

EARLY LIFE OF GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING

AUTHENTIC STORY OF THE BOYHOOD DAYS OF THE FAMOUS GENERAL

By HAROLD F. WHEELER.

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY.

Peach orchards, since time immemorial, have been an attraction which few small boys could resist. John Pershing was no exception.

On a Sunday not very long after Sam Hawkins, the "Huck Finn" of old Laclede, had tried to teach John to smoke and chew tobacco a peach orchard raid was made of the raiders.

As the story goes, John, with several of his "gang" was walking on the outskirts of the town this particular Sunday morning and stopped to rest near the home of Farmer Margrave. Now in all Laclede, there was no finer peach orchard than Farmer Margrave's, and never before or since, if one believes the story, did the peaches appear more alluring than on this particular "Sunday Ripe."

Conducts Successful Retreat.

A few words were passed and John deployed his "gang" one by one to a tree and himself to the largest tree of all. Everything was going nicely, just as the young leader of the raiding party had planned, when Farmer Margrave suddenly appeared on the scene. Retreat was going and it came, wild and hasty, before the advance of the irate farmer. It was a successful retreat. Farmer Margrave could not catch one of the raiders, could not even get near enough to recognize them. The whole town learned of a raid a few hours later and suspicion pointed to John.

Mr. Pershing was superintendent of the Sunday school of the Methodist Church at the time—heard of it and called John before him. Whether John had ever read "George Washington" and the "Rover" campaign, Ward to become a captain in the United States army, Grace died in 1904. Her son, Richard B. Paddock, jr., is a major on his unit's staff in France. Ward died in 1909.

The general's father and mother were to live for many years and to their careful upbringing of him, the splendid Christian home they made and maintained for their children, he owes much of his present greatness. Laclede folks told me, even as his sister, Mrs. D. M. Butler—basic told me.

Of the general's early school days, one can learn much of them from "Clay C. Bigger, a lawyer in Laclede; Francis G. Adams, a farmer of the town, and Leander Wesley Love of Brookfield. They were classmates of John Pershing.

What Schoolmates Say of Him. Mr. Love was the first with whom I talked. Lee Love, Laclede people call him.

"The first clear memories I have of John," Mr. Love told me, "are when we were both about nine or ten years old. We sat together—beside each other—in school. Professor Carruthers, long since dead, was our teacher. I knew then John was different from the rest of us. He had greater intelligence. As I look back over the years I can see that he studied harder than the rest of us and that from earliest childhood he lived with a definite goal in view. He wanted an education, the best, and he worked and worked with that objective.

"I do not recall that John was particularly brilliant. But he was a 'plunger.' He stuck to a task until he mastered it. Let me tell you a story of him to illustrate what I mean. One day I was sent for a load of lumber near the Pershing farm. I saw John in the brush. He bent over, poking amongst the leaves with a stick, apparently looking for something he had lost.

"What you hunting?" I asked him. "Buzzers," he replied. "I didn't know what 'buzzers' were, but I decided if John wanted a 'buzzer' I wanted one, too. So I joined him. In about a minute I learned what 'buzzers' were—rattle snakes. Yes, sir, that was what John was hunting—rattlesnakes. One of them almost got me. John killed it just as it was about to strike.

"John showed me how to catch them, but somehow I could not get the knack of it. I didn't catch a one. But John got seven of them that afternoon. He stuck to it. He was persistent. And in school he tackled his lessons just as he tackled the 'buzzers.'

Always a Good Scholar. "In consequence he always stood at the head of the class. He was 'John and I' he told me, "were roasting about one day on the south of the town. We came across a patch of melons. Boylike we wanted some. They looked good to us. We cut a melon and lugged it away to a place where we could not be seen and cut out our knives. Guess? We'd made a mistake. We had a citron or a watermelon. John laughed. He was all smiles. He didn't have any melon—that is, not that day."

Gen. Pershing's Brother. "John was 14 and I was about 12," Pershing said, "I think perhaps had tried to smoke before. But never tried to chew. We looked at it as a concession for Hawkins to offer us a bite out of his plug. We accepted it and we bit the plug generously. We did not get to his days. He was not a smoker. Since that day I always let when people talk of being sea-sick. They really do not know what they are talking about."

