

Local Items

All About Our Town And Its People

Harold Gais returned home to Detroit Thursday.

Mrs. Amiel Ferrick spent the day in Lowell Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Bradshaw returned from Gowan Saturday.

Miss Doris Mulholland returned home to Trufant Saturday.

Mrs. Lyle Fox went to Vickeryville Monday to visit her sister.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Laws visited in Allegan during the holidays.

Edward Belding and family were in Smyrna Saturday to spend the day.

Charles Warden of Carson City was the guest of friends in this city over Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Klock and Miss Marvel Klock spent the day in Grand Rapids Friday.

Shirley Wright has been spending the week with relatives in Grand Rapids.

R. D. Hubbard of Cincinnati spent Christmas with his father, George Hubbard.

Miss Ruth Smith left Thursday for a visit with friends and relatives in Kent City.

Mrs. A. E. Irwin went to Edmore for a few days' visit with her daughter Monday.

Charles Hill of Lake Odessa was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Kate Hill, Friday.

Mrs. G. M. Blett returned to Grand Rapids Saturday. She is residing there this winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Conant left Saturday for a short visit with her people in Lake Odessa.

George Batchelor of Pontiac has been the guest of his brother, A. B. Batchelor. He came Thursday.

Mrs. Dainel McMahon and daughter, Ruth, left Friday for a visit in Big Rapids with her brother, Lee.

Mrs. Flossie Benson and children of Lansing came Friday, the guests of her mother, Mrs. Addie Whitford.

Carl Shindorf, who had been visiting friends and relatives here for a few days, returned to Flint Monday.

Mrs. Ray Waldo left Monday to visit her parents in Alpena, this being her first visit there in two years.

Mrs. Byron Soules left Friday for Dimondale, where she was called on account of the illness of her husband.

Mrs. Albert Swartz returned to Hastings Saturday. She had been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Lem Tower.

Mrs. Allan J. Blair left Saturday for Jackson where she will visit a few days and then go to Chatham, Ont., to visit at her old home. She expects to be gone ten days.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy H. Smith returned Thursday from Carson City where they were called to attend the funeral of a relative.

Miss Barron, who was the Christmas guest of her mother, Mrs. Marion Case, returned to Grand Rapids Thursday.

Mrs. Caroline Gais went to Detroit Friday to remain during the winter with her son, Fred. Her grandson, Elton Gais, returned with her and his father and will go to Niagara Falls, New York, where he resides.

Joshua Fuller of Oakley and his sister, Mrs. E. O'Morrow of Walker, Minnesota, were in the city Thursday on business connected with the estate of their father, the late William Fuller.

Ray McConnell was home from Custer for a day or two last week. He states this will be his last visit here for sometime. He also visited in Big Rapids, Lakeview and Grand Rapids.

Miss Jessie Werner, who had been home from Big Rapids to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Werner, returned Saturday.

Mrs. A. Heninger, who had been here the guest of her daughters, Mrs. Mary Ward and Mrs. Ed. Hilton, returned home to Howard City, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Blanchard, who had been the guest of their daughter, Mrs. Earl Wilson, returned to Casnovia Saturday.

Mrs. Tillie Pierson returned to Grand Rapids Saturday. She had been here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnelcke.

John Doovan, who had been home from Camp Custer to spend a day or two with his father, returned Saturday. He is enthusiastic over his work in military life and is looking remarkably well.

Master Otto Christensen of Lakeview is visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Deitz. He came Saturday.

Mrs. Lawrence D. Alling, who had been visiting her mother, Mrs. W. H. Shaw a few days, returned home to Grand Rapids Saturday.

Charles Murray, Art Clingen-Smith and Ernest Chase went to Detroit Friday to bring back three Dodge cars for the Murray garage.

Mrs. Alvin Harlan and sons, Howard and Lyle, who had been here several days, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harlan, returned home Friday.

Willard Johnson, who was home with his people, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Johnson, for the Christmas week, returned to Big Rapids Monday, where he is taking a course in the Ferris school.

