

Downers Grove Reporter

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C. H. STAATS, EDITOR

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"And The Star Spangled Banner Forever Shall Wave, O'er The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave."



MANY PLANS NOW DISCUSSED

Since the publication of the two Editorials in The Reporter regarding a suitable monument to commemorate the deeds of local soldiers and sailors in the great war of 1917 - 1918, a great deal of discussion has gone the rounds of the village.

There are many plans afloat and all of them seem to have some good features.

Every faction agrees that now is the time to build a real Community Center. A meeting and recreation place for every one of the village and vicinity. That it should include gymnasium, swimming tank, reading rooms and a large assembly hall is also agreed. The only point of dissention apparently is the form this building will take.

Let's get together.

Let everyone interested in a place of this kind, and we think everyone in the village is, get together in a big public meeting and discuss ways and means. Talk over the different projects from every angle and see just what is wanted and the way to get it.

A Y. M. C. A. would not fill the need, what would?

Let us have your opinion.

LETTERS FROM DOWNERS GROVE SOLDIER BOYS

"DAVVY" SLEPT IN AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS BED

Aix-Les-Bains, France, Dec. 13, 1918.

Dear Floyd and Veda:

Well, I have got my little old furlough that I have been looking for ever since I left the States. I am perfectly free to do as I like here for seven days. Get up when I like, go to bed when I like and no check or formations. The nice thing about it is that Uncle Sam pays the hotel bills, both room and board. Gee! You should see us go after this home cooked food and all you want of it.

I have a wonderful room and last night slept in a bed, a regular bed, for the first time in about 18 months. Gee! It sure was fine. I was about the last one to ramble into the breakfast room this morning.

This town is in the foothills of the Alps so you can imagine what beautiful scenery there is here.

We detoured here just at sunrise and fight across from the depot is a snow capped mountain with a ring of clouds around its middle, you can imagine what a beautiful sight it made with the red sun just coming up over it.

We missed connections at Verdun and had to lay over there for two days. It is sure some wrecked. You have heard of the many battles of Verdun, haven't you? It is an ancient city alright. There is a high, wide wall all the way around it and at the main entrance, called "Porte St. Paul, there is an old-fashioned drawbridge and most the same as I used to read about and see pictures of in my ancient History but I little dreamed that I would ever see one.

The day I left we, the battery, took a hike and ran across the church of Montigny. It was founded about 1300 so you can imagine what an ancient number it is. The Germans had held it for four years so, of course, it was dirty but they hadn't destroyed it much. It looked just the same inside as the pictures of the old Roman churches.

I wish I could find a Protestant church here in France. France seems to be all Catholic.

How is everything in Downers Grove? I sure would like to get back there, but I'm very much afraid it will be some time before we plant our

old hobnails on the U. S. A. What do you think of the situation in Germany. It looks like a second Russian affair to me. I expect we will be on the way back to camp just about the 25th.

Well, I must close as it is time for supper and I don't miss any meals here by a long shot. Love to all.

Your loving brother,
Clifford (Davenport)

GRIFF THANKS J. C. WHITE FOR READING MATTER

U. S. Naval Air Station, Porto Corsini, Italy, November 16th, 1918.

Dear Uncle Jack:

Your package of papers received yesterday and I was very glad to get them and wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart and I appreciate them too, as you know we do not get very much news except what we do ourselves and that is not news for us. We are all a happy lot over here now that the armistice is signed and peace is almost signed and we expect to get orders soon to return to the states. Say but it will be a grand and glorious feeling. Just about the way I felt when I first sailed for France, that all the world was watching to see what the U. S. would do and now we can come back knowing that this little old world of ours is saved from the hands of the treacherous Hun.

There are quite a few boys here from Illinois and they are all reading your papers so you can see all of the boys get the news through your kindness. We have stopped all our work and no more dodging of bombs and poking of your head out of a dugout to see if he is gone yet.

Well, I will have to close now. Give my love to Aunt Ally and Mable and Florence.

Yours sincerely,
Owen H. Griffiths.

ALFRED STRAUBE THINKS HE WILL STAY OVER AWHILE

Nantes, France, December 2nd, 1918.

Dear folks:
This is my anniversary here for I've been Depot Engineer in Nantes just a year now. With at least six months more if I'm not transferred. Yesterday I went to the Adjutant to get my two weeks furlough they had promised and he thought he would kid me and said to his chief clerk, "Where is that order returning Straube to the States." I said that is the one I wanted and that he need pay no more attention to the leave and he said that I deserved it if I had been here Xmas without one. He asked me who was going to function for me and I told

him the 1st. Lieutenant, who had charge of the negroes would hold down my job.

We surely have been busy, as I had 500 tons of material come in two days ago and had to take all the stuff over to the yard a half a mile from here.

