

A Liberty Bond Will Aid a St. Helens Boy Who is Fighting for You

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DEER ISLAND SOLDIER IN GALLANT CHARGE

MANY COMRADES GONE

Private Bert Seffert in thick of the fighting in great offensive. No doubt many Columbia county boys participated in the great offensive which has been driving the Germans back towards the Rhine, but the following letter from Private Bert Seffert, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Seffert, of Deer Island, is the first to reach the Mist office giving details of some of the great battle. His letter is dated September 10th and is as follows:

"Dear Dad:—I received your very welcome letter several days ago and was very glad to hear from you. Am feeling pretty good at present and hope all the folks at home are the same. Your letter was dated July 23rd and at that time we were having a very interesting time. On July 15th we went 'over the top' and advanced about seven kilometers (4 1/2 miles). Life sure was interesting for awhile. We went over about 4:35 a. m., the barrage had started at 4:30. So Man's Land resembled the ocean. Shells were flying all around for the boys began to shell us, though the German infantry did not put up much resistance. When we were about half way to their front line, the first bunch came running towards us with their hands up. They were the first of the 3500 prisoners that our regiment took in the following five days. "After about two kilos (1 mile) the machine guns began to get bad. Men beside me were hit, but I was one of the lucky ones. We reached our first objective a little too soon and ran into our own artillery fire. It was here that I had my first narrow escape. I was lying flat on the ground when a shell exploded right in front of me. A piece of it hit my helmet and lodged in the light pack I carried on my back, and I sure felt shaky for awhile.

Going is Bad
"We kept going for four days and things grew worse each day and in my opinion, the last was the worst. There was not many of us left, but we went over just the same. It seems that our battalion was a little ahead of the rest, so naturally they soon had us flanked with machine guns. We advanced up an open field between several strips of woods. When we reached our objective, my corporal was ordered to take ten men and clean up what Germans that could be found in the woods to our right. I was one of the ten. When he established himself on the edge of the woods, he ordered me to go back and report the fact to the sergeant.

Has Narrow Escape
By this time our boys were dug in and out of sight, so all the Germans could see was me in that field and they sure turned loose on me and believe me, I stepped some for awhile. I'd run a little way and then drop flat and then up again and run some more and a little faster. I have not yet been able to figure how I got out of there alive.

Many Missing
"We were relieved the next night and our company sure looked different when they checked us up. We had only four or five non-commissioned officers and one captain left and about fifty privates. Some of the missing are back now and we are all crazy to get another stab at Kaiser Bill.

"I am a gunner now, that is, I have an automatic rifle which is a young machine gun which shoots about 400 times a minute. It sure is goodbye to Fritz if he ever runs against us. "I must close now. Write again soon.
Your son,
"PVT. BERT E. SEFFERT,
"Co. C., 16th Inf.
"A. E. F., France."

Young Duncan who is on the U. S. S. Louisiana, one of Uncle Sam's big war vessels, writes to his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Duncan of Warren, that he likes the navy life. His letter was written from New York and said (in part): "We got in here about midnight Saturday and have been busy since then taking on coal. We took on about 2000 tons Thursday and are taking 1000 tons

GRAND JURY RETURNS MANY INDICTMENTS

Ham Kautzman DrDaws 18 Out of 21 Returned

The Columbia county grand jury, consisting of George Wilson, St. Helens; John W. Huffman, Mayor; John Havilick, Scappoose; Peter E. Lovegren, Quincy; W. G. Howatson, Clatskanie and Paul Morel, Goble, returned 21 indictments. Eighteen of these were against Ham Kautzman, publisher of the Columbia Herald. The indictments charge Kautzman with criminal libel and printing obscene matter in his paper. Kautzman pleads not guilty to each and every indictment and was placed under \$1000 bond. His case or cases, will probably be heard at this term of court.

The case of the State of Oregon vs. Knight was called Thursday and the defendant appeared for sentence. He was fined \$250 and costs. The case was appealed.

