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JOHN O. COWL DIED IN FRANCE LAST WEDNESDAY

Popular Leon Soldier Boy Dies From Wounds Received While Brave Marines Were Stopping the Huns Advance in France.



Decatur county's first young soldier fighting overseas, John O. Cowl, has made the supreme sacrifice, his life, in defense of the honor and freedom of his country, and one of Leon's finest young men has gone to his reward. Last Wednesday evening the terrible news was received by his sister, Mrs. S. Stewart, in a message from Washington announcing his death that day from fracture of the leg and hemorrhage. Two weeks before Mrs. Stewart received a letter from her brother, dated June 21st, saying he had been in several hospitals but was now in base hospital 15, passing up his injury by simply saying his leg was doing fine, and they had not received any later news from him until the announcement of his death came. Yesterday morning Mrs. Stewart received a letter dated July 14th, in which he tells of his injury, and it is supposed it became necessary to amputate his limb, and he died from hemorrhage during the operation. The war regulations are such that internment will be made in France until after the war is over. Special memorial funeral services will be held in honor of Mr. Cowl at the M. E. church in Leon on Sunday morning, August 11th, at 11 o'clock. The announcement of his death came as a great shock to everyone in Leon, for John was one of our most popular young men, who made dear friends of every one. When war was declared he quickly made up his mind that it was his duty to volunteer, and he tried to enlist in the marines at Des Moines and Omaha, being rejected at both places on account of physical disabilities, but undeterred he kept on trying and succeeded in being accepted at Kansas City and just one year to the day, June 21st he wrote his sister first telling of his being wounded. He is survived by three sisters, and one brother, Mrs. F. S. Stewart of Leon, with whom he had made his home for several years before volunteering, his twin sister, Mrs. Bess Clark, of Ogden, Utah, Mrs. Mabel Epps, of Omaha, Neb., and William R. Cowl, of Council Bluffs. The following is his last letter to his sister, Mrs. Stewart, received by her yesterday morning: Base Hospital 15, Sunday Morning, July 14, 1918. Dear Sis: Just had my leg dressed and ate a good breakfast and am feeling fine. This is a very large hospital and has all the modern methods and instruments so no need to worry about me not getting the best of care. The nurses are fine, too, always getting things for us. Last night we had a big feed of combats, several times and oranges and lemons every day. My leg is broken between the knee and hip about half way; have it tied up in the air so of course, will be on my back for some time. I have learned to knit not very rapid as yet; did it sort of interesting; read lots of magazines and books; have a great many little things to do to pass away the time. It is awful hard to write lying on one's back, but I guess you are familiar with my scratching to make it out. I am lucky enough to have the \$25 you sent and it will surely come in good as there are many little things one can send out and get. Hope Jack is well and hearty. Often think of you all. One has so much time to think of everything that ever happened. Certainly have a lot of pleasant memories of Leon. Been some time since I received mail. Of course, being in the hos-

