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F. GRAY MEEK, Editor

To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

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BUSY DAYS IN FRANCE.

Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads Writes of Her Work Since War is Ended.

Mobile Hospital, No. 11.

Donjeux, France, Feb. 23. Though my time is brief I must write to the dear folks at home. Saturday night Miss Margaret Wilson (the President's daughter) sang in the little theatre here. The little stage looked lovely in its setting of evergreen and flags and I was agreeably surprised in Miss Wilson. She is so much better looking and sang so much better than I expected. Saturday afternoon we had a religious meeting in our "Y," led by Mr. Snudden, a Y. M. C. A. man from California. He certainly gave a wonderful talk. Following the meeting and during the evening we gave away hot chocolate and little cakes, as we do every Sunday.

Saturday night, in order to allow my assistant an opportunity to see and hear Miss Wilson, I left when the entertainment was about half over, but was certainly repaid in a way for missing that by hearing wonderful war tales first-hand from an interesting great big rough M. P. friend of mine who had a chance to really talk because the "Y" was practically deserted on account of everyone being at the entertainment. He had been there but left when I did and brought me back from the little theatre across the dark, muddy fields and ditches; and then with only one or two pathetic convalescent patients in lounging chairs about our stove in my special canteen corner of the "Y" this big fellow, Bennett, formerly one of the famous "Y. D.'s," got to talking. It was something like when Gen. Beaver told mother and me of his losing his leg in the Civil war.

We all listened breathlessly to this big fellow talk, and once he sang. It was really better than Miss Wilson. Of course I hear these first-hand war tales all the time, but it is naturally with many interruptions and so many around. This man had charge of the first prisoner taken by the "Y. D.'s." That is, he was in charge of the post of three men who made the capture and he delivered the prisoner to the French major in charge in that sector. (At that time the American contingents were with the French in the Chemins de Dames district). He was especially decorated for the deed. He belonged to the 104th infantry of the Yankee Division (26th division) the only regiment during the whole war to have its colors especially decorated by the French.

But I haven't time now to tell more, but oh, how everybody should thank God every waking moment that the horrible carnage has closed, and pray that the League of Nations may forever maintain peace. You people at home can't realize what this war has been. A nice young fellow, only twenty years old, died yesterday of the flu and pneumonia. He had been in almost every drive and was looking forward to going home and now to die, this way. A pretty young nurse was thrown from her horse yesterday afternoon and seriously injured. In the morning she had been singing softly at the piano in the "Y." The morgue is right next our "Y" and one of my nice assistants performs all the autopsies. Almost any day in passing the open flaps we can see a white covered form lying there, and yet we are gay as can be, with piano, violin and big guitar noisily twanging most of the time in our homey, cosy "Y," our musical genius composing songs at the piano in the interim. After while when you hear the song

"Good-bye France, Hello Broadway!" you can think of the writer being one of our habitual visitors. One of our favorite American "rags" about twelve years old, is his, too. He says he is going to write a song for me, and if he does, I'll bring it home.

The other day in Chaumont I met a Miss Schieffelin, whose mother was a Miss Vanderbilt. The Schieffelins are unusually wealthy and this daughter of the household is in the enlisted men's "Y" hut in Chaumont and is very popular with the boys. She is so sweet and unassuming and does just like all the rest of the "Y" girls. Mrs. Astor was working in the canteen at Bordeaux when I was there last July.

On Valentine day a funeral was held in our "Y" conducted by a Catholic chaplain. It was just a simple service, with a rude altar of one of our plain board benches and one equally primitive table, the whole covered with a big U. S. flag, and a little crucifix flanked by a candle in a small silver candelstick on either side. The service was very much like the Protestant. A man with a fine, sympathetic voice sang "Abide With Me," "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Lead Kindly Light," those present joining in as they knew the words. The flag-covered casket stood in front of the little altar, all backed by our canteen counter. That was Valentine's afternoon.

That evening the town major (American) gave a beautiful little Valentine dance which I attended, as I wanted to show appreciation of the fact that he is a prohibitionist. The

decorations were lovely and the dance ended at midnight. The music was furnished by an orchestra of soldiers and was splendid, and the setting of the dim, old French hall was interesting.

