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Toronto, Ont.

Sept. 8th. 1918.

No need telling you that it has been quite a long period since one of these "efforts" has gone forward, but since last Bulletin was issued I have been "having the time of my life", most of the time in old time "pastures" quite distant from this city.

On Saturday Aug. 10th. I left Toronto at 5.15 P. M., crossing Lake Ontario via steamer to Lewiston, N. Y., and from there by street car through the Niagara Gorge, past Niagara Falls, and in to Buffalo. Caught New York Central train out of Buffalo at midnight and arrived at Ligonier Sunday morning, 8.47. Shellie, Aunt Rose, and Merris wer at station to meet me.

During that week I had splendid visits with many of the Noble County people, stopping over night with the Greens, Clarks, Uncle Dave's and Uncle Bob's. Thursday evening, the 15th., Uncle Bob drove me out to Jack Buckles', but we missed Jack owing to his having taken a trip to Columbia City on business, but I had the pleasure of seeing him next evening, when we drove to Nell Buckles Ainsworth's home which is on farm adjoining Jack. Aunt Emma went along on this trip and we took dinner with Nell.

While at Wolf Lake on Wednesday, Judd drove through from Wolcottville and was at Uncle Dave's all the time I was there, and drove me out to Uncle Bob's on Thursday morning.

Friday morning Uncle Bob took me into the Piper neighborhood, and I saw Aunt Samantha, Dell, and Charlie. Saturday morning I returned to Shellie's--Cromwell--thanks to Uncle Bob and his "Henry".

Found all the folks around the circuit in good health and good cheer, except Raymond Clark, who had been suffering with very sore throat, and looked as if he had taken a lot of punishment out of it.

Now people, I want to tell you I had a good time--was extended the finest of hospitality and had great "eats". Fine fried chicken and home cured ham, with all the "trimmings", until I was about spoiled for coming back to the Greek provender of which we have to partake in this city. Strikes me that Noble County still holds her reputation of having a long string of "blue ribbon" cooks.

I simply cannot fully express the enjoyment gained from my visit to the old haunts, but sincerely that the day may come when I may have the pleasure of endeavoring to reciprocate to each individual who made my sojourn in that community so enjoyable.

Sunday morning Shellie drove me to Ligonier and I took the N. Y. Central into Chicago. Was four and a half days in that city, and had a continuation pleasure and enjoyment, mainly due to the efforts of our old-time friends, the Parkers. They made me feel right "at home" and took care of me like a "lost child".

Most of my time during the days, while in Chicago, was given to business affairs, and the weather man tried to make that part of the program as unpleasant as possible by "turning on the heat"--surely he shoved on degrees that brought back to me those old days of yore, when a bathing suit and the cool waters of Lake Michigan were the most attractive allurements in that district. Too bad that such a marvelous city as Chicago has to be punished with such an abominable climate. Oh, you "lucky dogs" on the Pacific Coast!

Thursday night I left Chicago for Anderson, and dropped in on The Aurelius family about ten the following morning. Found them all fine and dandy, and preparing for an automobile trip to Lake Wawasee the next day, and of course I got in on the trip. There were four autos in the "picnic" and the party numbered eighteen in all. Harry, Hazel, and I took the drive with Mr. and Mrs. Bright. It was a beautiful day for driving and we had a great trip. Stopped on the way and had noon meal "a la picnic" from copiously filled baskets thoughtfully prepared by feminine contingent. Of course Harry came near putting the meal on the bum--he tried to get away with all the coffee, and, he nearly succeeded.

We all stayed at the Wawasee Inn that night, had a dance, a swim, and a good time in general. Sunday morning, Shellie, Aunt Rose, and Merris came out to the Inn, and took me and my belongings to Ligonier in time to catch the 1.37 P. M. train for Buffalo.

Reached Buffalo shortly after midnight, indulged in four hours sleep and took train again for Toronto at 5.15 A. M., enabling me to report in for duty at 9.30 A. M.

The past week has been Exhibition week in this city, our big annual "show" being pulled off. I was out three times, one afternoon, and two evenings. It is a fine Ex. Reputed to be the best annual affair of its kind given on this continent. The attendance was good, 946,000 paid admissions having been registered during the week.

I have received many letters since last Bulletin and will give digest from the ones that I think contain most interesting items. Here they come!

From George--France--July 19--'16.

"You must have been having some good times on those trips of yours. Wish I could have been there to have gone along. Would have been a little different kind of atmosphere, and more to my taste. From what I saw of Ontario on my other trip through it, it was a very pretty Province."

"We have been having a real hot spell here the last few days, and the only way to combat it was to take off our clothes and into the lake. The lake has a nice sandy bottom and the water was simply too good too good to be true. Have lots of sport and at the same time it takes off the dust and steam that we might accumulate from working"

"We are getting closer to the time for another move and naturally are wondering to where it will be, and what we will get into. If we are as fortunate as we have been hereto fore, we will not have a kick coming. So, here's hopes!"

