

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

VOLUME XI

ST. JOSEPH, MO., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1919

NUMBER 25.

CAUGHT ADVANCING GERMANS IN A TRAP

And Mowed Them Down Like the Keen Reaper Harvests the Ripened Grain

Gunner Courtney of St. Joseph Contingent Tells of the Fight in the Argonne

Private W. W. Courtney, the son of Mrs. L. M. Courtney of 1524 North Tenth street, who is now with the 128th Field Artillery, has seen much fighting in the war just closed, and from his account so have all of the St. Joseph boys. In a letter to his mother he tells of his experiences in a most interesting way when he says:

"Verdun, France, Dec. 21, '18.

"Mrs. L. M. Courtney,
1524 North 10th St.,
St. Joseph, Mo.

"Dear Mother and all—

Thought I would write and let you know that I am O. K. and back with the battery. I have received some letters from you, but no papers or letters from Clark, Edna or Frank.

"I feel fine since I came back from the hospital, and I guess we stand a good chance of going to Germany. But even if we do not go, it will be March at best before I can get home. The railroads over here are congested so that it is almost impossible to get cars or transportation for the soldiers, there are so many of them moving now.

"But I guess some day we will come marching home, even if we do have to go over and visit Fritz first. As the 'ban' has been raised on the censoring of mail, I will try and tell you a little of what we Yanks went through. I will begin by telling you the unit to which I belong, 'To-wit,' 35th Division, 60th Brigade, 2nd army and 8th corps." The first introduction the 128th P. A. had to Fritz was in the Vosges mountains near the Switzerland border.

"We took up our position against the enemy on the night of Aug. 22nd, keeping it until Sept. 4th. During that time our fighting was mostly after night and on no occasion did we ever move around much during day light, as we were only about two miles from the enemy lines, and let me say that is rather close for artillery. Our range generally running from five to seven miles.

"We gave them one great surprise the night of Aug. 25th, sending over one thousand shells, five hundred of which were gas. They put up a feeble resistance for about an hour and gave it up for a bad job and got in the clear I guess, for their guns were quiet during the rest of the bombardment. We found out later that the Vosges mountains was only a joke when it comes to battles.

"We moved from that position to the St. Mihiel front where we were held in reserve for some time, but finally were ordered to advance on to the Argonne Forest and start that drive.

"We took up our position on this new front on the night of Sept. 24th about midnight. We spent the rest of that night and the next day digging out positions for the guns, and also dugouts for our own protection.

"And rain, rain, rain all the time. From the time we entered the Vosges mountains up into this date. Mud is a side dish, of course, and all of our traveling from one front to another we did after night and by horses. So you can imagine what one has to contend with in France in the line of weather only—say nothing at all of the hardships of actual fighting.

The Argonne Drive
"Well, we started the Argonne drive on the night of Sept. 26th, 'H' hour, being five minutes of eleven, and let me say that it was certainly some bombardment, three divisions taking part in the drive. Our division holding the center, the 25th division on our left, and the 91st on our right.

"A total of over four hundred pieces of artillery ranging from three inch field pieces to ten inch naval guns took part in this drive, the bombardment lasting until five o'clock in the morning, when we ceased firing, and at 5:30 the 128th infantry of our division went 'over the top.' From that on every time we made an advance all one could see was wounded going back in the ambulances to hospitals and our path strewn with dead, both Germans and Yanks. 'Our boys' the 128th—and let me say here, there were no braver bunch of infantry ever

fought in this, or any other war, that can compete with the 128th Infantry of St. Louis, and the 140th Infantry of our little city of St. Joseph.

"Those boys took ground that the French had tried for four years to take, and in one drive the French lost over 40,000 men.

"That was hill 60, just behind the village of Scheppay. Our boys took it in less than six hours. Of course we had some casualties, but nothing near like the French had. We caught the Germans in a box barrage.

