

Callisth. Smith - inside page (abbreviate)

# The Centre Reporter.

VOL. XXIII.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1919.

NO. 5

## BOYS FROM OVERSEAS WRITE HOME.

### D. Ross Bushman and Carl Ripka Are Enjoying Life in France.

--Other Soldiers' Letters.

From D. Ross Bushman.

(To E. S. Ripka, Centre Hall.)  
Hyerres, Var, France.  
Tours., Dec. 26, 1918.

Dear Friend:

Thought possibly you might be interested in knowing how I spent Christmas. Believe I owe you a letter anyway so will even up scores a little. Mentioned in several letters of having sent me some papers and the day before Christmas received one bundle of them, consisting of a Reporter of the Oct. 24th issue, I think, also the K. G. E. news--was glad for both of them. Mother has also been sending a bundle each week; have received only two of hers but have been getting my letters pretty regularly so haven't much of a kick coming.

Almost dread opening my letters of late as in so many of them have had bad news; think surely the "flu" has let up by this time. From what I can find out think it must be pretty well over in the larger places but still bad in the rural regions. My news, however, is at least four weeks old.

Base Hospital No. 99, of which I happen to be a part at the present time, because of what the flu did or didn't do to me, consists of seven large hotels rented by the U. S. and they are surely fine. While it gets chilly during the evening and night is not cool enough for frost and the days are fine. One sees acres of violets in bloom and large truck patches containing peas, lettuce, etc., also some orange trees with ripe fruit.

On Christmas eve the Red Cross had a little concert in the ball room with a tree nicely trimmed as a centre of attraction. After the concert was over each one was given his stocking or rather pair of them filled with candy and tobacco, then went to my quarters by a path lined with palms. The next day had an especially good dinner and taking it all together was a very much better day than I expected. Of course, couldn't help but think of home quite a bit. Got my Christmas package from mother on the twenty-fourth along with some other mail.

Yesterday several hundred new men came here but understand no more will be admitted on account of giving up the hotels in another month. I am leaving Saturday morning but am not sure of my destination--sounds mighty good if it only proves true.

With best wishes to all,

Pvt. DAVID R. BUSHMAN,  
Base Hosp'l No. 99

Corp. Claude Whitehill Tells of the End.

Corporal Claude L. Whitehill, of Oak Hall Station, in a recent letter to his parents, tells of the finish of the war in the following words:

"I was right on the front when the last shot was fired, and about fifteen minutes afterwards the Germans were over shaking hands with us, and gave us anything that they had. You could hear them yelling for miles and that night they put off rockets which lit up the sky so that you could read a newspaper."

"My first experience was on September 16. We were discovered by an enemy plane and the gas was soon turned on us. On the 25th we started a big drive on the Argonne sector and captured our first village. We were in the drive six days and then hiked about sixty miles to a place where we rested for a couple weeks. Then we went on another drive on the Meuse and were there twenty-one days. The next drive will be the biggest of them all, and I hope they will start it soon. That one leads back across the pond and home."

"I have told you all, so will close."  
"Your son."  
"CLAUDE."

Thomas Horner Writes.

Thomas Horner is a son of Mrs. A. J. Horner, of Youngsville, and formerly of Colyer. He enlisted in the navy and the following is a letter to his mother.

New Port, R. I.  
Jan. 11, 1919.

Dear Mother:

I would have written before but I have not had time. This is the first time off since I have been here. I left Buffalo last Tuesday at 8 p. m. and arrived here at 4 a. m. Thursday. Had a fine time in New York, we rode 12 hours on a Pullman and 8 in a boat. I saw some of the tall buildings in New York City. When we arrived it was kind of misty and we could not see the tops of them about noon.

Saw and rode on the elevated cars and subways.

We left New York at 5 p. m. on the Priscilla. Just as it was getting dark as we were sailing out of harbor the city lights and Statue of Liberty were lit; it was some sight. We sailed under Brooklyn bridge. The boat rode quite smooth but rolled several times. It was

(Continued on next column)

From Carl Ripka.

(Carl Ripka visited in Centre Hall prior to his enlisting in the army. The following letter is to E. S. Ripka, of this place.)

Paris, France.  
Dec. 24, 1918.

Dear Emory:

As I am devoting the afternoon to writing letters I thought I would write you a few lines.

I want to tell you about the great time I had last Saturday a week ago. You know President Wilson visited Paris on that day and I had the pleasure of being at the American reservation at the depot to greet him. Believe me, we boys did give him some cheers, and also General Pershing, who followed. I also marched in the parade led by a bunch of fellows from our company, with a large American flag. We paraded the principal boulevards until we became exhausted and then disbanded. Believe me, we received "beaucoup" (plenty) cheers and "beaucoup" flowers were thrown at us. The movie man took our pictures so if you have the opportunity take them in and see if you can recognize me. I am close behind the flag with a bouquet of carnations thrown out to me by some mademoiselle.

