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## THE FIFTY-SIXTH PIONEER.

Corporal Olin McManus Gives History of This Regiment in Letter to Mr. W. B. Love.

Prum, Germany, March 7, 1919.—Dear Mr. Love:—As it looks now, we are never going to get back to Monroe to tell you of our experiences over here so I am going to give you just a short sketch of our "lives" since leaving Monroe, North Carolina, August 8th, 1918. As you know, the bunch of Union county boys who left when I did, were divided; part of them going in Company B 56th Pioneer Infantry and part of them in Company C 56th Pioneer Infantry.

After having the good luck of staying in Monroe until midnight on the night of the 8th, we arrived at Camp Wadsworth, S. C., about two o'clock on the 9th, and were "rolled" into trucks and "transported" to the interior of the camp where we were tagged, and given a hurried medical examination, and assigned to the two companies I have just spoken of—B and C 56th Pioneer Infantry—which up to this time had been the "First Maine Heavy Field Artillery."

We were assigned to tents, and then marched over to the mess hall and given our supper, which we ate with great pleasure. The following day we policed the camp, or in fact our Company Street, being quarantined for 14 days, and not being permitted to leave the street. On the following day we were taken over to the Personnel Board, and our history taken, asking us such questions as "Who shall we notify?" you know the cheerful stuff. After this we went through a very rigid medical examination, were inoculated, vaccinated, and had our finger prints taken, and numerous other things were done to us. This had to be done three times, and some of us fellows whose records were mislaid, had to go through the miserable stuff five times. After all this we had our psychological examination. All this took about a week of our time, and we were then ready for drilling. After two weeks of intensive drilling we were given orders to move, so on the morning of the 29th, we left Camp Wadsworth, and proceeded to Camp Merritt, N. J., arriving there about 9 p. m. We were equipped at this camp and left there about 2 on the morning of the 3rd of September, and marched about five miles, where we boarded a ferry and were taken over to Hoboken. At Hoboken we boarded our transport, marked the U. S. S. No. 100, although it was really the steamship Maui.

We left Hoboken for overseas on the 4th of September, arriving at St. Nazaire on the 13th. We had very good weather across, and to make a long story short, we had a very pleasant, uneventful trip.

We landed at St. Nazaire on September 14th, and proceeded to a rest camp, (some rest camp, believe me) where we hung around until the 19th, when we started on our way for the "Front." We entrained at St. Nazaire and our first stop was at Arc-en-Barrois. This was our first experience in riding in box cars, and I think it would be safe to say that three wheels on every car were flat, and as air-brakes are an unknown factor in France, you can imagine our comforts. These box cars are just about large enough to hold eighteen men, but they held 40 of us fellows with our rifles and packs, so you can readily judge the sleeping space that we had.

We remained in Arc-en-Barrois until the 30th of September, where we drilled every day, and then entrained for Fleury-sur-Seine. With a one-night stop at this place in "pup-tents," and the rain coming down in torrents, we started on for the "Front" on foot, having gone as far as possible by rail. We hiked for three days, spending the nights in our pup tents out in the deserted battle grounds, and occasionally hearing a shell drop close by, which of course made us just a little shaky. We arrived at Very, France, on the 3rd of October, at which time, we received our first baptism of fire or warfare.

The German line, at this time, was taking in Charpentry, Very, and Montcacon. We were practically in the center with the First Engineers (by this time the other Companies of the regiment were scattered all along the line). On the following morning our company went to the left of Charpentry, which was at the time under heavy shell fire by the German artillery, and it was at this place we lost our captain and a number of our men. The German army was moving pretty fast, but only towards the "rear."

We remained at Very, being continuously under shell fire, until the 4th of November. (I say Very, although we were spread out from Charpentry to Mont-faucou.) On November 4th, we were shifted over to the Agonne to take part in the last great drive; in fact the drive which ended the war. (Just before this date I was sent out on detached service with twenty-nine other men, and we were with the 42nd Division, working on the ration-dumps both in the advanced trenches and in the rear lines.) On the 11th of November the armistice was signed and the regiment or remnants of it assembled at Dombasle, France. From this point we started on our hike towards Germany. We would march by day, and sleep in our shelter tents at night, only to start out on our hike again the next morning as stiff as a board.

We arrived in Athus, Belgium, on the 22nd of November, where we guarded some captured ammunition and guns for a week or so. We spent

Thanksgiving in Athus, where we had a dance, the first since leaving the States, although it was more like an American foot-ball game, we enjoyed ourselves very much.

