

The Big Stone Gap Post.

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BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1917.

No. 11

Soldier Boys

Honored By Banquet at Wise Thursday Night.

Wise, Va., March 8.—The citizens of the town of Wise gave a banquet last night at the Colonial Hotel in honor of Company H. Elaborate preparations were made for the entertainment of about 300 guests. People came from every part of the County to attend the banquet. Members and ex-members of Company H came from Coeburn, Norton, Appalachia and Big Stone Gap.

W. H. Bond, of Wise, acted as toastmaster and made the first talk of the evening. Mr. Bond being followed by A. C. Anderson, Mayor of Wise, and William Eads, Mayor of Norton, each making a fine speech. Miss Edna Dean and Mrs. Tausiek, of Wise, sang very sweetly a popular song, which was enjoyed by all.

John Fox, Jr., the author of Big Stone Gap, made a short talk, saying he was an ex-member of Company H and that if he had gone to the border he probably would have been the oldest private in the American army. Mr. Fox talked on preparedness, the Spanish American War, when he was a newspaper correspondent and criticized the twelve senators who prevented the armistice neutrality bill from passing the Senate. Mr. Fox closed by praising Company H.

Dr. W. G. Patton, of Big Stone Gap, ex-first Lieutenant of Company H, spoke of soldier life on the border and explained that every man had to do his share no matter what his occupation was previous to joining the Company.

Miss Mary Hunt, of Wise, sang very sweetly "Loeie Sammie", which every one enjoyed and she was persuaded to sing it a second time.

Senator R. P. Bruce, of Wise, spoke on upholding the president in this crisis and said he was glad his boy served on the border as he had implicit confidence in Capt. Bullitt and that he would go himself if the necessity required it.

E. L. Barr, of Wise, also made a splendid talk praising the boys. George C. Peery, of Tazewell, formerly of Wise, made a splendid talk and told what a patriotic and President Wilson's inauguration was and the part Virginia played in it and the pleasure it was to call himself a Wise County boy. John W. Chalkley, of Big Stone Gap, made a short talk and thanked the people of Wise on behalf of the Gap boys for the splendid reception given them and telling them that Capt. Bullitt was sorry he could not be there to enjoy the banquet.

R. P. Bruce read the following letter from Capt. Bullitt to Wade M. Miles and while not originally intended for publication it will be of interest to every one. The letter follows:

March 5, 1917.

My dear Sir—
Your communication of March 1st concerning banquet to be given by way of greeting "Wise Squadron" was handed to me by Mrs. Vickers on Saturday night.

After we returned to the Army I read the letter to the Company and told them that I would certainly be present at the banquet, and hoped that as many of them as possible would attend. Since then I find that other parties have made an engagement for me at Washington for Wednesday morning. This necessitates my leaving here tomorrow morning, and I will, therefore, be unable to attend the banquet. I regret this very much indeed.

Company "H" made a great reputation on the border, and it and the Wise boys well deserve the honor which your people propose to give them.

The first test of merit was in October and consisted of a competitive drill in close order and extended order between the companies of the 1st regiment. It also included the personal equipment, cleanliness, bearing, etc., of the men. Company "H" won out easily, being some ten points out of a hundred ahead of the next best company in the regiment.

The next test came a few

weeks later. This was a test between all the companies on the border and included everything of every kind pertaining to a soldier. Company "H" was again far ahead of any company in the regiment, except Company "G" of Petersburg. This company was only one point behind Company "H". We made 91 points out of a hundred, while Company "G" made 93 points.

Out of 150,000 troops on the border, only one company got a higher mark, namely, one of the companies from the 2nd Indiana, which got 95, and only three other companies got as high a mark as Company "H".

In addition to the above, the company was recognized as one of the best behaved, if not the best behaved, in the regiment. We did not have the opportunity of crossing bayonets with the enemy, but if we had I am sure that the company would have done fully as well in actual service as it did in training for that service. I am very proud of them and feel that the people here ought to be—they were a credit to themselves and a credit to the mountains.

Regretting my inability to be present with you Wednesday night, I am,

Very truly yours,
J. P. Bullitt,
Capt., 2nd Va. Inf.

