

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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LACLEDE, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1919.

\$1.00 A Year in Advance

Country's Hero Welcomed to His Old Home

Tremendous Greeting to General Pershing Here Tuesday

Laclede was not only the center of interest to Missouri but the entire United States on Tuesday. It was the home-coming of its illustrious son, General John J. Pershing. His coming had been expected every since he landed from overseas, and the unavoidable delay had not dampened the interest throughout the country.

His private car, "New York," was attached to train 3 and it arrived on time at 11:55. It was the plan of the committee to convey the general and his party in automobiles to the old home where the reception was to be held. This is the only part of the program the general swept aside and had his own way. When told of the plan he said: "No, sir; I want to walk up the street of dear old Laclede once more and I am going on foot." And he did.

With General Pershing was his sister, Miss May, his son, Warren, and his nephew, Captain Frank Pershing of Chicago.

The general was in the highest spirits and was undoubtedly happy as he worked his way through the crowd, shaking hands with as many as possible, stopping when he saw a familiar face and there were many whom he recognized, and called by first name although he had not seen them for years past. He showed plainly he was delighted to be among those who had known him as a baby, a boy and a young man. Although the way was cleared as much as possible by police officers and members of the committee, it took nearly a half hour to go the two blocks between his car and the old home.

The streets were gaily decorated, as were most of the business houses and homes throughout the town, the work being done by the local committee composed of A. E. Johnston, C. E. Tracy, A. J. Baam and Dr. Bonds under direction of a contracting decorator from St. Louis.

The dinner was served at the old home, Mr. and Mrs. Byrd having kindly turned it over to a committee of ladies for the purpose, covers being laid for twenty-four.

Mayor Allen, representing the city as host, sat at the head of the first table. To his right sat General Pershing, H. C. Lomax, Capt. Frank Pershing, Warren Pershing, Mrs. J. A. Crowder. To the mayor's left sat Governor Gardner, Miss May Pershing, Miss Lula Felt, J. T. Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Layton, and at the end C. C. Bigger.

At the next table to the right sat Harry Markham, A. J. Caywood, Senator Walter Brownlee, Col. G. W. Martin, J. A. Crowder, Mrs. Lottie Moulton. To the left sat Chas. R. Spurgeon, Mrs. Packer, Mrs. G. W. Thompson, Mrs. May Jones, Mrs. Kate Brownlee, Col. John I. Martin.

Just as the last course was finished Attorney C. C. Bigger in an eloquent three minute speech presented General Pershing with a loving cup on behalf of a number of his close friends. It is of handsome design, of sterling silver and

LACLEDE'S MOST ILLUSTRIOUS SON



General John J. Pershing

bears the four gold stars of a general.

It took General Pershing by surprise and when he arose to accept the token of love and esteem from his boyhood friends he was so overcome with emotion he acknowledged he could not fully express his appreciation. "I am certainly glad to be back to the home of my boyhood and the place of my birth," said the General, and "I shall cherish it as one of my most sacred mementoes, preserve it and hand it down to my posterity," he said, glancing at his son Warren.

On one side of the cup is engraved: "Presented to Gen. John J. Pershing as a token of faithful love and enduring esteem by old school mates, neighbors and friends, Laclede, Mo. December 23, 1919."

On the other side is the names of the donors: Chas. R. Spurgeon, E. B. Allen, Harry Markham, J. A. Crowder, H. C. Lomax, O. F. Libby, C. C. Bigger, Dr. Kate Brownlee, Lee Love, Laura Wanamaker, George W. Martin, E. M. Lomax, Mrs. May Jones, J. T. Hamilton, A. W. Mullins, Miss Lula M. Felt.

At the conclusion of the luncheon Governor Gardner, General Pershing and members of the reception committee appeared on the front porch of the home and faced the largest battery of cameras, and moving picture machines ever assembled in this part of the state.

In the yard, back across the street and into other yards was packed those who had patiently awaited the appearance of the distinguished visitors.

It was here that Governor Gardner made his address and presented the state's medal to General Pershing. "General John J. Pershing, as chief executive of your native state and the representative of the million of her citizens, I have the honor to present to you, on this happy occasion, this indestructible medal of purest gold," said the governor. "On one side you will observe the great seal of the state of Missouri. On the other, these

simple but significant words: Presented by his native state for service."

The closing exercises of the day was the public reception at the opera house where the General shook hands and had a pleasant greeting for everyone who cared to meet him. It is estimated that over two thousand passed down the line within the two hours.

In the evening General Pershing and party were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Lomax with a number of relatives, those from out of town being Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Lomax and daughter and Mrs. Laura Wanamaker of Brookfield and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Lomax and two children of Sau Benito, Texas, the other guests being Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Lomax, Rev. and Mrs. Layton and Miss Ellen Estes.

General Pershing and his sister, Miss May, called on Aunt Susan Hewitt. She was expecting them and when they left the general carried with him one of Aunt Susan's famous turnover pies. They also called on Mrs. S. A. Henley with whom the general boarded when he taught the Prairie Mound school.

