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NORMAL SCHOOL NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE STUDENTS OF THE EASTERN ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1918

NO. 6

THE BEAUTIES OF FRANCE

The following letter was written by Sergt. Charles Prather, a former member of the class of 1918. Sergt. Prather was among the first group of E. I. boys to enlist at the outbreak of the war. S. W. T. France, Sept. 4, 1918.

We have been back of the lines now for three weeks, but you can bet that we aren't lying around any. It doesn't pay to let a bunch of fellows be idle very long. They might get into trouble. That was what got me in and not long ago.

We just got a taste of the front line, but it wouldn't take very many of such trips to satisfy me. I was only with a patrol one afternoon, which lost one man. We brought him in with us but I heard he died soon afterwards. We had all kinds of shellfire when we were up there. You can hear the shells coming and they make a fellow hug the ground. We sure have been through some life since we landed over here. We are out in the open most of the time sleeping on the ground, hot days and nights cold as the dickens, long hikes with heavy packs, weighing from thirty to seventy pounds, long hours without sleep, living on full or short rations, with lots of corned beef, (bully beef, underground mutton) thrown in. We'll be hard as nails when we get home, and about as much lost as an African Negro would be going into a civilized home for the first time.

I never saw a prettier country in my life than the one we are in now. Big, steep, gentle, small, and all kinds of hills, with plenty of valleys and hollows mixed in between. There are long hills covered by growing crops and garden truck, or either soft or hard wood forests. Snuggled down in the valley or on the side of a hill you can find the prettiest of little French villages. The church spire is about the first thing you notice. Each town has one or more churches. All are Catholic. Some of them are very ancient. I was in one built in 1442. They are decorated on the inside with pictures, paintings and statues of bible scenes. I got to see the spire of one of the world's famous cathedrals.

The stone houses, with their red tile roofs, nestling among the green foliage, make a very pretty picture from the hills above.

As I said all the villages are in valleys or on hillsides. The farmers live down there and go up on the hillsides to farm. They raise crops over here where farmers in Illinois couldn't raise grass. I've seen crops and garden truck growing on at least thirty degree slopes. The system of terracing is used a lot in some places. They have a few McCormick reapers over here, but the most common cutting machines are the scythe and cradle. I noticed several times where a man was using the scythe, while a woman just behind would pick the grain off the cradle. The crop was so light that if they hadn't picked it off the cradle it would have become scattered and they never would have found it. By the way, the women over here work as the men do. You can easily see the effects of it, for they soon get old and lots of them are bent almost double. It's a pretty country through here, the long green hills, the winding roads and red tile roofed villages, but a poor place to drill an army. It isn't any fun to walk up one of these roads, and you can imagine what it would be with a pack. It isn't my legs that feel tired any more, it's my shoulders. Did you ever see a soldier's harness? Well, I never want to see another one when I get back into civilian life. It is next to an impossibility to buy anything over here. There are plenty of eggs and milk, and that is about all. The prices of what little else they do have is sky high. What wouldn't I give for just a look at an American store.

We were paid to night and you'll find enclosed a five franc note. That will give you a small idea of what some of the money over here looks like.

I just saw an order which said that we had to get up at 4:30 tomorrow morning.

Sergt. Charles Prather.

SWORN STATEMENT

of The Normal School News, published weekly at Charleston, Ill., for Oct. 1, 1918.

1. Publishers, Student of Eastern Illinois State Normal School. Editor, Charles Allen, Charleston, Ill. Business Manager, Gage Carman, Charleston, Ill.

2. That the owners are: Students of Eastern Ill. State Normal School.

3. No bonds holders, etc.

Gage Carman, Bus. Mgr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of October 1918.

W. A. Willson, Notary Public.

My commission expires March 30, 1922.

POSTPONE TEACHERS

MEETING TO FEBRUARY

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Eastern Illinois Teachers' Association, held in the office of the Chairman, H. B. Black, at the high school in Mattoon last Tuesday afternoon, for the purpose of deciding the matter of holding the annual meeting of the association during the present health crisis, it was decided to postpone the meeting until the 14th and 15th of February, 1919.

The meeting will be held at the Eastern Illinois State Normal on those days and, if possible, identically the same program will be given as was scheduled for the abandoned dates.

