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# The Columbus Courier

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## "Your Uncle Sam As a Road Builder"

### Constructs Military Highways Into Mexico to Feed the Punitive Expedition

BY JEAN CABALLI O'NEILL

The punitive expedition seems to have reached the mechanical stage, not in a spiritual sense, for there is nothing mechanical in the manner in which the officers and men are putting in their days in harness, but because the progress of events has come to a point that mechanical aids to the business of keeping the men in fighting trim are the chief factors in the scheme of things here. Road building is now in progress in a scientific manner over a great extent of Mexican territory, because the millions of tons of weight that have passed over the trail in the past twelve weeks have cut so deep into the ground that when rain comes the section where the American troops are located will be cut off from this base. For this purpose there are now new road-building machines, costing a great deal of money, lying here waiting until the progress of the roadmaking puts them into play. The engineers of the United States army are in command of the work, and most of the workers seem to be men who are cheap, if nothing else. Some of the civilian truck drivers are helping on this hard service, but they are quite unskilled in their labors, for they have had so many awful jobs from the madness of the going they will only bend their backs in the loyal sue on this new job. "An army moves on its belly," as veterans of some of the numerous American wars tell us that a soldier is of little value at any time unless he is properly fed, the highest courage in man's heart counting for little if the man is weak from hunger.

The outer world has not the slightest conception of the almost awe-inspiring job it is to feed the American army, which is strung along in desert and desolate lands, where lack of water, high altitude and constant wind and sand makes the labor of supplying food and water the heaviest undertaking the world has ever known. But for the mechanical aid to action the expedition would have had to be withdrawn within the first week of the beginning of the Villa unit.

It is computed that a soldier in the field needs four pounds of food daily. At the same time it is believed that every animal needs ten pounds of grain and fourteen pounds of hay or forage.

It is not permitted to say how many soldiers and horses and mules are now in active service, but the men are eating four hundred thousand pounds of bacon,hardtack, ponatoes, beef and canned stuff each week.

And none of that material is found in Mexico, unless a little fresh beef is counted in; water also is often carried, and oil, and then the thousands of articles for maintenance of trucks and hospital and equipment of man and beast.

All this gigantic supply service is under the quartermaster's department, and the chief officer in this splendid work is Major J. P. Madden. He is "the boy wonder" for what he can accomplish, and better still for what he can inspire others to accomplish.

Directly under Major Madden and in charge of all construction work is Capt. S. B. Pearson. The latter has had much experience in large construction work and is said to "think in thousands."

The supply of the food, forage, etc., needed for this expedition would be a serious problem if it was shipped by railway alone, but add to this the fact that everything has to be brought to Columbus, N. M., from somewhere in the distant States, to begin with; it has to first be ordered, after careful calculation, then to be checked and transhipped, mounted on motor trucks and sent over the line by man driven cars from fifteen to five hundred miles. The work is almost beyond mental comprehension, still it is accomplished every day almost without a hitch. Had not the military graduated from the army mile and truck and wagon train this feat of feeding the army in Mexico would have been impossible.

But by a wonderful streak of luck Uncle Sam was able to get a few hundred motor trucks already to be shipped to Europe. There are "Whites" and "Jeff Peyes" and the "Road Wheel Drive" and "Packards," also the "killers," of which he will try to say little, these having been "washed" on "the aviation squadron." Quads they are called, and the "Lawmobs," and eventually all these are strung up under the strain.

In ordinary times it would have taken months to assemble these truck trains, but the automobile companies offered them to the government, who grabbed the offer "pretty pronto." To get them here in any sort of time "our Uncle" had to pay dreadful expressage bills. Most of these cars come from far away, some even from Connecticut. Some of the express bills were \$700 a car. Is not this a little bit too "punitive"?

The engineering corps wires and cuts for all sorts of things

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## War to the Finish On Bootleggers

### District Attorney Determines to Put a Stop to Bootlegging; Three Bound Over to the Grand Jury.

The District Attorney is surely determined to wipe out the bootlegging in Columbus judging from the campaign he is making against it. Sheriff Simpson is also keeping his force after them day and night; but they appear occasionally and when convicted are being given about the limit.

July 5th there were a dozen or more cases in Justice Peach's Court, most of the prisoners being charged with selling booze. Harry Washington, J. Jeffers and Mickey Doyle were found guilty and bound over in the sum of \$1,500 to \$2,000 to await the action of the grand jury in October. Geraldine Harding and several others were found not guilty, there not being sufficient evidence to convict them.

