

FORWARD OBSERVATION POST

A Department Devoted to the Interest of Members of the American Legion and Ex-Service Men and Women in General. Address All Inquiries and Forward Communications For This Department Direct To A. L. FLETCHER, RALEIGH, N. C.

The thing uppermost in the minds of all loyal legionnaires this week will be the annual convention of the department of North Carolina at Hendersonville, which begins Friday, August 26, and runs through the 27. There is every indication that the convention will be a great success and that the legion will be able to demonstrate to the world that it has done well in North Carolina during the year that is closing.

Colonel Forbes will have a message worth while. Governor Morrison and Hon. Josephus Daniels need no introduction to the readers of the F. O. P. and may be depended on to make addresses worth hearing. The Women Will be There. A big feature of the convention will be the presence of the women, members of the women's auxiliary of the American legion, who will be there in large numbers to attend the first annual convention of the auxiliary. The exact number of auxiliary units in the state and their strength has

not been compiled, but it is known that there has been wonderful growth within the past 48 days. While it is not claiming the biggest membership in the state, Raleigh unit No. 2, of the women's auxiliary, serves notice on its sister units that they will have to go well ahead of the 50 mark in paid-up memberships in order to lead her.

The women's auxiliary will hold its first national convention at Kansas City simultaneously with the third annual convention of the American legion, October 31 to November 2. The auxiliary now has departmental organizations in 30 states, with a total membership in the nation of 170,000. There are 3,400 recognized units. It is expected that some one will come forward at the Kansas City convention with a suitable name for the organization, and here's hoping that it happens. The present name does not fit at all and is hard to handle. Wanted Too Long. The thing that troubles us most is the government's slowness in getting action on claims for compensation and hospitalization. The F. O. P. has had its attention called to several cases that ought to be immediately treated if the patient is to be saved. Tuberculosis will not wait until all of the government red tape is unwound. As is shown in the case of George Boehmer of Springfield, Ill., who waited two years for the bureau of war risk insurance to adjust his claims, and died of t. b. eight hours before the letter came with an award in his case. William C. McCauley, commander of the Illinois department of the American legion, who had been helping Boehmer with his claim, wired Washington as follows: "Boehmer received his reward this morning. Case now in the hands of his Maker."

When he writes about it some field clerk, or other minor official in some office somewhere, send him a form letter, with two or three check marks on it. Failing to get the drift of it, the soldier is still in the dark. Thinking that I might help him, I wrote a letter addressed to the office to which he had sent his discharge paper, explained the situation and asked for the return of the discharge certificate. Two weeks later, from Fort McPherson, Ga., comes another of the circular letters, with these paragraphs checked: "We have no record of your discharge."

"We have no record of your having submitted an application, etc." The second paragraph goes on to instruct me to send my discharge paper, or certified copy of it, accompanied by "second application" form, which was enclosed, the same being the form for officers and absolutely useless to him and the officer writing appears to think that it is my discharge paper that is lost. Maybe the young man will get some sort of definite information soon, but I am beginning to doubt it. The American Legion Weekly has found a town where one-eighth of the total population is enrolled in the local post of the American legion, a percentage hard to beat. The town is Radcliffe, Iowa, which has a population of 800. Its ex-service population numbers 106 and every one of them belongs to the local legion post.

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Hundreds of them were illiterate. More of them returned to their homes in isolated districts rarely reached by the newspapers and had no method of knowing of the work being done for them at the centers of government. The communications from the government bureaus carried with them long and intricate forms, which a large percentage of the ex-service men couldn't understand. These forms provided for accompanying certificates and exhibits, the obtaining of which was a tedious business and frequently a matter of physical impossibility. The language of the communications was all too frequently so technical and polysyllabic that the very reading of them robbed the ex-soldier any confidence he had in their efficacy. Those who tried to fill out the forms usually obtained the assistance of those who knew little more of such matters than the soldiers themselves. The forms were sent back by the government bureaus. After they had gone backward and forward for a period of months the records would become hopelessly involved, the service man would become hopelessly disgusted and a rain of maledictions would fall on the bureau chiefs in Washington. Then it was that those bureau chiefs began casting about for some method by which these obstacles could be surmounted. Correspondence had proved utterly inefficient. Delegation of the duty of reaching the ex-service man through local volunteer organizations had proved just as unsatisfactory. There was no way left to reach the soldier in need of aid except through direct contact with the bureau.

Men Of The Silver Star Pass In Review Before The Clean-Up Campaign Squad

Government, Unable to Function for Their Relief, Rallies the Red Cross and the Veterans Organizations to Its Assistance—The Mountain Not Coming to Mahommed, Mahommed Went to the Mountain.