The French simply went wild over the President's visit and the boulevards were packed with joyous crowds who manifested their happiness even to the extent of holding dancing parties in the streets. The mademoiselles would steal any thing they could get a hold of from the Americans for a souvenir and many a poor fellow was minus his cap.

Since I have been in Paris I have seen King George, the king and queen of Belgium, President Poincare, the king of Italy, President Wilson, Marshal Poch and General Pershing, besides a bunch of princes. Believe me, reviewing royal corteges is becoming rather monotonous in this burg.

I went to Versailles two days ago and visited the grand palace of Louis the XIV which truly is a most marvelous building. I have been in the room where the Peace Treaty will be signed and had my hand upon the table upon which it most likely will be signed.

We have a Y. M. C. A. at our hotel now which is making things a great deal more home-like for us. We have a piano, victrola, and "beaucoup" magazines at our disposal for relaxation during idle hours.

We have a Christmas tree for tomorrow and a musical program arranged and are anticipating a real merry Christmas.

Hoping this finds you well and happy and sending best regards to all, I remain,

Yours sincerely,  
CARL.

Pvt. C. G. Ripka,  
327th Supply Co.,  
A. P. O. 702, A. E. F.

(Continued from previous column.)

a large boat; there were about four hundred people on it.

There are about ten thousand men in this camp and more coming every day. They put us right through. I have received my outfit already, I got five full suits, three white suits and two blue suits, underclothes, socks, caps, hats, combs, brushes, thread, needles, shoe polish, 2 pairs shoes, 1 pair boots--every thing that I need. We have a comfortable place to sleep. We sleep in hammocks about six feet from the floor. They are fine to sleep in if one can stay in them, I have not rolled out yet. We have to take them down every day and put them out doors to air, and also our blankets. We got three heavy wool blankets so we sleep warm. We have bags to keep our possessions in and we have to keep them in there or we would not have them long as there are so many they would get mixed.

There are about 3,000 eat in one mess hall. Every man gets all he wants to eat of good substantial food--lots of meat, potatoes, beans, and soups of all kinds.

They have free movies, and the Y. W. C. A. and K. of C. furnish paper, envelopes, and books of all kinds. There are about 200 men writing and reading here now.

We are camping here on an island and the ocean winds are certainly cold. We have not had any snow yet, but it is cold. I have not been on shore and cannot go for a couple of weeks yet. We have to go to church on Sunday morning, and we get the rest of the day on shore after we have been a couple of weeks.

THOMAS.  
U. S. Naval Station,  
7th Reg. 6th Co.,  
New Port, R. I.

Gohl, Rinkenbaugh & Rouse, the Harrisburg eye specialists, will be in Centre Hall, Thursday and Friday, February 6 and 7.

## LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscriber Writes from Illinois.

McCormick, Ill.,  
January 18, 1919.

Editor Reporter:

Just a few lines concerning things in the state of Illinois. We had a good crop of grain last year and a fair crop of potatoes; also raised lots of hogs, which sold for \$17.50 to \$18.00 per hundred; so you see the farmers are making good money these days.

I enjoyed reading the letters from Corporal Claude Whitehill and Roy Smith, published in the Reporter. I am glad these boys came out of the war whole. The letter from D. J. Mitterling, from South Dakota, appearing a few weeks ago, made me feel good.

On the second day of January it was forty years since a number of us Centre county people landed in Illinois. It was one of the coldest days of the year and was enough to nearly turn us back to the old home again; but here we still are and not sick of the state yet. Of the nine who came here in the long ago, five have died and four remain.

We have had some bitter cold weather this winter--as low as thirty-two degrees below zero--but now it is very nice and mild out doors.

We are all glad the war is over. One of my nephews, Henry S. Jordan, is still over there, but writes that he is well. He says he likes the French girls, so he will likely be coming home with one as a bride. Some of our boys from these parts are returning home and we see the effects of the war. One of our boys had his teeth knocked out and was shot through the legs, besides being badly gassed. But he had gone over the top four times and gave a good account of himself as a soldier.

We all know President Wilson will represent us at the Peace Conference in an able manner and strive for the attainment of all that is right and just. He is a God-fearing man and a man in whom we can place our trust.

With best wishes to all old friends, I am,

Yours very truly,  
J. H. JORDAN.

Letter from Minnesota.

Sebok, Minnesota,  
January 20, 1919.