"The infantry had orders to go over the top and advance for two hours, at the end of that time to fall back to their starting place at double time.

(Continued on Page 7.)

TO WATER THE COUNTRY

A Pipeline Project Whereby the Towns of Northwest Missouri Would Profit.

There is hardly a town in Northwest Missouri outside of this city that has a system of waterworks, or if it has, it is supplied with enough water at times to keep it in operation, therefore the people of that section will be interested in bills 431 and 432 now before the state legislature which propose to grant cities, towns and municipalities and corporations the right to sell and purchase water to be taken from wells or reservoirs in the Missouri river bottom, and furnished to consumers.

The principal well would be some distance west of Savannah where it is said that there is a strata of sheet water free from salt, 800 feet in length and at no great depth, which can be utilized for the purpose. The plan is to tap this strata and pump the water which is collected there through filtration from the Missouri river, into tanks or reservoirs from which it could be piped to any desired locality.

It is figured that an expenditure of \$2,000,000 would do all necessary work and furnish people with water at 15 cents per 1,000 gallons.

HARRY BISHOPP SLASHED BY HAWKINS

Another stabbing affray occurred early Thursday morning at the chop suey joint, 211 1/2 South Fifth street, which place has come into considerable unpleasant notoriety of late by the frequency with which cutting and shooting affrays occur there. This time it was Harry Bishop, who was slashed about the head and face with a bowie knife wielded by A. E. Hawkins. His wounds, while serious, are not dangerous. Hawkins and Bishop were both arrested.

TOOK THE CAR WITH THE BOOZE

While Irvine Hille and Henry Hans of Norfolk, Neb., were piloting a car loaded with booze through Kansas one night last week, Jack Moll and Erwin Lehman held them up near Troy and took the car and booze. They went with it to Omaha, where they sold the juice of future punishment, and then leaving the car at Fremont came back to St. Joseph by train, where they were arrested. They had a hearing before Justice Wilson yesterday and were bound over.

WORK ON THE 102 ROAD

Since the court decision released the \$2,000,000 bond issue the county court will sell \$200,000 of the bonds, after which work will be started at once on the One-Hundred-and-Two river road. The plans and specifications are now ready and work will be started as soon as possible. The work on the Faucett leg of Jefferson Highway will also be pushed, and completed this summer.

RURAL ROUTE CONVENTION TODAY

The semi-annual meeting of the Rural Letter Carriers' Association of the Fourth Congressional district will be held in the federal court room in the postoffice building today. O. G. Null of Pickering, secretary-treasurer, has all arrangements complete. An important programme has been arranged, and it is expected that there will be a full attendance.

SLACK SOME CHEESE

The Omaha Man Captured by the St. Joseph Police Seems to Have "A Pull."

That fellow Henry Slack who was captured here last week by the St. Joseph police and turned over to an Omaha officer, from whom he escaped that night at Cornish, while being taken back to Omaha, must be "some punkin'" in the up-the-river metropolis, if the following front page article in the Omaha World-Herald is any criterion. It says:

"Henry Slack, who with Carl Rose Sunday escaped from Harry McDonald conducting them from St. Joseph to Omaha where they are wanted on charges of burglary, is in Omaha laughing in his sleeve at the efforts of the police to recapture him.

"Slack, Rose and Roy Slack, Henry's brother, were arrested in St. Joseph Saturday, two days after they arrived there from Omaha. Omaha police had been looking for them since January 26.

"I was a fool for ever leaving Omaha. But I knew I was as good as free when an Omaha officer came after me. Rose and I just waited until he went to sleep, then got up and walked off the train. I came straight to Omaha where I knew I was safe," Slack told a friend last night.

"A dozen patrolmen were asked if they would arrest Slack or Rose if they were given the opportunity. The answer was always the same:

"No. It would probably mean being called up on the carpet to answer questions about 'shake downs' or 'collusion with them.'

