

LAS VEGAS AGE

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PRIVATE TO CAPTAIN; RECORD OF STEPHENS

Clark County Man Receives Recognition For Splendid Work In France

It is not often that a man who enters the service as a private advances to a captaincy, but this is the record achieved by Avery N. Stephens, a Clark county boy, one of the first of the drafted men from here to enter the service.

We are permitted to reprint the following letter from Captain Stephens, which will be found full of interest:

Brest, France, June 10, 1919.
Mr. Harley Harmon,
Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dear friend:

I will drop you a few lines today and let you know that I am still among the living and able to kick and grumble as usual.

Well, they have not decided to send me back to the states yet, but I have hopes of getting back in July sometime, or the first of August. I hope so anyway, because I want to get back by the first of September so that I can get in a good winter's work there.

I got my captaincy the first of May—just 20 months and 4 days from the day that I left Las Vegas a Buck Private. There isn't a grade from a Buck to a Captain that I haven't filled and I wouldn't trade my experience and captain's commission for a major's commission in the Reserve Corps.

I am still in command of the company that I brought overseas with me, and if I can take it back to the states I will be well satisfied. They are as fine a bunch of men as ever could be gotten together, and when it came to the test they were there to the last man. We only had 17 days of the rough stuff, but it was enough and we were hit hard—lost 33 men and carried 52 more out. In my original company I had 250 men.

I have got some very nice souvenirs of the war and a few fine pictures.

How is everything there? Is there much work going on around there and how does it look for next winter? I understand that there is going to be a lot of road work the next couple of years. I may be in a position to take on some of it when I get back if everything is agreeable when I get there.

I have just finished 27 miles of macadam road and a mile of stone block pavement here in Base Section No. 5. And this includes all the famous Pontanezen mud holes too. You wouldn't think that there had ever been any mud there to look at now.

Do you know how many men from Clark county have received commissions? Walter Schauss went to the Infantry Officers Training School, but I don't know how he came out. I think that he made good though. When I last saw Jennings he was a cook in Co. M, 362nd Inf. Ingram and Perkins were transferred to the Rainbow Division and that was the last that I heard from them.

I cannot think of anything more that would interest you, so will close for this time, hoping to hear from you soon and that you are well and enjoying yourself. Give my regards to all inquiring friends and, hoping that I will see all of you fellows before long, I remain, as ever,

Your friend,

AVER STEPHENS.

Capt. Co. A, 126th Engrs.
A. P. O. 716, A. E. F.

We also have a copy of a letter written by the Major commanding the corps of engineers in which Captain Stephens is serving, which will be read with pleasure by all. It follows:

American Expeditionary Forces, Service of Supply, Base Section No. 5, Section Engineer Office.

June 17, 1919.

Memo: To Capt. A. N. Stephens and Men of the Road Department:

1. In relinquishing control over the Road Department, I wish to take this opportunity to express to you my profound appreciation of the work done by you in Base Section No. 5.

2. As you know, since this department was organized, we have been able to produce approximately 140,000 cubic yards of crushed stone. We have resurfaced and built over 100 kilometers of macadam road and have laid 30,000 square yards of Belgian block pavement and 25,000 square yards of concrete road. As a result

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HOW IT FEELS WHEN THE BOY COMES HOME

Herbert A. Squires, who signed up in Vegas the latter part of July, 1917, for service in the aviation corps and was inducted into the service at the Presidio, San Francisco, August 3, 1917, is home again, after working hard for Uncle Sam for nearly two years. He is mightily pleased to be at home of course, and full of disappointment because he did not get across.

Anyhow, he had some travel and experience which he will remember. He spent several weeks at Kelly Field, near San Antonio, a few long months at Selfridge Field, near Detroit, and from Christmas, 1917, to the time he left for San Francisco for demobilization, was stationed at Park Field near Memphis. He advanced to the rank of Sergeant, first class, and for a time had charge of the 12 big hangars at Park Field.

And Dad, who has for two years been chronicling the deeds of all our boys, and recently has been happy to extend them a welcome home, is sure glad to have his own boy home again, older, wiser and more used to the responsibilities of life.

Uncle Sam is not an easy master perhaps, but the training and experience which the boys received was worth the price they paid.