Dear Editor Reporter:

Will send you another year's subscription and to tell you I lived through it all--I mean 1918, war, armistice and influenza. Well, I guess the war is over; I hope so at least, but the flu seemed to take more people than the war ever took. It was awful here in Minnesota. In some parts it took whole families and in other cases it left only one and two out of the family. I took it in the fore part of November and cannot say that I am over it yet. The rest of the family took it two weeks ago, four in number, and you may know that I had a bad time in keeping all things agoing; sick to attend, chores to do, milk four cows, feed four calves, separate the milk, and cook the meals for myself. The others did not want anything, only fancy dishes such as toast, boiled eggs and cocoa and then they would not eat it half the time after I spent my valuable time getting it ready. Well, I kept it up for six or seven days and then they came to their appetites, got up and began to eat better, so it did not take me so long to get the meals. But I lost out on the wood pile. It got pretty low and got pretty cold. One morning it was forty-five degrees below zero and I had to go out and saw wood. I tell you I lived through it all but was hard to bear. I don't want any more influenza for me and my family.

Talk about chores, I did not do so bad on them. I filled an eight gallon can of cream from my four cows in one week through all my troubles and sickness and got \$14.65 per can, so I made a little better than expenses after all. Butter prices and war prices are high here. Butter fat is 77 cents per lb. and fresh eggs, 55c. per dozen; oats, 75c.; barley, 75c.; wheat, No. 1, \$2.08 per bushel; flax, \$3.46; potatoes are cheap--85 cents per hundred pounds. Cattle are very good prices. I sold a cow for \$90 and a hog for \$68. Veal sells for 18 and 20 cents live weight; hay for \$15 per ton, so you see markets are not so slow after all. I keep twenty-two sheep and one buck last year and I sold \$130 worth of wool and thirty-seven lambs at \$14 per head--total \$518; wool and lambs brought me \$678.70. Who says there is no money in sheep? They are the only money makers.

I think the crops were not so good around here last year for we did not get very much rain and it got pretty dry. Hay was only about half a crop; oats, a little better than half but potatoes and beans were good crops. I got ninety bushel of potatoes off one acre and sixteen bushel of beans off one-half acre. The climate is somewhat colder here than in Centre county.

Will close, wishing you and all the readers of the old Centre Reporter a happy and prosperous year.

Yours very truly,  
JOHN H. MERSINGER.

## STATE COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS.

New Buildings to Cost \$270,000, to Replace Those Destroyed by Fire.

Pennsylvania State college is to expend nearly \$300,000 in the erection of new buildings and the extension of the college property in Centre county. The new buildings which will cost about \$270,000 are to replace the power plant and engineering department destroyed by fire several months ago. Expenditures for these were authorized at a meeting of the college trustees in Harrisburg last week, at which time Professor R. L. Sacket, dean of the school of engineering submitted and explained plans for the proposed new engineering department calling for an equipment that will make State college second to none in the United States in this line. This is as it should be. The Pennsylvania institution must continue to maintain its leadership, held so proudly for many years, and it should be the duty of all Pennsylvanians and especially there in the legislature to give the college the support necessary to keep up its high standard.

With the purchase of 189 acres of land adjoining the present college grounds, the institution will hold title to 1,600 acres. The addition will be used as an experimental orchard, thus affording to the agricultural school wider opportunity to continue its most valuable service to the farmers and fruit growers of the state. Much of the present state-wide interest in pomology is due to the experiments and research of State College professors and instructors who in late years have rendered aid, worth thousands of dollars to those engaged in the raising of fruit.

## Help the Armenians.

Before you make up your mind how much you will give toward making up the thirty million dollars asked by the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, read the appended paragraphs which is a part of an address by Charles E. Buey, well known to many of the Reporter readers. He was all over the countries asking for relief during 1917, and spoke from observation when he said:

Probably one million human beings have been blotted out of this world through the instrumentality of the Turk under the domineering command of a so-called Christian ruler in Central Europe--the Kaiser. The evidence is conclusive that Germany sought to do away with this progressive race in the heart of Turkey blocking her eastern plans and so imposed upon the Turks this incredible and criminal act of barbarism.

In the main, the plan of doing away with the Armenian people consisted in systematically taking the able-bodied men from their homes and putting them to death either by shooting or by the sword, or even by crowding them into small boats and drowning them like rats. Then, herding together the remaining women, children and old men and driving them in long caravans down over the plateaus and through the mountain passes to the infected lowlands of the Mesopotamian and Syrian plains. On these journeys the refugees were allowed only the few things they could carry on their backs as they were driven forth from all their stable possessions for a journey that lasted not days nor weeks, but months, even years. And, as General Allenby's forces made their way northward in Palestine and across the Jordan, they encountered groups of these miserable victims who, after two and one-half years of struggle, had gotten down toward the promised land, about ninety per cent. of their members had perished by the wayside.