"The wide meshed police dragnet was set for the Slack brothers and Rose when the police department received an unsigned letter saying that they were responsible for many of the burglaries that have baffled the police since the present administration took up the reins of municipal government.

"Detectives Lapinski and Steely went to 1904 Capitol avenue where the letter said Roy Slack and Rose could be found. Both men were there, but the detectives didn't find them, for they stepped into another room while the detectives arrested Pearl Wilson who was also there. Two suitcases containing what is alleged to be loot from many of the stores robbed were taken at the station. The overcoats and hats of the men sought lay across the suit cases but that meant nothing to the detectives. They laid them aside and left followed closely by Slack and Rose.

"Although the police watched the house all the next day, the men had no difficulty in returning and removing many of their effects to a new residence.

"Had it not been for Chief of Police Eberstein's system of keeping information for the chosen few, the men might have been arrested. Detectives who had not been told that the men were wanted often conversed with them on the street.

"A week ago, tiring of the fiasco, the men left for St. Joseph. That proved a mistake. They were immediately arrested."

ADDRESSED CLUB

Congressman Charles F. Booher Talks on the Proposed League of Nations.

The Commerce Club at its Wednesday luncheon was afforded the opportunity to hear Congressman Booher discuss the proposed League of Nations, which he did to a crowded house. The Fourth district member is at home for a few days, called here by the illness of his wife. He hopes to return to his post in the next few days, as Mrs. Booher shows some improvement.

The congressman entered quite lengthily into his subject, discussing the proposition in its various phases, and explaining in as much detail as possible the manner in which such a league would operate, and the benefit that it would be to mankind. He declared that the proposition was supported by all good men irrespective of politics and said that politics was at the bottom of all opposition that had developed to the plan. He further said that patriotism should guide all Americans and declared:

"It seems strange that American patriots are afraid to do something which will guarantee the peace of the world. The only thing that the league will do will be to bind the nations of the world as our constitution binds our states."

E. C. Berry, district superintendent of the American Railway Express Co. of Kansas City, also spoke, referring to the campaign that organization was putting on for better service.

WRAPPED BONDS UP WITH A NEW HAT

And Then a Smooth Thief Took Them From the American Railway Express

THE HOPKINS \$5,000 IS RECOVERED

And On Account of the Peculiar Manner in Which He Had Sent the Bonds to His Son the St. Joseph Importer Refused to Prosecute the Man Who Stole Them and Who Confessed to the Theft.

The many friends of James R. Hopkins, St. Joseph's largest importer and one of its best business men and citizens, are making life something of an unpleasant nature to him just now and "joshing" him to a considerable extent over the discrepancies which appear in two stories printed, one in a Kansas City and the other in the News-Press of this city. It but illustrates through this dissimilarity the fact that no two people see or hear alike. Here is the story that appeared in the News-Press Thursday afternoon:

Lost Bonds Recovered

"Liberty bonds to the amount of \$5,000, lost in transit between St. Joseph and Camp Doniphan, in November, 1917, have been recovered by James R. Hopkins. Detectives located the missing bonds at Lone Jack, Mo., a little town near Kansas City. The bonds had been forwarded by express by Mr. Hopkins to his son, Robert Hopkins, who was in training at Doniphan prior to going overseas. They disappeared while in the hands of the express company and the detectives had been searching for them a year or more. The person in whose possession the bonds were found said they had been picked up on the union depot platform in Kansas City. There will be no prosecution."

In the Tuesday issue of the Kansas City Post is the following little story, displayed prominently on the first page:

Refuses to Prosecute

"Having recovered \$5,000 in Liberty bonds which he attempted to send in a hutto Tulsa, Okla., and which were stolen from the American Railway Express company here by employees of the company, a wealthy St. Joseph man refuses to prosecute.

"Had it not been for the Butcher, Kas., bond theft revelations, and a keen-eyed broker, the bonds might still be secreted in an old trunk where they were taken and the thieves still be in the employ of the express company.