Upon leaving Athus we hiked back to Longway, France, a distance of about eight kilometers, and remained here for about two weeks doing railroad work. It was here that I saw the Bickett Battery.

On the 15th of December we entrained at Longway, the town which held the Germans off for about two weeks at the beginning of the war, and which has very little remaining of it. After riding for a couple of days we arrived in this place, Prum, Germany, where we have been since the 16th of December, 1918, and from the way things look now, we will be here for quite a while.

Well, this is just about as much as I have time to write now, so will tell you everything, going more into the details, when I get home—next August. Hope everything is going well in Monroe, and that we Pioneer Infantry fellows will soon be back.—With best regards, I am, faithfully yours, Corporal T. O. McManus, Co. B, 56th Pioneer Infantry, Army of Occupation, A. E. F.

## A Day in Thy Courts.

Sunday was a grand day at Central Methodist church. The people wended their way from all directions—some on foot, some in cars and other vehicles. Something seemed to be impelling them on. Everything in nature bore the aspect of Easter, and sure there was a "bridal of earth and sky" for brightness was everywhere. The vast auditorium was soon filled to its utmost capacity with waiting, anxious and expectant worshippers.

What a splendid curve the church made that morn, when it bended and lifted before the people her allotted share of the burden of \$35,000,000 that Southern Methodism is launching in a big Centenary drive. She took it on to her shoulders with the cry "We've got the money, and this church can do what it ought to do." O, hallowed courts! With thrills the music swelled and rolled. We felt lifted up from earth as the organ roared in harmony with blasts from three cornets, mingled with tones made by a sweet pianist on her instrument, and a fine little lad with his violin, in giving to the audience a solemn offertory. Then what a contrast when some dozen little girls surrounded the altar and began to sing. At once all those welling instruments became as soft as those childish voices, and the tenderness, and sympathy of it all touched a chord within that made tears spring to eyes. Then the pastor, Rev. H. H. Jordan, in a voluble way read for his lesson "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." On the pulpit, tables, and running balustrades were exquisite flowers; some were tied with trailing maline. These oblations had decorated the bridal altar of one of our town's sweetest girl brides just the eve before. How appropriate now to lay them this day at the feet of Him who had performed the first wedding ceremony away back in old Cana of Galilee. The magnificence of the memorial windows lent too their sacred influence to this hour; and as one looked and beheld the Good Shepherd as He knelt at the door, the lesson came forcibly back—"Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory." The first hymn made you feel that the Master was in the midst, for it said, "The wideness of God's mercy is like the wideness of the sea"—for by His mercy so many were present today after a pestilence of such as was never known here before. The entire orchestra took up the theme, and again the fullness of it came rolling up the aisles and on to the frescoed ceilings beyond in sonorous bounds. Who knows but what Asaph was listening on some sphere remote in space. We came away feeling that it was good to go up to the house of the Lord. The hymn followed us home; and when on the way a great car rolled to the curb, hailed, opened its doors, and a bright young lady with her father bade us enter, the words tumbled over, and over, for the sun had reached its zenith, and the years were telling hard of how many frosts had been.

Now that the war is gone—we hope—the liquor is going too, and Christianity is holding guard o'er the Holy land, there has come a glare that's hard for man to see thru. A restlessness, or apprehension as a forerunner of some disaster, and it has hold of the multitudes; but the church has hold of the reins, and a hand is guiding, with this church engraven on it, heralding with martial trumpet the coming of God's kingdom. "A day in thy courts is worth a thousand."—K. H.

A regiment of negro soldiers who came from the interior of the South were taken to Newport News, put on a ship at night and next morning they were out of sight in the Atlantic. A group of them were standing at the rail of the transport looking at the waste of waters. None of them had seen the sea before, and they didn't make much comment.

Finally one of them turned to his companions and said: "The levee sure am broke!"

## Mama's Boy.

Fifi—"You seem to find a lot of difficulty in getting your whiskers to grow, Algy!"  
Algy—"Yes; it's a bally nuisance. Can't understand why, either; my father has plenty of 'em."  
Fifi—"Well, dear, perhaps you take after your mother!"—The Passing Show.

## UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RATIFY THE NEW ROAD LAW.

At a Meeting of County Commissioners, Road Commissioner and Road Electorate, Hon. R. B. Redwine Explained Law—Electorate Will Meet Friday.

The foundation for a system of good roads for Union county was laid yesterday afternoon when the Board of County Commissioners, composed of A. A. Secrest, W. L. Hemby and W. D. Bivens ratified the road law recently passed by the legislature.