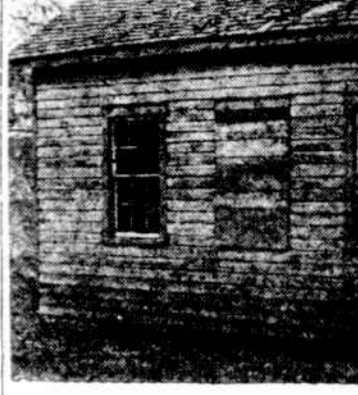
The Family Record. Meantime the Pershing family had increased. Brothers and sisters arrived. First came James F., Jr., always called Jim. He was born February 1901.

Next came Mary Elizabeth, always called Bessie. She was born June 19, 1884.

Three years later, on June 30, 1887, Ann May, always known as May, was born.

Other children of the Pershings were Grace, born March 29, 1888; Rose and Ruth, twins, born in 1872; Ward P., born March 29, 1874, and Fred G., born in 1877. The twins and Fred died in infancy.

Grace and Ward lived many years. Grace became the wife of Richard B. Paddock, an officer who fell in the



First school Gen. Pershing ever attended.

John—his never-ending loyalty to his friends. And I would have you remember it is years since I have seen John—not since we were about 15. Well, recently, my son wrote me telling me that his company had marched in review before John. John shook hands with each of them, inquiring their names.

"When he reached Wesley he asked me, 'Are you Lee Love's son?' 'Wesley said he was, and John—the general—told him to be sure, when he wrote to me, to remember him to me.

Says People Not Represented. Rome, Sept. 11.—Commenting on President Wilson's tour in behalf of the league of nations, the Tribune declared today the man who had questioned former Premier Orlando's authority to voice the sentiments of the Italian people had not been representing the American people, before whom he was forced now to defend the Versailles treaty.

Rumanian Premier Resigns. Paris, Sept. 11.—Premier Bratianu of Rumania, has resigned, according to advices received by the Peace Conference today.

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"And study! He was the most earnest boy about his lessons I ever remember. He took them seriously at all times. He was especially interested in mathematics and usually led the class in that subject. But then, he led in everything."

Mr. Bigger—Clay Bigger—has known John Pershing as long as Mr. Adams. The friendship has continued through all the years.

"But to save my soul," Mr. Bigger declared, "I can't recall anything unusual about John when he was a school boy. You know the career of a great man is built slowly. It was not a precocious boy. He was just an ordinary boy who studied hard. His improvement was so gradual we did not notice it. There were classmates who, at times, might spell him down or answer a problem more quickly. But John was always ready for the step ahead. That is the secret of his rise to greatness. He always had a definite goal and he always seized every opportunity that offered for a chance of advancement."

Mr. Bigger tells more of John—or John's expressed intention to engage in the legal profession and enter into partnership with him. But that belongs to another chapter.

There were still living two of the teachers who taught in the Laclede school when John attended it. But before I write of them and what they told me it would be best to recount the story of Mrs. Susan Hewitt, Mrs. Hewitt—"Aunt Susan" to all Laclede folks and, indeed, to the folks of all the countryside—was a sort of fairly godmother to John Pershing.

"Aunt Susan" Tells Her Story. A rare, sweet old woman is Aunt Susan. She came to Laclede from the South in 184 with her husband, Capt. Jacob Hewitt. War had swept away their home in the Potomac valley, their home and all their earthly possessions, and they came to Laclede to start life anew. They opened a hotel—the old Missouri House. The school John attended still stand. One is used today as a barn, the other is used as a dwelling by a negro family. But the old Missouri House is gone.