Those present at the meeting were W. L. Hagan, president, Monticello; H. B. Black, chairman executive committee, Mattoon; DeWitt Elwood, treasurer, Charleston; and the following members of the executive committee: O. L. Minter, Charleston; J. L. Hart, Pana, and E. H. Taylor, Charleston.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

For some time there has been a great need for some form of amusement other than the regular Saturday night dance among the social activities of our school. By far the larger part of the students of the school do not know how to dance, and as quite a few do not care to learn, the need of some kind of party of which dancing is not the important part is apparent. A committee consisting of four members from the faculty and four from the student body was chosen for the purpose of determining what form these amusements should take. The faculty members are Miss Johnson (chairman), Miss Farrar, Miss Weller and Mr. Hubbard. The student members are Edna Mitchell, Robert Allen, Frances Grafton and Robert Pampe. At a meeting of the committee Thursday evening it was decided that one Saturday night in each month should be left open so that out of town students could go home without missing anything and so that the classes might have time for their gatherings. On two Saturday nights of each month the usual dance will be held in the gymnasium. The remaining Saturday nights will be devoted to some program in which dancing does not hold an important part.

The exact program has not yet been determined. By this arrangement the committee hopes to get larger numbers of the students out to school parties instead of having a few of the same people there every time.

WILL HARRY COME BACK

The following letter was written by a French girl to Harry Willson, a former student of the Normal School and now a member of A. E. F. in France. Mr. Willson gave his home address to the girl with the result that the letter was sent to his parents from whom we get it:

Rennes, Le 24 Aois, 1918.

I have received very well the little photo with the address. Thank you very much. Also I write you. I hope you will receive my letter and will answer soon. What country are you in now? I hope to write you to dispel the ennui to be for your family. What city live in you in the America? Give me very much information one self. Myself is a young girl. I beemployed in the barracks of soldiers as secretary. I make me alive. In France all the girls have a soldier of the war that is their "godchild" of war." I hope you shall excuse one self me for the terrible mistakes of my letter. But I learn from only the nights.

I not write very much,

Goodbye dear sir. I want a very large letter of yours. I am yours most truly,

Alice Montouzier,

8 Blvd. De Guinnes, a Rennes.

FOOTBALL LINEUP

Football practice has been halted somewhat by the spread of influenza in the school. Only about nineteen men reported for practice during the week. They were the same men who have been coming out regularly all season and strange to say, none of them have taken the influenza. Perhaps if those of the football squad who have taken the disease had come out every evening for practice, they might have raised their chances of escaping.

The lineup in practice for the last week has been:

Hiles, center.
Geffs, Funkhouser, guards.
Leathers, Hood, tackles.
Anderson, May, ends.
L. Cook, quarter.
Cunningham, full back.
R. Cook, Baker, half backs.

The backfield averages about 144 lbs. in weight while the line averages only about 140 lbs., making the whole team weighed on an average of 141 lbs. This is only about 3 lbs short of the weight of last years' team, and we proved then that weight does not always make a football team, although it helps a great deal.

The game with Sidel, which was scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18, will probably be postponed because of the schools closing until Oct. 22.

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NORMAL SCHOOL NEWS

Published each Tuesday during the school year at 511 Jackson St., Charleston, Ill. Phone 26.

Entered as second-class matter Nov. 8, 1915 at the Post Office at Charleston, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Charles Allen.....	Editor in-Chief
Vernon Baker.....	Sporting Editor
Boelab Smith.....	Society Editor
Albert Crowe.....	Junior H. S. Editor
James Ford.....	Sophomore Editor
Gage Carman.....	Business Manager

Miss Beryl Inglis..... Faculty Advisor

Subscription Price

\$2.00 the school year, cash in advance
Single Copies, 5 cents each



If some of our students' interest in their country's welfare were as slack as their interest in the school that they attend, they wouldn't know a Liberty Bond from a War Savings Stamp; probably wouldn't even know that the United States is at war with Germany. These students look on their school only as a place to learn some things from text books. This is all right as far as it goes, but is it a complete education? Are YOU getting all you can from your schooling? If you have no interests outside of those immediately connected with lessons, then you are losing much that is of value. You are losing a part of your education that you can get only by taking a lively, active interest in the things that your school is doing.

To some students, athletics, social life, and school enterprises, appeal alike in vain. They know about as much of what goes on in their school as the mussel at the bottom of the river knows of what is happening in the world around him.

Are you a student with the mussel attitude? If you are, wake up! Crawl out of your shell! Mix with the rest of the students! Support the enterprises which the school is backing and which you as a part of the school should be backing too.

Are you supporting the school in its every activity? It is true you blantly inquire three weeks afterwards, how the football game came out. The morning after a number on the entertainment course, you tell somebody you really had intended to go. A week after your class has decided on some important step,

you go to the president to say you weren't at the meeting, but you think it should be done so-and-so. And then when some friend in your home town or elsewhere asks you what kind of a school F. I. is, you say "Oh, good enough, but rather dead." Dead! Of course it is. If you would mix with the other students, and really take a part in school life, it wouldn't seem dead.