The action of the commissioners was taken following a joint meeting with the road commissioners of Monroe township, those appointed to act as an electorate in case the law should be adopted, and others interested in good roads. Union county representatives in the last general assembly, who prepared the law, were present and Hon. R. B. Redwine went over the law and explained it in detail.

He informed the commissioners that Union's representatives were unable to pass a law applying to this county alone but were forced to make in general and to be valid upon ratification by a responsible board because of a recent amendment to the constitution. He informed them that this was not done in order to shift responsibility.

He called attention to the fact that the law provides for a county-wide system of road work instead of a township system. All free labor is done away with. A tax with 30 cents as a minimum and 50 cents as a maximum is to be levied to provide funds for road work. A bond issue of \$500,000 is provided for to be issued in amounts at the discretion of the commissioners. The fact shall be advertised that it is the intention to issue bonds and if one-fourth of the qualified voters shall petition within thirty days after notice that the question of a bond issue be left to an election this shall do.

The road work in the county shall be under the direction of a road electorate of ten men elected at the general election—this electorate was appointed by the legislature for this term when the law was passed. The electorate shall select from its number three men to compose a road commission. The road work shall be under the direct control of this commission. The law provides that the electorate shall meet within a certain time after the ratification of the law for the purpose of qualifying and organizing. Notices will be issued calling the men appointed by the legislature to meet in the courthouse on Friday at ten o'clock for this purpose.

The county commissioners did not finish their work yesterday, a good part of the afternoon being taken up with the discussion and adoption of the road law, and are still in session today. They had not completed the list of tax assessors when The Journal went to press. A jury will be drawn this afternoon.

## The Torch of Liberty.

(Excerpt from an address delivered by Franklin K. Lane at a conference on Americanization as a War Measure.)

"Gentlemen of great enterprise, do not think for one moment that you are to pass by within the next few years with indifference the immigrant who has come here, or the man who has been here generation after generation. There is a rising tide of demand that man shall have a more perfect opportunity for self-expression. Some of you know it. I look over this audience and I see men who have realized this for years. You must think in terms of manhood, and you must be able to give expression to the impulses and the sentiments and sympathies that are in you. Do you understand what that means? It means that you must not patronize the man who works for you. It means that democracy, in essence, is that every man has a chance. It means that primarily—and that is our first consideration here, perhaps—the very thing that is essential to be done now is that we shall put into the hands of every man born in this country, or not born in this country, who is here today, the tools by which he can open the archives of Americanism; by which he can know what the President writes; by which he can know what other nations do; by which he is not bound and fettered by the language that he originally speaks, but by which he can have opened to him all the opportunities of our great newspapers, of our State papers, and of all those means by which enlightenment comes to man. Liberty enlightening the world; We are the bearers of that torch. It must be a human torch, lighting the path down which will come a finer civilization. It must be a torch for the curing of the nations. It must be a light that will be broad and not narrow, catholic and not insular, sympathetic, human, essentially divine."

## Speaking of Luck!

When on his way to a poorhouse to become an inmate, Harry Congdon, 32 years old, stopped at the postoffice from force of habit Monday.

A clerk handed him a letter. It was from a lawyer in Syracuse, N. Y., informing Congdon that an aunt had died and left him \$5,000. Five seconds later his poorhouse permit had become a scrap of paper—or many scraps—and Congdon was performing a hornpipe.

A little later, on the strength of his letter, some one loaned him money to take him to Syracuse.

## ORGANIZATION PERFECTED FOR THE CELEBRATION.

Headed by R. A. Morrow—Forty-five Mounted Marshals for the Occasion—Prizes to be Offered for Floats—Will be Monroe's Biggest Celebration.

A permanent organization for the "Welcome Home" celebration to be staged here in honor of Union county's soldiers and sailors on July 4th was perfected at a meeting of the township chairmen recently selected in the Chamber of Commerce rooms at 1:30 yesterday.

The meeting was called to order with Mr. R. A. Morrow acting as chairman pro tem and Mr. T. L. Riddle secretary. Those present, besides several citizens of Monroe, were: Messrs. C. J. Braswell of Goose Creek, L. E. Huggins of Marshville, T. C. Eubanks of Buford, G. W. Smith, Sr., of New Salem, J. N. Price of Sandy Ridge and T. J. W. Broom and R. L. McWhorter of Monroe.

The following were elected as officers who are to have charge of the celebration: Messrs. R. A. Morrow, president; T. L. Riddle, secretary; G. B. Caldwell, treasurer; T. P. Dillon, manager.

It was decided at the meeting that each township should be represented in the mammoth parade by five mounted marshals. As there are nine townships this will mean that there will be 45 mounted marshals.