Aunt Susan was passionately fond of children, yet she had never been blessed with any. She sought solace and found it by becoming a mother to all the children of Laclede—a fairly godmother who never remembered to lock her pantry door against the ravens of Laclede's boys and girls. Sitting in the chamber of her home in Laclede she told me of those days and years. Those days and years meant much to Aunt Susan then. They mean more to her today, for it is the memory of them that keeps her facing life with a smile. For time has dealt rather unkindly with Aunt Susan. A few years ago she suffered a "stroke" and, paralyzed in one side, she is an invalid, confined to the chamber of the little home to which she went in 1850, when she closed the old Missouri House.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

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Men from the West Oppose Packer Legislation

Since the middle of August business men, farmers and live stock men have been appearing before the Committee on Agriculture of the Senate and telling why they earnestly oppose the Kendrick and Kenyon bills. Here is what some of them told the committee the other day:

P. W. Olson, Of Cokeville, Wyoming, a stockman and rancher and representing the Cokeville Commercial Club and the Lincoln County Wool Growers' Association.

"We believe that these bills are opposed to the best interests of the stock business. Our experience with government control of railroads has been very unsatisfactory. We have had to pay higher rates and have received very poor service. We feel that the interests of the packers, stockmen and consumers are identical. We feel that we would rather take a chance with men who have grown up with the business, as the packers have, than with government appointees who have it all to learn. We believe that if there is anything wrong with the industry there are plenty of laws already on the statutes to protect us.

"We feel that to take away the packers' cars, as is proposed in these bills, would simply be crippling the distributing system of our products, and the stockmen would be the first to suffer."

Arthur C. Johnson, Of Denver, Colorado; editor of Denver Daily Record Stockman.

"To license a newspaper is, to a more or less extent, to censor the matter it publishes. If it is proper to censor market news, it is also proper to censor other news. The entry of the government, therefore, into the field of news censoring may lead as well to the censoring of political news, and opens up a field for political influence and control subversive of every American principle."

C. A. Rodgers, Of Denver; live stock and commission man.

"I desire to comment on that portion of this bill relating to the public use of refrigerator cars. This would be one of the most serious blows imaginable to efficiency in the distribution of meats and meat products. The packers would sometimes be compelled to wait for these cars, their coolers filled to overflowing, while orders were lost that would otherwise be filled. This would result in ruinous prices to the producer—would help to ruin a lot of men and would most certainly discourage production."

Frank J. Dennison, A banker of Denver.

"Prior to the time that the large packers became interested in the stock yards in Denver the market was small and inconsequential. It has grown tremendously since their interests began. The yard service has greatly improved under their ownership. It is efficient and satisfactory. A change of ownership in the stock yards at Denver would be a TREMENDOUS DETRIMENT to the PRODUCER and CONSUMER."

A. G. Prey, Representing the Denver Live Stock Exchange (and himself a cattle feeder and producer), Denver, Colorado.

"To draw a comparison between government-regulated and PRIVATE OWNERSHIP SERVICE I quote you my experience as a member of a committee appointed last year to confer with the stock yard management on our market for the purposes of obtaining additional weighing facilities in the Denver stock yards to accommodate heavy fall shipments. Also to confer with the U. S. Animal Industry representative for additional inspection for said scale. The results were that within a week we had the scale in operation, but did not get the inspectors until ninety days later, or after the rush season was entirely over. This illustrates the amount of entwining RED TAPE connected with government supervision of privately owned interests. WE NEVER DID GET GOVERNMENT INSPECTION and we whittled along the whole year without it, until the season WAS OVER."

J. E. Zahn, Of Denver, vice president of Colorado Manufacturers' Association.

"Our association, after a study of the proposed legislation in the Kenyon bill and similar measures, desires to go on record as vigorously opposing any plan of legislation that will cripple or impede the progress of one of the greatest industries of the country.

"The vague and uncertain powers assumed by the government under licensing provisions contained in the Kenyon and Kendrick bills, the association feels, will achieve only that end.

"If the provisions of these bills become law it is but a stepping stone to government operation and government ownership of every basic industry in the country, committing us to paternalism and socialism."

J. H. Bachelor, Of Valentine, Nebraska; live stock producer.

"FROM MY EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST 20 MONTHS OF FEDERAL CONTROL OF RAILROADS, THE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS, I AM OPPOSED TO THE KENYON AND KENDRICK BILLS. I think the business men of the United States should have the freedom and the personal liberty to operate and run their own business.