pital will delay it some. You better address your next letters to Base 15 as I will be here quite a while and it may be that I won't get back to my company when I am better. Give my best to the Rowells'. Hope you are receiving the Stars and Stripes. Lots of love, John O. Cowl, Base Hospital 15, U. S. M. C., American E. F. John Officer Cowl, was born in Af-ton, Iowa, October 29, 1890. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Cowl, prominent residents of that place. Besides John, there were four children, all most tenderly loved by the devoted parents who were taken from their little ones when John was at the tender age of 5 years. The little boy was offered a home by his father's sister, Mrs. D. O. Miller, of Wellsville, Ohio, who reared him in the most careful and cultured manner and who bestowed on him the love of a true parent. She and her son and daughter today mourn their loss as deeply as a child born in their own household. From them the boy imbibed the grace of true christian character and noble citizenship which prepared him for a life of usefulness—yea, and for the noblest death that can come to man, the laying down of his life in the very beauty of young manhood that his country might live. Thus in both life and in death our young friend has fulfilled a beautiful destiny. He has set the highest example to the youth of the land. Some two and a half years before his enlistment, he came to Leon to visit his sister, Mrs. F. S. Stewart and she persuaded him to remain with her for a while. He engaged in business with his brother-in-law and became a leader in the social circles of the younger people, among whom he was beloved and honored and became a great favorite. But it was perhaps in the place where he grew up that he was most highly regarded. As one who knew him best has written of him: "I have seen John under all conditions and he never failed to show the metal that was in him." As an example of this it is remembered here that when it was seen our country was likely to be forced into the war he said: "If war comes I will go. I have no one dependent upon me." This was said with the maturity of thought born of a sense of duty. Like every other young man who loves life and enjoys all that it means to the young, he wished to live to love and be loved. But the voice of duty spoke louder to him than that of his own inclinations. That voice was heeded when he enlisted in the marines, where as he said he could "see real service," on June 21, 1917. No American will ever need be told what service the marines rendered when at their immortal stand at the Marne—they checked the invaders and many of them, like our dear young friend, made the supreme sacrifice. John has passed from mortal sight but his golden star will shine forever in memories made richer by his short life among men. Will Receive War Tax. The director of the Junior Chautauqua will be at the F. S. Stewart store Saturday afternoon and Monday morning to receive the war tax on all chautauqua tickets, and at the chautauqua tent Monday afternoon. Have your ticket stamped as early as possible, and so avoid the rush.

CAPTURED BOOZE CAR IN RACE. Sheriff John Fulton Had a Great Auto Race, But Got Booze Car.

Sheriff John A. Fulton had the race of his life last Saturday after a big Cadillac Eight booze car, but had the satisfaction of getting his man, car and the big load of booze, even if he did have to chase him clear down in Missouri. Saturday morning sheriff Fulton had business at Davis City, and started down in his Buick car, accompanied by H. D. Weldon. A couple of miles south of Leon near the home of Wesley Chew, he passed a big Cadillac Eight heavily loaded with booze. The driver was a man who turned around and followed the car. Before reaching Leon he had passed the car a couple of times, but the driver refused to heed his command to stop, and proceeded to step on the gas and away they went. People who were on the streets of Leon about 10 o'clock saw a real race, the big booze car in the lead tooting his horn and traveling at least fifty miles an hour with the sheriff right at his heels. The booze car was the turn at the Dr. Woodmansee corner, but was going so fast it skidded into the curbing and damaged a rear wheel, while sheriff Fulton went straight north on Main street with the intention of cutting the booze car going across the street, but the foxy driver saw the move and instead of going out north he turned west at the school house, going out past the cemetery. Sheriff Fulton went to the end of the paving and had some cars strung across the road to stop him, and when he did not appear he came back and followed the trail out toward the cemetery. Near the bridge across the tracks he picked up a tire and tube which had been discarded. The booze car had been and the rim making a plain trail. Sheriff Fulton came back to Leon to phone to surrounding towns, and soon heard that the fellow had gone through Decatur, going south, so away he went on the chase and finally caught up with the fellow down this side of Eagleville, the booze car having stopped thinking he had escaped. Although he was in Missouri, the fellow voluntarily agreed to come back with sheriff Fulton and the load was divided up into three cars. City marshal Marion Osborn having pressed a Ford car into service and followed the trail, arriving a few minutes after the sheriff. The car, booze and driver were brought back to Leon and the fellow who gave his name as Ray Reeves, residing at 527 Bluff Street, Des Moines, was taken before Justice Woodmansee where he waived preliminary examination and was bound over to the grand jury under a \$300 cash bond, depositing six \$50 bills for his bond. As soon as he was released from the custody of sheriff Fulton marshal Osborn arrested him and he was taken before Mayor Gardner, where he entered a plea of guilty to speeding and the mayor gave him the maximum penalty, a fine of \$100, and he produced two more \$50 bills to pay it with, but as he claimed this broke him Mayor Gardner remitted \$5 of the fine so he could return to his home in Des Moines. The mayor also drove him to Osceola to catch the evening train for Des Moines. The car contained a big load of booze, something over 400 pints of whiskey, and more than one hundred bottles of beer, which are stored in the county jail. The car which Reeves claims to own, bearing Iowa license No. 235318, is held here under the law to secure the payment of all fines and costs which may be imposed by the district court, an county attorney Springer and Merwin in the case of State vs. Clifford Merwin for an injunction against Reeves, restraining him from engaging in bootlegging. The Leon officials have captured a lot of booze wagons, and they are going to keep after them as long as they pass through Leon. Mayor Gardner did the right thing by imposing the heaviest penalty he could for speeding, for the booze driver narrowly missed striking several persons in his mad flight through the streets of Leon.