Every one present at the banquet enjoyed the evening very much and there was an abundance of dainty things to eat which the ladies of Wise served in the dining room of the hotel, the soldiers and ex-soldiers being the guests of honor. Ten to fifteen Wise boys belong to Company H. Music was furnished by the Norton Military Band. The boys will long remember the hospitality of the people of Wise. About 200 or 300 people were present at the reception.

Athletic Association

Holds Annual Meeting and Elects New Officers.

Pursuant to a call issued by its Vice President, D. B. Sayers, the annual meeting of the Big Stone Gap Athletic Association was held in the Monte Vista Building last Wednesday night and new officers and members were elected for the ensuing year.

No definite plans were outlined at this meeting for the 14th of July Celebration but it is the intention of the association to continue its efforts towards athletic sports, as they have done heretofore. Plans were discussed in regard to the gymnasium being conducted as a branch of the association and a committee was appointed by the president to make a report on the subject.

The following officers were elected:

A. L. Holton, President; L. T. Winston, Vice President; Simon E. Banks, Secretary; J. B. Wampler, Treasurer.

Following is a list of new members elected: F. B. Blinchard, Arthur Crumley, E. L. Curley, Straley Tate, Brownie Polly, Harry Meadows, J. T. Lane, W. E. Saxton, H. M. Henkle, A. E. Phillips, J. J. Rogers, R. J. Marks, Jr., W. M. Stuart, W. H. Nickels, Jr., H. F. Tate, M. E. Moody, D. P. Baker, Mr. Knudick, Wolfram Soehle, Mr. Orndall, Mr. Burkhardt, C. R. Link, White Lloyd, M. V. McFerran, W. M. Dale, Lane Miller and C. C. Cartwright.

Surprise Wedding.

On last Monday week Miss Maude Addington, the second pretty daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Addington, of Wise, who has been teaching art in the public school at that place, left her home for a supposed visit to relatives in Pikeville, Ky., but enroute to Pikeville she stopped off at Cumberland Gap, where she was met by Mr. John Hale, of Murphy, N. C., and they were quietly married and left immediately for Murphy, N. C., where Mr. Hale is in business. Mrs. Hale has a large number of relatives in the Gap and has visited here numerous times.

Town Improvement

(Continued)

Every town, no matter how small or how large, should have a Civic League or a "City Beautiful" club. This is an organization that is almost indispensable if a town is to be made attractive and kept so. It makes no difference how neat and orderly the citizens may be about their premises or the merchants about their business houses, there are bound to be a thousand and one things that need the attention of a special organization created for the purpose.

There never was a truer axiom couched than "What's everybody's business is nobody's business". This applies most forcibly to many things that tend largely to make or mar the looks of a town.

Now that the warm weather is coming on, the labors of the city beautifiers will be in great demand. Just now, after the ravages of the winter storms, nature presents her most depressing aspect, and much attention will be required if she is to re-etch the face of the earth in her original garments of beauty. Unightly washes and gullies, filled up ditches and drains, accumulations of weeds and trash and leaves and twigs are to be removed, and nature given her fair chance to do her best.

It is in this capacity that the order loving women of the town shows to advantage. Women always have a keener eye for beauty and harmony than men. They are more given to neatness and ordinariness than men. Start out a committee of energetic women to supervising the cleaning up of a town and they will find nuisances and unsightly places of which the men had never thought.

Just here we would like to offer a suggestion in connection with beautifying the town.

The problem of the vacant lot has always been the hardest one for the town beautifiers to solve. The average owner pays little attention to it, hence it invariably presents a neglected and desolate appearance. Now this season is going to see a demand for every dollar's worth of food products that this country can produce, and these vacant lots should, wherever possible, be turned to account to swell the output. Any kind of a growing crop—corn, potatoes, vegetables—are far preferable to a coat of weeds.

When this is done, turn attention to the neglected back yards. You'll find many of them that are now refuse dumps, but that can be made places of beauty and usefulness.

Most towns are like some people. They will keep the main streets and buildings presentable, but the more obscure places and the back streets and alleys are neglected and permitted to fall into decay. Taken to task in the matter, the authorities often reply that strangers and visitors never see these places, anyway, so it doesn't matter. No, but WE see them, which is worse. Strangers might see them and go away and forget them, but we must live with them, which is liable to breed neglect and disorder in ourselves. A man with a sore toe may know that it is hidden from the public, but HE never forgets that it is there.