Fred Squires of Rockford was in the city Monday a guest of his sister, Mrs. Fred Beckwith. He was on his way to Ionia, having business in the probate court.

Miss Mildred Soules, who has been spending the Christmas vacation with her people here, returned to her school in Gaylord. Miss Soules says she likes the position there very much.

Ralph Stackus of Mantion, who had been the guest of his brothers, Elmer and Howard Stackus, left Monday for Flint. He had been visiting his home in Mantion for several weeks, since the laying off of men in the factory and is returning to work again.

SHORT COURSES OPEN AT M. A. C. MONDAY

M. A. C.'s annual mid-winter short courses in agriculture and the kindred industries will open at the college on Monday, January 7, and will continue without pause until March 2. Usually these courses are simply a means whereby individuals who have neither the time nor the inclination to give four years to college work can in eight weeks pick up the practical points in agriculture, dairying, horticulture, poultry and a number of other subjects, but they will this winter serve as well as a training school where young Michigan, if it chooses, can learn a number of necessary lessons about wartime farming.

This department of the college's work is under the direction of Ashley M. Berridge, to whom requests for information can be addressed.

New War Devices Suggested

Since the war began inventors have been busy thinking up new devices and new methods of making warfare more terrible and destructive. The creation of the navy advisory board some time ago for the purpose of investigating and passing upon suggestions for making our navy more formidable and effective has stimulated their activity materially. Numerous suggestions are being offered to the advisory board and to the navy department and in addition to these the army board of ordnance and fortifications receives an average of about 800 a month.

Most of the plans offered are fantastic, freakish and impossible of being put into practice but there are many which contain germs of valuable ideas and are therefore fully deserving of investigation and study. Many such ideas are now being considered and tested.

An interesting suggestion that has been offered by Bernard MacDonal, a mining engineer of Pasadena, is to have the government set an augmented U. S. army at work on the construction of a concrete military highway, 50 feet wide, entirely around the country. He would have it built 50 miles inland in order that it might be immune from the shells of hostile battleships and at regular intervals along the road he would have telephone stations established, to provide rapid communication between different sections and enable forces to be rapidly and intelligently handled to defend the country most efficiently.

Another plan, somewhat similar, proposes the construction of a railroad along our coasts, with powerful fortifications built at certain strategic points and points considered to be most open to attack. Powerful, long-range guns would be mounted on carriages designed to run over these roads. If an enemy fleet menaced any point on the coast, these guns could be rushed there by rail to supplement the regular coast-defense guns. From a position behind the defenses built for them, they could be used with telling effect against the enemy. This plan, it appears, is a valuable one for it offers a feasible method for defending our coasts, a feature of the national defense which is fraught with many difficulties and which if adequately provided for in the usual way would cost an enormous amount of money.

One inventive genius suggests the erection of batteries of great oil tanks at various points along the coasts. Pipes would be laid from these, running underground and along the floor of the sea to a point 10 to 20 miles from shore. Powerful pumps would be provided to force crude oil through the pipes whenever desired. When a hostile fleet appeared in the waters in the neighborhood of the terminus of the oil pipe the pumps would be started, and presto! the enemy's vessels would be surrounded by a heavy film of oil. When all was in readiness an aviator floating at a safe distance above would drop incendiary bombs into the oil which would be fired. The men in the ships would be scorched and suffocated and sufficient head might even be generated to explode the vessel's magazines, the originator of the idea believes.

Barbed-wire entanglements have been used to a considerable extent in the present war and they have proved to be very formidable and effective for defense purposes. A new form of shell, loaded with chains and balls and designed primarily to cut through these entanglements has been proposed. Two weights, connected by a chain, are enclosed in a shell containing an explosive so timed as to explode a short distance before the enemy's entanglements, according to the inventor's plans. The whirling chain, stretched by the weights, would strike the wires with tremendous impetus, cutting and tearing them down as it went.

