

The Farmington Enterprise

VOL. XXXI No. 47.

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1917.

\$1.00 A YEAR.

MARK OWEN WRITES HOME

Farmington Boy at Camp Custer Tells of His Experiences in the Service of Uncle Sam.

Camp Custer, Sept. 13, 1917. Editor "Enterprise."

Dear Mr. Lord:—

In keeping with my promise of the 4th inst, I am writing this letter.

"Enough has been printed in the Detroit papers to give one a general idea of the size of the camp and what it is like, but even then you can't realize and appreciate what this camp really is, or how large it is. I have been here over a week and I can't yet realize how large it is. My barracks is practically at one end of the camp, and consequently I haven't been near enough the other end to even see where the buildings end, although I have walked two or three miles in that direction.

"Our schedule is something like this: Reveille, 5:45; calisthenics from 5:55 to 6:05; mess, 6:20; drill from 7:30 to 10:30; mess, 12, 1:30 to 4, which usually includes an hour's hike; mess, 5; retreat, 6; taps, 9. All must be in at 11 o'clock. Retreat is roll call, and tattoo means lights out.

"One can hardly make it seem possible that a bunch of men could be transformed from the awkward beings that they really were when they arrived here to a company executing 'Squads Right' and 'Column Left' with clock-like precision they do it now.

"Each day a certain number of new men are detailed from the company as 'Kitchen Police.' To my notion, 'Kitchen Police' is the army translation of 'Kitchen Mechanic.' I know whereof I speak, because I was the first man in our company to be detailed.

"The government allows each company 40 cents a day to feed each man. If the meals for one day run too high, they are cut down the next. Forty cents sounds pretty much for one paying about that much for a pound of meat, but we get good wholesome food and lots of it.

"The method of sorting the men on our arrival was very methodical. The engineers were picked first, then the truck drivers and chauffeurs, then the horsemen. I was listed as a surveyor, although I am undecided whether I want to follow that or not. My company is called the 'Headquarters Company,' and is generally concluded to be about as good a company as there is in this regiment.

"The duties, as I understand them, will be to hang around the regiment headquarters and act as 'orderlies'—that is, the men in the company will be picked according to neatness and general appearance; and, of course, their adeptness to training, etc. The position of orderlies is really an honor, in a way, because he must accompany his officer and carry messages for him. More than this, there are going to be mounted orderlies in this company, the only ones in the regiment.

"I shall never forget my first night here if I live to be a thousand years old. We had the worst electrical storm that I have ever witnessed. It put the lights out in our barracks, and we had to use candles for several nights. My bed, or 'bunk,' as it is called, is an iron cot, the mattress or tick is a canvas bag, which we

filled with straw upon arrival here. The first night we issued blankets and a poncho. One of the blankets is wide enough to double, so you can sleep on one side and pull the other over you; the other blanket is a little wider than the cot. They are both very heavy and of extra good quality. The Poncho is made of waterproof material, and can be used as an extra blanket. When worn as a poncho you slip your head through a slit in it, then button a flap around your neck, and also button it up the back—this makes it a raincoat and cape combined, and much better than either. This is also used as a sleeping bag—pillows we have none.

"I have had my physical examination and probably will be retained for clerical work or something like that. I am feeling fine. Of course, I would rather be home; but I am beginning to like it here very much. We certainly have a wonderful bunch of officers for our company—the captain, first and second lieutenants are young fellows, and they are some of the finest men I ever met. They certainly use you right and treat you almost like brothers. Nearly every man in the company is from Oakland county, the man on my right is from Holly, and I used to play basketball against him.

"When I was measured for my clothes they put a 50-pound weight on my shoulder and made me stand on one foot to find out the size of my shoes. My outfit of clothing includes wooden underwear, trousers, socks, putties, shirt, coat, eyecap, hat and shoes. I forgot to mention before that we have steam heat, and electric lights in our barracks, and just outside is a building containing baths, wash rooms and toilet, and when everything is complete we will be fixed pretty nice. There is also a building here for the Y. M. C. A., where the men can go and spend their idle minutes by reading or writing, playing the Victrola or piano. In one room is a big fireplace which is pretty nice to sit around evenings; also moving picture shows free to the men—and very good pictures—shown three or four times a week.

"September 14.—I dislocated my knee last Monday, by slipping while playing a game on the drill grounds, and was taken to the infirmary where it was bandaged, and then I was taken to my bunk and have been hanging around with nothing to do ever since. The officers have been very good to me. I have been excused from everything except eating, and they even offered to bring my meals to me, but I declined, so they carried me to the 'mess hall' the first day and I have been able to hobble in ever since. The doctors took the bandage off this morning and I am able to bend the limb in good shape tonight. Will probably be able to drill again the fore part of the week.

"I received my uniform day before yesterday, and it includes two suits of underwear, six pairs of socks (three cotton and three woolen—all gray), breeches, shirt, leggings, hat, gloves and two pairs of shoes—one pair 'dress' and the other for 'hiking.' The shoes are large and very comfortable. The 'hiking' shoes are certainly built to stand the wear and tear—they are apparently made of heavy pigskin, with the rough side out, the uppers the natural color and quite soft. The soles, however, are very thick and full of hob-nails, on the heel there being a horse-

shoe—not a tiny one, but one that goes clear around the heel.

