

NEWS FROM THE SOLDIER BOYS AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

Interesting Extracts From Letters
Written by A. O. Barnett of
Company C.

Interesting excerpts from letters recently received by Mrs. A. O. Barnett from her soldier husband, who is mess sergeant with C company at Brownsville, Texas:

We have been having rains ever since we got here. Before that the country had experienced a six months drouth. It isn't so awfully hot. We get all of the ice water we want to drink once a day—that helps a lot.

There does not seem to be much excitement about war down here. A couple of nights ago there was a big search light playing back and fourth across the sky but no one seemed to know what it was for. The Mexicans are on the other side of the river digging trenches. On this side our troops are stationed all along the river with machine guns, but there is nothing doing.

Our company was issued 10,000 rounds of cartridges yesterday. Don't know what we will do with them unless we go to the rifle range and practice up a bit. I hope we soon do get some rifle practice, instead of so much drilling.

I can hear the machine guns spouting this morning. The machine gun company goes out for practice about twice a week. They make a lot of noise.

We go for a four mile march on the road in the morning at 6:45 and get back in an hour. After a fifteen minute rest we drill until 10:45; this is followed by an hour spent at non-com. school. We then eat dinner and rest until 3:45 because of the heat. From that time until 6 o'clock we drill. After that nothing to do until tomorrow. But the privates have to grub sage brush for two or three hours every day, so you can see we are busy most of the time. We had a ten mile hike this forenoon.

The boys are signing the pay roll tonight for July and I think we will get paid Monday.

They sure do have some funny houses here. They are built about like a barn, that is, they have just one covering of boards and no plastering. Some of the poorer ones just have straw roofs.

The people down here say that all the Mexicans that have been killed on this side are Carranza men and that Villa is not mixed up in the raids, that the officers, who have been killed, all have Carranza papers on them.

The boys have been busy catching scorpions and horned toads. The toads are funny things; they do not hop but run like a rat or a mouse.

"Pete" caught a horned toad this afternoon. They are harmless and they say that if a person will keep one tied up for a while it will get tame and follow one around like a

dog. One of the boys in Company H has a crawfish that is two feet long. Some of the boys of some of the companies have burros that they have bought from the Mexicans. They sell them from \$1.50 to \$3 a piece. One company has a team of them for which they paid four dollars. They make the funniest noise in the night when they get started to braying.

The boys caught three tarantulas yesterday and put them in a wire screen fly-trap. Tarantulas live in small holes in the ground. The boys pour water in the holes, then hold a glass jar over the hole and the tarantula jumps out into the bottle. The body of a tarantula is about as big as a silver dollar. They have a bald spot in the middle of their back and their legs are covered with hair. They look to me like over grown spiders.

You spoke of sending me a box of cats. I don't know what to tell you to send unless it would be some "hot" cookies or some fudge. I have plenty of smoking tobacco and enough to eat—what more could a man want?

I was sick for a few days but am alright now. The meat that we get is liable to make one sick if they eat too much of it.

Tell all my friends in Webster City "hello" for me. It is now time to eat supper, so goodbye for this time.

A. A. Wicks.

Albert Augustus Wicks was born in Ullysses, Tompkins county, N. Y., Nov. 17, 1835, and was therefore, almost 81 years of age. His father was Benjamin D. Wicks, who in those early days operated a boat upon the Erie Canal, which was then in its infancy. His mother, Emeline Vander, was descended from the hardy Holland Dutch race, and her rugged, characteristic honesty marked strongly her descendants. When Mr. Wicks was but four years of age, his father went to return his boat, and received therefor a large sum of money. He disappeared, and no one was ever able to unravel the mystery—but it has always been supposed that he was made the victim of foul play. The mother being left with a family of eight children found life indeed a hard place, and the children were not all kept together. Mr. Wicks making his home with relatives part of the time. The family consisted of four brothers, Wm. E., David H., Peter and George, and three sisters, Mrs. Sarah Colver, Mrs. Rhoda Clapp, and Mrs. Catherine Davis, all of whom have preceded him in their journey to the great beyond: One brother, George, was a resident of Hamilton county for many years, and the last sister, Mrs. Catherine Davis, died in Boston so recently that Mr. Wicks never knew of her demise.

He stayed in New York, near Syracuse, until he was about 19 years of age, and in March, 1855, came to Waupun, Wis., to work at the carpenter's trade with an old neighbor

TWENTY YEARS AGO

in the Freeman-Tribune.