I ought to write to all my friends but can't find the time. Being the only Y. M. C. A. person here keeps me at it from 9:30 a. m. to 9:30 p. m. every day, for I have the hospital to visit, too, of course. We have here a military police company, motor transport company, railroad squads, labor battalion, etc., to serve beside hospital No. 11, so you can see how it is. I never even get out for a walk except the walk to and from my billet in this little town night and morning.

REBECCA N. RHOADS.

Bellefonte Soldier Boys On Vacation Meet Elinor Cook.

The following letter was received last Saturday by William H. Garman from his son, private Robert Garman, of the Headquarters company 109th field artillery, who was on a vacation in the southernmost part of France:

Cauterets, France, Feb. 26. Am now on leave down on the Spanish border, staying at Cauterets. We left camp last Saturday and will remain here until a week from tomorrow (eight days). The trip and all will take in about fifteen days. The government pays all expenses and we have rooms at the largest hotels. Two men from each company are allowed to go, that's the percentage. Luther Crissman, from the 108th, is also with us.

You can't imagine who I shook hands with while laying in the railroad yards at Le Mans. None other than Elinor Cook, of dear old Bellefonte. There was a Red Cross train laying there enroute to Turkey. A man came down along our train and asked if there were any soldiers there from Bellefonte, Pa. If so, to report at a certain car on the Red Cross train. I went up and behold! Elinor Cook. I tried to find Crissman but couldn't and in the meantime her train pulled out. I was certainly glad to see some one from home. She stated that she had left the States only a little over a week ago. She will soon learn what a home is, after being away as long as I've been.

There are some rumors to the effect that we will sail for home sometime in May. You can't beat it for rumors. The town we stayed in last night (Lourdes) is a wonderful place, but the town we are in now (Cauterets) is punk. I am going to spend most of my week in my room in bed. We are away up almost to the highest summits of the Pyrennes, snow covered all the year and a famous resort, known to tourists the world over.

There are about two thousand troops here and half of them are M. P.'s. By the way, I have a few souvenirs, but don't know whether to take a chance on sending or delivering them in person. Have a German gas mask, belt buckle, silver ring—cross inlaid; ash tray and match box.

ROBERT GARMAN.

Don't Expect Your Soldier Boy to Bring Home Souvenirs.

Fond mothers, sisters and brothers who have soldier boys in France and are counting the days until they get home are doubtless expecting them to return virtually loaded down with souvenirs of the great war, but don't hug to your heart any such hope because you will be doomed to disappointment. If your boy wants to get any souvenirs back to you he will have to trust them to the uncharitable mercies of Uncle Sam's mail route. This is made plain in the instructions issued for the embarkation of the American expeditionary force in France. In fact your boy will have enough to look after without souvenirs. Following is a list of what he will have to look after:

Men will carry their steel helmets and gas masks; the matter of their being retained as souvenirs after they have been mustered out has been recommended. All arms and other equipment after being cleaned and put in the best possible condition must be turned in. The exceptions are officers and first sergeants, who are permitted to keep their pistols with twenty-one rounds of ammunition. Each home-coming soldier is also provided with a "neat, well-fitting uniform," and serviceable personal equipment, including the following articles: On his person—waist belt, wool service breeches, overseas cap, wool service coat, wool pair of socks, woolen drawers, gloves, flannel O. D. shirt, shoes, two identification tags, yard of tape for tags, woolen undershirt, leggings, overcoat, meat can, knife, fork, spoon, canteen with cup, first-aid pouch with packet and haversack and pack carrier.

In his pack—Three O. D. blankets, three pair of wool socks, slicker, flannel O. D. shirt, two pair extra shoe laces, extra drawers and woolen undershirt, half-shelter tent with pole and five pins, and toilet kit consisting of shaving brush, comb, mirror, razor, toothbrush, towel, tooth paste and soap. The authorized allowance of baggage to a private soldier is only seventy-five pounds. That is not much to stow away in a barrack-bag. Sergeants are allowed 100 pounds, lieutenants 150 pounds, and captains 200 pounds.