"I am in fine fettle and taking good care that I will remain that way. If your health gives away over here your just plain 'out of luck', so it behooves one to 'watch his step'. We have been lucky so far in being placed in high climatic conditions--both places have been real high."

"Had a letter from mother along with yours and was certainly glad to know how cheerful she is about losing all her boys. If all the women were in the same mood there would be no end to what the States could do. These women who have three or four boys and all of them so patriotic as to stay at home and stand behind the dollar and petticoat, sure ought to feel proud of them."

"The Germans are getting what we used to call, 'The axe', at present and I think that will be about all they will get from now on. The Yanks are certainly going some these days and are full of what is necessary, mainly 'Pep'. Let's all sincerely hope that it will not take very many setbacks like the present one to show the Huns the futility of it all."

From George--July 25th.

"Your Bulletin of June ~~22nd~~ 22nd came in today and was all the more welcome on account of it being an orphan. This makes the ~~##~~ third mail that has come in with no mail of any kind from home. I am just a wee bit worried and will be now, until I do get one. There is no reason why their letters should go astray, so it looks to me like they couldn't have written, and if they didn't write there is something wrong at home--natural deduction, eh?"

"Would sure love to be able to drop in on Bob. He is more than likely training pretty hard at the present time. I guess we all know and will agree that Bob is a mighty fine lad. He will go far in this world if he takes care of himself. Play the game square and the rest will take care of itself--that and keeping oneself morally clean are the two biggest factors in life."

"We are sure giving the Boche all he can digest at present (and I think a little bit more) on the Western front. The French and the Americans make a hard combination to beat, and I don't think the Huns are anywhere good enough to even halfway stand the knocks they are going to get from now on. The Allies have taken quite a bunch of prisoners and they are rather poor stuff. They sure have a bunch of eighteen and nineteen yearolds in the scrap."

George enclosed in one of his letters a clipping from the London magazine Tid Bits, which is quite expressive of their inability to forward any idea of their location. It reads as follows, "A certain British soldiers letter runs thus, 'I am sorry I cannot tell you where I am, because I am not allowed to say. But I venture to state that I am not where I was, but where I was before I left here to go where I just come from'". Now, do any of you know where that British soldier was at?

From Bob--Seattle, Aug 1st. '18.

"Well, I served my week of 'Kitchen Police' and didn't seem to weaken much under it, in fact gained 5 lbs that week. Of course that comes from having all you want to eat of the things you like. Now, this week am back at school again and am doing pretty good as just another fellow and I received five words today, out of a class of 25."

"Our entire camp gets five days special liberty next week, so expect that I will see quite a lot of the folks."

From Raye--Vancouver, Aug 4th.

"So you are going to Indiana again. Lucky boy! I hope you have a lovely time, (of course you will) and that the weather man will not have a grouch on and roast you alive. Give eberyone my love and best wishes."

"I took a short trip out thru the Fraser Valley with Billy. Went clear up to Harrison Hot Springs. We were out three days and certainly enjoyed it. Today we had supper on the Marine Drive Beach and had a 'dip'--the water was lovely."

"Billy leaves for the Island tonight. Audrey and I expect to go over a week from Friday and stay a week or ten days--or the balance of B. Billy's trip."

"It seems as tho George is getting pretty close to all the excitement now, I hope he escapes anything very unpleasant."

From Mother--Seattle--Aug 8th.

"Have one of my usual summer colds and no voice since last Sunday. Think I will soon shake the dear thing now as am 'coughing my fool head off'".

"Bob is home on five days furlough. Got in last evening at 4.30, and returns Monday noon. He is sure glad to be at liberty and is having a great time. There were two thousand turned loose from this camp and everyone in the city that can, are showing them a good time. Bob is off to the Sailors' Club to a dance tonight."

"Pha and I are here alone, father being out on some real estate deal. I am getting along famously in my little kitchen--give them 'velly' much cold food. Had three good letters from George today and one from Ben. Poor Ben is all but worsted. My, iy must be very hot back there. I wish everybody lived out here--they would not suffer with the heat this year."

From Lillian Yeo--Seaview, Wash, Aug 13.

"Dad is here with us for a week. Wish he could stay longer, but they are very busy at the store. We rented a horse and wagon this afternoon--went on the beach and got enough firewood to last us during our stay here."

"Bess and the babes are all fine. Rita Ann enjoys it here more than the babe does. La Dora could easily walk if she only had the nerve, she is so strong on her feet. She talks quite a bit, and she is a regular gadder--wants to go all the time. You wont know her when you see her. Never saw anyone enjoy bathing as much as Rita. She will go out as far as I will take her--she even ducks her head in the water."