But most of the danger is over and the stuff stored away. Had 300 men working then. Tipped over the crane today operated by two German prisoners, but no one was hurt and now have it chained to the track. November 24th.

This is ordained Fathers' Day and as I wrote one on Mothers' Day to her here is yours father. Here is one you may tell mother at your discretion. My driver was up in my room this morning and when he saw that picture that Katherine took of you sitting down and mother standing he wished to know if that was my sister. That will add a few years to her life, won't it? Today a boat load of 2000 tons of machinery and barbed wire came for us. Went up to the Colonel's conference today and hear they expect to use this Porte for embarkation for some of the troops. It surely will be hard to see the others go back and me stay when I have been here so long. It sort of looks as though President Wilson and myself would make our formal entree into Paris together, it should be a great occasion with us both being there. I expect to see quite a little of France before I get back, it would be a pity to go back home with having seen so little. I do hope that you will have the merriest of Christmas for we are bound to spend the next one together. Lots of love from

Alfred.

SAVAGES USED "POISON GAS"

Ingredients Were Different, but Object Was the Same as That Sought by the Germans.

As is well known, the Germans in the great war were anticipated by some savage tribes in the use of poisonous gas for war purposes. Nature quotes authorities to show that tribes like the Tupinamba and Guaranis of the Brazil littoral and on the Rio Parana used poisonous gases in attacking fortified villages. Men went in front of the attacking party, each holding a pan with embers in one hand and ground red pepper in the other. When the wind was against the Spaniards they sprinkled the pepper on the embers. This was also done in attacks on the Spaniards in Venezuela. In the same way pepper was largely used in exorcising demons and evil spirits. The use of this pepper, known as Aji, would soon be discovered by these Indians, who cultivated the plant extensively. It was only necessary for some one to upset a basin of Aji into the fire and a hut would soon be cleared of its occupants. The use of the smoke in warfare would be a natural development.

REV. SCHWAB BOOSTS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Another suggestion about the way to have a suitable memorial building and to meet the present need for a recreation place for our young men.

We all see the need here in Downers Grove for a place where the boys and men can meet to spend a pleasant and profitable hour together. A place for leisure time, reading and meeting with friends, and for games of all sorts. But what is the quickest and easiest way to supply that need? Several good suggestions have already been made. Let us make another which we think can be carried thru sooner, and more economically in the end for the people of our village.

Has anyone ever thought of it that Downers Grove is going to have a township high school built here in the next few years and that that building can be made the real community center that we have been in need of for some time? Other cities are building their new schools as community centers more and more, and we should be wise enuf to swing into line; for their experience shows that the project is practical and economical. The new school should be built with a large auditorium for public meetings and entertainments of all sorts. It should have a large gymnasium with plenty of equipment, a bowling alley and pool room, shower baths, lockers, and a swimming pool, all under a capable caretaker and open for public use under adequate regulation and proper fees. There should be comfortably furnished waiting, reading, game and music rooms constantly supervised to keep them orderly. There the community social life could properly center in a democratic and polite way. The young men and the young women of the own could each have their own evening for using the gymnasium for relaxation and for inter-town athletic contests. Our present high school offers very small chance for these things. We need the new building. Think it over and talk it over! And this building could be named