FORMER VEGAS MAN WRITES FROM DENVER

The Age is in receipt of a pleasant letter from Dr. A. B. McDorman, who removed with his family from Vegas to Denver a few months ago. Dr. McDorman is watchmaker for A. J. Stark & Co., the best jewelry firm in Denver and enjoys being again at his old profession. Among other things of interest, he says in his letter:

"We have bought a home at the address as given at the head of this letter (616 Quitman street) and have a nice place to live, a good garden and room enough to keep a few chickens and rabbits and for the kiddies to have room to play, and we are less than three miles from the center of town—no smoke, no noise, good car service and good streets.

Lou Martin and family have been here for about a month, as Lou is attending the convention of B. L. F. & E., and we see them quite often. If any other of our Vegas friends get up here at any time we will be very glad to have them look us up, as we will be glad to see them."

COUNTY OF PERSHING GETS SHARE OF MONEY

Winnemucca, July 8.—Pershing county was given a check yesterday for \$142,463.99 as its share of money in the Humboldt county treasury. The order was made by the board of county commissioners after a conference with W. C. Pitt, chairman, and J. T. Goodin of the Pershing county commissioners and their attorney, Judge F. H. Norcross, and the check was carried to Lovelock yesterday afternoon by J. H. Causten, county clerk and treasurer of the new county.—Carson City News.

ELECTRIC IRON WAS RIGHT ON THE JOB

When W. A. Turner and family returned to their home at University and Cross at noon yesterday after witnessing the parade they found the place ablaze and called the fire truck. The loss will be about \$100. The blaze was caused by an electric iron having been left attached to a socket when the power was turned off. When the power came on the table was ablaze setting the house afire.—Tonopah Bonanza.

Mrs. J. A. Liday and children expect to leave in a few days for Montana to join Mr. Liday.

Mrs. P. J. Miller, a former resident of Vegas, is now at her home at South Porcupine, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. and Mrs. Silas A. Lewis will leave for Los Angeles Wednesday morning, the doctor having arranged to take up the practice of his profession in that city. Arthur Lewis will remain in Vegas until September. It is with much regret that we lose these good people from Las Vegas. Dr. Lewis has been here for more than a year and a half, during which he has made many friends and acquired a high reputation as a surgeon. However, he now desires to seek a broader field for practice, and the good wishes of Vegas will of course go with both Dr. and Mrs. Lewis.

MATTERS DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT COURT

Several Couples Granted Release From Their Galling Matrimonial Bonds

The following matters came before District Judge Wm. E. Orr recently: Estate of Thomas McGuire, deceased—L. C. Johnson appointed administrator.

Mamie Burns vs. Waldemar R. Burns.—The court rendered its decision in writing, that the special demurrer to plaintiff's complaint on the ground of uncertainty, is sustained, and plaintiff is given 20 days in which to file and serve an amended complaint.

Joseph T. Simons vs. Muriel Grace Simons.—A. J. Stebenne appointed guardian ad litem for said Joseph T. Simons, a minor.

In the matter of the insanity of Dick Gibson—Adjudged insane and ordered committed to the Nevada hospital for mental diseases.

Frank J. Gerth vs. Lottie E. Gerth.—Decree of divorce for plaintiff on the grounds of extreme cruelty. Thomas & Ham, attorney for plaintiff.

Joseph T. Simons, by A. J. Stebenne, his guardian ad litem, vs. Grace Simons.—Decree of divorce for plaintiff on the ground of extreme cruelty. Defendant is restored to her maiden name of Marie Grace Bernhardt. Thomas & Ham, attorneys for plaintiff.

The Los Angeles Herald comments on the above case as follows:

"Bringing to an end the stormy married career of Muriel Bernhardt Simons and her youthful husband, Joseph Simons, son of the late Elmer Simons, a divorce was granted a few days ago to the husband in Las Vegas, Nev., it became known today. The couple were married two years ago and shortly afterwards, it was said, they went to live with his mother, Mrs. Chase Garfield. Then their troubles began and culminated in a separation, which was followed by an annulment suit, an action for separate maintenance and a suit filed by the young wife against her mother-in-law for \$50,000 for alleged alienation of affection.

"The annulment suit was brought on the ground that young Simons was under age and married without the consent of his mother. Mrs. Simons accused her husband of desertion in her maintenance suit and alleged in the lost love action that Mrs. Garfield caused their separation. None of the local suits reached the trial stage."