From Bob--Seattle, Aug 16.

"Last week the whole camp was given a five day special liberty, so was home quite a lot, and suppose mother was rather glad to see me go back to camp as I must have been quite a bit of bother."

"So far this year the Coast has had admirable weather, never too cold or too warm."

From Bob--(Cont'd)

"The girls Honor Guard gave a big Carnival at our camp about two weeks ago and the camp was thrown open to visitors. Mother, Father, and Aunt Emma had a chance to see how we lived, and now don't think they will worry about their sailor boy again, as they saw how fine we lived."

"Am making good progress in my studies and hope to keep it up. Most of the boys in this camp are pretty fine lads and I don't think you could find a much better lot. So there is very little trouble in camp. In fact, the Navy will not allow any fighting so the fellows soon learn to chaff away hard words."

From Ben--Morrisen, Va. Aug 18.

"The heat has let up a trifle--not much--but enough to be appreciated. It really has been something to dread and we all welcome the change however slight. I am still on the job and consequently faring well as far as life's necessities go. Am feeling good too, altho I was sure sick one day last week. I think it was caused by drinking too much ice cold lemonade before going to bed."

"Have written but very few letters during the last month. If it gets cool, I'll get busy and catch up. Have heard from home fairly regular, and everyone seems to be making the best of everything. Don't know where you are now, but hope you are among friends and having a good time. Would like to be with you in old Indiana again. I'll be in line for another pass in a few months if I remain here."

"There has been but little activity here since our big bunches pulled out. Several detachments have come and gone, but not in numbers sufficient to cause any excitement. My old squadron--the 670th--is across by now, and I would like to be with them. Quite a little mail is received here from France, and the boys writing all seem to be glad they are there."

"I have not heard from George except thru you. I would be glad to hear directly, but am glad to hear any old way. I guess their censor is pretty strict. I have seen many letters from there which have come right out and told what one likes to know. It is said that with the possible exception of Germany, the U. S. is the strictest censored of all. I believe it. Things seem to be going good tho' and maybe it will be over one of these days. I hope so, and hope that we can then get together and enjoy life for awhile."

From Mother--Seattle--Aug 21.

"August has surely given us fine weather. Has rained some every week so far, and not very cold rains. Pha is in Bremerton today. Had two good letters from George yesterday--si fine and busy, which is the best thing for him, only, it is hard on the other fellows, for if George and others at the hospital are hard at it we know then that the poor boys at the front are getting the worst of it. Oh, I am sorry I am not a man--I surely would try and go over there. True, we have plenty to do right here, but it all seems so trifling to what they are doing over there. The papers tonight are very encouragung, yet it will take many months at the way we are going to bring the old dutchman to an understanding that he can't win."

"I quite often say I am not going to read anything more, then away I go--leave everything to read the papers. We are losing so many Seattle boys. Bob was home again Saturday and Sunday. He has a nasty cough, and was going to the doctor Monday to see if all is right. He looks well and says he feels well."

From Miss Parker--Chicago--Aug 25.

"We are to have a War Exposition in Grant Park beginning Sept. 2nd. The Cervice Flag on our block is to be raised next Sunday at three and the exercises are to be quite festive. That will postpone our motor trip to The Dunes again. I wish you were going to be here for it. There is rather a good new book, illustrated, on the subject of these same dunes. I ran across it at the library one day. You might care to draw it sometime."

"Yesterday I dried 110 ears of corn, or rather began the operation. At present a half dozen pans of it (duly covered with netting) are sunning themselves on the porch."

From Miss Parker (Cont'd)

"Best regards to yourself, with many a prayerful thought of the boys with the colors--and victory."

From Hazel--Anderson--Aug 26.

"Well, we've had our trip and are home again, and you've had your holiday and are back at work again. Time passes quickly, doesn't it? We hated to see you leave Sunday, but suppose it was the wise thing to do. We started home from Wawasee at 5.15--arrived here at 1.30 A. M., dead tired. Bright put us in the ditch once, coming home but got us ~~###~~ right out, but I'll tell you we were a scared bunch. He thought the road run straight on and instead, it made a sharp turn."

"I hope you were not tired out upon your return to work. It sounded like a very strenuous vacation to me. Brights were here just a few minutes ago. They are coming over tomorrow night for some music. You know Miss Bright is quite a musician, so we are looking forward to a treat."

From Mother--Seattle--Aug 29.

"Am wondering how everything goes since your arrival back in Toronto I guess it was rather difficult for you to turn your head that way, when your whole heart is here. Well, O. V., there are many things that seem hard to bear, yet I guess we must put up the big bluff and keep right along. We seem to peg along here each day the same."

"Pha left Tuesday morning for Yakima territory expecting to be back home the first of next week. Then will go after his family. He has been offered another position with much better financial outlook, use of car and all expenses, but he doesn't think he better take it, and will go in the shipyards and do his bit."

