

That's the title of a department on page 4 today which is meant to add a bit of the joy of life. Good natured fun, observations and quips.

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ONE CENT

# AMERICANS ROUT VILLISTAS

## 30 KILLED IN BATTLE WITH DODD'S CAVALRY FOUR AMERICANS WOUNDED; VILLA CRIPPLED

### GERMANS CLOSING GRIP ON VERDUN; CITY IN FLAMES

**By Carl W. Ackerman**

WITH GERMAN CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY, VERDUN BATTLEFIELD, March 27 (Delayed).—With an iron grip, the crown prince is closing in on Verdun.

Storms of artillery fire are preparing the way for a great infantry advance. Despite official statements, there is no real lull in the fighting.

Every day has been utilized in completing preparations for the final blow. Every indication is that the great advance is imminent.

The fortified villages of Malancourt and Bethincourt, 10 miles northwest of Verdun, are already hemmed in on three sides by Germans. Both towns are certain to fall when German infantry moves on the west bank of the Meuse.

Verdun is burning in three places. From captured hills a saw the heavy smoke. German shells ignited Belleville, to the northeast of Verdun, today.

On the summit of the highest hill on the Verdun front the whole northwestern battlefield was spread out in a marvelous panorama.

In the distance the spire of Verdun cathedral glistened in the sun. In the foreground we could see Belleville, a cluster of houses at the roadside.

Across a silver streak on the landscape—the river Meuse—was Dead Man's Hill and Forges, which were stormed by the Germans March 6.

Cumières wood, Bethincourt and the surrounding hills stood out from a gray curtain of smoke. To the west Malancourt could be seen, just a great brown splotch.

The daily artillery battle was beginning when we took up our position. Below, on the green slopes, birds were singing in the trees. The vast land of trenches appeared peaceful.

At noon bright sunshine routed the Meuse mists. The glitter of a heliograph flashed over the hills. German guns began roaring. A French chorus of noise replied.

As a German officer pointed, six shells struck in the heart of Belleville. Instantly the village was aflame.

"When a Villa Needs a Friend!"



### U.S. TROOPS CHASE FLEEING BANDIT SOLDIERS 5 HOURS AFTER A SURPRISE ATTACK

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The war department today received confirmation of a report that Villistas had been badly beaten in a clash with the American expeditionary force.

Col. Dodd's cavalry struck the Villistas at 6 a. m. Wednesday, near Gurrero, according to a war department message from the San Geronimo ranch. The dispatch was dated yesterday and transmitted from Gen. Pershing via Gen. Funston's headquarters.

Villa, suffering from a broken leg and other injuries, was not in the battle. The Villistas left 30 dead on the battlefield. Others are believed to have been killed.

Dodd captured rapid-fire guns, many saddles, horses, munitions and supplies.

The attack was a tremendous surprise to the Villistas. They did not have time to arm before the cavalry was upon them. Dodd's men had marched 55 miles in 17 hours to overtake the bandits.

The Villistas showed no fighting qualities. They merely grabbed the nearest guns and, mounting horses, fled. A running fight ensued. The battle lasted while Americans and Mexicans galloped side by side for 10 miles, fighting. At last the bandits separated and fled to the mountains, abandoning a number of Carrazistas, who had been taken prisoners in previous encounters.

Four Americans are said to have been wounded, none of them seriously. The battle was waged for five hours.

### LONE MAN TRIES TO SEIZE SHIP GERMANY WILL MAKE EXCUSES

**BY R. J. BENDER**

United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, March 31.—President Wilson and his cabinet again discussed the submarine crisis today, facing a muddled problem in the mass of evidence before them.

Of the four vessels concerned in recent German U boat attacks, it is said the Eagle Point was in the service of the British admiralty; Germany will contend the steamer Englishman was torpedoed only when it tried to escape, and that the channel steamer Sussex hit a mine.

Officials believe it a foregone conclusion the kaiser will advance some defense for the sinking of the British S. S. Manchester Engineer.

Americans were on board all of these ships.

**SAN FRANCISCO.**—Bandits stole \$1,000 from Spring Valley Lumber company office after dynamiting safe and overpowering watchman.

### Bright Spots in The Star

How are we going to prepare? Read, on page 11, what some of Seattle's prominent citizens think of this preparedness subject.

Did you know the price of rags has doubled? Read the interesting article regarding rags on page 7.

Do you know where Casas Grandes is? Cut out the big war map of Mexico which you'll find on page 10.

These are some of the interesting things that are in The Star today. There are many others in addition.

### PRISONERS VERY MUCH HUMAN

Following in the third article on prison life at the Walla Walla penitentiary, as viewed from the inside by E. A. Peters, reporter on the Tacoma Times. Peters "broke into" prison last Thursday by telling Warden Drum he had been convicted of forgery and was permitted to go to the pen without a guard. When his commitment papers failed to arrive Drum became suspicious. Sunday Peters' real identity was learned. Peters had, by that time, had three days of actual experience as a prisoner. His articles are published in Seattle exclusively in The Star.

BY E. A. PETERS

THE average person of today, fed up with lurid tales by sensation-loving police reporters or the alleged crook stories by penny-a-line authors, has a warped idea of the real "criminal class."

You imagine a convict to be a tough bird, his ugly skull shorn of its hair, his teeth showing in a gleam of hate, his every attitude one of bitter defiance toward society.

But your impression is produced by untruths stuffed into a receptive imagination. In comparison to yourself, convicts probably appear to be unwholesome company.

You would not want to bring a convict, in his coarse prison clothing, his prison-built shoes and his clumsy cap, into your parlor.

The contrast is too shocking.

But convicts, among themselves, are everything that you believed them not to be. And the only way to know convicts is to go among them in the guise of a convict, as I have done.