"I want to say to you right now that the packers are not controlling this industry. We have our outside buyers who come from the highways of the country into the markets to buy live stock. We have our speculators to buy them and distribute them, and we have our independent packers on these markets."

W. B. Tagg, Of Omaha; former president of National Live Stock Exchange and representing Omaha Live Stock Exchange.

"We have had considerable experience along the lines indicated by the Kenyon bill, and that is why we are opposed to it.

"The minute you take the refrigerator cars away from the packers and put them in the hands of the Railroad Administration you are going to hurt still more the marketing end, because the records show that the railroads do not handle cars as efficiently as the packers do."

E. T. Meyers, Alliance, Nebraska, feeder and cattle raiser.

"From my own experience with railroads in the last year and a half I do not think I want any more of government control of private interest.

"I will tell you an instance: Last fall I bought 12 carloads of stock feeders and was shipping them out on Thursday evening on a branch line. I found there was no train running on that branch line until Monday. This was just six miles across from the main line of the Union Pacific, and I went to the agent and asked a special service; if they could furnish me an engine to run those cattle up to North Platte and then come right back up to within six miles of the main line.

"The agent took it up with the superintendent and after hearing from the superintendent he said the government rules were such that they could not furnish an engine or less than 25 cars. The Union Pacific used to send me an engine for 8 or 10 cars. Then I said 'if they will let me unload the cattle at Ogallala I will wire my men to come there and drive them across.' Well, after doing that, he said: 'No, we used to do that, but government regulations are in force and you have got to drive your fat cattle back to where you unload your stockers.' So the government hauled those cattle 110 miles for nothing and I lost 3 days' feed."

"Would Rather Take a Chance With—"

"To License a Newspaper Is to Censor Its News."

"Would Help to Ruin a Lot of Men."

"A Tremendous Detriment."

"Entwining Red Tape."

"A Stepping Stone to Government Ownership."

"I Did Not Kick. I Made Money."

"My Experience With Railroads."

Advertisement for EDMONSTON'S Foot Form Boots. Text includes: 'EDMONSTON'S—Home of the Original FOOT FORM Boots and Oxfords for Men, Women and Children.' 'Store OPEN, Every Day Included, Till 6 P. M.' 'Wearing "Foot Form" Boots Prevents "Run-Down Heel"'. 'Steel Brace', 'Arch Support', 'Long Heel'. 'It is distressing, to say the least, to have a new pair of shoes present such an appearance as the one we illustrate to the left, after a few weeks' wear. Yet there are thousands of such cases that come under your notice almost daily.' 'It is then necessary to call for a shoemaker's service to build a new heel if you care for appearances. Or it calls for the REMEDY you'll find in Instep-Brace in "Foot Form" Boots. The steel brace is built into the shoe. It supports the arch properly—corrects flat-foot, and relieves all the strain on the foot muscles and ankles.' 'STYLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN. Consult our professional shoe-fitters about the needs of your feet and they will recommend a sure remedy for your particular case.' 'EDMONSTON & CO. (Incorporated) ANDREW BETZ, Manager 1334 F St. Advisers and Authorities on All Foot Troubles.' 'For special advice in regard to such ailments write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.'

Advertisement for 'HOW A YOUNG GIRL SUFFERED' and 'And Was Restored to Health By Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—Told By Her Mother.' Text includes: 'Brooklyn, N. Y.—"I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound enough for what it has done for my daughter. She was 15 years of age, very sickly and pale and she had to stay home from school most of the time. She suffered a good deal from backache and dizziness and was without appetite. For three months she was under the doctor's care and got no better, always complaining about her back and side aching so I did not know what to do. I read in the papers about your wonderful medicine so I made up my mind to try it. She has taken five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and doesn't complain any more with her back and side aching. She has gained in weight and feels much better. I recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to all mothers and daughters.'"—Mrs. M. FLOUR, 516 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.' 'For special advice in regard to such ailments write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.'



Institute of American Meat Packers Munsey Building Washington, D. C.