A torpedo designed to be automatically steered and controlled by the sounds coming from the enemy vessel it is sent out to destroy is another suggestion. At the forward end of this torpedo would be placed delicate receivers, or microphones, sensitive to sounds under water. These would be connected with the mechanism inside the torpedo as to steer and control its course to follow changes in the course of the latter. Theoretically, it would travel unerringly toward the source of the sounds, particularly those of the enemy ship's propeller, one of the most vulnerable and important possible points of attack.

A submarine suggested by another inventor would be provided with a unique kind of a gun, mounted in such a manner as to shoot a projectile vertically upward into the bottom of a ship of the enemy. Through a tube in the projectile an anesthetic gas would be poured into the stricken vessel, harmlessly rendering her crew insensible.

The goal of life is imminent in each moment, each thought, word, act, and does not have to be sought apart from these. It consists in no specific achievement, but the state of mind in which everything is done, the quality infused into existence. The function of man is not to attain an object, but to fulfill a purpose; not to accomplish but to be accomplished.—Stephen Barriett Stanton.

Faith in your fellow men implies a belief that down deep in the heart of every man, somewhere, is the germ of goodness. Your faith may be a vitalizing ray of sunshine, reaching that particular germ.—Elbert Hubbard.

YOUNG MEN WANTED FOR ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

Editor Banner:
This letter is being addressed to you in an effort to secure your patriotic cooperation in the carrying out of a huge educational campaign designed to train men who are registered in the draft for service in the Signal Corps branch of the army.

The Signal Corps of the United States army is in urgent need of some twenty thousand telegraphers and inasmuch as the available supply has already been practically exhausted, it has become necessary to institute an intensive campaign to supply the need as new armies are being formed.

Western Michigan's quota has been set at 425 men. It will be necessary to enroll a larger number than this in order to secure the full quota because of the fact that a certain percentage will not secure placement in the Signal Corps because of entering other branches of the army or by being disqualified for some other reason.

The city of Grand Rapids has been selected as the center to which registered men likely to be included in "Class I" of the draft will be brought from all over Western Michigan to be trained as telegraph operators for service in the Signal Corps. Grand Rapids being the metropolis and recruiting headquarters of Western Michigan is particularly situated to carry on this all important work. An advisory committee of which the city commissioner is chairman has been appointed and has arranged a cooperative plan whereby employment may be secured by men from outside the city in order that they may support themselves while taking advantage of this class of work.

High class young men technically inclined who are included in the draft should be thoroughly interested in this class of work because of the fact that it will qualify them for "Preferred" status in a desirable branch of the army, which is practically free of trench duty. The duty of the Signal Corps is the transmission of information between the various operating units of the army by various signaling methods, the basis one being the telegraph. Without an efficient Signal Corps effective movement of troops in the field would be practically impossible. Young men who enter and technically inclined because of the confidential and technical nature of the work. Signal Corps work should especially appeal to young men interested in electric telephones and telegraph industries. It will afford them a chance to capitalize the experience they have had and will give them a line of experience in the army that will be of material value to them in after life. Signal Corps service should be sought by such men also because of the fact that the work is largely individual and the number of officers is larger in proportion to privates than in most other branches of the army.

Respectfully yours,
Verne H. Smiley,
Director U. S. Signal Corps School.

Kit for the Navy Lads
Here is a compact and comprehensive kit, designed to carry all the things needed by our boys in the navy, to keep them and their belongings fit and nifty. It is made of blue denim and a little red cotton-flannel, stitched with red thread and bound with a strong braid. Short lengths of braid sewed in it serve to hold comb, brushes, pencils, etc.

This kit carries an unbelievable number of things—among them these: Soap in a soap box, talcum powder, scrub brush, pencil with eraser, paper, post cards, black and white thread, needles, pins, safety pins, tooth brush, tooth paste, bone buttons, bachelor buttons, safety pins, corncob pipe, bag of tobacco and has room to spare for other things. It rolls up and is tied with the strong braid or tape used for binding it. One of these kits, fitted out, is a fine gift along with a gay little bag of sweets, or something equally foolish, for Christmas.