Effie May Krohn vs. William H. Krohn.—Decree of divorce for plain-

DEATH ENDS M'KINNEY'S DOMESTIC UNHAPPINESS

Unfortunate Man Kills Himself Following Filing of Wife's Divorce Suit

Willis F. McKinney, husband of Hazel Bray McKinney, put a quick and decisive end to his domestic troubles last evening about eight o'clock, by shooting himself with a revolver. The bullet entered just below the neck, ranged downward and out through the back, severing in its passage the large arteries leading to the heart. Death was instantaneous.

The tragedy occurred in one of the Lorenzi apartments on Main street, where the McKinnys have been living. McKinney had been brooding over his troubles for a time and the act was premeditated. In fact, but a few minutes before his death in talking to a friend on Fremont St., McKinney is said to have declared that he could not stand the disgrace brought to him by his wife's suit for divorce and would take his life.

He arrived at the apartment about eight o'clock. Mrs. Corinne Glenn, who was seated on the porch in the rear of one of the apartments, heard him enter. Almost immediately he came back and asked Mrs. Glenn for a small piece of ice. He said, "I suppose you have a poor opinion of me now," and Mrs. Glenn answered in substance that she thought the same of him as before. He then took the ice, went into his apartment and closed the door. Then she heard a smothered noise and then the fall of the body to the floor. She called J. E. Bourgeois who had also heard the shot, and they notified Under-sheriff Wait. Upon his arrival, Wait, W. J. Sander, Mr. Bourgeois and Mrs. Glenn entered the room and found the body lying on its back, blood pouring from the wound, and the revolver lying a short distance from the man's hand.

Coroner Lillis was notified and upon his arrival impaneled a jury consisting of H. J. Jones, G. A. Nuttall and F. J. Boggs. The body was viewed where it lay, and the testimony of

Hiff on the ground of failure to provide.

William Van Renselaar, plaintiff and appellant, vs. David Conger, defendant and respondent.—On appeal from the Justice Court of Overton Township. Upon motion of A. J. Stebenne, F. W. Balcomb was admitted as associate counsel for appellant. The court heard the arguments of counsel for both sides and took the matter under advisement.

Judge Orr expects to hold court here again early in August.

Messrs. Wait, Sander and Bourgeois and Mrs. Glenn heard this morning. The verdict will be rendered this evening after the testimony has been typewritten by Miss Ireland and subscribed by the witnesses.

Coroner Lillis found that the deceased had left two letters to be delivered after his death, one to his wife, Hazel Bray McKinney, and the other to Mrs. I. C. Johnson. The letter to Mrs. Johnson is a request made to her as an old friend, as to notifying the dead man's mother. Neither of the letters were made public.

Willis F. McKinney is given a good character by those who know him best. He is said to have been sober, industrious and devoted to his wife and baby. He was an expert workman and has been in the employ of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad shops as a blacksmith for several years. Those who have been in his confidence as to the details of his matrimonial troubles do not hold McKinney by any means entirely to blame, if at all.

It is claimed by his friends that he was not a drinking man and that the charges made in the divorce complaint filed in his wife's suit against him are unwarranted by the facts. McKinney had taken certain ones into his confidence as to his troubles recently, and it is claimed for him that his chief desire was that he might have a real home with his wife and baby there. He claimed to his friends that his wife was induced by her mother to work in the restaurant and that this resulted in breaking up the home.

The culmination of McKinney's unhappiness, the final straw, the impelling reason for his rash act, was doubtless the complaint which his wife filed in her suit against him for divorce. The summons, and also an injunction restraining McKinney from disposing of Liberty Bonds which he has partially paid for, were served upon him yesterday.

The suit is entitled Hazel B. McKinney vs. Willis F. McKinney. The wife in her complaint alleges that plaintiff and defendant were married in this city August 4, 1917. That defendant was insanely jealous of a dance in Las Vegas in June, 1918. That he later came home in an intoxicated condition. That about December 1, 1918, three or four months prior to the birth of their child, defendant in an effort to obtain possession of certain liberty bonds which plaintiff had in a trunk, sent word to her that he would break open the trunk with an axe, and upon her refusal to open it started toward her in a threatening manner as if to do her bodily harm, and that plaintiff believes he would have done her serious injury had he not been prevented by plaintiff's brother. That on July 3, 1919, defendant suggested to plaintiff that she go to the public ball with his brother; that subsequently defendant came to the ball in an intoxicated condition and scolded and threatened to kill her and himself and that plaintiff was so frightened that she could not stay with defendant the remainder of the night, but went and stayed with her mother. That July 5, 1919, defendant left home and was gone all night, returning the next morning. That he did not tell plaintiff where he had been and commenced quarreling and finding fault, and ordered her to get out of the house. On her refusal to go, that defendant violently shoved and pushed plaintiff out of the house and locked the door, keeping the baby. That thereafter, plaintiff got the sheriff of Clark county to accompany her to the house for the purpose of recovering the child, and when they arrived found that defendant had given the child to a neighbor woman to care for.