From the Freeman-Tribune of Aug. 12, 1896.

The formal opening of the fine Methodist parsonage Friday evening brought out a large crowd in spite of the extremely sultry weather. Supper was served by the ladies of the church and a most pleasant time enjoyed by the large crowd present.

The New Grand Central hotel is putting in a system of electric call bells, and making up a new directory for the office. The calls are to be worked by a clock, so arranged as to ring the bell when the hour for the call arrives. It is a most unique and ingenious invention, possessing both utility and accuracy, and will be in operation in two or three weeks.

The dedication of the French Independent church, situated four miles east of Woodstock, will take place on the 23rd at 10:30 o'clock a. m. A free dinner will be served to all at Mr. Kastler's grove on the north side of the church. There will be two preaching services, in English and French, one as above mentioned and the other after dinner at 2 or 3 o'clock.

Bert Gregory, the handsome barber in the employ of Frank Dixon, who has been visiting friends in Dakota and Minnesota during the past month, arrived home last evening.

Mrs. J. R. Compton arrived home from the camp up near River Bend this morning. The rest of the campers are having a good time and will remain until Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Heron entertained a party of ten or twelve couples of young people at a picnic

from New York, one Lyman Urdike. Here he met the niece of Mr. Urdike, Miss Emily Adelia Cleveland, whom he married Oct. 9, 1856, and whose splendid Christian womanhood was a never failing source of strength to her husband and family.

Until 1866, the Wicks family made their home at Waupun, and it was there, in April, 1856, that Mr. Wicks joined the Baptist church, of which he has ever since been a loyal and consistent member and for many years a devoted officer.

Put the civil war broke out during this period and when, after the dark days of the second battle of Bull Run more volunteers were needed, he heeded not the call of home and kindred, but volunteered to serve his country, enlisting in August, 1862, with Co. H., 29 Wis. Volunteers.

His division was sent down the western frontier, and through the long tedium of plans and marches, of delays and foiled attempts to take Vicksburg, Mr. Wicks served as a brave and strong defender of Grant's plans. When the final plan was being worked out, and Grant's magnificent scheme of landing below Vicksburg, was surprising everybody, Port Gibson must be stormed. During this engagement, on May 1, 1863, Mr. Wicks was wounded so severely in the shoulder that he was unable to

at Bone's mill yesterday in honor of Mr. H's sister, who is visiting in the city.

George Cooney and family returned yesterday from their two month's visit in Illinois. They had a pleasant time and came back enjoying good health.

Miss Clo Scriven entertained the members of the Sweet Sixteen club at the family home on west Division street last evening. The lawn was beautifully illuminated with Chinese lanterns and refreshments were served. The young ladies report a delightful time.

D. L. O'Brien and mother, Mrs. J. M. O'Brien, Sr., are now snugly domiciled in their handsome new home on west Elm street.

Friday was Universalist day on the picnic calendar. And the old fair ground was the place chosen. Doubtless a more distant and less familiar locality would have been selected but for the intense heat and the ever wakeful dread of storm. The day will be remembered as a scorcher among the many sweltering days of this remarkable season. There was, however, a good attendance of the families represented in the S. S. of St. Paul's church. At noon the entire party spread the contents of their lunch baskets under the oak trees and enjoyed a most excellent lunch. Phil Reuillard furnished the ice cream for the party and the little people pronounced it a huge success. Owing to the intense heat the literary and musical program was completely wilted and did not revive during the day.

light longer. He was honorably discharged from service on Nov. 7, 1864. In June, 1866, the family removed to Hamilton county, residing near Hook's Point, where they lived for a little more than two years. The sterling integrity of Albert Wicks made a strong appeal to his new found neighbors and friends, and in November, 1868, he was elected clerk of courts of Hamilton county, an office which he filled in an unusually satisfactory manner for twelve years—a record which has probably never been equaled in the same office in this county.

When the Baptist church of this city was reorganized in 1870, Mr. Wicks was one of the charter members and has been a deacon of this church ever since.

Mrs. Wicks died in this city on Oct. 7, 1909, and since then the deceased has lived much of the time with his son Charles, at Billings, Montana, making frequent visits to Webster City, where he rejoiced in the love of a host of friends.

Four children—Mrs. M. E. Jones, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, H. N. Wicks, of Des Moines, C. E. Wicks of Billings, Montana, and Mrs. M. McFarland of this city—are left to mourn the taking away of a father whose life was one of uprightness and truth, and who walked the long journey of 80 years in reverent obedience to the teachings of Christ.