Several other cases of minor importance have been passed upon, the more important cases being set for trial tomorrow and next week. It is probable that this session of the court will be at least three weeks as some civil cases are to be heard after the criminal docket is cleaned up.

more today, so I guess we are going across to "over there" to do convoy duty. I was awfully seasick coming up from Philadelphia, but expect to get used to the sea trips very soon. "I have not been ashore here yet, as not many of us can get leave at one time and I will have to take my turn. Yesterday (Sunday) a party went ashore in the ship's gasoline



SEAMAN FLOYD DUNCAN U. S. S. Louisiana

launch. When they started back, they ran out of gasoline, but could not buy any in New York on account of "gasoleneless Sunday" so had to send back to the ship for the steam launch.

"We have plenty of work to do now with all of our big gun drills, and other ship work. You asked me what I wanted for Xmas. Some good socks and a good jersey will come in very handy. I have two good jerseys now, one came from the Red Cross and I drew another from the stores, so I can get along all right until Xmas.

"My white suits got awfully dirty around ship and I have a big washing to do tonight. I hate the job, but it MUST be done.

"I see that Trueman has gone to the navy. It is a good place for him and others, for these places make a man out of a fellow. I haven't received any mail for several days. You can't imagine how we feel when we fall to get a letter, but some people won't write to us until we write. I guess they do not know how our time is taken up, else they would not wait for us to write.

"I received the Mista you sent and was certainly glad to get them. By the time you get this, I will be on my way "over there" and it may be several weeks before you hear from me again. Love to all.

"I remain as ever,
"FLOYD DUNCAN."
Duncan's letter was dated September 23rd and it is probable his vessel was a part of the convoy in which was the ill-fated Ticnderoga.

GASOLENE ORDINANCE PASSED BY COUNCIL

TO PROTECT DOCKS

Fire Marshal of Emergency Fleet Makes Complaint as to Docks

At their meeting Monday night, the city council passed ordinance 228 which is to regulate the storing and keeping of gasoline and other inflammable liquids within the city of St. Helens. The ordinance as is published elsewhere in this edition of the Mist, makes it incumbent upon the gasoline dealer who keeps gasoline more than a period of five hours, to have it stored in properly constructed tanks such as may be approved by the Board of Underwriters and sufficient-ly removed from other structures and buildings as to meet the requirements of the safety of the city.

The passage of the ordinance, which was read for the first and second times in July, was brought about by a letter received from E. R. Campbell, district fire marshal of the United States Shipping Board, in which he stated:

Hon. Magnus Saxon, Mayor St. Helens, Oregon, Sir:

1. We wish to point out the deplorable condition of the docks at the foot of Cowlitz street in St. Helens, which are owned by James Sheldon and E. T. Ballagh.

2. Gasoline is allowed to remain on these docks in fifty gallon drums, with hay, boxes of straw and trash around them, and the docks are open to the public.

3. This condition is an exceedingly great fire hazard to the McCormick Mill, adjacent to these docks. This mill is getting out lumber for three shipyards of the United States Government, so naturally, we are very much interested in the protection of this plant.

4. We have written Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Ballagh recommending that they clean up their docks and keep them clean. Also, that the gasoline be stored according to the Underwriter's standard, that is, that the tanks containing gasoline be buried under ground, with proper pumps attached. And we would ask that you assist us in seeing that these recommendations are carried out.

5. Thanking you for your cooperation, I am,

E. R. CAMPBELL, District Fire Marshal.

The mayor instructed the recorder to call the roll on the final passage of the ordinance and Councilmen McDonald, Plummer and Chapman voted in the affirmative. Councilman Allen was absent, but Mayor Saxon added his endorsement when he promptly signed the ordinance.

Under the call for reports of committees, Councilman Chapman stated he had an estimate on the building of a city dock. The plans provide for the building of a dock 40x60 with a driveway 200 feet in length and the estimated cost was in the neighborhood of \$2200. The mayor, whose opposition to the dock has been only because he thought a good dock could not be built for \$5000 was in favor of going ahead with the project and inviting contractors to submit plans and bids for a dock not exceeding in cost \$5000 and the councilmen agreed with the mayor that this was the best course to pursue and passed a resolution carrying out the mayor's idea as to advertising for bids and asking the bond companies the necessary steps to take in order to sell the \$5000 of bonds.

The mayor and councilmen seem convinced that a public and well kept dock was an absolute necessity, especially after reading the letter of the Shipping Board's fire marshal and all were of the opinion that the dock should be started with the least possible delay.

Several permits for the construction of new houses and the repair of old ones were granted and other matters of minor importance acted upon before the council adjourned.