How many of you have never seen our athletic teams in action, have never been to school or class parties, have never worked for some enterprise which would make our school a better place, have never been to a number on our entertainment course, have never had the genuine pleasure which comes from co-operating in some way or other with your fellow students? If you have not you are in the same class with the mussel and the oyster.

What are you getting out of your education besides the knowledge that comes from books? After you have learned your lessons well, you are still only half-educated, unless you have entered into the other activities of school life. You owe it to yourself to educate yourself as completely as possible, and this you are not doing unless you enter into the activities of student life. Get a little pep and some real school spirit, and you will find that you enjoy your school life twice as much, and get more out of it at the same time. Remember, you get out of anything just what you put into it, and no more!

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SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Byron Mitchell, who was a student here several years ago, has arrived in France.

Herman Cooper, '16, is in the Officers' Training Camp at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.

Lyman Ritter, '18, in training at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., is expecting to get a farmer's furlough to come home and shuck corn this fall.

Maurice Bryant, who was reported to have sailed for France about two weeks ago, is still in this country. His company received word to be ready to sail, but on the day they were to have left, several of the men were found to be so ill with influenza that the whole company was sent back to their barracks.

Glenn Hackett, '18, who has been seriously ill at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Newport, Rhode Island, is still holding his own, although he is very weak. His father, Henry Hackett, is now at his son's bedside. He writes that Glenn knew him when he came to see him. As soon as possible, Glenn will be removed to a hospital in Washington, D. C.

Cecil Wilkinson, '14, writes from France that a chemist's work in the army consists of washing dishes, scrubbing floors, carrying brick, and numerous other jobs of a similar nature. At present a new hospital is going up at the place where he is located. We infer that he has been turned into a carpenter for the time being.

Stephen Turner, who joined the Navy last Spring, is in Brooklyn, N. Y. on a receiving ship, waiting to be sent to France. He writes that he is enjoying life looking at the New York skyscrapers. He expects to sail in the near future.

"PERCY" AT MILLIKIN
Homer "Percy" Scovil of last year's graduating class, and former editor of the Normal School News has entered James Millikin University at Decatur to take military training. Before entering Millikin he was a teacher in the Vandalia schools. He is now with Hugh Hillsabeck, another of old E. I.'s students, who is also learning the business of being a soldier at the Decatur college.

Ruth Carpenter, who was operated on for appendicitis about a month ago, has returned to school.

Faye Adams, Elsie Smith, Lyda Purvis, Hallie Hutton, Vernon Baker and Dale Saxon made up a picnic party that motored to the Rocks Thursday evening.

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NEW EPIDEMIC

Although we have been told that embryo moustaches are not encouraged at the army camps, several of the members of the foot-ball team are trying to get a "good stand." If you have not yet had your attention drawn to this change, please look more closely. It has not been your fault, if for the past few weeks you have been unable to detect a change but in a week or two, at least by the time of our first foot-ball game there will probably be such a startling array as to frighten our gridiron for beyond recovery. The would-be owners announce that after E. I. wins her first football game the moustaches will be no more. Perhaps it had best not be so. Call to mind the ebbing strength of mighty Samson caused by the losing of some hair. Why might it not be so in this case? It were far better that we of E. I. should be subjected to the awful sight than that our foot-ball team should go through the season with only one game.

"Well, anyhow," to resume our natural expression, the question now is "Is it ketchen?"

INFLUENZA

The history of its course at E. I. during the past week.

Tuesday—General expectancy among students that school will be dismissed. Hopes high. Several empty seats at chapel. Hopes higher. Mr. Ford summarizes the situation and announces that school will continue. Students go home at noon and unpack their suit cases.

Wednesday—Training School dismissed. Various Seniors look pleased. Many more empty seats in chapel. About half of ninth grade out. Hopes are again raised. Announcement that 9th Grade and Normal School will continue. Hopes fall.

Thursday—Ninth grade dismissed. Suit cases packed. Normal School continues. Suit cases unpacked. Students lose hopes. Many parents sent for students.

Friday—More empty seats in chapel. Announcement of teachers' meeting at 4:15. Students look hopeful. More students decide to go home. Anxious suspense between 9:30 and 4:15. Faculty decides to dismiss school until October 22. Everybody leaves for home. O boy, ain't it a grand and glorious feelin'?

PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

A newspaper, however small, must have money to keep it going. Please pay your subscription to the Normal School News with the first dollar you can find.

Roscoe Hampton, '18, was a visitor at school last week. He is teaching at Henry, Ill.

Maurice Hampton, '15, was home from Mattoon last week. The Mattoon schools were closed on account of the epidemic of influenza.

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