Garden making will soon be here and just the kind of relaxation after a day in the garden can be had by a visit to the Scenic. That tired feeling will pass away and you'll forget all your little troubles in watching the motion pictures as they flash across the screen. That's one of the big attractions of Scenic pictures, they are so interesting you can think of nothing else while watching them.



PRIVATE IRA I. WOLF OF COLEVILLE Died of Broncho Pneumonia in France on February 22nd.

The above picture of private Wolf, an account of whose death in France was published in last week's "Watchman," was taken while the young man was serving in the regular army in Panama, and shows him in all the vigor of his young manhood.

Memorial services were held for the dead soldier in the chapel at Coleville on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, and as evidence that the public is steadfast in their willingness to pay homage to the young men who gave their lives for their country the little chapel was crowded as it never had been crowded before, and quite a number of people could not gain admittance.

Dr. E. H. Yocum, of the Bellefonte Methodist church was in charge of the services and the church choir went out to assist with the music. After the opening services Dr. Yocum made a brief talk then introduced burges W. Harrison Walker, who made the principal address, paying a glowing tribute to the young men who sailed three thousand miles overseas to fight for world freedom. Though he now sleeps beneath the soil of sunny France private Wolf will not be forgotten by his friends at home.

News Items of the Soldier Boys.

Sergeant Warner Barr, who since his discharge from the service has been working in the P. R. R. shops in Altoona, was a Bellefonte visitor on Friday and a genial caller at the "Watchman" office. Sergt. Barr was born and raised at Boalsburg but as a young man spent a few years in Bellefonte. He left here about fifteen years ago and later joined the regular army, seeing service in the Philippines and Alaska. His regiment was stationed in Texas when the United States entered the world war and it was sent across early in 1917. Sergt. Barr was in one of the first battalions in which American troops participated in the Lorraine sector and although he escaped without a wound he was badly gassed and was invalided home in May, 1918. Though he did not get back to see the finish of the war he is glad he was over to do what he could and avers that he wouldn't take any amount of money for his experience.

GIVEN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

Announcement was made from Washington last Thursday that "Sergeant Harry E. McElwain, medical detachment, Seventh infantry (A. S. No. 543311) had been awarded the distinguished service cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Fosseux, France, July 15, 1918. During an intense artillery preparation by the enemy Sergeant McElwain voluntarily went out about one thousand yards through heavy shell fire to administer first aid treatment to five wounded men."

Sergeant McElwain enlisted in a hospital unit from Centre county in the first year of the war. At the time he lived at Unionville, being a member of the firm of McElwain Bros., merchants, in that town. While the above statement of his brave act includes only the meagre facts from other sources it has been learned that to reach the wounded men, who had taken refuge in a shell hole, Sergeant McElwain had to go through not only a deluge of shell fire but an enemy barrage. And of the five men he went to succor four were later killed by the shell fire and only one of them with himself escaped.

Captain Elton D. Walker, head of the department of civil engineering, has returned to The Pennsylvania State College after more than eighteen months' service overseas. He was in charge of Company A, Fifteenth engineers, A. E. F., in France. In his work in France, Captain Walker was assigned to a wide variety of engineering work, including railway yards, warehouses, barracks and water supply projects for camps and for certain French cities. Not long before he sailed for home, Captain Walker was transferred to the section engineer's office, at La Havre, where he was in charge of the water supply and sanitary conditions in that district.

Word was received from New York last week of the arrival there from overseas of Fred Yarnell, son of sheriff and Mrs. George H. Yarnell, and Jack Lyon, son of Mrs. W. A. Lyon.

Lieut. Henry Keller came home from the Walter Reed hospital on Sunday, having been granted a month's leave of absence. He was also given a transfer from the hospital at Washington to that at Carlisle, but

an X-ray examination revealed the fact that his leg is now healing so nicely that he has hopes that when his month's leave is up he will not need any further hospital treatment and will be given his final discharge.

Ellis Hines was among the Centre county boys discharged from service last week, returning to Bellefonte Saturday, and Carl Sheffer, who since returning from France six weeks ago had been in one of the service hospitals in Washington on account of a serious wound in his left hand, has also returned home with an honorable discharge from service.