The complaint further alleges that defendant is a man of violent and ungovernable temper and very frequently has applied to plaintiff vile, opprobrious and abusive epithets, and on many occasions threatened to choke and kill plaintiff. That plaintiff has at all times conducted herself toward defendant as a good, kind and loving wife. That defendant is a skilled mechanic, to-wit: a blacksmith, and is employed by the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company and earns \$180 per month, and that he has subscribed to Liberty Bonds to the amount of \$600, of which \$450 has been paid through the company.

Plaintiff prays for a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony and the

(Continued on page four.)

COUNTY FATHERS IN BUSY SESSION

Road Work Discontinued Until Fall.—Routine Matters Receive Attention

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session July 5, with Chairman E. E. Smith presiding and Commissioners J. A. Egger and Henry Rice, Sr., in their places. District Attorney Stebenne and Clerk Harmon were present to assist in their official capacities.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The claims against the county were passed upon and allowed and the reports of officers received and approved as read.

The county Tax Collector reported his findings regarding the delinquent property of Albert H. Beach & Co. It was ordered by the board that the Clerk notify said Alfred H. Beach & Co., that the property referred to is held in trust for the company for delinquent taxes, and that it will be necessary for them to petition the board for an order of sale.

The communication from A. C. Calkins of Searchlight, asking for the sale of lot 3, block 3, Original Searchlight Townsite, was next taken up. The County Tax Collector reported that said property is delinquent on the delinquent roll. It was, upon motion, ordered that the County Treasurer and Tax Collector be directed to sell said property as by law provided.

The question of certain moneys due the county from the Muddy Valley Drainage District for the repayment board, it was ordered that the Clerk make a written request upon said Drainage District for the repayment of the money advanced by the county and now due.

Upon motion, a request was made to the District Judge, Hon. Wm. E. Orr, that he appoint a committee to make a report upon the books necessary for the law library.

The board, having made an order at the June meeting directing the County Tax Collector to put up for sale certain delinquent property known as the Tamberlane and Genghis Kahn patented lode mining claims in Eldorado mining district, it was, after investigation, ordered that said former order be rescinded upon the ground that said property has been erroneously assessed and the county has no authority to order the sale thereof.

The board received applications for appointment as Deputy Game Warden for Clark county, from R. E. Lake Jr., Joe Keate and Joe Dunlap. Upon motion R. E. Lake Jr., was recommended to the State Game Warden for appointment.

The official bond of Harvey Frehner as constable of St. Thomas township, in the sum of \$1,000, with Robert O. Gibson and B. F. Bonelli as sureties, was approved by the board.

Upon report of Commissioner Henry Rice Sr., a mother's pension of \$15 per month was allowed to Mrs. Lydia Prisbrey until the further order of the board.

Upon motion, the application of T. D. Leavitt of Bunkerville, for refund of poll tax was denied upon the ground that the application was not presented within the time required by law.

The board received a letter from the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Co., per Walter Greening, asking for the refund of \$600 paid the sheriff of Clark county to cover grazing fees. Also that the number of cattle assessed to it in Clark county be reduced from 500 to 300 head. The matter was laid over for further investigation and report.

On motion the application of C. W. Patterson for the position of road supervisor of Clark county was placed on file for future reference.

The communication of A. H. Miller requesting the sale by the county of the NW¹/₄ of NW¹/₄, Sec. 36, T. 16 S., R. 68 E., M. D. M., was referred to the county tax collector for investigation and report.

A communication from the railroad administration of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company, notifying the board that they have for sale 65 feet of steel turn table weighing approximately 15 tons, was ordered placed on file.

The application of Mrs. A. O. Ritzmeyer for the sale by the county of lots 5, 6 and 7, block 63, and lot 5,

(Continued on page 2)

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