It seems unfair, in my mind, to refer to these men as "convicts," because the word conjures up unpleasant thoughts in any mind. They are MEN, brothers in this man-made world of ours. And they were men, not convicts, whom I associated with in prison.

"Bad Man" Is Outcast in or Out of Prison

I was treated with equality and justice by other prisoners. Since they knew me as a fellow-prisoner, and knew that all things about all men are known to all within those four grim walls of the penitentiary, they had nothing to conceal.

As "Peter Wilson, Convict No. 0047," I never met a more pleasant, encouraging, clean lot of men in my entire experience than I met in the cell-houses, the jute mill, the dining hall and the "yard" of Walla Walla.

Of course, there are "bad men,"



The cell where "Peter Wilson" was confined on the second and third days of his term in Walla Walla (marked with an arrow). There are 14 cells in each row, three stories high, and a second set of cells on the opposite side, their backs adjoining the backs of the first cells. In this way, it will be seen, there are 84 cells in one cluster, holding 168 prisoners.

I found the prisoners to be a likable, pleasant group of men. Accepting their misfortune stoically, they are making the best of it.

From the "inside," they reminded me more of a great school or college, where all were banded together by a common tie, than of a "kang of criminals," as the public considers them.

When I had finished my bath, that (Continued on page 8, column 3)

### SEATTLE HAS BIG LEAD ON PORTLAND

In the Y. M. C. A. intercity membership campaign, Seattle Thursday made 120,575 points to Portland's 64,950, bringing the totals for Seattle to 326,035, and for Portland, 228,495.

The republicans, led by Jos. C. Black, led all teams with 39,675. Dr. Park Weed Willis bringing in more points than any other one individual.

Funeral services for Charles Pratt, who died after an operation for transfusion of blood from veins of Howard E. McDonald failed, will be held from Seattle Undertaking parlors Saturday at 2 o'clock.

### REPORTED SLAIN IN MESSAGE TO CONSUL GARCIA BY E. T. CONKLE

EL PASO, March 31.—A battle was fought yesterday between the Seventh U. S. cavalry and a Villista column, according to an official dispatch made public today by Consul Garcia. The message, which was handed Garcia by Gen. Gavira in Juarez, said:

"Lieut. Col. Refugio Davila wired from Casas Grandes that he had been instructed by Gen. Pershing to inform me that the Seventh cavalry, on March 30, fought a Villista column of 500 men under Eliseo Hernandez, at San Geronimo. The Villistas lost Hernandez and 30 men. Several Americans were wounded. Confirmation has been received that Villa was wounded in his last fight with the constitutionalists, and is hiding in the vicinity of Guerrero."

### SAYS S.R.S. DEAL FARM OF COUNTY IS "FREEZE-OUT" IS UNDER WATER

Superior Judge Frater indicted Friday he will permit a reorganization of the Seattle, Renton & Southern Railway Co., under a plan which, it was charged in open court, will leave small creditors "holding the bag."

Unless attorneys for the small claimants get together with counsel for the bondholders, Judge Frater said, and agree upon a different plan before Saturday morning, he will approve the reorganization scheme submitted.

"This plan is a cold-blooded game of freeze-out," declared Attorney Vivian Carkeek, representing a large portion of the small claimants. "We realize that our cause is dead, but we don't want the court to sanction such a plan as this."

"We recognize the power of the bondholders to freeze out the small creditors," said ex. L. Moore, "but we ask that the plan be not allowed to go on record as having been approved by the superior court."

They urged that the proceeds of the company be sold under the hammer on May 1, as has already been provided by the court, rather than that the reorganization plan be approved.

The only claimant to gain by reorganization, they asserted, is Peabody, Houghteling & Co., which owns \$335,000 out of a total of \$385,000 claims.

San Francisco, March 31.—Chicago and San Francisco are racing neck and neck for honor of enlisting enough recruits to get second place in fight to increase U. S. army by 25,000 men.

### DR. WAITE INDICTED AS SLAYER

Accompanies Officers in Search for Buried Treasure

### EMBALMER CONFESSES

NEW YORK, March 31.—Dr. Arthur Warren Waite was indicted today on a first-degree murder charge. It is alleged he poisoned his wealthy father-in-law, John E. Peck of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The indictment was presented by the grand jury foreman to Judge Nott in the court of general sessions.

Waite, it was stated, will not be arraigned on the murder charge until Monday.

His illness is much improved. District Attorney Swann is expected to demand that Waite be tried in the supreme court.

Composed of District Attorney Swann's men, corps of lawyers, Dr. Waite, and a host of newspaper photographers, rode thru the lonely stretches of Long Island at dawn today, looking for buried money.

They were hunting for the \$9,000 which Eugene Kane, undertaker, admits having received from Waite after the death by arsenic of John E. Peck, Waite's father-in-law.

Waite claims he gave Kane the cash so he would testify that he put arsenic in the embalming fluid, thus explaining the presence of that poison in Peck's system after death.

Kane says he got the money, but denies ever having any intention of giving false testimony.

He was included in the strange party which went probing among the Long Island sand dunes for the money.

Kane led the crowd, trying to point out where he buried his treasure.

Workmen with shovels and picks delved here and there while the confessed poisoner, who says his "alter ego" made him kill people, stood and stared out to sea.

### JURY DISAGREES IN TONG MURDER CASE

Possibly averting another threatened long war, the jury in the case of Yee Bow, a Chinese, charged with the murder of Y. U. Park, a Korean, disagreed Friday in superior court and failed to reach a verdict after 24 hours' deliberation.

Park was shot down in Chinatown on the evening of February 17.

Largest gold mines in the United States east of the Black Hills are in North Carolina.