To Move Postoffice at State College.

No federal postoffice building will be erected at State College this year, and perhaps not for several years to come. Every bid submitted was so much in excess of the amount of money appropriated by Congress for the building that no award was made, and postmaster Robert M. Foster has been advised to seek another location for the postoffice where he will have ample room for all needs. Consequently a room in the Foster building is being fitted up and the postoffice will be moved there some time in April.

The Foster building is a two story brick located on the corner of Allen street and Beaver avenue and the room to be occupied by the postoffice is 75x45 feet in size. There are double door entrances from the street and avenue and the room will be modernly equipped in every respect, with a rest room for the employees. The lowest bid submitted for the new federal building was \$79,000, and as the available appropriation is only about \$50,000, all bids were naturally rejected.

Red Cross Clothing Drive.

The Bellefonte Chapter Red Cross and its auxiliaries were asked to take part in a great nation-wide drive for used clothing for the joint benefit of all the European countries, except the Central Empires, taking place this week, March 17th to 24th. There has been so little response to date that the drive here will be extended for another week. Clothing should be sent to Petrikin hall, or if that is not convenient telephone to Mrs. R. S. Brouse and your contribution will be sent for. The allotment for the entire country is 10,000 tons, double the quantity raised for Belgian relief last fall. This means, if we are to do our share in this Chapter, raising just twice as many pounds as in the previous drive. The only way to do your duty in this respect is to look over that used clothing today and then send it in today. Those who sacrificed well in everything for the freedom of the world are, many of them, in dire need. Shall Bellefonte and Centre county fail in its appreciation of what they have done?

This is the Life!

What fun for everyone and some to spare. "This is the Life," that popular musical comedy, comes to Garman's this (Friday) evening, offering to the local theatre goers an opportunity for an evening's entertainment excelled by few attractions on the road. Produced under the skillful direction of Robert Sherman, with new scenery, new costumes and given an excellent cast of musical comedy favorites, "This is the Life" has proved to be one of the best drawing cards in recent years, and has established a place at the head of all other popular entertainments. There is not a dull number in the entire sixteen which comprise the musical score, and many of them are already among the best sellers of the season. There will be a beauty chorus to augment the unusual cast which Mr. Sherman has selected for this tour. Don't miss it.

Penn State's Baseball Schedule.

The war last year badly interfered with all kinds of intercollegiate sports and the result was that few games were played by Penn State's baseball team. From present indications, however, the college will have a good ball team this year and graduate manager Neil M. Fleming has arranged a schedule of fifteen games as follows: April 17, Maryland State, away; 18, Washington College, away; 19, Catholic University, away; 21, John Hopkins, away; 22, Washington and Lee, away; 23, Virginia Military Institute, away. May 1, University of West Virginia, at home; 7, Army, away; 8, Columbia, away; 9, Lafayette, away; 10, Bucknell, away; 17, Lebanon Valley, at home; 24, Bucknell, at home. June 7, Carnegie Tech, at home; 10, Carnegie Tech, at home.

Manager Brandman has contracted for a number of great specialties which he is holding over until after Lent. 12-1t

John James, of Marsh Creek, Centre county, was painfully injured recently while on his way to Lock Haven with a team of horses. He was in a buggy and had the two horses strapped to the back of it, when one of them suddenly jumped on him, doubling him up. Two ribs were broken, one of his kidneys torn loose, and he was otherwise injured. 12-1t

Charlie Chaplin at the Scenic March 25th. 12-1t

All former patrons and their friends are most cordially invited to Miss Elizabeth Cooney's showing of the season's models, at the Hat Shop, today (Friday). 12-1t

Walter McCullough has been appointed superintendent of highways in Centre county in place of W. O. Bennett, transferred to DuBois. 12-1t

Watch for the Charlie Chaplin comedies, at the Lyric theatre. 12-1t

IN THE LAND OF SUNSHINE.

A. C. Wolf Writes of the Mining District and Oil Fields of California.

Lost Hills, Cal., Nov. 12, 1918.