Held Short Session of Court.

Judge H. A. Fuller, accompanied by Mrs. Fuller and their two children, motored to Leon Tuesday evening and held a short session of court. The case of State vs. Clifford Merwin was disposed of, an information being filed charging him with larceny in taking John Barrett's auto last Wednesday evening, and he entered a plea of guilty to the charge, the sentence of the court being that he be confined in the county jail for a period of six months, but upon payment of the costs, and his enlistment in the navy, that the jail sentence be suspended. Merwin was paroled to sheriff John A. Fulton, who took him to Des Moines yesterday to have him enlist in the navy. The following other cases were disposed of: Law and Equity. T. B. Nicholson vs. Mark Tapscott et al. Cassin's deed and part of sale to Fred Leighty approved. Probate. Estate of C. R. Goble. Annual report of administrator approved. Guardianship of John W. Gardner. On application G. C. Sears appointed temporary guardian of John W. Gardner incompetent with bond of \$1,000 and hearing on application for sale of real estate fixed for August 18th.

Chautauqua Commences Next Monday.

The Leon Chautauqua opens a seven day session at Leon next Monday, and we have the Midland System which gave such excellent satisfaction last year. This year they are presenting a specially good program for each day, and everybody who can should plan to attend every session during the entire seven days. President Wilson strongly endorses the holding of Chautauquas this year, regarding them as an education to the people, and in arranging the program the Midland System has given special attention to war problems. Secure your tickets before the opening day and enjoy the excellent attractions. Leon will have as good a Chautauqua as any city in southern Iowa, and reports from cities where they have appeared are that the Midland Chautauqua is giving the best of satisfaction this year.

Sixteen Soldiers Went to Jefferson Barracks Yesterday.

Sixteen more Decatur county young men reported yesterday morning to the local registration board for the first August call and left on the afternoon train for Jefferson Barracks, Mo. No other call for August has as yet been made, but it is expected that several additional calls will be made during the month. The following is a list of the boys who went yesterday: Wm. James Smith, Bloomington. James Wm. Ackerley, Grand River. Frank Caster, Center. John Charles Musselman, Leon. Reuter William O'Brien, Burrell. John Vincent O'Boyle, Vale. James Barry, Woodland. James T. Toney, Fayette. Jesse Royce Fuller, Weldon. Mont Lovett Clamptitt, Pleasanton. Ralph William Gamble, Garden Grove. Charles Abel Edwards, Grand River. Pearl M. Wells, Leroy. Earl Smith, Grand River. John Barry, Edenburg. Paul Milton Bassell, Fayette.

Took Ford Car.

Last Wednesday, circus day, John Barrett, of south of Leon, brought his family to Leon in their new Ford car and left the car on the square while they attended the circus in the afternoon. After the circus was over they came downtown and placed some packages in the car and then went to the Rexall store for some ice cream. When they returned in about fifteen minutes the car was gone. Sheriff Fulton was notified and he phoned to all the surrounding towns and had officers watching for the car, and shortly after six o'clock word was received that the car had been found by Marion Fuller at Van Wert, and the driver, Clifford Merwin, a well known young man of Leon, was held. Sheriff Fulton drove to Van Wert and brought Merwin and the car to Leon, Merwin being placed in jail. At his preliminary hearing on Thursday he was bound over to the grand jury and in default of bond remained in jail until Tuesday evening when Justice Fuller came to Leon and Merwin entered a plea of guilty to the charge of taking an auto without the owner's consent, being sentenced to six months in the county jail, but the sentence was suspended by agreement, if Merwin enlists in the navy, and in company with sheriff Fulton he went to Des Moines yesterday to try and get in the navy. Merwin claimed he had no intention of stealing the car, but he took a young lady to her home near Van Wert, and was going to return the car to Leon as soon as he could get back with it.