Steps were taken to see that the two airplanes promised by the war department for the occasion should be here bright and early on the morning of the Fourth.

Prizes will be offered for the best business, county and fraternal float in the parade. A special prize will be announced for the best float in the parade representing one of the allied nations. It is hoped that a float will be prepared to represent each of the allies.

The parade will be headed by Union county men who served in the army or navy during the world war. All soldiers will be expected to wear their uniforms. The colored soldiers will not be overlooked in the parade.

Those present at the meeting were very enthusiastic over the prospects for the celebration and intend to work like beavers to make it the greatest celebration ever held in Monroe.

## S-O-C-I-A-L.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Laney was the scene of a pretty marriage Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock, when their daughter, Miss Gladys, became the bride of Mr. Heath Edgeworth Lee. The vows were spoken in front of a bank of palms and ferns, with tall flower baskets on each side filled with pink and white carnations. Rev. H. H. Jordan, pastor of Central Methodist church, officiated, and the ring ceremony was used. Mendelssohn's wedding march was rendered by Mrs. Henry Laney, accompanied by Master Yates Laney on the violin. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Mary Dean Laney, wearing blue gorette, with picture hat, and carrying a shower bouquet of pink and white sweet peas. The bride was gowned in King's blue charmuse, with vanity draper and blue tulle hat. Her bouquet was orchids and pink sweet peas. After the ceremony an informal reception was held, and pink and white block cream and cake served by Misses Caroline Cason, Eleanor and Rachel Arnfild, Dorothy and Marian Lee, Clara Laney and Margaret Jordan. Mr. and Mrs. Lee left on the ten o'clock train for Florida. On their return they will be with Mr. Lee's mother, Mrs. W. S. Lee, for a while and later they will keep house on Church street. Mrs. Lee is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Laney and is an accomplished musician. She was educated at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, at Miss Mason's school, The Castle, specializing in voice. Her voice is a lyric soprano of much sweetness and purity. For several months she held the position of first soprano in the First Presbyterian church, Charlotte, and now assists with the music at Central Methodist church. Her pleasing personality and amiable disposition has won many friends not only in her home town but throughout the Carolinas. Mr. Lee is the fourth son of the late W. S. Lee and Mrs. Lee, and has a position with the Merchants and Farmers Bank. He was educated at Bingham school, Asheville, and at Trinity College. When the U. S. entered the war he volunteered and was commissioned lieutenant at Camp Taylor, Ky.

A number of the High School boys and girls enjoyed a party at the home of Misses Lila May and Thelma Tharp on West Franklin street Friday evening.

The Chautauque Circle held an interesting meeting with Mrs. W. B. Love Saturday afternoon, every member present taking part in the program. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Eugene Ashcraft Friday afternoon at four o'clock.

Miss Adeline Crow entertained at a beautiful luncheon Wednesday afternoon in honor of Miss Gladys Laney, bride of the week. Empress Jonquils and tulips formed the centerpiece and the table was covered with a handsome Madras cloth, the handwork of the hostess, she having studied in New York. The favors were yellow tulle bags filled with puffed

rice, and the bride-to-be was presented with a number of dainty handkerchiefs, and a bouquet of Yellow Jonquils tied with yellow tulle. The place cards were handpainted cupid. Miss Crow's guests were Misses Jean Ashcraft, Gladys Laney, Virginia Lee, Mary Crow, Ruth Russell, Lela Barnes of Maxton, Lil Iceman and guest Miss Emma Hague of Utica, N. Y.

Miss Lil Iceman entertained Tuesday evening in honor of her guest Miss Emma Hague of Utica, N. Y. Mrs. Charles Iceman and Miss Molly Iceman assisted the hostess in serving a delicious salad course and crystallized ginger to the following: Misses Gladys Laney, Adeline Crow, Ruth Russell, Jean Ashcraft, Virginia Lee and Messrs. Rob Laney Fitzhenry Dillon, James Morrow, Amos Stack, Hill Wolfe, C. W. Bacon, Clayton Laney, Allen Lee, Heath Lee and W. A. Bradford of Charlotte.

Miss Virginia Lee entertained Friday afternoon at a miscellaneous shower in honor of Miss Gladys Laney. The color scheme was pink and green and the center piece was a lovely basket of hyacinths. A three course luncheon was served. The guests were Mrs. A. M. Secrest, Mrs. Estelle Stewart, Miss Lil Iceman and guest Miss Emma Hague, Miss Ruth Russell, Virginia Lee, Jean Ashcraft, Adeline Crow, and Lela Barnes of Maxton.