"The wealthy shipper had thought of a novel method of sending his bonds to Tulsa.

"He bought a new hat for \$4 and wrapped the bonds, which were of \$500 denomination, in a piece of paper and then stuffed them into the hat.

"When he went to the express company to send them personally, he insured the package for \$4.

"The package was shipped three months ago. Since that time Burns detectives and special agents of the express company have been searching for the thief.

The Butcher Robbery
"When the arrest of Frank Benatt and Maurice Spicer in the Butcher robbery occurred, a broker on Twelfth street decided to check up on his bond numbers. He found one bond which he had bought for \$400 in the list of stolen bond numbers furnished by the detective agency to bankers and brokers.

"The man who had sold him the bond, it developed, worked at the Union station. After a severe grilling he admitted it had been given him by another man, an employe of the express company.

"The express company employe was found and finally confessed that all except the one bond were in a trunk in the home of his grandmother at Lone Jack.

"Saturday night Burns detectives, special agents of the express company and the former employe went in a motor car to Lone Jack.

"When consulted and presented with his missing bonds, the wealthy owner refused to prosecute."

AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Republican Leaders Are Gnawing at Each Other's Vitals and the End Is Not Yet.

JEFFERSON CITY, Feb. 17—(Correspondence.)—Although there has been quite a little in the papers to the effect that the primary election law may be repealed, there is little probability of such action. As a matter of fact, there has never been serious consideration of repealing the law, although many favor taking the best of both the primary and convention plans. This was an opinion expressed by Lieutenant Governor Crossley, despite the headlines in some newspapers which resulted from a statement issued by him.

The house committee on appropriations has approved an appropriation of \$700,000 for the payment of pensions to confederate soldiers.

The teaching of any foreign language in the private or public schools of the state until after the eighth grade has been engrossed in the house and will probably pass. Another measure provides that no alien can teach in the public schools of the state.

The bill of Senator Mayes providing for the restoration of capital punishment was engrossed without opposition in the senate.

The registration of marriages, divorces and adoption of children with the state board of health seems probable. A fee of \$2 will be charged for the service.

Republican members of the legislature seem to be gnawing at each other's vitals, if reports are to be considered. The trouble seems to be between Floor Leader Dyott and Chairman Becker of the clerical force committee. Friends of Becker declare that the Republican caucus decided upon the number of clerks the house was to have, but when the newspapers attacked them for so many an effort was started to place the burden on the shoulders of Mr. Becker. Friends of Becker assert that they were not anxious to over-load the house with clerks no more than they were to place twenty or more negroes in the cloak and bill rooms at \$2.50 per day, but that they were all arranged for by the caucus.

A hearing was held this week to consider the mortgage recording tax bill recommended by Governor Gardner, and it is being freely predicted that the measure will be passed. Under the proposed bill persons owning real estate mortgages would pay a tax of 25 cents on every \$100 for a five year term. Those in charge of the measure predict that the state would collect much more than under present conditions, as practically nothing is now collected. The following information has been selected from various portions of the state to show the benefit to be derived from the proposed legislation:

County.	Present	Proposed
Cole	\$ 37.50	\$ 2,000
St. Louis	1,026.00	14,900
Saline	909.00	7,000
Mississippi	225.00	2,700
Worth	172.50	1,600
Knox	93.00	1,500
Henry	204.50	1,700
Clark	252.20	1,500
Pemscot	2,900
Dunklin	722.5	5,000
Sullivan	180.00	5,000
Scott	220.00	8,750

EX-POLICEMAN MURCHIE GETS TWO YEARS

The case against Charles F. Murchie, a former police chauffeur, charged with stealing a motor car from Dell Delair of Falls City, Neb., last fall, was concluded in criminal court Tuesday. After the jury had been out for three hours they brought in a verdict of guilty and gave Murchie two years in the pen. Murchie's defense was that the car had been placed in his hands for safe keeping by supposed bootleggers, and he did not want to give them away. His failure to "give them away" cost him his liberty for a few succeeding years and moons.