Books Are Under Ban.

A few weeks ago a man named A. H. Kent, who owns a farm northwest of Decatur, which he rents and has been looking for a good place to store his books, was arrested by sheriff Fulton in Leon, acting under authority from the Council of Defense. Kent was selling Pastor Russell books, and had made about a dozen sales of these books to parties in the town of Leon. Sheriff Fulton seized about fifty books which were found in Kent's room at the Park Hotel. The fellow was kept in jail a few days and then released on instructions from federal authorities. Last Friday a United States agent set out for Leon here, and went to Decatur, where Kent was interviewed. The officer told him that since May 15th there was a ban on all the books published by Pastor Russell, and he was given a good talking to, and agreed that he would not make any more sales. His stock of books are still in charge of the authorities. If any further attempt is made in Decatur county by any person to sell Pastor Russell books of any kind, the matter should be reported to J. C. Hull, chairman of the Decatur County Council of Defense.

Auditor Walter Osborn Resigns to Become County Agent.

For several weeks we have known that county auditor Walter Osborn was going to resign as auditor, in order to accept the position of county farm agent, but the matter was not released for publication until the past week, when the board accepted his resignation and appointed his brother, deputy auditor Clarence Osborn, as auditor to fill Walter's unexpired term. Walter Osborn has spent all his life on a farm until he was elected auditor four years ago, and he has made one of the best county officials Decatur county has ever had, and we predict that he will continue this record as county agent. Clarence Osborn, the new auditor, has been in the office until he is thoroughly familiar with the duties, and the work in the auditor's office will go right along as heretofore. Miss Esther Osborn is assisting in the office for the present.

Sunday Was a Scorcher.

"Everybody knew that Sunday was a scorcher, but it was worse than they found out that the government thermometer registered 110.2 that day, the hottest day for more than forty years. On July 22, 1911, the mercury registered 109 degrees. The terrific heat and the hot wind has done an immense damage to the corn crop, many farmers telling us that the corn crop will be cut at least 50 per cent on account of the hot wind. Southern Iowa was the hottest place in the United States last Sunday, more than ten degrees hotter than at Phoenix, Arizona, which always holds the record as the hottest place in the United States.

Another Decatur County Boy Wounded in France.

A message was received Saturday evening by the local registration board from Washington, announcing that Ray Welcher of Decatur county had been severely wounded in France. His father is Grant Welcher, the Davis City drayman. The young soldier while registering in Decatur county, was not sent from this county, having secured a transfer to another board at that place where he was working at the time, which is unknown to the local board at this time. He has many friends here who are hoping he may recover from his injuries.

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Items Taken from the Files of The Reporter Published a Quarter of a Century Ago.

Thomas Teale has purchased the residence property of the late H. J. Close, the price being \$1,800. H. C. Stanton, who has been running a photograph car at Decatur, has been languishing in jail since last Thursday, when he was arrested by deputy sheriff Wagoner on a warrant charging him with the crime of bigamy. Last December Stanton married Miss Eva Beck, of Burrell township, and it is claimed he had a wife living at Bethany, Mo., from whom he had never been divorced, and she came here and had a warrant issued for his arrest. His second wife has commenced an action in the district court praying that her marriage to Stanton be annulled on the ground that at the time it was entered into Stanton had another wife. Wife No. one yesterday swore out a warrant charging wife No. two with adultery and she was placed under arrest, and held under bonds to appear at a preliminary examination before Justice Bullock next Wednesday.