Boys in Poolrooms
St. Johns.—D. L. Hagerman, former agricultural teacher, who spent Sunday in St. Johns, said he wanted to look up one of his boys and found him in a poolroom. He said he found a number of students when he was here in the poolroom and that it seemed that the boys either went to college and made a fine success, as many St. Johns boys have, or dropped their ambitions to loaf around poolrooms.

Chris Was Generous
Greenville.—Chris, Anderson of Miller's Station walked into the office of the Greenville Independent a few days ago and said to the young lady at the desk, "Is this where you pay money to the Red Cross?" The young lady didn't know Chris and was evidently afraid the money would get away if she sent him down to the Red Cross headquarters, so she said "Yes." Chris threw down two dollars and the lady said: "A membership only costs one dollar," but Chris grinned and said: "I guess a man can pay as much as he has a mind to," and then he threw down two dollars more. Chris is 100 per cent pure gold.

Children to Coldwater
Ionia.—Mrs. Wallace Haight and Mrs. Lewis Sparks went to Coldwater last week to take four children from Ionia county to the state school there. One of the children was Hazel Vaughn of Portland, six years old. The other three were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peterman, who have been living in the city for some time past, although they are really Montcalm charges, and whose families have formed one of the most conspicuous ones of both counties for a period of years. There are two older boys who have not yet been disposed of. The children taken this morning were: Laverne, four years old, Caroline, almost three, and Edwin, not quite a year old. The family lived for a time about two years ago in a tent on one of the bluffs on East Main street, and lately have been in a shack in the Hardendorf addition.

Loss By Fire
Charlotte.—Ninety tons of hay and 2,500 bushels of potatoes were destroyed in the fire which burned the big barn on the Earl Thompson farm west of Bellevue to the ground. Five thousand waffletrons and a large quantity of wagon reaches stored in the barn were also destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Likes His Job
Sumner.—Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Ayers received a letter from their son, Ellis, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who has been in the army nearly two years. He says: "I am well and happy and this is the best job I ever had. Talk about the hardships of the army. We will find them in every walk of life. You can compare a soldier drawing \$38 a month to a civilian getting \$85 to \$100 a month the way food and clothing and other necessities are now. Here they make you save money by allotments, deposits and Liberty bonds. And the last and best of all is the insurance. I will take army life for mine every time. It is quite cold here—seems colder than it really is, not being used to it. Water freezes in the tanks at night."

Teacher a Scrapper
Muir.—Rev. G. L. McAndrews of Muir recently brought suit for assault and battery against H. L. Marvank, an instructor in the public schools, charging that Marvank attacked him when he visited the schoolhouse to complain about the punishment given his son. The instructor's purpose seems to have been to show the reverend gentleman that he could lick the whole family.

Now Use Them
Sparta has two additions to its community. First, a new library for which Andrew Carnegie has paid; second, a librarian, Mrs. E. K. Goodhue, please meet her.

Both are absolutely useless to this community unless they are appreciated and used. Mrs. Goodhue is placed in charge to help library patrons in the selection of books and to suggest uses for the equipment of the institution. Mrs. Goodhue's clerical work is only incidental, her real work is based on her acquaintance with the community and its needs. She cannot go to the community, it is designed that the community come to her, which it should do freely. The matter of using a library is more or less of an art, and intelligent advice by a librarian is invaluable in directing choice and selection of books.

So use your new library, consult your new librarian freely, get to feel at home in the building and utilize it to its fullest extent.

Obituary—William Fuller
William Fuller was born in Manvis, Canada, June 14, 1841, and died very suddenly December 21, 1917, of apoplexy aged seventy-six years, six months and seven days. Deceased was married to Mary Ann Bradley Jan. 4, 1865, and engaged in farming in Ionia county, retiring a few years ago and moving to Belding. Both were members of the Congregational church in Belding. His good wife preceded him to the Great Beyond August 11, 1914.

There are left to mourn their loss one daughter, Mrs. Eulalia Jane O'Morrow of Walker, Minnesota, at whose home he died, also nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Rev. R. V. Birdsall officiated at the funeral at the home of Otis Fuller in Easton township Wednesday at ten o'clock, burial taking place in Easton cemetery.