Always bear this in mind: The town will be beautiful or

the reverse, just in proportion as to its people are lovers of beauty and order, or the reverse. A beautiful and well kept home, with a foul alley in the rear and a neglected street in front, is a standing reproach to its owner. He should have sufficient pride to see that his surroundings harmonized with his possessions.

Honor Roll

Of Public School For February.

FIRST GRADE
Miss Mary Lee Mavlen
Charles Bird, Jr., Jack Fuller, Nat Reaser, Jack Taylor, Lydo Chestnut, Maxie Payne.

SECOND GRADE
Miss Ketta Thompson
Guy Caswell, Bud Dowell, Winston Graham, Leslie Hise, Lloyd Livesey, Roy Eavesy, Edgar Robinson, William Stemp, Billy Taylor, Joe Earnest Wheeler, Milton Barron, Louisa Holton, Margaret Keefe, Maize Mahaffey, Trud Grandler.

THIRD GRADE
Miss Janet Bailey
Robert Bird, Richard Wilson, Earnest Caswell, Floyd Whetzel, Elsie Collier, Ethel Tucker, Jewel Taylor, Zelma Gilly.

THIRD GRADE AND FIFTH
Miss Ruby Kemper
Mildred White, Dakota Barnes.

FOURTH GRADE
Miss Olga Horton
Gilberta Knight.

FIFTH GRADE A
Miss Roberta Back
Bess Farmer, Nell Jenkins, John Ray.

SIXTH GRADE B
Miss Flora Byggs
Jemima Willis, Arthur Estess.

SIXTH GRADE A
Miss Wainford Manning
Fannie Eppin, Nellie Turner, Albert Sargol, Otto Hibel.

SIXTH GRADE A
Miss Mary Lou White
Jemima Taylor, Gliese White.

SEVENTH GRADE
Miss Carlfield Lasker
Houston Carrou, Lucie Draper.

High School Department.

Miss Nell Van order, Doris E. C. Ayles, Elizabeth A. J. Wolf, Elizabeth Sprinkle, Fred Dowell, Crystal Farnum.

Presidential Postmasters

Are Now Made Subject to Competitive Examination.

Washington, March 7.—Postmaster General Burleson announced today that after April 1st the appointments of all postmasters of the first, second and third class would be subject to competitive examinations. Nominations will be sent to the Senate as in the past, but in making selections, the President will be guided by the results of examinations and will send the names at the head of lists.

Whether the civil service commission, under which fourth class postmasters are now named, will conduct the examinations has not been determined.

The President's forthcoming order will provide for a form of modified civil service classification under which all vacancies, whether caused by resignation, removal or death, will be filled by competitive examination. Those already in the service will continue without examination until the expiration of four year terms beginning with their last appointment and will then, it is understood, have to undergo the competitive test.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollar Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for Constipation.

Alumni Association.

There was a meeting of the Alumni Association of the Big Stone Gap High School not long ago that was of special interest to every one connected with the school in any way.

It was decided that there would be no banquet for the Senior Class this year, but a reception instead. A private home was generously offered and gratefully accepted.

The money that will accrue from this economy is to be used in a way to really help the school. The intention is to donate a good picture to the School for the chapel, although at present the walls of the chapel and halls are in such a deplorable condition that a picture might look out of place.

The board for interior decorations of the Parent-Teachers' Association have succeeded in getting the School Board to say that they will have the walls done over in the near future.

Everyone will be truly grateful for this change. This is a worthy cause and should receive your support.

Small Boy Nearly Drowned.

Saturday afternoon a number of small boys were fishing on the bank of the river underneath the Dummy Bridge opposite Bostic's store, when Victor Masters, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Masters, who was trying to climb a small tree slipped and fell backwards into the river, which is about five feet deep at that point. The cries of the other boys attracted the attention of John Fields, who was near Bostic's store, who ran across the bridge and down into the water and caught the little fellow as he was sinking for the third time. Mr. Fields carried the child back to the bank where he shook and rolled him until he revived.

St. Patrick's Tea.

On Friday March 16 the home of Mrs. John W. Calkley will be given a St. Patrick's Tea for the benefit of the school. At present interest is especially centered in the school and it is hoped that all parents and the public will avail of this opportunity to show their interest in this most important movement.