The General's last words to Laclede as his train pulled out were "Good night and good bye Laclede; I will see you again soon."

When the train on which General Pershing left Laclede reached Chillicothe Tuesday night a large crowd was at the station and the General responded to calls and appeared on the platform of his car and devoted his time to telling them what a wonderful day he had just spent at his old home town.

Mrs. J. W. Haight of Brookfield and her daughter, Mrs. Harry Barber of Quincy, spent Tuesday at the home-coming, the former calling and renewing for the home paper.

J. H. Bagenstos who sold his farm near Forker and moved to Alva, Okla., twelve years ago has spent the past week here with old friends.

Locals and Personals

This office printed its first set of 1920 sale bills Saturday. They were for J. B. Chapman who will hold a public sale on Thursday, January 1. A full list of his stuff will be found in his advertisement in this paper today.

L. N. Whitaker, who sold his farm a half mile south of town and is to give possession soon, will hold a public sale next Monday, December 29. He has 24 head of stock, a large amount of farm machinery and feed to dispose of. The sale will begin at 1 o'clock.

The Blade would be pleased to have everybody who has relatives or friends visiting them for the holidays to report the facts for our next issue and as early in the week as possible. This applies to country folk as well as those here in town.

The Blade folk had intended to take a vacation this week and not issue a paper but three columns of legal that must run "four weeks successively at least once a week" was too much business to turn down, so here we are with just enough of a newspaper to cover the legal "pints."

M. P. Benson on Monday sold the E. E. Benson residence property to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Groes for \$4,000, possession to be given about the 15th of April. Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Benson expect to spend another year or two in New Mexico for the benefit of their daughter's health and sold their fine home here rather than let it stand idle.

The past two weeks have been busy weeks for the editor of The Blade and his days have extended far into the nights. An unusual amount of advertising, several big orders for job printing in addition to the usual run of commercial work, spending a greater part of Monday assisting a half dozen metropolitan reporters to get a line on the Pershing reception, then serving on the reception committee and making a full hand at the banquet table on Tuesday was some job for an undersized person, but we came through it all right and hope to begin the New Year in fine shape.

Paul S. Lomax, enroute from St. Louis to Kansas City, spent a few hours last Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lomax. In connection with his present position as special agent for commercial education, under the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D. C., he has just completed an inspection trip of commercial schools in all the southern states in which are enrolled disabled soldiers, sailors and marines who are being retrained by the government for new vocations at which they will be able to carry on successfully in making a living. From Kansas City, he will go to Chicago to attend the meetings of the National Commercial Teacher's Federation, returning to Washington, January 5, by way of Grand Rapids, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

See Moore Land Company, Francis Building, Brookfield, Mo., for 5% per cent money on farm loan, small commission. No charge for examining abstracts or recording papers.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Brief Mention of Those Who Come and Go During the Week

Mrs. Mollie Bonds of Triplett is visiting her son, Dr. Bonds, and family.

Mrs. Flora Tunnell of Brown- ing is the guest of the L. B. Jones family.

Miss Esther Clark of Linneus is spending the week with Mrs. J. T. Cushing.

Harold G. Standly is home from the Kansas university for the holidays.

Miss Frances Lamme is home from Central college, Lexington, for the holidays.

Mrs. Georgia Watterson of Bogard is spending the week with her mother, Mrs. G. W. Thompson.

Miss Ruth Foreman came up from Fayette and spent the first half of the week with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Eva Shaeffer of Deer Lodge, Mont., arrived Tuesday night to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Weatherly.

Prof. Byron Western and family of Spickard are here to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Groes.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Brott and little son, Orland, of Brookfield were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McDonnell.

Mrs. Allie Harter and daughter, Miss Beatrice, are home from Fayette to spend the holiday vacation with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Mamie Sipple and little daughter of Burlington are here to spend the holidays with her sister, Mrs. N. Byrne and family.

S. L. Felt of Salina, Kans., came Sunday to spend a few days with relatives and old friends and remained to the Pershing reception.

Chas. Hendrickson, an old time citizen and former schoolmate of Gen. Pershing, came from Ottawa, Kans., and enjoyed a visit among old friends.

Earl Drake was down from Linneus on business Monday and visited The Blade, renewing the subscription of J. C. Clemons for another year.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cole left Saturday night to spend a couple of weeks with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. R. Hamill, at Ottawa, Ill.

J. M. Simpson and family came in from Texas Saturday and are again at home on their farm a mile east of town. Their neighbors and many friends are glad to have them back again.

Miss Ellen Estes is home from St. Louis to spend the holidays with relatives and friends after an absence of three years. Miss Estes has completed her course in nursing and graduated from the Barnes hospital and is now in charge of one of the wards.

Miss Lula Felt, president of the Quincy College of Music, is spending a few days with old friends here this week, having come over to the General Pershing home-coming reception. The Felt and Pershing families were neighbors and close friends here back in the days when Lula and John were younger than they are now and they naturally enjoyed renewing old acquaintance.