PACKING HOUSE EMPLOYEES RAISED

The wages of seventy-five hundred packing house employes here were favorably affected Monday, when Judge Alschuler of Chicago announced a ten per cent advance in wages for them, the advance dating back to Nov. 18. In addition the award gives 3 1/2 cents rates per hour for all employes under twenty-one years of age who are not now receiving 42 1/2 cents per hour. Time and a half is allowed for overtime. The increase in wages here will mean many thousands for the workers.

HART EXPLODES AN OLD AND VILE "CALUMNY"

He Says That the Story of High Hotel Prices at Miami, Fla., is Untrue

BUT SAYS THAT YOU CAN "FIND THEM"

The North St. Joseph Banker Now Sojourning in the South Writes Another of Those Descriptive Letters Which His Friends Are Always Glad to Read Even if They Do Not Believe All That He Has Indited for Their Delection and Amusement.

Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 16.

On this 16th day of February, 1919, I am sitting before an open grate and enjoying the cheerful warmth of a blazing pine knot fire—and this in Southern Florida—at celebrated Palm Beach, the nearest point in Florida to the warm currents of the Gulf stream—or an advertised, I have seen a Mexican holiday up on the sunny side of the Alamo at San Antonio, Texas, during a "norther" but he had nothing on this African-summer of the roller chair this morning.

This sounds like a knock on the sunny, sunny south, yet like Truthful James, "I speak but the truth." As they tell me in every winter resort I have ever visited (and I have seen them all from the Florida Keys to Coronado Beach, Cal.) the weather is "unusual"—some day I am going to Panama to see if I can find a real winter resort.

A Fatal Nose Dive

On the day we left St. Petersburg two aviators in a big biplane were doing "stunts" over the city and wound up with a "nose dive" into the bay. One was instantly killed, the other badly injured, and the machine a total wreck—as I have given up for the present an air trip.

We took a boat down Tampa Bay to the Manatee country and up that river to Bradenton and Manassas, where we visited the big Atwood grape fruit groves. Sixty one of 90 rows of trees, each row one mile long. They will ship this year 120,000 boxes.

Again by boat, a most delightful trip up the bay to Port Tampa where they ship 85 per cent of the pineapple of the United States. From here by auto to Lakeland and the highlands of the interior of the state. Lakeland Heights country club is said to be the highest point in the state, 200 feet above sea level. From here we drove over the adjacent country—Winter Haven and Ft. Pierce—where we visited the "orange" groves—and "Oh Boy," I never tasted a real orange till then, and I have lost my taste for prunes. The Lakeland Heights Co. seem to have about the best proposition I have seen in the citrus business, as a grove owner can become a member of an association that will care for his grove, so a residence here the entire year is not necessary, to own an orange grove.

Orlando the Beautiful

Next we went to Orlando, the most beautiful little city of the interior, a city of fresh water lakes—having 17 in the city limits. Two of these lakes, Lucerne and Eola, being almost perfect circles—about 40 acres in size—having a paved promenade and driveway entirely around them—back of which are beautiful homes fronting the water. Fine fish are caught from these lakes—and here sail black and white swans to the delight of the children.

Our next stop was New Smyrna—and across the Indian river to Coronado beach where the "Madame" had her first view of the rolling Atlantic and heard "the sad sea waves," and as it was raining that day they certainly were sad. This brings us to where I started this letter, Palm Beach. The sun has tempered the northwest wind to a balmy breeze—the chair boys have warmed up—the white hats and white shoes are becoming in evidence and the ladies in summer attire are preparing for the afternoon—walk—drive, ride, or sail be text, at the coconut grove of the Royal Pontians.

Hart Takes Greeley's Advice

This place or places consists of Palm Beach proper, on an island, the east side fronting on the Atlantic ocean with "the breakers" as the big hotel and the west side fronting Lake North, with the Royal Pontians as

REFUSED TO CONFIRM

The Senate by a Vote of 19 to 13 Fails to Give Col. Stringfellow the Desired Honor.