Wednesday evening the council met in special session and contracted with Morris Brothers of Portland to deliver them \$5000 in bonds. The bonding firm is to pay par and the rate of interest is 6 per cent which is very reasonable, considering present conditions.

POLITICAL KETTLE BEGINNING TO BOIL

CANDIDATES ACTIVE

Chief Interest is in Three-Corpered Race for County Judge

As Tuesday, November 5th, Election Day, draws nearer, there is considerable activity among the various candidates, and they are busy meeting as many voters as possible.

James McKay, democratic candidate for county commissioner, has an announcement this week and says he will make an active campaign.

The chief and most interesting race, however, is for the county judgeship, and that is the contest which attracts the most attention, as it is almost a certainty that the entire Republican ticket, with the possible exception of the candidate for this one office, will be elected. Martin White is working hard to bring about the result he wishes, and W. J. Fullerton has recently become very enthusiastic over his prospects. He is on the jury and consequently will not be able to get out as much as he would like to, but is using every opportunity to meet the voters and press his claims. George Conyers is not making much of a show, but is doing a lot of quiet work. Recently he was in St. Helens and met many people and he left the city much assured at the reception given him.

Of course it is impossible to pick the winner, but it is the general opinion that it is anybody's race and the result cannot be foretold with any degree of accuracy.

If the election had been held several weeks ago, it is more than probable that Martin White would have landed the plum, but with the two other candidates having come to life and getting in some hard campaigning, the result is now much in doubt, and there are many who prophesy that the race will be exceedingly close.

The Mist is endeavoring to secure forecasts from the several sections of the county and hopes to publish the unbiased opinions from close observers in the next issue.

Election is more than two weeks distant and some hard work can be done in that time and it is certain that all of the candidates will try for a whirlwind finish.

STATE CHAIRMAN TONGUE IN ST. HELENS

Predicts Republican Victory—McNary and Withycombe Winners

Thomas H. Tongue, Jr., state chairman of the Republican committee, was a visitor in St. Helens Thursday. He is optimistic over reports received from different parts of the state which he thinks insures the election of Senator McNary and Governor Withycombe. Mr. Tongue says that he does not think the people will consider making a change at this time, especially in view of the splendid record for patriotic war work by both the senator and governor. Both Senator McNary and Governor Withycombe, he says, have decided to stay at their desks and attend to government and state affairs instead of conducting a vigorous campaign, which should be unnecessary since the voters of Oregon know the caliber of the two men who are now faithfully and capably serving them.

MORE MEN CALLED FOR THE ARMY

To Report at St. Helens on Monday, October 21st

The following named men have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to report for military duty on or about October 21st, at St. Helens:

- Richard Schwab, Riverdale, Nebr.
- Frank Schwab, Riverdale, Nebr.
- Thomas N. Dunlap, Mist, Oregon.
- Herbert O. Wilson, Rainier, Ore.
- William C. Coons, Warren, Oregon.
- Oscar W. Tucker, Warren, Oregon.
- Pete Domeyer, Portland, Oregon, care Iralda.

Alternates—Roy J. Russell, Astoria, Oregon. Lincoln I. G. Lillich, Quincy, Ore. Just where these men will be sent has not been determined.

WAR WORK FIRST IS GOVERNOR'S SLOGAN

Too Busy to Make Campaign—Soldier's Welfare is Aim

Declaring that he has neither the time nor the inclination to travel up and down the state soliciting votes, Governor James Withycombe, Republican nominee for re-election, in a statement to the voters of the state, issued today, announced definitely that he will not wage a personal campaign.

Governor Withycombe has always had the reputation of being one of the first state officials at his desk in the morning, but those who frequent the State House note that the Oregon executive has, since the accumulation of so many duties related to the war program, been probably busier than ever before.

Governor Withycombe says: "No matter how active other candidates for political offices may be I am determined now, as I was at the time of the primary election last May, not to conduct a personal campaign. I shall not have the time, the money nor the inclination to go up and down the state, figuratively or personally, in solicitation of votes. This is no time to seek political preference purely for selfish gain and aggrandizement. I feel that all spare time and all spare resources should be devoted now toward winning the war. It would be positively unpatriotic to spend large sums of money trying to divert the public mind from war-time duties to thoughts of politics. Both the money and the effort should be utilized in more commendable ways.