His death, occasioned by paralysis, occurred after a five month's siege of illness, in Guthrie, Oklahoma, at the home of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Jones, on Aug. 9th. His last days were long to him, clouded with the unrest of his illness, but in his rational moments he talked of his passing beyond and was happy to go in the calm resignation of one whose faith reached beyond this life.

"Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar when I put out to sea;
But such a tide, as moving, seems asleep,
Too full for sound or foam
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home."

An Unsolved Problem.

Davenport Times: Ever since the pioneer days there has been trouble in county seat towns of the smaller size about hitching posts. Merchants have objected to having approaches to their stores blocked. And now a new form of the old trouble has appeared. It is the question of where and for how long automobiles may be parked on the city streets. Some cities are setting apart certain sections of little used streets for parking purposes. The multiplication of automobiles is sure to bring about more strict regulation in regard to parking.

For Sale Cheap.

Five passenger Reo auto with lights and starter. Would take a good horse and buggy on it. S. B. Bateman. 1043t1f1.

Cut glass and clocks at Teed's. d-f-tf

IN DANGER OF LOSING THE REST ROOM

Financial Matters are Annoying—
Difficult to Raise Funds to
Support It.

Webster City stands now in a position to lose her Rest Room. This fact was made known yesterday. The financial condition of the Commercial League is the thing responsible for this situation and unless something tangible is done at once the Rest Room will close October 1st.

The up-keep of the Rest Room has been since the beginning, almost two years ago, around \$55 per month, \$29 of which has been furnished by the board of supervisors and the remainder by the Commercial League. The room since its opening day has averaged from 500 to 900 guests per month, among whom were travelers, innumerable babies and small children, but the greater per cent of whom were shoppers from small towns nearby.

"The closing of the Rest Room in Webster City would be a crime," said a prominent business man today. "If the business men of Webster City would just go down there and look upon the register and read the larger number of names coming here from other towns they would be convinced that we can not let this thing go."

The rooms have furnished a place of rest and have furnished toilet facilities for countless women and girls employed in the business district who have had no other place to go and whose comfort and health will actually suffer, should the room proposition be abandoned.

The rental of the rooms which comprise a large sitting room, a sizable resting room and toilet rooms, is \$200 per year in advance. The salary of the matron of the room is \$25 per month and the other expenses of the room are: laundry work, general up-keep and incidentals.

A Rest Room in Webster City should no more be abandoned than the park system, with its attending expense of up-keep. It is a necessity to the thousands of women with little children down town shopping through the year. If the public could go through the room once a day during the year, as has the writer of this sketch, and see the baby cribs filled with sleeping babies away from flies and dust, the mothers lying on the couches placed in the rooms; if they could have seen the dozens of worn and tired travelers who gratefully refreshed themselves by an hour's rest at the place, there would be no more difficulty in raising the funds necessary for its up-keep than there is in raising money for any charitable purpose.

There are approximately one hundred federated club women in this city; without any doubt each woman would give \$2 during the year, as the club women do in other towns.

The establishment of a police matron would take care of the salary of the rest room matron who might be matron and police matron combined. While the office of police matron may not be necessary in Webster City every day in the year, it is often needed in some way.

Already Mrs. Robison, the present rest room matron, has filled the office usually taken by a police matron, in counselling unfortunate girls, in finding work for destitute women and in countless other capacities. No better woman for the position could be found in the city. With the allowance of a salary for the Police Matron, the remainder of funds necessary, could easily be raised by public subscription or by some other means. The Rest Room should be a permanent asset to Webster City and one of her most valuable.

Discharged Men Home.

Perry Norton and George Yaus, both members of the Second Regiment band, who were left in Des Moines when their regiment went from Camp Dodge to Brownsville, Texas, have arrived home to stay. Mr. Norton came home Sunday night, having received his discharge because he has a family dependent upon him. Mr. Yaus returned Friday night, having been discharged because his term of enlistment has just expired. In order to remain with the boys he would have had to re-enlist for a term of six years and this he did not care to do.

For sale, house on one acre lot opposite Henry Cordes' place in Kamrar. Household goods at private sale. Also the southeast 70 acres on the O. F. Farr farm. Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Farr, Kamrar, Iowa. 17f4*

The cigars you want are at Teed's. d-f-tf

A Trip to Clarion.