Sells Bros. circus exhibited in Leon last Friday to the greatest circus crowd ever seen in Leon. Saturday morning a few minutes before 9 o'clock a notice was posted on the door of the Farmers Bank, announcing that on account of being unable to collect outstanding notes, the bank had assigned to T. S. Arnold, with whom all business should be transacted, in a few minutes the starting news spread over town and a large crowd collected around the entrance to the bank, and for a time great excitement prevailed, until it was made known what the assets and liabilities were, for no one had dreamed that the bank was pushed. The assets scheduled in the assignment are given at \$471,780.22, and the liabilities at \$315,914.58, leaving a surplus of \$155,865.64. The failure is a great misfortune to the community, involving as it does the banks at Garden Grove and Davis City, and affects business in all branches, although it is thought that with proper management every one will receive all that is due them. A run was started on the Exchange Bank, but all demands were promptly met, and when the depositors found they could get their money a great many of them went away without drawing it. Misses Emma and Nora Hamilton returned Monday from St. Johns, Wash. where they had been visiting for several months. Dr. H. R. Layton is representing Hesperia Lodge No. 33, K. of P. at the K. of P. grand lodge at Muscatine this week. The following marriage licenses were issued the past week: Clarence Brenizer 20 to Lue Evans 19. S. C. Byrum 21 to Carrie Sifer 21. Abraham M., Hammond 34 to Effie McKern 22. E. W. Tift, of Blythedale, Mo., was in this vicinity the past week visiting his old friends and looking after his property. Miss Lelia Osborn returned Thursday from a visit with friends at Council Bluffs. Mrs. Wm. V. Waller died at her home in Palmer, Neb., July 31st. Her remains were brought to her home at Decatur for interment. Mrs. Waller was 40 years old, and is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter.

3,650 Bushels of Wheat Threshed on J. F. Crees' Farms.

The threshing on the J. F. Crees farms near Grand River has been finished, his two sons and two tenants threshing 3,650 bushels of fall wheat which went in at the elevator straight without any dock or shrink, the average being a little over 30 bushels per acre. They also threshed 3,500 bushels of oats raised on the farms which overweighed on the scales from three to six bushels per load. Mr. Crees tells how he put in his fall wheat as follows: "I plow as early as possible, in July or August if I can, then when time to sow I disc and harrow the ground as level as I can get it, then put a good heavy roller ahead of the drill, pack the ground good and run the drill deep enough to cover the wheat good, but don't roll after drilling. I tried a little experiment with fall wheat, sowing about two acres on February 23rd, and it was the best wheat we had. The seed was the same that we sowed in the fall, and the February sowing had larger heads, bigger grains, but did not ripen as early by a few days."

Recovered Will Warren's Ford.

The new Ford touring car of Will Warren which was stolen from in front of the Brethren church in this city on Sunday evening, June 2nd, was recovered in Des Moines Monday, after it had been given up as lost. The car was found in the possession of Fay Marshall, a former Leon boy, now living in Des Moines, who claims he purchased it from a soldier, Clifford Merwin, bringing the soldier to him in Des Moines. He claims to have paid \$60 down on the car and the soldier was to return later with a note made out for the balance, but he has not seen him since. Sheriff Fulton and Mr. Warren went to Des Moines Monday and secured the car. The car had been changed considerably, the engine numbers having been cut off, the wind shield and other parts changed, and the car bore a set of Iowa license numbers which it is learned were stolen from a car at the Herring Motor Co.'s plant in Des Moines.

Has Worked for Burlington System Forty Years.

Station agent C. M. Ketcham rounded out forty years of active service with the Burlington railroad last Wednesday night, having commenced work learning telegraphy in this city August 1, 1878, when A. N. Fraser was agent, and has been in the employ of the Burlington continuously ever since, and has been stationed at Leon for thirty-five years as operator and agent, having been agent for more than twenty-five years. Mr. Ketcham is one of the veterans in the employ of the company.

Coming Attractions at the Idle Hour and New Theatres.