"For nearly four years I have been

privileged to serve the people of Oregon as governor, endeavoring to give the state a sound, dignified, business-like administration. I believe that I have kept my pledges. I am willing to allow the record of my four years stewardship to stand as my only campaign document. The people have that record before them and upon it they must base their judgment for the future.

"For many months I have been extremely busy on the organization of war work. This work is by no means completed, nor will it be for an indefinite time to come. I would like to complete this task. I would like to be Governor of Oregon when our boys come victoriously from war, for then I would be in a position to enforce the unwritten guarantee that these returned soldiers and sailors shall receive their just rewards and that they shall be accorded the proper reception as they step back into civilian life. My heart and my hand have been and will continue to be in this war work, just as my heart and my hand have been and always will be with our Oregon boys.

"Throughout my administration I have done honestly what I have believed to be my duty. I shall continue to do so. If the voters of Oregon believe that I have served them faithfully and well and if they feel that I can be depended upon to give the very best that is in me in approaching the enlarged and more important developments that will come with the close of the war, I shall indeed appreciate an expression of confidence and shall strive diligently to merit the endorsement of re-election. It is for the people to say and I feel that they are qualified to pass judgment without the disturbance and interference of a personal campaign."



GOVERNOR JAMES WITHYCOMBE

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC WELL IN HAND

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN

Schools, Theatres and Churches Are Closed—Gatherings Under Ban

Acting upon orders received from the state board of health and with the view to prevent the spread of the influenza, all theatres, churches and schools in St. Helens have been closed and public gatherings in buildings, lodge meetings, etc., have been placed under the ban.

The situation in St. Helens is not alarming and while there are several persons who are seriously sick, the majority of cases coming to the attention of the doctors, according to information given the Mist by a resident physician, are cases of grippé, which if properly and promptly looked after, will respond readily to treatment.

Mayor Saxon issued a proclamation Monday calling on the people to use every means to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The people are requested to avoid all unnecessary gatherings until the present epidemic has subsided and the people of St. Helens are cheerfully obeying the orders of the Board of Health and the request of the mayor.

The schools, churches and theatres will remain closed until further orders and Dr. Ross does not think they will be re-opened within the coming week.

In some sections of the state, the epidemic has increased, while in others, health authorities have the situation well in hand, and Dr. Ross does not think there is occasion to become unduly alarmed. Elsewhere in the Mist is an article by Surgeon General Blue which tells how to prevent influenza and how to treat it. The article is well worth reading, remembering and following.

EDWIN NORDIN VIC-TIM OF PNEUMONIA

Succumbs to Pneumonia After Short Illness

Edwin Nordin, aged 26, died Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock. Pneumonia which followed influenza, was the cause and the young man was ill only three days.

Nordin, accompanied by his wife, came down from Portland Saturday afternoon. After his marriage to Miss Goldie Hattan, which occurred on Saturday, October 5th, the young couple went to Portland, where Mr. Nordin was employed as rigger on one of the McCormick vessels being completed there. He worked up to Saturday noon and then came to St. Helens. Both he and his wife were sick but they went to their newly prepared home in Lottville. Sunday morning Nordin came to Dr. Ross office for some medicine for his wife. He complained of being sick and the doctor took his temperature and found it to be 105, and he was sent home and put to bed. Monday he had a well developed case of pneumonia and Tuesday noon succumbed. Nordin had a weak heart and possibly this was the cause of his sudden death.

While he was battling for life, his bride of only ten days lay in an adjoining room, very ill. She was not informed of the death of her husband and that afternoon taken to the Good Samaritan hospital so she could secure the best of treatment.

Edwin Nordin was well known in St. Helens. He and his father conducted a jewelry store here for sometime, and later went to New Mexico. When the United States entered the war, Nordin joined the navy and served until discharged on account of having received injuries while aboard his ship in Atlantic waters. He came to St. Helens and entered the employ of the St. Helens Shipbuilding Company and has resided here since that time. He was a clean, honorable young fellow and his untimely end is the occasion of much sorrow to his many friends and acquaintances here. Besides his wife, he leaves a father, who resides in New Mexico and a mother in Idaho.

The funeral was conducted Thursday.

(Continued on page eight)