## PRELIMINARY PEACE TREATY TO BE READY BY EASTER

This Statement Made by Lloyd George Has Good Effect on Paris Where Uncertainty Has Prevailed.

The preliminary peace treaty will be ready by Easter and the Germans will be asked to come and sign it at the end of April or the beginning of May," Premier Lloyd George, of Great Britain, declared in an interview Sunday with Stephane Lauzanne, editor of the Matin, says the Associated Press.

In answer to a remark by Mr. Lauzanne that what troubled public opinion was not so much the delay, as the secrecy in which the peace negotiations were wrapped and the fear that there was some divergence of opinion, the British Premier said: "I affirm absolutely that there is no divergence among the negotiators. They are often confronted with technical difficulties which can only be settled after close study. Take the question of reparations. In substance, the allies have one common principle which I once set forth thus: 'Germany must pay up to the last farthing of her power.'"

"But is it sufficient to draw up a bill and hand it to the enemy? Must we not require guarantees and must we not study the terms, methods and forms of delayed payments? Must we not be able to say to our adversary when he pleads inadequacy of resources: 'Yes, you can go as far as that and you must do it and you must do that.' In a word, shall we simply present a bill or collect the money, all the money possible? Well, that is where the work comes in, slow and difficult work complicated by the fact that technical experts of the highest capabilities and great experience are not in agreement among themselves either as to the method of liquidation or as to the assets to be realized.

"No, there is no divergence among the negotiators, but, alas, there are inevitable ones among the experts, often among those from the same country. Who is to decide between them if not the negotiators and do you think it can always be done quickly?"

M. Lauzanne remarked that what public opinion could not understand was why, before everything, Germany was not handed a full bill no matter what amount, and forced to admit full liability.

"And who says we shall not do so?" cried Premier Lloyd George. "Who says we have not decided that?"

"No one," the interviewer interrupted, "has said that you have decided it."

The British Premier resumed: "Cannot the people wait until we have finished our work instead of always wanting to judge our intentions? This conference had to meet and discuss things under conditions unprecedented in history. All eyes are turned toward it and, what is more grave, all ears are glued at its key-hole. Enemy ears tremble with joy when they detect some hesitation. Friendly ears half-herd confused rumors which are heralded far and quickly.

"The day does not pass but what some false news there and there takes its flight. Nevertheless, no day passes but that we in silent delineation feel approaching nearer the great aim and experience for each other more esteem, confidence and affection. Let public prejudice hold on a few days. It will then be able to pronounce on facts, not rumors."

The confident statement of Premier Lloyd George that the peace treaty will be concluded by Easter is supported by predictions repeatedly made by less prominent members of the peace conference and dispelled much of the hopelessness and uncertainty in which many important problems of the conference seemed to have been enshrouded.

Presbyterian Church. General Prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. The church officers will meet immediately after the prayer meeting. Every officer is expected to be present if possible.

A woman's prayer meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock with Mrs. C. E. Houston, and on Friday afternoon at the same hour with Mrs. W. A. Lane. The women of the congregation are urged to attend these services.

All singers of the congregation are to meet to-night at 8 o'clock in the Sunday school room to rehearse for the approaching special services April 17-30.

Forest Fire Threatens Hotel. A telephone message received at Winston-Salem late Thursday from Danbury stated that a forest fire was spreading near Piedmont Springs and that fear was entertained for the safety of the hotel and a dozen or more splendid summer cottages. Danbury was called upon to send men and buckets to help fight the flames which were reported to be spreading rapidly. Several Winston-Salem citizens, who own cottages near the Springs, left here in automobiles after the message was received, to render what assistance they could in saving the summer resort property.

Giving Them Rope. While the Germans were marching through a Belgian province, one of them said sneeringly to a farmer sowing seed: "You may sow, but we shall reap." "Well, perhaps you may," was the reply: "I am sowing hemp."—Montréal Journal of Commerce.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Services this week: Evening prayer and address this afternoon and Thursday at 4 o'clock; Wednesday and Friday night at 8. Morning prayer at 7 o'clock Thursday.

Sunday, April 13: Morning service at 11; Sunday school at 3 p. m.; Men's Bible class at 4 p. m.

Beginning with Easter Sunday, April 20, morning service will be at 11:30, with Sunday school at 10:30; Men's Bible class at 4 p. m., and evening prayer at 8.

Mr. John Marsh of Lanes Creek township has returned to his home, having been honorably discharged from the service after several months service in France with the 118th Infantry of the Thirtieth Division.

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Hinson of Marshville visited relatives here Sunday.

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