Did As He Was Told
Counsel (to plaintiff)—At this final interview, when you demanded payment by the defendant of this debt, what did he say to you?
Plaintiff—Go to the devil.
Counsel—What did you do?
Plaintiff—I immediately consulted my lawyer.

The best advertising is the cheapest in the end.

Neighborhood NEWS

Ticket Agent to War
Howard City.—John D. Bailey, for the past six years head telegraph operator and ticket agent at the local station, resigned to join the Railway Battalion for early service in France which will mobilize next week at Grand Rapids.

Mr. Bailey leaves Howard City with the best wishes of all. He is an expert telegrapher and a capable rail-roader of mature years who leaves a wife and two children to go to the front. Mrs. Bailey and children will likely make their home with her parents at Ridgeway, Indiana.

When "Jack" Bailey arrives in France the Huns will know he is on deck.

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Poverty in youth is often a blessing, but it is a curse in old age. The world is always looking for men to do the things that "can't be done." Some people learn from their experience—others never recover from them.

A man's wife may lay down the law to her husband, but she is always willing to let him lay down the carpets.

UTILIZE ONE JOINED OUR CHRISTMAS BANKING CLUB with only **2¢** and next Xmas will have **\$25.50**

Come in, get Bank Books and put your Children in the Club

Putting your children into our Christmas Banking club is the best financial education you can give them.

They can start with 10 cents, 5 cents, 2 cents or 1 cent and increase their deposit the same amount each week.

In 50 weeks:

10-Cent Club Pays	\$127.50
5-Cent Club Pays	63.75
2-Cent Club Pays	25.50
1-Cent Club Pays	12.75

Or, they can begin with the largest payment first and decrease their payments each week.

No charge to join—all are welcome.

We add three per cent interest.

BELDING SAVINGS BANK

THE BANNER WANT COLUMNS—THATS ALL

A Worth While Message

Success in business depends largely on winning and holding business. Future progress depends upon the degree of present satisfaction given. Recognizing this fact, at the time we opened our doors a little over a year ago, we determined to build our success upon the faithful practice of correct business principles—by giving honest values at right prices; by earnest, truthful statements; by sincere advertising. We have preached values—and have backed up all we said. Satisfying sales are the only kind we have striven to make.

For these reasons our customers have naturally been quick to see the advantages of buying here. They have come again and again. They have told their friends to come and the natural results are that our business has shown a constant and steady growth.

During the past few months we have told our customers, in advance of the increased price on many lines of merchandise which enabled them to supply their needs before the advance went into effect, thereby saving our friends many dollars.

Undoubtedly the opportunity to get a good suit or overcoat here this season at the same, or little more, than last year's cost, has benefited many. The fact that we sell Hart Schaffner & Marx and Styleplus clothes has no doubt made a strong appeal to many when they noticed us quoting the old price of \$17.00 for Styleplus clothes and \$25.00 for Hart Schaffner & Marx high class suits and overcoats. However, good buying opportunities at this store are not confined to any one line or time. Careful buying from only the best houses enables us to give our customers the right goods at right prices always—prices that often mean a substantial saving to them.

Right now we want our friends to know that a much greater advance than at any previous time, will soon go into effect, on nearly all lines of merchandise, and that it is to your best interests to get all you will need for this season.

Our stocks are very complete in all lines and as long as they last we will be glad to supply you with what you may need at the same low prices now prevailing.

We do not desire to use brass bands but prefer to tell every one quietly that now and in the future the same right principles on which we have built the foundation of this store will be constantly observed; that whatever you may need in men's wear, this store will continue to give you your money's worth.

To those whose realization of the reliability and high business principles of this store is due its success and we extend our hearty thanks. We shall earnestly endeavor at all times to strengthen the pleasant relations existing between us.

The Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx and Styleplus Clothes, Beacon Shoes, Stetson Hats, and Furnishings that are good.

FRISTOE & DIVINE

The New Way Store

Copyright Hart Schaffner & Marx