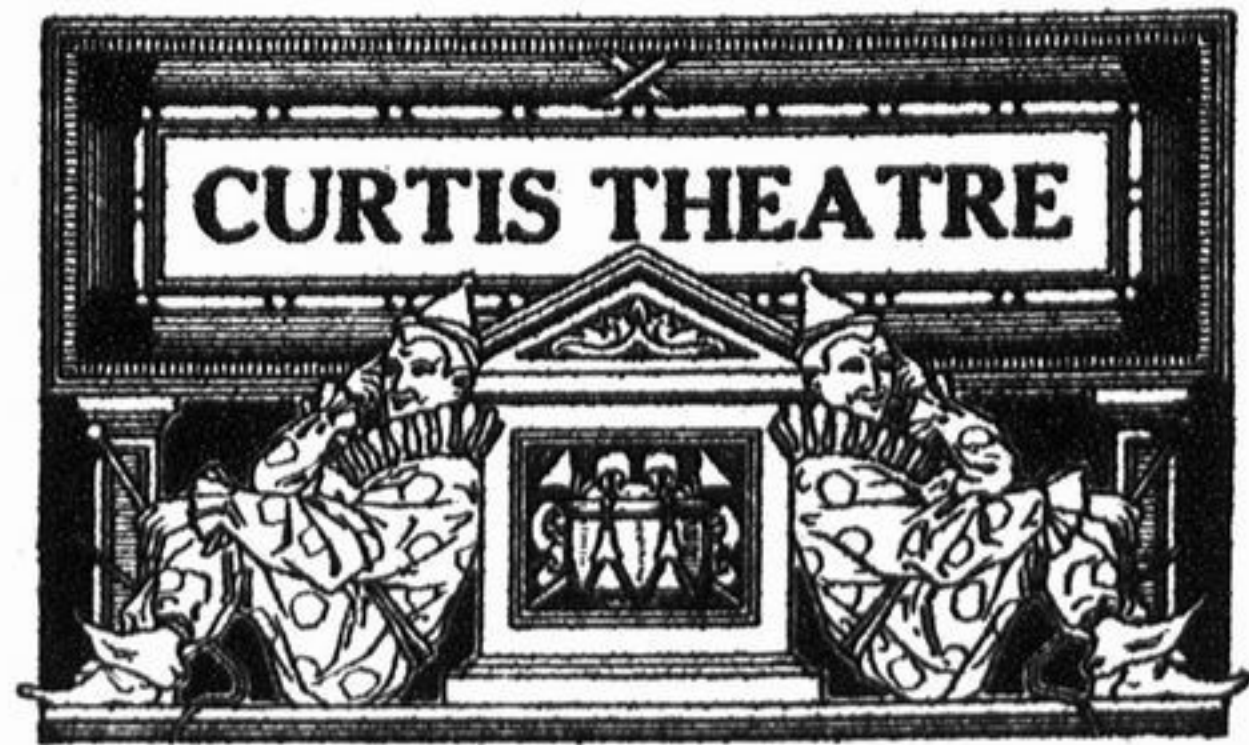
Has Any One

- Died—
- Eloped—
- Divorced—
- Had a fire—
- Embezzled—
- Left Town—
- Had a baby—
- Sold a farm—
- Had a party—
- Come to town—
- Been arrested—
- Had twins or colic—
- Sold a cow or lost an auto—
- Laid in a stock of whisky—
- Stolen a dog or his friend's wife—
- Committed suicide, or murder—
- Fallen from an airplane or—
- Fallen into a coal hole or—
- Fallen into a legacy?

That's News!

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COMING TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST.

Harry Morey in "A Game With Fate"

COMING THURSDAY, JANUARY 23D.

Constance Talmadge in A Ladie's Name

January Special

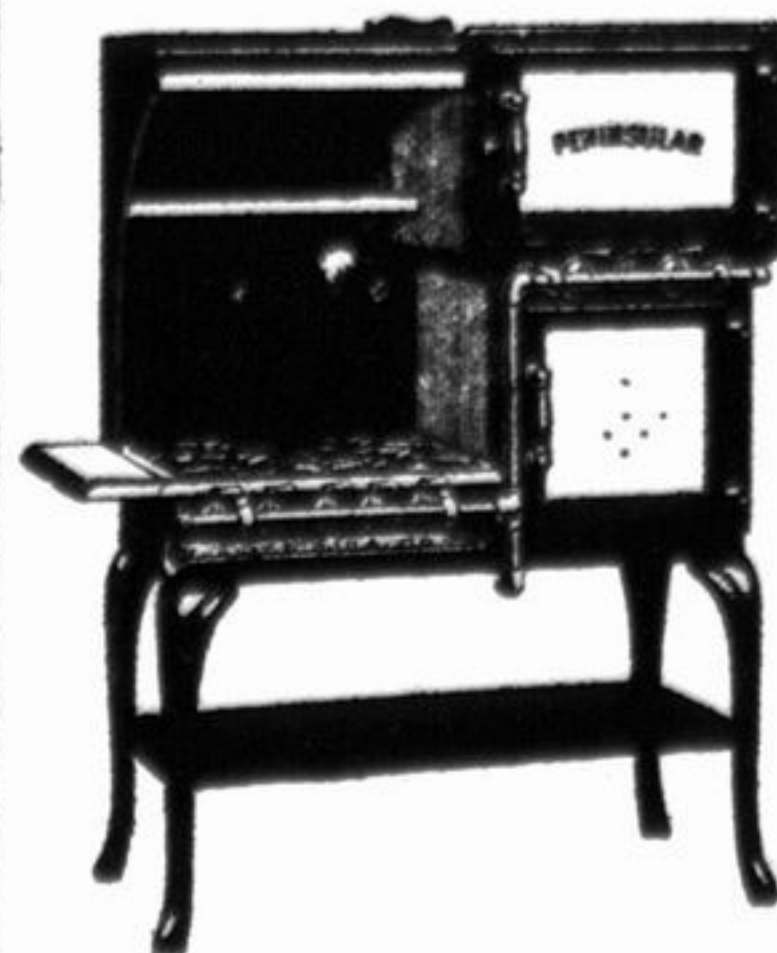
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