Jess Tapp was tried on a charge of horse stealing but was acquitted. The complaint was made by A. Fredericksen.

E. C. Brown was before the judge on a vagrancy charge and was given an opportunity to leave town, of which he quickly took advantage.

Jack Tweed was charged with being drunk and disorderly and was asked to contribute \$2.50 to the state along with the costs.

Major Waddell prosecuted the cases and will be on the job at all times in the future when necessary to punish the law violators, as he has been in the past.

Some of the county officials have admitted that they were at some of the expense of prosecuting the criminals at Columbus, and there is no question but that it is a considerable amount.

Columbus now has twice as many men including the soldiers as any town in the state of New Mexico, and the criminal racket is very high unless considering the great amount of people here. And the majority of the noise in court here been people who came in from other places just for a few days with the idea that they could evade the laws long enough to clean up a few dollars, and then get out of town before they could be apprehended.

The soldier and civilian employees located here have given very little or no cause for praise either—in fact, since the large volume of soldiers arrived here there has not been a single charge against a soldier in the justice court. And they have very often appeared as witnesses, showing that they desire to

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## July 3rd Enlivened by Boxing Matches

### Jack Arnold Won the Main Event on a Foul, Though Many Think Strouer Was the Better Man.

Columbus has had a lively week between celebrations of the Independence day, the arrival of another fine body of National Guards, this time from far away Massachusetts and two sets of boxing bouts. Neither of the latter was quite up to the expectations of the promoters, for the bouts were so soon over with in every case, except the very clever sparring match of Willie Siebert, of the Hospital Corps, and Pug Doyle, of the New Mexican Guards; which led off the ball on July 3rd at the Airplane, the bouts were so brief that before one could "pick a winner," all was over.

Doyle and Siebert were surely a charming pair of youngsters weighing in at 125, as clean cut artistic handiers of the mitts as one would wish to see. The decision of the referee was "a draw" so evenly were the fighters matched, so evenly balanced their work.

The surprise of the evening was the whirlwind performance of Jim Wilson of El Paso, who went up against Jack Courier of the First Aero Squadron, and with one look to the jaw lung the Squadron man in the ropes, where Wilson proceeded to punch Courier until the legs of the latter were up in the air and he was stretched out for the count. Jim Wilson surely deserves the name of "whirlwind" and will probably carry it through a long and successful career. He is as quick as greased lightning as one of the colored men expressed it.

The odd thing about the body bout is that while everyone admitted the equality with which the El Paso man finished up his job, the audience believed that Jack Courier has a good fight somewhere in his mitts. So sure of this are the men in his own Squadron that they have made up a purse, and a good one, among

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## Bishop of N. M. to Visit Columbus

A telegram from Right Rev. F. B. Howden, D. D., Bishop of New Mexico, announces his arrival at Columbus from Albuquerque, New Mexico, in time to hold service Saturday night at eight o'clock. This service, by courtesy of the army chaplains and General Secretary Ege of Y. M. C. A., will be held at the hall opposite the band stand immediately after the concert.

All soldiers in particular are invited, as well as local friends of Trinity Mission of Columbus, which is planning to build here a church in memory of the soldiers who have died during the expedition into Mexico.

The Rt. Rev. F. B. Howden, D. D., Bishop of New Mexico, will visit Columbus next Sunday, July 9th. There will be a celebration of the Holy Communion Sunday morning at 7:30 at the Crystal Theatre, the bishop celebrating, assisted by Chaplains Danker and Vincent of the National Guard. At 9 o'clock services will be held at the Y. M. C. A., Bishop Howden preaching the sermon. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to be present at these services.

## Society Los Gringos Punitivos

Among the celebrations that marked the 4th of July, one of the most enjoyable reported, was that of the Society Los Gringos Punitivos. This society is composed of employees of the quartermaster's corps of the army and was organized at Columbus on April 30, 1915, to commemorate the punitive expedition into Mexico and has for its objects the perpetuation of the associations formed during the existence of the punitive expedition and to foster the spirit of American patriotism and pride in American institutions, as well as to inculcate the principles of friendship.