It is hard to picture the indescribable filth and nauseating stench and dirt of these masses of refugees. I have seen women and children eating the undigested grains out of manure in order to keep alive. Thousands of ragged waifs without father or mother wandering wild over the country just as the unclaimed mongrel dogs of our streets subsisting on the refuse they can find.

## Sunday's Phila. Record.

"The Rough Road," by William J. Locke, which began in last Sunday's "Philadelphia Record" is one of the best war romances we have seen. It is entirely different from the usual type of war story and is written in Lock's best style.

Another fine story, "The Enchanted Barn," will begin in "The Record" next Sunday, February 2. The heroine Shirley Hollister, is as original and charming as she is courageous and high-spirited. To follow her on her adventurous way and learn the secret of the "Enchanted Barn" will give one fresh courage to seek his own pot of gold--and lot of happiness--at the front of the rainbow.

Another fine feature with next Sunday's "Record" is a fine photograph supplement of King Albert of Belgium. The size is 11x15 inches, ready to frame.

The farmers of Pennsylvania are estimated to own \$1,505 automobiles.

## Trial List, February Term.

Commencing Monday, February 24.  
W. G. Runkle, Alfred Walker and Viola Walker vs. John H. Weber, feigned issue.

Williamsport National Bank vs. H. S. Taylor, Assumpsit.  
Martha J. Thomas vs. Penna. R. R. Co., trespass.

A. J. Brant vs. Finberg & Co., appeal.

Hosterman & Stover vs. Sarah E. Homan, assumpsit.

E. S. Bennett vs. C. W. Korman & Son, appeal.

Ellis H. Burly vs. L. H. Musser, assumpsit.

S. B. Stein vs. Penna. R. R. Co., trespass.

Runk & Denison vs. Z. F. Woodring, appeal.

Burdine Butler vs. Leather Brothers, assumpsit.

Lape Coal Co. vs. John C. Dunsmore, trespass.

## Aaronsburg P. O. S. of A. Installation.

District President E. S. Ripka, on Friday evening of last week, installed the following newly elected officers in the P. O. S. of A. Camp in Aaronsburg:

Chas. Limbert, Past President.  
C. D. Frazier, President.  
W. A. Guiswite, Vice President.  
A. S. Musser, Master of Forms.  
W. J. Bower, Recording Secretary.  
W. K. Haines, Financial Secretary.  
J. H. Haines, Treasurer.  
J. H. Wolfe, Conductor.  
H. O. Bower, Inspector.  
W. W. Wance, Guard.  
J. F. Krape, Trustee.  
J. F. Krape, Chaplain.  
W. E. Weaver, Right Sentinel.  
W. J. Burd, Left Sentinel.

## Williamsport to Entertain I. O. O. F.

Although the Pennsylvania Odd Fellows Anniversary association does not meet until Tuesday, April 29th, the city of Williamsport, where the celebration will be held this year, is already making preparations to entertain the big body. Williamsport is expecting 10,000 visitors on that occasion, since celebrations of the Odd Fellows on the anniversary of the founding of Odd Fellowship in America always are attended by great crowds.

The association met in Williamsport last year, but owing to the war it was merely an annual business session, unattended by the usual parade and speeches. This year, however, it is proposed to have a general celebration as in former years. Secretary Harry B. Eberly announces that the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania have accepted the invitation to attend and there will be representatives and lodges present from seventeen counties embraced in the territory from Altoona to Mt. Carmel.

## 46 State College Men Killed in World War.

The Pennsylvania State College has 3,136 stars in her service flag, and forty-six of them are gold. The alumni association office, which has gathered statistics of the Penn State men in service, reported there are 620 commissioned officers, 180 non-commissioned officers and 2,356 privates, including the enlisted personnel of the Students' Army Training Corps.

Of the State College men who gave their lives, twenty-eight of them were officers. Some were killed in action others died from wounds, and a few succumbed to diseases. Thirty-four men were wounded on the field of battle, two were prisoners in German camps, one was badly shell-shocked, three were severely gassed, and three were rescued from torpedoed transports.

## Lillie--Swabb.

Miss Grace Swabb, daughter of Frank Swabb, of Pine Grove Mills, became the wife of Carl Lillie, last Thursday, the wedding having taken place in Baltimore, Md., where the groom is employed as a lineman and where the couple will start housekeeping.