"There is also located here what is called the 'canteen or post exchange,' which is a store where you can buy certain kinds of candy, ice cream, soft drinks, etc. This is a 'profit-sharing' institution—that is the profits come back to the men, or rather the regiment, and it is used to buy extra food, so you see the more money we spend for candy and tobaccos, the better food we get.

"Regular hours for sleeping and eating certainly makes a world of difference in a person. I feel a hundred per cent better than I have for a long time. I usually get up at 5:30—everyone must be up at 5:50. We undergo physical drill of all kinds which develops muscles you hardly knew you had.

"Everyone here is working hard for promotion, as there is bound to be a bunch of promotions as soon as the other men get here, and I am out to get one. Just as soon as one becomes a corporal or sergeant one has very little work to do—I mean by work, good hard manual labor.

"For the benefit of the boys to come here next I would like to say this: Although your 'pink card' tells you to bring as little as possible, don't hesitate to bring a traveling bag or suitcase, with all the little necessities you can think of in the line of toilet articles, handkerchiefs, etc. As for clothes, old ones that you can dispose of by selling or throwing away, are best, as everything of that sort will be furnished you.

"In conclusion I will say that 'smokes' from our friends are very acceptable here, and another thing, I want the 'Enterprise' to remember me to all my friends, and accept my best wishes for the success of the 'Enterprise.'"

Loyally Yours,
Mark B. Owen,
338 Inf. Hq. Co., Camp Custer,
Battle Creek, Michigan.

Honorable Mention.

In looking over "The Log," the school paper of the Culver Military Academy summer school, at Culver, Ind., we note several items of interest, indicating the high character of the school. Col. Gignilliat, former superintendent at Culver, is senior instructor at Fort Benjamin Harrison, and a large number of Culver graduates are there and at Fort Sheridan as instructors. Oakland county was represented by a number of students, among whom was D. J. Bailey, of Pontiac, who was one of 15 graduates to receive certificates asserting that they were qualified for genuine naval service. Farmington was also represented by St. Clair Switzer, who not only received a first year bronze medal for general excellence but was one of 12 whose names were publicly announced as the most satisfactory students in the summer schools, and who had been awarded a special credit. As those 12 were selected from a thousand students it was some credit to young Switzer whose name is on the roster for another year.

Northville fair next Tuesday to Friday.

Four barns and the residence of the Stanley estate just outside the Birmingham village limits were burned to the ground last Saturday, entailing a loss of about \$10,000, covered by insurance. The fire is thought to have been started by sparks from a Grand Trunk engine.

Married Friday.

Chester Pickett, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pickett, and Miss Ruth Lamphere, of Redford, were quietly married at the home of Rev. George Evans, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Redford, last Friday evening, September 14th. Harry Adams, of this village, acted as best man, and Miss Marian Lasher, of Redford, as bridesmaid.

Following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Pickett were conveyed to Detroit in Mr. Adams' auto, and partook of a wedding supper at the Frontenac Hotel, after which they took the boat to Cleveland, returning to this village the fore part of the week, where they will make their home with his parents for the present.

The Enterprise extends its best wishes for a long and happy married life, in which their many friends here and at Redford join.

Family Reunion.

A reunion of the Philbrick families was held at the home of C. H. Philbrick, in Redford, Sunday, September 16th. There were present Gene Philbrick and wife, of Redford; Will Philbrick and wife, of Mt. Clemens; S. E. DuBois and wife, of Redford; Mrs. Anna Philbrick and Mrs. Olive Sprague of Farmington.

There were none there who were in the draft limit. The combined ages amounting to 613 years. The oldest one present was also the smallest, as regards height and weight, but nevertheless he was alive and enjoyed the day, with old stories and memories.

It was a day fully enjoyed by all present and one which may be repeated in the years to come, but perhaps that day may be the last of its kind.

Postponed Indefinitely.

The wedding of Miss Alma Ely and Ralph Hogle, which was announced for Tuesday September 18th, has been indefinitely postponed on account of the serious illness of Miss Ely, who was taken very ill with diphtheria last week.

Although Miss Ely's condition is much improved as we go to press Thursday evening, she is by no means out of danger. However, if no complications develop her chances for recovery are good.

The sympathy of the entire community is with the young couple, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Ely, and it is sincerely hoped that her recovery will be full and speedy.

Farmington Wins Handily.

The Bowling season opened last Monday evening, with a match game between Northville and Farmington, Farmington winning all three games. A colored two-piece band furnished music.

The Trolley league will open its season October 19th. Following is the score of Monday night's games:

Farmington, Mass, 176, 134, 170; Cox 168, 148, 133; Lapham 169, 170, 220; Grace 169, 198, 181; Clark 185, 178, 146. Totals 857, 828, 856.