The entire personnel of the society in Columbus, accompanied by six candidates for admission, left Columbus in three motor trucks at about 7:00 p. m. and arrived at the mining camp of Tres Hermanas at about 8:00 p. m. Here the trucks were unloaded and under the blue canopy of heaven the first initiation ceremony of the society was carried out. The drill team, consisting of Messrs. Shields, Smith and Stack, known as the "Triple S" administered the mystic rites of the "Burning Mesa" and the "Osculatory Burro," the work being directed by El Gringo Pequito Mitchell. After the initiatory services were concluded refreshments were served and were immensely enjoyed as the long ride had served to sharpen appetites. The refreshments were served in the dining room of the approach of night, when despite the kind invitations of the citizens of Tres Hermanas to remain and attend a "Bain," all piled into the trucks and a record run was made for Columbus.

The birth of this society was due to a suggestion of Mr. C. P. Daly, assistant to the quartermaster general of the army, who was present in Columbus on an inspection trip from Washington, D. C., and what at that time was organized only as a local affair now gives promise of becoming a national society, as many inquiries have been received from as far away as New York, from individuals who have seen service with the expedition and are desirous of joining the society.

The officers of the society are: C. P. Daly, El Gringo Grande; D. K. Mitchell, El Gringo Pequeno; G. W. Douglas, El Escrivante; J. Valdes, El Jefe-Bonillo; J. L. Whitmeyer, El Padre; Neil Shields, El Sentinero Exterior; F. A. Smith, El Sentinero Interior, and T. M. Stack, El Guia.

Most of the members have seen service in Cuba, China, Porto Rico and the Philippines and it was the fact that so many regiments of "Old Timers" occurred here that prompted the idea of a society, which while having as its main idea the commemoration of the soldiers in Columbus, would also serve to keep the members in touch with one another after the expedition had passed into history.

## Contract Let For Gap Bridge.

At a meeting of the Luna county road board held in Deming Monday of this week a contract was given the El Paso Bridge Co., for the construction of a steel bridge across the big arroyo in the gap. The bid was \$225,000 and is to be completed within seventy days time from July 31.

The board met in Deming, Mr. Heath of Columbus and Dr. Swope of Deming being the only members present. By the time this bridge is built the grading of the Columbus Deming road will be completed and the traveler will have a good road between the two towns.

## July 4 Celebrations At the Army Base

### Many Keenly Contested Games, Band Concerts, &c., Which Were Thoroughly Enjoyed By All.

The Independence Day celebration, under the auspices of Young Men's Christian Association field secretary and the kind co-operation of the officers of the U. S. army and National Guards, will long be remembered by all so fortunate as to enjoy the varied program.

At six a. m. the massed bands welcomed the occasion with beautiful music, and at the end of the day again the massed bands gave a concert, with the assistance of vocal selections from an army quartette, which finished out a day of peace and pleasure, even if it was passed in the American war zone.

Two ball games were "pulled off" notwithstanding the heat, with great enjoyment, especially to the onlookers who had nothing to do but "look pleasant." The first game was between married men and single men. It is said the married men got licked, but being not unused to this experience it was taken in good part. Regulars and National Guards also measured strength in a hotly-contested game.

There was a varied program of athletic contests, including mounted wrestling, foot races, potato races, three-legged races, human wheelbarrow race, sack race, high jump, cucking contest and centipede race, with prizes in gold for those who excelled.

Everyone tried his best and the losers lost very gracefully. The entire spirit of the contestants was fine, and everyone had a good time, and those who excelled were congratulated heartily by all, for they worked hard and fairly for their rewards.

Of the many attractive events probably the centipede race of three teams was the funniest. The men were at one time piled up in a squaring mass formation like a football team on a spree; for arm-and-leg entanglement they had the "chariot race in 'Ben Hur'" beat to a frazzle, but in short order the human units of the centipede were straightened out and went rejoicing to the goal.

The building contest was a lively affair, and as the horses bucked and swayed about the field in unrestrained ardor, the spectators pushing forward or falling back as the performers dashed forward or retreated. This gave as many thrills to the innocent bystander, who was surely due to be stepped on if he did not step lively, as it could have done to the men and horses holding the center of the field. There was some beautiful work on the part of the men, particularly good when it is remembered that they had to ride without spurs, and someone must have told the horses of this regulation, for they surely seemed "wised up" and behaved in some cases like demon animals.

The "Committee of Stunts," who were responsible for the attractive celebration of the 4th of July, are heartily thanked by all who took part and all who looked on to the well-managed series of contests. Chaplain Z. T. Vincent, of the New Mexican National Guards, was marshal.

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