A Freeman-Tribune man drove up to Clarion Sunday and on the way, three or four miles this side of that town, saw two fine white turkeys in the road picking up some oats that had been dropped from a passing wagon. A toot of the auto horn and the turkeys scampered into the weeds at the side of the highway. When returning home a few hours later one of the birds lay dead, having been crushed by a passing auto. It was probably worth \$2, and ten to one the driver that killed it need not have done so had he exercised ordinary care.

Clarion is one of the good growing towns of central Iowa. It now has a population of perhaps 3,000. Last year it erected one of the finest high school buildings in this part of the state, at a cost of \$60,000 or \$70,000. This building is so much better than Webster City's high school that comparisons are unpleasant. They are also erecting a fine hotel. One that will cost perhaps \$60,000. It is a credit to the town and will be appreciated by the traveling public. George and Joe McCasky, late of this city, are also building a fine building. They are getting along well and are making money. The family of Clarence McCicker, who moved to Clarion from this city four years ago, are well pleased with their new home town and are prospering.

Ants! Hoodoo paper at Teed's. d-f-tf

Taken Home to Kamrar.

F. H. Alexander was taken to his home in Kamrar Friday from Clear Lake, where he has been spending the past few weeks. Mr. Alexander made the trip from Mason City to Eagle Grove by train and was met at the latter place by his brother, Att. Alexander of Jewell, who took him the rest of the way in the latter's car to avoid the somewhat long wait in Eagle Grove for the night train. The attack of kidney trouble with which Mr. Alexander was afflicted last winter was the primary cause of his decline in health, but his recent serious illness was the result of an acute attack of indigestion, during which he lay unconscious for some time. Mr. Alexander stood the trip home well. His condition is much improved at present and the outlook is very encouraging—all of which will be good news to the many friends of the family.

If you want your watch to keep time, take it to Teed & Teed. d-f-tf

Wild Cat Cave Visitors.

Wild Cat cave, over on the Des Moines river, one of the natural beauty spots of this vicinity, was the scene of many picnic parties Sunday. Although the drop in temperature made wraps very comfortable while riding, the day was bright and sunny and the pleasure of having hot coffee prepared over a nearby camp fire added to the joys of dinner partaken of out of doors. Picknickers from this city included the families of Wilson Walton, A. H. Horn, Guy Stebbins, J. H. Kane, Meade Hughes and Weldon Helmick and the Misses Maude and Minnie Helmick.

Assisting on Freeman-Tribune.

Mrs. Effie McKinlay-Kantor is off to Clear Lake for a vacation of a week or two and during her absence, S. W. Mitchell, superintendent of the Duncombe schools, will assist on the reporter staff of the Freeman-Tribune. Mr. Mitchell has had considerable experience as a newspaper man and has evidently spoiled a good editor in joining the ranks of the pedagogues. As Mr. Mitchell is a comparative stranger to our people, we hope our friends will feel free to assist him as much as they can in his search for local news items.

Prof. C. L. Jackson and wife are now packing their household furniture preparatory to moving to New Sharon, Iowa, where Mr. Jackson will be superintendent of schools this year. They have spent the summer with relatives at Gilmore City and Morningside. Mr. Jackson was the principal of the Webster City high school the past year and his work here is held in high regard by the people of this city. It will be a matter of regret to their many friends that these estimable people are to leave here. The place at New Sharon is a promotion for Mr. Jackson, both in salary and position.

The Universalist ladies aid society will meet with Mrs. L. L. Treat on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. All ladies are urged to be present, as there is business of importance to come before the society.

Lost, in court house park, a pair of ball-bearing roller skates. Finder please leave at this office. 12d2f1*

Diamond, ruby, pearl, sapphire or any kind of ring desired, at Teed's. d-f-tf

HAS GIVEN IOWANS EXCELLENT MUSIC

W. H. Cook of This City in Commendatory Article in Register and Leader.

Under a Webster City date line, a commendatory and well deserved article concerning W. H. Cook of this city, appeared in the Sunday Register and Leader. Accompanying the write up is a splendid picture of Mr. Cook. The article follows:

"The man in this city who has put Webster City on the map perhaps more than any other citizen is William Henry Cook, who for a period of five or six years has put on a series of musical courses in this city which attracted the attention of the musical people of Paris, France and also of Berlin.

