatoes and corn, and trials of different fertilizers on corn and potato crops. The farmers of the community have been pooling their orders for lime, with the result that Mr. Hall has already forwarded an order for a carload to the state lime plant at Gold Hill.

In the near future community meetings will be held about the county. Community leaders will be elected, who will in turn, organize a farm bureau for the exchange of suggestions for better agriculture. All this is in conjunction with the national farm bureau.

Some interesting experiments in alfalfa along the northern slope of the county will also be undertaken this year.

METHODISTS TO HOLD PUBLIC RECEPTION

Plans are now in full swing to hold the reception which was announced for last October, but which was indefinitely postponed on account of the influenza epidemic. The reception will be held at the church on the evening of Friday, February 21. All members and friends of the church are invited. This reception, which is planned by the Ladies' Aid society, and is especially in honor of teachers of the school and newcomers.

Teachers that we had as long as they did I think I would want to be first myself.

COUNCIL PROVIDES ADDITIONAL LIGHTS

The city council met in special session on Thursday morning to consider the matter of street lighting. They entered into a new five-year contract with the P. R. L. & P. company on the same terms as the one now in effect.

Several new lights will be installed, one on First street half way between Main street and the Catholic church, two on Roberts avenue between Fifth street and the Mt. Hood depot, while the small light on South Roberts avenue and Powell street will be changed to Metzger avenue and Roberts avenue.

Attending the meeting were Mayor Kenney, Councilmen Charles Cleveland, D. G. Geddes, J. G. Metzger, W. C. Metzger and Karl A. Miller, recorder.

PARENT-TEACHER CIRCLE MAY REORGANIZE

At the close of the program at the grade school on Wednesday Principal Skirvin called a meeting of all members and patrons of the Gresham Parent-Teacher association. The object of this meeting was to discuss the recent child welfare drive in Portland and to take steps toward reorganizing the local circle.

The small attendance and absence of officers left the matter undecided. A notice of a meeting for the formulation of plans for the work will appear shortly in this paper. The interest of all parents is greatly desired.

Mr. and Mrs. George Honey, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Ott, and Fred Todd were among the Gresham people who enjoyed the Irvin S. Cobb lecture in Portland Tuesday evening. They did not resent the classification "soft and ripe as an oyster, and without a shell." Mr. Cobb's classification of the American nation at the time we declared war on Germany.

LIEUT. E. P. THOM SAYS NO NEED TO FEAR

First Lieutenant E. P. Thom, son of Wm. Thom and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Burch, of Gresham, recently discharged, is quoted in the Portland Telegram as saying that there need be no fear of radicalism on the part of those soldiers who got as far as the German boundaries, or inside of Germany. Lieutenant Thom further says: "I know the spirit of those boys over there, and I know when a few 'red' radicals in this country say that they can depend on the returned soldiers to put their stuff over on the American people, they are lying."

"No man can pass through the section of Belgium that the 346th artillery went through, and see the evidences of German atrocities without feeling bound to give America every bit he has."

MESSENGER SERVICE BY OREGONIAN CARRIER

C. F. Murdock, of Portland, has taken the Oregonian route from Gresham east to Sandy. He will make the trip by auto truck, leaving Portland at one in the morning, dropping off papers along the main road and at cross roads.

As an additional accommodation to the farmers he will inaugurate a messenger service to and from Sandy and western points, whereby one may for a nominal charge, have a package weighing up to 30 pounds delivered in record time.

Many of our discharged soldier boys are finding employment with the street railway company. Now aren't we glad we didn't oppose a six-cent fare?

It is time Gresham was starting a move to secure from General Pershing or Marshal Poch one or two small captured German cannon to place on the city hall plaza.

MASONIC JEWEL FOR J. C. SCHULTZ

At a well attended meeting of the Gresham Masonic lodge Tuesday evening the officers elected in December were installed by Past Master W. H. Congdon, of Oregon City, who came over with a delegation from that section to attend the gathering.

A pleasant feature of the evening was the presenting of a handsome past master's jewel to J. C. Schultz, by Maxwell Schneider, in behalf of the lodge members. Mr. Schneider's presentation speech was in happy vein and bespoke the regard and honor in which Mr. Schultz was held by his brothers in the order.

The newly installed officers are W. R. Burke, worshipful master; V. K. Hamilton, senior warden; H. J. Puffer, junior warden; James Elkington, treasurer; Wm. Metzger, secretary; W. R. Johnson, senior deacon; A. Hammar, junior deacon; J. B. Robertson, marshal; L. L. Kidder, chaplain; John Cannon, senior steward; E. W. Aylsworth, junior steward; J. C. Schultz, tyler.

Following the regular session a social hour was enjoyed, several members and guests responding to calls from W. R. Burke, with short speeches and snappy stories. Among those who contributed to the fun were W. H. Congdon, Maxwell Schneider, B. F. Cameron, J. C. Schultz, Principal Quicksall of Orient school, C. V. Cogswell, and L. Craswell.

The following announcements are made concerning services at the Baptist church next Sunday: The Bible school will meet at 10 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. A. J. Ware, will preach both morning and evening.

Lieutenant Leland Moore, who is home on a pass from Camp Lewis and is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. U. Moore of Pleasant Valley, visited in Gresham yesterday with Sergeant Floyd Metzger.