BY FUZZY WOODRUFF. A few days ago in Knoxville, Tenn., I saw the Men of the Silver Star pass in review. They were in civilian clothes—pretty shabby civilian clothes at that—mostly jeans breeches and army shirts, and maybe field shoes with the hob nails worn smooth by this time. There wasn't a particle of the panoply of war about that review. Except for the martial bearing that had become part and parcel of the men during their service in the World War, there was no touch of the militant about the occasion. But that review produced lumps in throats and maybe a degree to yell more than any one of blaring bands and burnished bayonets that I've ever witnessed. These Men of the Silver Star had trooped into Knoxville from six surrounding counties. They were mostly mountain counties, and they came to get from the government those things that the government is glad to give. They came for the aid they have been entitled to since the red cross was sewed on their blouse sleeves, but which they have failed to receive, possibly on account of their own ignorance of governmental procedure and possibly on account of the red tape that has held back that same procedure from doing the very things for which it was created.

Heritage of Pride. And despite the jeans breeches and the faded shirts that were once olive drab, despite the empty sleeves and the empty trouser legs, despite the lumps being eaten away by the gas they breathed in lowlands of the valley of the Meuse, these Silver Star boys are proud men. They walk with the pride that is the heritage of their service, part of which is that the government shall do everything in its power to recompense those men for the empty sleeves, the empty trouser legs and the gas-eaten lungs. Practically since the day the armistice stilled the fighting in France the government has been trying to reach these men. It was a simple matter to pass laws providing compensation for their sacrifices. It was a comparatively simple matter to organize bureaus to provide machinery by which the provisions of the laws could be made effective. But it was something else again to put this machinery in motion. The primary obstacle in the way of

BOLTING CIRCUS PONIES RELEASE CAGE OF LIONS

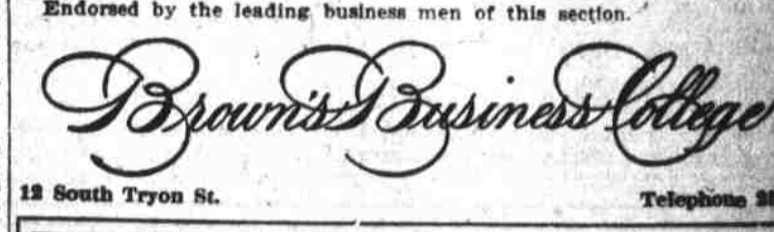
People of Mount Airy Treated to Some Real Thrills on Circus Night. MOUNT AIRY, Aug. 20.—Citizens of the Rockford street section were treated to some real thrills when three lions escaped from the Banger shows held away in that part of the town. Following the night performance the ponies which were hauling the lion cage to the depot ran away on Granite street hill, turning over the cage and liberating the half grown beasts. Two of the animals were easily captured, but the third gave considerable trouble. A crowd quickly gathered and participated in the hunt for the beast, who was chased into the garden of one of the Rockford street homes. One of the men with the show picked up an empty chicken coop and attempted to throw it over the lion's head. He then mounted the coop and stood on it until the trainer arrived, all the while entertaining the crowd with boasts of how he had captured wild lions in the jungles of Africa. When the trainer arrived and the coop was removed there was no lion there. The wily fellow had dodged the coop and scaled the fence and left his pursuers guessing. He was finally captured with a lasso and taken back to his prison.

ROBESON FARMERS ARE STUDYING BOLL WEEVIL

LUMBERTON, Aug. 20.—How to combat the boll weevil is the general topic of Robeson farmers, especially in the southern part of the county, where the weevils are playing havoc with the cotton crop. A meeting attended by many farmers was held on the farm of Joe W. Gaddy, in Gaddy township, today. Farmers were there from far and near to see the weevil and the destructive work he is doing in Mr. Gaddy's cotton. He will not make over one-third of a usual crop.

Planning to Take a Shorthand Course in August?

What system will you choose? Why spend from six to eight months in slavish study on Pitman or Gregg? Instead, why not learn Spencerian, an easy, fascinating system which can be learned in from three to four months' time, and which is far more speedy and legible than either Pitman or Gregg? Spencerian writers are always in great demand because they turn out a superior grade of work. Learn Spencerian—the Twentieth Century method—taught in this section exclusively by Brown's Business College. Our graduates commanding salaries of from \$30.00 to \$175.00 per month. Endorsed by the leading business men of this section.