My Dear Aunt: I received your letter yesterday after it had been on the road for quite a time. The main topic now is, of course, the war, and according to latest reports it is over, and I hope it proves true. It will save the lives of a lot of boys who have gone to Europe to engage in the awful struggle.

I have not been in the city of Ontario for more than a year, so have not kept well informed regarding the other members of the family. I spent last winter up in the mountains in the mining district, but it was most too cold up there for me. We had fourteen feet of snow and the roads were all impassable. The only mode of travel was on snow shoes, and for one who has never used them it is not a very pleasant means of travel and sometimes even dangerous; especially in the woods and on the mountains. The gold mines where I worked are something really wonderful. The district I was in is twenty miles long and fifteen miles wide, and up to 1916 had produced \$280,000,000 in gold. The North Star mine in Grass valley is 6,300 feet deep, with slopes or tunnels driven off from it for more than two miles. I saw nuggets there the size of a man's fist and worth from fifty to sixty dollars. I saw gold leaf taken from the Empire mine that was in sheets about half the size of a sheet of note paper and but very little thicker. It was just as pure as if it had been put through the smelter. There is gold all over that district. In fact it can be found most anywhere but so much of it is what is termed low grade ore, with less than ten dollars' worth of gold to the ton, that it can't be worked at a profit at the present prices of labor, powder and steel, all of which are very high here and also very necessary in mining operations.

This country was very much like Pennsylvania, more like it than any place I have seen since I left that State. The woods abound with deer and squirrel and chestnut trees are very plentiful in the forests. In the farming section apples, pears and cherries do quite well. The soil is red as a brick and of volcanic formation, with numerous lava beds or "caps," as they are called. The soil is very productive, but there is very little level land. Many of the hills, however, are no worse than the hills on some of the farms in Nittany valley and can be cultivated quite easily. The country seems to be especially adapted for the growing of Bartlett and Nellis (a winter variety) pears. I saw pears on the trees there at Christmas time. Most of the fruits that grow in Pennsylvania will grow there, and they had fine gardens when I left there in April to come to the oil fields.

The oil district here is a large, open plain. One can see for miles in every direction. In fact it seems almost like a desert. There is nothing here but oil wells. No farming is carried on in this part of the State as the rainfall is only about five inches a year and that is in the winter season. The rains start the grass to growing and when it gets from five to six inches high the sheep men come in with their flocks. They stay as long as the grass lasts and then they leave as quickly as they came. There is plenty of water in the ground but it is salt water and can't be used. It looks nice and clear but is not fit for any use.

The soil is very sandy and the roads where they are not oiled soon grind up into a fine dust like flour, then it packs together and is very heavy and hangs to a shovel like wet clay. It has the appearance of being a productive soil if it had plenty of water. The climate here is as nice as any I have seen since being in California. There were few nights during the summer that one could not sleep under a blanket. In fact the nights are always cool. We had about two weeks in August when the thermometer reached 115 degrees. The hottest part of the day is about two p. m., but by five o'clock the wind begins to blow and by nine o'clock it is quite cool. We had several slight frosts last week but the weather is simply delightful here now. Warm, sunshiny days, with not a cloud in sight, and the brilliant moonlight at night glittering on the white sand makes mother earth look like a vast field of snow. I am out every night until 11:30 so I notice the nights more than most people do.

I am at work running gas engines pumping oil. I have ten engines to look after. They are stationed about 450 feet apart and I have to visit each one three times while I am on duty. I go to work at three p. m. and come off at eleven. We don't have gasless Sundays or any other day here, for gas is the cheapest thing we have here. Some of the oil wells make gas enough to light and heat a dozen towns the size of Hubersburg. I have been here about six months and have not seen a stick of wood burned in all that time. They use gas for cooking, heating, lighting firing boilers and run most of their engines with it. Fire of any kind is not allowed around the mills as the air is full of gas. If a man were to strike a match he would run a good chance of being burned up in a minute. Electric light is the only kind permissible. I carry a flashlight. Will close now. A. C. WOLF.

Carpenters are at work this week making the necessary changes and repairs in the room in the Brocknerhoff house heretofore used as a writing room by the hotel to put it in shape for occupancy by C. D. Casebeer, the jeweler and optometrist. The latter expects to be in the room and all fixed up by the first of April.