"I do not feel like I could go away from here this year, so many things appeal to me to stay. I may feel different when Bob has gone. I may not care to remain here at all. Suppose you will say, 'Quite unsettled.' Well, that is about the way the world is today."

"Had that one letter from Ben, and am wondering when he will write again. He is so nicely located there except climate, and the heat will soon be over. I imagine it a beautiful place in the Fall. We are having lovely weather right now and have had just enough rain to make things look nice and green. Last night I wished you might all have been here and seen old Mt. Rainier loom up--she did her best at sunset. Mrs. Strong and I sat out on den porch and gazed our eyes sore. She loves the place."

From Ben--Camp Morrison--Sept 4th.

"Your letter received yesterday and I certainly was glad to get it. You surely did yourself proud that time. I heard from mother yesterday too, so now I feel that I know all about the folks."

"I figure this war to be over next year. I think we will be fighting on German soil within six months, and it is only a matter of days until the finish. Those heathens will never stand the gaff when they get their backs up against the wall. If it was up to me, this war would not stop until Germany was ravaged from one end to the other, and I mean ravaged, too. I sure hate that race of people. If they were all killed off I believe the world would be much better off."

"I will have to stop now and get my supper and get ready to drill. They are not satisfied to work us all day--they want to take any pep out that may be left, so we get an hour and a half of drill every other evening."

From Mother--Seattle--Sept 9th.

"We have had continuous warm weather now for two weeks or near that, but not equal to you Easterners. Bob was home over Labor Day. Had one of his sailor friends with him. I have been at the Red Cross all afternoon, and the work is heavy and hard that we are doing now."

"Had a nice letter from Raye today. She and Audrey were at the General Hospital. Audrey had her tonsils and adenoids both removed, and

From Mother (cont'd)

"was doing fine. Would go home the next morning--that was yesterday I am putting up fruit everyday a little. The Italian Prunes are not ripe yet everything else except the peaches are about through. I am good and tired of so much fruit as can't get sufficient sugar to put it up right."

"The papers are very encouraging again today, but it is many months yet ere our boys can come marching home, and then just think how poor France and Belgium will be left. Makes me mad when our fat livers over here grumble about deprivations. I do not think anyone has given or dine without either in Canada or The States until it hurts, only the ones who have given of their family."

"The Randelle are all well."

"I am very proud of the Service Pine you sent. Dad and I both wore them to the Parents meeting at Volunteer Park last Sunday afternoon. I guess his pin must have given him a boost, as they put him on the reception committee. They took motion pictures of all that were there to send overseas. Be some movie, don't you think!"

From George--France--Sunday Aug 11th.

"Hello, Canuck! Guess you are wondering what the matter is. We moved again and have been so unsettled etc, that I just naturally neglected my correspondence. Guess this letter will have to do for the rest of the Jones bunch, especially those in the East."

"We are right behind the big push and let me tell you they are suer pushing some these days. The Boche don't get a chance to get over his daze before they are on him again. And the French and the Yanks are going ahead so fast that there isn't time to even bury the dead properly. Was up the line the other day and they were piling dead Germans in piles like cordwood, and then put lime on them. Water added to this sure cleaned them up. It is a very sanitary way of getting rid of the most distasteful part of these pushes. All over the late battlefields are arms, legs, bodies without heads, and bodies so mashed up that nobody could recognize them."

Yesterday we had two plane fights overhead, and the first one was sure a 'peach'--one Boche plane and two of the Allies. The Boche didn't have a chance altho he was mighty clever. Talk about speed! You folks over there don't know what speed is. When those boys get up there in the air and play with death, speed is the main object. A person wouldn't and couldn't believe (unless he saw) that anything could go that fast."

"Am collecting souvenirs and as soon as I get enough small ones collected to amount to anything, will tie them up and ship them home. We sure find some dandy ones every once in a while."

"It has been a beautiful day without a single fatigue duty for me which naturally made it much nicer than it would have been otherwise. The big guns are booming again and there is much increased airplane action so rather guess there will be something doing soon. Well, it's a good idea to keep on going when you can. Also, it usually worries the other fellow quite a bit."

"Haven't had any mail for so long that I do not know what it looks like. And maybe you think we don't miss it, eh? Haven't heard from home since July 17th, and that is sure an unusual occurrence for them."

"The villiage that we are alongside of was evacuated to the Boche by the civilians. But after the famous drive, it was made a pretty safe place and the people are just beginning to drift back. Most of them found things a great deal changed. The people 'back there' have a right to feel mighty thankful that the war isn't on their side of the water. I am sure in good health and wish the same for you, et all."

- Nothing new in Toronto during the past week. Everybody seems settled into the harness for Fall and winter business. I have plenty to do and that of course keeps me content. Best wishes to all.

E.V.