The eighth installment of the adventure serial, "The Bull's Eye" will be shown at the Idle Hour Theatre both this afternoon, and this evening. Matinee at 3 o'clock and first night show at 8 o'clock. Admission 6 and 11 cents which includes the war tax. The attraction tomorrow and Saturday at the New Theatre will be "The Square Deal Man," a great star's best pictures and it is attracting immense crowds everywhere. It is a thrilling picture of western life in the "Big Bill" Hart, excels. "The Square Deal Man" is a great picture. It is so good that it will be shown for two days, Friday and Saturday, August 9th and 10th. Matinee both days at 3 o'clock. Admission will be 9 cents and one cent war tax for children under twelve and 13 cents and 2 cents war tax for adults. The attraction Saturday at the Idle Hour is a western picture, "The Hard Rock Breed," featuring Margery Wilson and an all star Triangle cast. This, the Triangle company informs us, is one of the best western pictures that they have released this year for exhibition. It is a picture filled with thrills and daring feats while the story is of intense interest throughout. This is a great Saturday attraction and it will please all patrons of the popular Idle Hour. One of those also be Triangle comedies will also be shown. Matinee at 3 o'clock and first night show at 8 o'clock. Matinee admission will be 6 and 11 cents which include the war tax and the night admission will be 6 and 15 cents which also includes the war tax. A return showing of the wonderful feature picture, "The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin," has been arranged for August 19th and 20th. Make your arrangements now so that you will be able to attend.

Attempted to Cut His Throat.

The many friends of Mr. T. H. Schenck were horrified last Friday evening when they learned he had attempted to cut his throat at his home in this city. Mr. Schenck has been dangerously sick for several weeks, and his sickness has evidently temporarily affected his mind. His wife and others have been with him constantly for several weeks, and Friday evening Mr. Schenck asked his wife to give him a knife to pare his finger nails. She complied with his request, and he was thus engaged when she stepped from the room for a minute and was horrified upon her return to see a gash in Mr. Schenck's neck from which the blood was streaming. He remarked that his request that knife was too dull to do a good job. Physicians were summoned and it was found that on account of the dullness of the knife he had not been able to reach the jugular vein, but several stitches were taken in dressing the wound. Mr. Schenck's condition from sickness continues critical, but the wound in his neck is healing nicely.

Draft Ages to be 18 to 45 years.

The first step in the enlarged war program was taken at Washington Monday with the introduction of a bill in both houses which has been approved by secretary Baker and other officials, extending the draft ages from 21 to 31 years to 18 to 45 years, and it is expected that prompt action will be taken by congress and the bill passed. It is proposed to have the bill passed at once so that those between the ages of 18 and 45 years who have not already registered under the old law, can be registered during the first week in September. It is reported from Washington that it was expected the bill would be passed essentially as introduced, as much careful study has been done in preparing the bill.

A Real Play House.

Jennie Lester and Edgar Bell are the envy of all the children in Leon over the fact that they have a real play house erected on the south lawn at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Bell. The house is substantially built, with a covered front porch, glass door, and a corner china closet. Windows which open are fitted with lace curtains, a rug is on the floor, and a brass bed, and miniature furniture completes the equipment. The house was built by the grandfather, John Bell, who although well along in years has not forgotten how to handle carpenter tools, and as a finishing touch the house is painted in artistic colors inside and out. The children will sure get a great deal of enjoyment from it.

Leon Boys Meet on Board Ship.

Dr. J. W. Rowell last Saturday received a letter from his son Edgar, who was one of our first boys to enlist in the navy after war broke out, and who was recently transferred at his own request for overseas duty, in which he says he was greatly surprised to run across James Hoffman, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hoffman, of Leon, who is also in the navy, and was recently sent east from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, where he has been for the past year. Jim is a member of the ship's crew on which Edgar sailed, and the two old Leon pals had a great time visiting, as they had not seen each other for many months.

Good War News.

The good news from France is that the allies are still keeping the Huns on the run, and they certainly have been getting what was coming to them, being driven back many miles each day, as well as losing thousands of men, hundreds of big guns and much munition supplies. When those Yanks get after them the Huns don't know when to stop running, and our boys are sure after them in great shape.

Don't Ask for Free Papers.

Under the new government regulations the publishers of newspapers are prohibited from giving any free copies of the paper away. If you want an extra copy of The Reporter you must call prepared to pay five cents for it. This is the government's orders, and we must abide by them.