Borough Council Will Assist in Honoring Returning Soldiers.

Burgess W. Harrison Walker was present at Monday night's meeting of borough council and in addressing that august body pointed out the fact that while almost every other town in the State had already made arrangements for welcoming home their discharged soldiery so far Bellefonte had not done anything in this respect, and he thought it was up to borough council to take some action. Mr. Walker stated that already the boys were trailing home by ones and twos and there was no outward sign upon the part of the town to give them the glad hand or a welcome home. He suggested that an arch over the street near the depot or even a suspended flag and a big welcome sign would show to the boys when they return that they had not been forgotten.

President Walker stated that he had been under the impression that an organization of citizens had been formed and money raised for that purpose but when apprised of the fact that no definite organization had been made and no money raised, he stated that it was entirely right and proper that the borough should bear the expense of any movement in this direction, and that there ought to be something done to show the boys how much the home people appreciated their services, and to bring the matter to what some definite arrangement president Walker referred it to the Finance committee and Burgess for consultation with leading citizens of the town and thus ascertain the sentiment as to what will be best to do.

Mr. Richard called the attention of council to the fact that there has been one attempted robbery in town and the probability that during the ensuing six months Bellefonte will also feel the wave of lawlessness that just now seems to be sweeping over the cities as well as the smaller towns, and he suggested as a means of better protection the putting on of another policeman for a period of four or six months. The matter was discussed at some length and resulted in the same being referred to the Fire and Police committee and Burgess for consideration and recommendation.

The question of additional fire hose and improved equipment for fire protection was brought up and the Fire and Police committee was instructed to find out definitely just how much good hose is in possession of each fire company and the amount they ought to have. The Water committee reported that in compliance with the notice published two weeks ago notifying all delinquent water consumers that unless the water rental for 1917 was paid at once the water would be turned off, the committee had a man start to turn the water off on Monday, and the result was a number paid their tax and others promised to settle soon, so that the water was not actually closed off of any one that day, and the committee have hopes of getting the entire list cleaned up by next meeting night.

The Finance committee asked for the renewal of notes totalling \$14,300 and after the approval of bills aggregating \$869.50 council adjourned.

Meeting of Group 3, W. S. S.

In response to chairman W. Harrison Walker's call for a meeting of Group No. 3, W. S. S., in Bellefonte last Friday, chairmen were present from Lycoming, Tioga and Potter counties, county superintendents from Centre, Clinton, Cameron, Lycoming, McKean, Potter and Tioga counties, as well as a number of borough superintendents, postmasters and district chairmen. A meeting was held in the court house at ten o'clock in the morning and considerable interest was manifested. The principal speaker at the meeting was Mr. J. Curtis Patterson, of Philadelphia, associate director of war savings, who outlined fully the war savings society plan. Those present were, without question, specially interested in the formation of war savings societies, and the superintendents expressed their willingness to work in harmony with the several county chairmen of W. S. S., in starting a large number of these societies in the public schools in this section of the State.

The whole idea of a society is to begin and continue a systematic system of buying W. S. S. and T. S. The lesson of "thrift" will be taught not only to the children attending the schools, but in Normal schools, colleges, industrial plants, and in fact to every man, woman and child, no matter what his or her business may be. Meetings will be arranged in every county of the group shortly after the Victory loan campaign ends. A strenuous year in the W. S. S. movement is being mapped out, and the real lessons of "thrift" and "savings" will be explained to the people throughout our entire nation.

Chairman Walker entertained the visitors at an informal luncheon at the Bush house after the meeting. Centre county's per capita of W. S. S. up to the week ending March 8th was 92 cents, making Centre third on the list of counties in the Eastern district of Pennsylvania.

Jesse L. Lasky presents Cecil B. DeMille's production, "Don't Change Your Husband," an Artafact picture at the Lyric theatre Wednesday. 12-1t

Plans are being made for the spring rummage sale, which will be held some time during the month of May. Housekeepers are asked to lay aside all discarded furniture or clothing that would be salable at this hospital benefit.

For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.