The musical journals of those cities have borne complimentary notices of the impresario in the little town of 6,000 inhabitants who had the courage to put on alone, courses offering such attractions as Mmc. Schumann-Heink, The Kneisel String quartet, Cecil Fanning, a baritone of international fame, Alice Nielson, David Bispam and many others. Not that the venture has ever proven a financial success, for the most expensive courses have not paid out entirely, but the fact that Mr. Cook has procured the celebrities for the little mid-western town, packed the opera house where the musicales were held, and brought special trains into the city from a score of Iowa towns, makes the man one in 10,000 for his philanthropic motives.

Not content with the class of music which was so often offered this city and knowing that he had the support of a substantial number of citizens with musical tastes, Mr. Cook went ahead with his plans shouldering the expense, the worry and the uncertainty of the situation all alone.

In 1895, he presented Emil Liebling in piano recital—the first composer who had ever appeared in the city. The venture was successful and Liebling was presented again in 1896 and in 1897. Then elapsed a period when, discouraged by the unprofitableness of expensive concerts, Mr. Cook presented no celebrities until 1909, when he secured Bruno Steindel, of the Thomas orchestra and the Chicago Symphony orchestra, one of the world's most distinguished violinists.

Mr. Cook is a musical genius, reveling in the musical atmosphere he lives in. Mr. Cook is assisted by his wife, who is a musician of ability and a teacher of piano, also by his daughter, Miss Rosalind, who as both pianist and violinist exhibits marked ability. She departs soon for Chicago to pursue her musical studies.

All things musical in Webster City naturally rotate round the Cook Piano shop, where musical appreciation and sympathy is given whenever merited.

Finds "An Old Settler."

J. H. Higbee of this city, who has been working upon a farm in Independence township during the past few days, found a weed growing upon the place which is an "old time settler" in Iowa. Mr. Higbee says this weed is called buffalo nettle and it used to be quite prolific in this state thirty-five or more years ago. The plant was something new to the Independence farmer and was the only one of the kind upon his place. He had noticed the weed growing all during the present season and concluded to let it alone and find out if possible what it was. He called Mr. Higbee's attention to it and the latter recognized it as buffalo or "bull" nettle. The plant has innumerable seeds upon it and if permitted to ripen would spread very rapidly. Mr. Higbee dug up the weed, brought it to town, put it in a receptacle and it is now on exhibition at the Hamilton County State Bank.

Has Important Position.

Friday's Chicago Tribune contained the following item in relation to Miss Loucen Pattee, a former Webster City girl and a niece of Ed J. Brown of this city: Miss Loucen Pattee, who for a number of years taught German and French in the Oak Park high school, has been appointed dean of women of Cincinnati university.

For the last eight years Miss Pattee has been principal of the Munich School for Girls, a private institution for Americans. When the war broke out she entered the American Red Cross hospital of Munich and served in it until last May.

She is at present visiting her brother, F. H. Pattee, in Evanston. Bracelet watches at Teed's. d-f-tf

IOWA STATE FAIR AND EXPOSITION

Aug. 23-Sept. 1, 1916

The 1916 fair will be all that other fairs have been and more.
Many new features will be offered, both in educational lines and in the way of entertainment.

THE HORN OF PLENTY will be reproduced exactly as it appeared at the recent Pacific Exposition.
A COW TEST EXHIBIT, a feature new, practical, instructive and entertaining for the younger generation. Boys and Girls' Club Work, Boys' Judging Contests, Baby Health Contests, Boys' Camp, and lectures and demonstrations on subjects of interest to the young.

THE STOCK GROWER will enjoy the Greatest Exhibit of Live Stock to be seen in the entire country.

THE MAN INTERESTED IN POWER FOR THE FARM should see the Tractor Show, Power Hall and the unending array of farm machinery and labor-saving implements.

THE AUTOMOBILE SHOW will present all the 1917 models, all that is new and improved in motor vehicles.

THE GOOD ROADS ENTHUSIAST cannot fail to appreciate the Highway Exhibit.

MISS RUTH LAW, Queen of the Aviation World, will demonstrate woman's ability in the realm of aviation. She will fly both day and night.

TWO DAYS OF AUTO RACES, in which the leading race drivers of the country will compete.

THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII, one of the most beautiful and spectacular pageants ever presented will be given every evening in front of the amphitheatre.

EIGHT BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS will furnish concerts every hour of the day and evening.

BRILLIANT HORSE SHOWS AND LIVE STOCK TABLEAUX every evening in the Stock Pavilion.

A hundred and one other matters and features of interest.

The Iowa State Fair stands first in all the world of fairs and expositions.