After being in the hands of the Senate almost from the day that that body convened for the biennial session that body on Tuesday afternoon in executive session failed to confirm the nomination of Col. W. E. Stringfellow as a member of the police board of this city and he thereby will as soon as his successor has qualified, retire from the board. The failure to confirm came as a result of a long and unrecalled for fight brought up by a newspaper with an axe to grind, and had it remained quiet and kept up its proper business of purveying news, Col. Stringfellow, one of St. Joseph's best citizens, would not now be obliged to drain the bitter cup of disappointment.

From the time that Col. Stringfellow's name went before the Senate and the newspaper started its "helpful" fight for him, it has been plain to the most obtuse observer that he would fail of confirmation. The vote of Tuesday afternoon decided the question this way:

For Stringfellow—James W. McKnight, George W. Glick, Walter C. Goodson, Jesse J. Duncan, R. S. McClellin, O. S. Harrison, Walter Bronsler, Frank J. Harris, Robert M. Lively, S. A. Cunningham, O. A. Pickett, Seth M. Young, Howard Gray.

Against Stringfellow—M. E. Casey, Von Mays, Michael Kinney, Joseph H. Brogan, T. J. Lysaght, F. H. McCullough, Carter M. Buford, S. E. Bronsler, A. E. L. Gardner, Frank B. Warner, Charles J. Belken, W. F. Depelbeuer, Conway Elder, Peter Anderson, Clark Wix and Sam B. Cook.

CLEARED HIS DOCKET

Judge Utz Fined Some and Got the Rest of the Hang-Over Cases Out of His Court.

Two weeks ago Judge Utz served notice on the various attorneys that on Feb. 20th he proposed to purge his docket of the many hang-over city cases which were, many of them on his record when he came into office. Thursday he did so.

Herman Hess, assistant city attorney, started the ball to rolling by dismissing the motor speeding cases against M. J. Duval and A. H. Duncan; J. A. Saunders keeping gambling devices; Maude Jacobs keeping improper resort; K. K. Kirkman, disturbing the peace; Max Loveman, failing to record second hand goods purchased; Joseph Vesper selling liquor illegally; and Clarence Cox disturbing the peace.

M. J. Sheridan, charged with selling liquor illegally, had his case continued.

It cost M. Meshevsky \$25 and some for failure to record second hand goods; L. Hausman \$5 for failure to take out pawnbrokers' license; M. M. Nelson \$4 for selling tainted meats; Walter Scott \$5 for cruelty to animals, and Elsie Dodson, George Jarrott, Edna Smith and Mrs. W. Smith \$5 each on immorality charges.

This cleared up the hang-over cases and Judge Utz's docket is clean.

THE McKIBBEN-McMINCH ROW

George E. McMinch, vice president of the state highway board, arrived at home Monday night, having come from Jefferson City by way of Springfield, Ill., where he met the Illinois state highway commission. Mr. McMinch was in Jefferson City all week where he was mixed up in the state highway board row now going on with ex-Secretary McKibben. All the evidence on both sides is now in and nothing further will be done until the night of March 4, when he and McKibben will argue the case at Jefferson City.

M. Tomlinson has succeeded L. E. Sipes as a deputy in Sheriff Isaacson's office.

Headquarters for the millionaires.

West Palm Beach is on the west side of Lake North and contains the business section—no stores—banks or shops being on the "east side," as it is called. This place has been maligned as to prices. You can get anything your purse will permit from a room at \$10 per week on the west side to \$100 per day on the "east side. I don't need to tell you where I located, you know Greeley said "go west young man, go west."

After seeing all these groves of oranges, grape fruit and tangerines, nothing looks as good to me as a Missouri blue grass farm filled with white face cattle and Poland-China pigs.

E. L. HART.