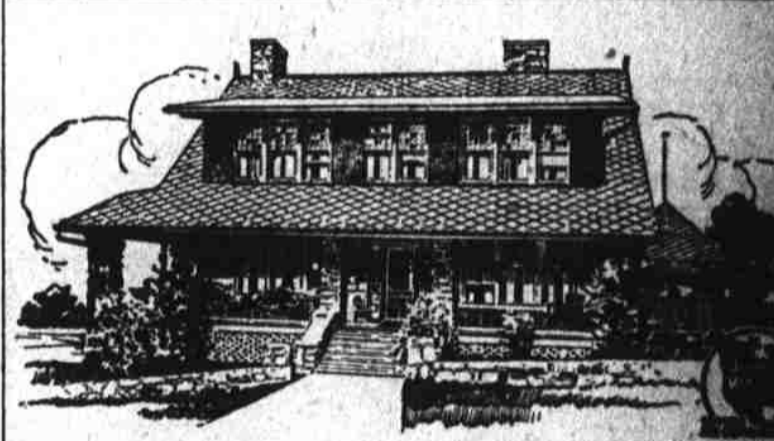


Braids are the More Popular Trimmings For Frocks This Fall



And the variety of braids used is almost beyond one's imagination. There are so many new designs and all sorts of decidedly different ways of putting them on that the frocks are thus made the more charming. We have a number of the better frocks at \$45 \$55 \$65

Catalissa Company logo and address: 11 South Tryon St.



When your neighbor's house burns—

is your home safe? Will flying sparks and brands drop on your roof and die out harmlessly—or will they kindle it into flame and add your home to a dreaded community conflagration? If there are buildings near you, and your home is covered with inflammable roofing, you are not safe from the menace of roof-communicated fire. A house roofed with inflammable materials is recognized by town, city, state and insurance authorities as a fire risk—a danger not only to you and your family but to others.

Johns-Manville Asbestos Shingles

offer safety—a shingle roof which cannot burn—a positive barrier to roof-communicated fire. An asbestos shingle roof not only takes the base rate of insurance but lasts as long as the building it covers. It enhances the architectural appearance of your home and gives you the cheapest per year service of any roofing obtainable. An investment in Johns-Manville Asbestos Shingles for your home is a contribution both to civic safety and to individual economy. Your money is returned to you many times over in safety, appearance, long life and remarkably low upkeep.

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Studebaker Established 1852. In Greater New York in June Alone Were Sold 451 New Studebaker Cars! A comparison between June, 1921, and June, 1920, shows this remarkable increase in retail orders for Studebaker Cars in Greater New York: June, 1921 451 Cars \$818,675.00 June, 1920 82 Cars 192,102.21 Increase 1921 over 1920 369 Cars \$626,572.79 Percentage of Increase 450% 326% A comparison between the first six months of 1921 and the same period of 1920 shows an increase no less remarkable: First Six Months 1921 1659 Cars \$3,535,510.25 First Six Months 1920 655 Cars 1,478,670.92 Increase 1921 over 1920 1004 Cars \$2,056,839.33 Percentage of Increase 153% 139% The fact that this remarkable increase in SALES is made in a BUYER'S MARKET—when the most rigorous inspection and comparison of car-values is made by prospective buyers—is proof positive that Studebaker Cars offer the highest quality at fair prices. This is a Studebaker Year RUST MOTOR COMPANY 514-16 S. Tryon. Charlotte, N. C. Phones 218-219.

Shelling the Woods. This work done, the various agencies at work began to shell the woods to inform the veterans that the clean-up squad was coming to their very doorsteps to settle their affairs. This work is largely done through local Red Cross chapters and American Legion posts, with the co-operation of the postoffice department, the press and the clergy. An advance party was sent out ahead of the squads. This party made it a particular business to see that every veteran was reached and to bring him the word that if he had a claim that claim would be put in shape for him and rushed to a satisfactory conclusion, and if he thought he might have a claim there were experts along to pass on it right at home, avoiding the necessity for lengthy and nerve-racking correspondence. Tennessee was the first state in the South to be reached by a squad, and Knoxville was the first city of importance in which the squad operated. The day the squad opened for business, success of the work was assured. Veterans had poured in from six counties. Disabled ones were provided with transportation and meals and lodging during their stay at headquarters. Offices were established in the United States district court room, and when the doors were opened the hall was filled with veterans in a few minutes. There was little lost motion. The veterans brought along their discharges. The experts were able to provide all the rest of the information necessary. And when the veterans departed they departed with the feeling that at last their long-awaited claims were in hands that would provide action. Almost simultaneously the work has been inaugurated in every section of the South, and in practically every locality the experience of Knoxville has been duplicated. I talked with one veteran, who seemed to size up the situation in a sentence: "I came here on one leg and I feel like I'm going back with two," was his description. He had spent exactly one-half hour at squad headquarters. In that time his claim had been passed on by an eligibility officer, had been properly filled out and authenticated and sent speeding to Washington to put him on his feet again. CITY B. Y. P. U. ELECTS OFFICERS ON TUESDAY Officers of the city B. Y. P. U. for the coming year will be elected at meeting to be held next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in the Sunday school room of the First Baptist church. All members are urged to be present and take part in the annual business meeting. AUGUSTUS OTUEL DEAD. GIBSON, Aug. 20.—Augustus Otuel died at his home last night after a lingering illness. His interment will take place Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the Bright cemetery. He is survived by five sons, P. B. Otuel, J. A. Otuel, J. W. Otuel and E. M. Otuel.