There will be no admission. Dainty potted plants of various kinds will be on sale and refreshments that will be a credit to the Emerald Isle. However we must here acknowledge there will be no potatoes. Not only will you be assured of a pleasant afternoon or evening, but also your presence will be a help to the needed enthusiasm and interest in this most important cause. By having the hours in the afternoon from 3:30 to 6:30 and at from 8 to 10 it is hoped that the citizens of the Gap will all come out.

Enjoyable Entertainment.

Those who failed to attend the entertainment given by the Emory and Henry College Glee Club, which was given in the School Auditorium Thursday evening at eight-thirty, for the benefit of the Senior Class of the High School, missed a rare musical treat which gave a feeling that all the joy had not yet fled from life.

To say the performance was enjoyable would be very mild in expressing it, but the interested and appreciative large audience during the whole program was proof within itself. The first part of the program after the introduction by the manager, F. R. Johnson, in which he expressed his delight in being in the town which was full of celebrities as Congress Slemp, John Fox, Jr., R. A. Ayers and others, was composed of tuneful melodies so catchy that even a weary, don't care attitude in their delivery could not mar their charm and college spirit. The last part of the program was a Burlesque on the Merchant of Venice, which was a scream from beginning to end. W. W. Morrell, who was Portia, a young lady lawyer is a comedian of individual method who gags his way joyfully through the whole production, spreading laughs in a dry manner that is very effective, also W. Clark

who was Finnegan, the "Keep the Peace" Cop.

The Senior Class realized twenty-three dollars from the proceeds of this good entertainment which we hope will come again to the Gap some time.

The tenors in the Glee Club are W. W. Morrell, A. F. Hall, D. B. Brown, G. R. Stone, I. W. Clark and L. E. Barnes.

The basses are E. H. Rowe, P. A. Stockton, L. C. Foccano, C. H. Strader, P. H. Farrier, J. C. Colley and J. H. Reynolds. Professor Charles Park is the instructor and piano accompanist.

Valuable Coal Fields

Branch Line of Louisville and Nashville Taps New Properties.

Whitesburg, Ky., March 9.—It is announced here from the headquarters of the Kentucky river in the coal fields that the Susan Osborne, J. W. and S. J. Wright coal land tract deal, closed last week, at a point near the Kentucky-Virginia line, consisting of about 2,000 acres; is to be developed at once by W. H. Potter and associates of Kona, Ky. Already arrangements are being made for the Louisville and Nashville railroad to build three miles of branch road up the Kentucky river from Kona station, tapping the properties. Every thing will be under way for the initial shipments by the time the branch line of the road is ready to receive shipments. A company is now being organized to make the developments. W. H. Potter will probably be manager of the new corporation. The branch road will open other rich coal properties, mainly the properties of the Consolidated Coal company, the Mineral Development company of Philadelphia, and others.

Altogether this will be one of the most important short line branches of road planned in Eastern Kentucky in several years.

Missionary Meeting.

A largely attended meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, South, was held at the home of Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen, Thursday afternoon, Mrs. L. O. Pettit, the president, presided. Much routine work was attended to, and some very good reports were given by the officers present. The ladies have decided to try the talent plan as a means of raising money for local purposes, and each will make a report at the end of each quarter of her success.

The Devotional exercises were under the leadership of Mrs. C. S. Carter, the Social Service Superintendent. The topic for March was "Social Legislation Regarding Public Health". The program was the first of four "Social Service" topics to be used during this year. The Bible lesson was "Our Lord and Disease" (Matt. IV 23, 24; Luke IX 1, 2) read by Mrs. Carter, followed by prayer, by Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Malcolm Smith and Mrs. Skeen read leaflets on "Medical Legislation Regarding Public Health". Mrs. Wagner read an interesting article "Social Health and National Legislation" by Dr. John D. Trawick. At the close of the program the hostess served dainty refreshments. The meeting then adjourned to meet with Mrs. J. B. Wampler in April.

Supt. Publicity.

Carranza claims to have restored peace and prosperity to Mexico with the exception of the Northern tier of states. He seems to have begun at the wrong end if his endeavor was also to make the United States comfortable.