## Wedded Sixty-two Years.

To be happily wedded for a period of fifty years is the experience of few but at Pine Grove Mills is a typical Penna. Valley Dutch couple who have spanned the rare span of sixty-two years of pleasant companionship. They are Frank Bowersox and his wife, Catherine Ocker Bowersox. They were married January 12th 1857 in Middleburg, by Rev. Peter Shindle. Neither was nineteen years old but the groom is now near sixty-two and the bride is only a few months younger. They have followed farming and accumulated enough to live comfortably and pleasantly as long as they are spared. Fifteen years ago they retired and have since been living easily, enjoying good health and continued happiness in each other's fellowship.

The increasing use of the farm tractor has had little effect on reducing the horse and mule power on farms, the decrease in horses being only one and a half per cent. during the past year.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Sunday is ground hog day.  
New line of box paper on sale at the Reporter office.

Prof. D. O. Etters visited the borough schools last Wednesday.

D. W. Bradford, the local farm machinery dealer, has an ad. in this issue of interest to all farmers.

One hundred or more locust fence posts, nearly all first grade, for sale by S. W. Smith, Centre Hall.

Rev. Josiah Sull, of Shenandoah, was in Centre Hall for several days the latter part of last week to arrange for shipping his household goods to his new parish.

Senator S. J. Miller's drug store, at Madera, Clearfield county, was gutted by fire last Wednesday morning. The loss amounted to several thousand dollars.

Messrs. William Homan and Clyde Dutrow were to Camp Lee, Virginia, last week, to purchase several pairs of government mules, but returned without having bought any.

Messrs. H. G. Strohmeyer and E. S. Ripka, members of the local school board, and A. C. Ripka, attended the sessions of the school directors' institute, held in Bellefonte, last Friday.

Henrfd Hendrickson, of Youngsville, visited the T. J. Fleisher home near Tusseyville, on Saturday. He is at present employed at the Titan Metal Works, near Bellefonte, as a machinist.

The Reporter has received an expression of greetings from Lieut. W. "Ned" Keller, dated January 2nd, from "Sunny Italy." Before departing for Italy, Lieut. Keller enjoyed a ten days' leave to visit Paris and Nice. At the latter city the famous resort, Monte Carlo, is located, and Lieut. Keller spent two days there.

The total value of the livestock on Pennsylvania farms on January 1, 1919, is estimated at \$202,650,477.05 according to figures announced by the Bureau of Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The report shows that livestock holdings of the farmers are as follows: Horses, 568,583; mules, 46,282; milch cows, 913,449; other cattle, 617,521; sheep, 862,243; swine, 1,120,930.

If laughter is a panacea for all the human ills, then will those who see "Charley's Aunt", at Garman's on Friday, January 31st, in its new, sparkling and up-to-date musical version be forever immune from bodily and mental trouble. As a "mirth-provoking vehicle it fulfills its mission in no uncertain manner." It is a bubbling spring of humor, and it is refined humor all the time.

Samuel Krape will hold sale of household good at the residence of his brother, A. P. Krape, in this place, on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 1st. Mr. Krape has been employed in Akron, Ohio, where he met with a serious accident some time ago when he stepped into an open elevator shaft and dropped a distance of twelve feet, breaking several ribs and otherwise injuring himself. He has since been unable to do any work.

The Reporter is enjoying a splendid run of advertising. Strange, but true, the advertisers in the main are out-of-town business men who seem to have a greater conception of the value of advertising than our local merchants. We are wondering if the medium of this paper were not present and within easy reach, the local merchants would not be none the fact that a suitable advertising medium was lacking in their own field of selling.

It is because of the thrift and not the intolerance of the Armenians that the ex-Kaiser hissed on the Turkish ruler to massacre them. The Germans feared the Armenians would interfere with their commercial policy--encroach on their trade. It was this that prompted the Kaiser to induce the Turks to destroy the Armenians and their country. The Armenians are the descendants of the oldest Christians and are deserving of all the aid you can give them.

The Lock Haven-Lockport bridge across the Susquehanna river was totally destroyed by fire early Monday morning. The bridge, a wooden structure, fell easy prey to the flames and furnished one of the most spectacular fires ever seen in that community. Practically the entire population of the city gathered to watch the spectacle. As the flames reached all parts of the huge wooden structure the sight was one which will long be remembered. One by one the spans gave way as the heavy timbers were burned through and fell into the river. The bridge was one of the few remaining wooden "covered" bridges in Pennsylvania. It was unique in many ways, its great length making it remarkable. The structure had a total span of 845 feet. It had a wide roadway for vehicles and on the eastern side a covered walk for pedestrians, an extension to the main structure.