Northville, Hicks, 191, 149, 151; Weston, 136, 115, 153; Hinkley, 114, 206, 156; Schrader 189, 189, 145; Woolley 136, 120, 147. Totals 746, 771, 752.

New Liberty Loan to be launched next month.

Pure Bred Holstein bull calves at Warner Farm.

Willard Service Storage Batteries for sale. Also batteries recharged. W. H. Lee & Sons. If

FROM OUR EXCHANGES

Newsy Items Taken From Other Papers in and About the County:

The question of raising \$13,000 by bonding issue to build their trunk line state reward highway carried in Howell township last week. The road will likely be built next year.—Brighton Argus.

In the new loitering law, passed by the last legislature, there is considerable power. A man cannot loaf around town unless he says why, if somebody challenges him. Under this law the Mt. Clemens police have run out 30 or 40 men within the last few weeks.—Rochester Clarion.

Some time ago Robert Joerine invested in four black foxes, and built quarters for them for the purpose of going into the industry of raising the animals. Sunday morning it was discovered that one of the foxes was missing, having either escaped in some way or been stolen.—Milford Times.

A pair of outlaw dogs which have been killing hogs over in Oakland county, is believed to have been depleted by one when a wounded shepherd dog was found in a Pontiac basement and shot by a policeman. The two animals, the other one a bulldog, have been seen several times, but had always succeeded in getting away from their pursuers. They seemed to prefer pork to mutton, and have killed or mangled hundreds of dollars worth of swine during the last few weeks.—Northville Record.

School Notes.

One new enrollment in Fifth grade.

Cecil Habermehl fell while roller skating and sprained his wrist.

Genevive Green has been absent on account of sickness.

Miss Alice Yerkes is supplying the primary department, owing to the illness of Miss Powers.

Carlton Allyn has been absent the past week.

The Seventh grade has completed the study of South America.

Mrs. Thomas visited the Second Primary room Tuesday.

Pupils of the Third and Fourth grades are enjoying the story of "The Adventures of Johnny Chuck."

Half Holiday Tuesday afternoon.

Cheerful Givers.

The Cheerful Givers met with Isabelle Pauline Saturday. All members present except two. A good time was enjoyed in playing games. Refreshments were served consisting of strawberry ice cream and cake. After the business meeting Miss Wanda Shuts took all the members for a ride in her car. Pictures of the members were taken, after which they adjourned to meet with Ruth Green October 20th.

Get your "gun license, for the rabbit season opens October 1st. Duck season opened last Sunday.

You can send any magazine or paper to the boys in the trenches by placing a one-cent stamp on it and handing it to the postmaster.

The Oakland county Y. M. C. A. band, organized at Pontiac recently will have a place on the Older Boys' conference program at Bay City in November.

Read the liners.

LITTLE WANT ADS

FOR SALE—Good work horse. Inquire at Owen House Farmington, 42c

WANTED—Four or five young pigs. Rosemond Farm, phone 5873, Farmington, 46c.

FOR SALE—Nearly new McCormick Corn Binder, cheap. Elmer Dohany, 47c.

FOR SALE—Two new milk Grade Holstein cows. Inquire of Howard Warner or at the Warner farm, 43c

TO RENT—Furnished sleeping rooms. Electric lights, furnace heat and bath. Inquire at Enterprise office, 46c

FOR SALE—Visiting cards—either printed or engraved. Best of work and prices right. Ask the Enterprise man.

SHOE REPAIRING—Shoes left at Barnes' or Nacker's store in Clarencetown will be satisfactorily repaired and returned there. Prices right, 46-47c

WANTED—A used wagon or wagon gear, suitable for drawing gravel. Phone 66w5 or address Route 3, box 13, Farmington, 47c

FOR SALE—Fort Huron traction engine, suitable for threshing or site filling, cheap. Inquire of Milton Grace, Redford, phone 185-R, 47-49c

FOR SALE—Large sheets of blotting paper; also Bristol Board, cards of all kinds, either printed or plain. Call at the Enterprise and see what we have.

BIRTH CARDS—We will print you a neat card announcing the birth of your baby, and furnish the envelopes for mailing. Cards and envelopes 25 for 50 cents. Enterprise office.

FOR SALE—Practically new dining room suit, base burner and other household furniture. Inquire for directions at Andrew Sallow's, 1/4 mile south of D.U. E. power house, 47p

FOR SALE—Large assortment of used Hard Coal Base Burner stoves, \$10.00 to \$45.00; store open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings. James A. Huff, Hardware, Northville, 47-48c

FOR SALE—Pedigreed Airedale Terrier Puppies. Mother and father both registered. First class farm dogs. Price \$5 and \$10 each. J. D. Parker, Farmington, farm back of Power House, Adams Road, 47p

LOST—A blue serge Ladies Coat, trimmed with Black Silk, between Charles Gravin's and Farmington Thursday night. Finder please return to Mrs. Jess Gates, phone 66w5, Farmington, 47p

SOCIAL DANCE

— AT —

REDFORD

Every SATURDAY Evening

in the

New Lamphere Hall

Good Music, Fine Floor, and

best of order.