

A FORMER PLATTS-MOUTH YOUNG MAN WRITES FROM SIAM

Will Beach, Now Stationed in Siam, Writes Home to Old Platts-mouth Friends.

A few days ago Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wescott received a letter from the far-away land of Siam, which came as a most pleasant surprise to them from their old friend, Will H. Beach, an old-time Platts-mouth boy who for the past two years has been stationed at Mmuang Nan, Siam, where he and his wife are stationed, being in charge of the medical department of the Presbyterian hospital in Mmuang Nan. Mr. Beach in his boyhood days was employed here in the store of E. G. Dovey & Son, and will be remembered by a large circle of friends in this city, although he left here about 1895 for Omaha where he was employed by the M. E. Smith company in Omaha for a number of years and succeeded at working his way to securing an education as a physician and surgeon, serving for a number of years as intern at the Methodist hospital in Omaha and then going to Chicago where he completed his work there in the training schools and hospitals before engaging in practicing in various points in Wisconsin. Being interested in Christian work, Mr. Beach decided to take up the mission field and was assigned to work in the east, and finally located in Siam. The letter which he writes is most interesting and descriptive of the life in that country. A portion of it is reprinted for the benefit of his friends here that they may learn of the hardships attendant upon the mission work in the lands of the yellow brother:

We have been here nearly two years now and begin to feel like semi-old missionaries; the way we talk, however, to the natives, does not indicate that we have been here very long. This language is made up of a vast number of words that have different tones; each time you have to listen and think what tone it is and of course we make some very bad blunders. I can read quite well, but do not understand much that I read; can talk quite well, but cannot understand very much that the natives say, aside from a common conversation. We learn about as much of the language from our children as we do from our native teacher.

The children learn the language from their nurse girl, the table boy and the cook, and the horse boy seems to enjoy teaching them to talk. They talk the native language almost all together; once in a while they will say a few words in English, but not often. William talks very well, but Marquette is just learning to make her words known in the native tongue. All the missionaries' children learn the native tongue and will not talk anything else until they go to America where they have to talk English.

Yesterday I tried to take some pictures of the children, but they were not a success; will try it again next week, and if they are any good will send you some.

The medical work has not been very rushing for some time until this week and have been on the go day and night for over a week now; will be glad when the quiet spell comes again. Last week we cut a man's leg off and yesterday we took a boy's eye out. We are not fixed up very well to do surgery, but there is some that simply has to be done, and we hope to be in better shape next year for the surgical work than we are now. Have ordered a stock of instruments and other surgical supplies, and they are due in Bangkok now if they have not been held up by the war in Europe.

When we operate Mrs. Beach assists with the operation, and my first native assistant gives the anesthetic. It is a pretty small force for the serious operations, but we have had very good success so far and hope our luck will not change.

We try to study every morning from 9 to 11, then I go over to the dispensary and take care of the patients at the hospital and those that come in for treatment. I used to try to study in the afternoon, but the work is too heavy now and will soon have to cut out the morning hour. Have several calls to make around in the city nearly every day and that takes a lot of time. Guess that will give you a little idea of what we do each day along medical lines; incidentally we take care of two husky children and watch eleven servants and see that they do at least a part of their work.

Servants are one of the pests of the

country that we have to contend with; it takes a large part of our salary to keep them, and at times it takes all of our patience and more. There is so much work for the missionaries to do along missionary lines that one does not have time for housework and the minor details of the home that we do at home.

Again, it is the custom for the better class of people to have a horde of servants around, and when you are "in Rome" doing missionary work, it pays to conform to the custom of the country as near as you can. The oriental people look down on people who do manual labor, so the more of a gentleman you can be, in their estimation, the more influence you have with them. Our horde of servants consists of one nurse girl, one table boy, one horse boy, one night watchman, one coolie, one cook, two washwomen and three dispensary assistants.

Regarding their duties, the nurse girl tries to keep the children out of mischief, from falling off the porch, running away, quarreling, going out in the kitchen and pestering the cook, reading valuable books and a thousand and one other things that children are liable to indulge in to their discomfort and ours also. The table boy waits on the table, washes dishes, cleans the lamps, sweeps the front rooms and dusts only when we are watching, scrubs the dining room and back porch. The cook goes to market first thing in the morning and buys vegetables, eggs, meat, etc., then comes home and tries to cook; he does very well at some things, but makes a sad failure of others, much to the discredit of our stomachs.

The coolie carries water from the well to the kitchen and bath rooms, mows the grass, scrubs the front rooms, and all the housework except what the table boy scrubs, and does all sorts of work around the compound. The horse boy takes care of the horses and goes along when I make calls to watch the horses and open gates, etc. The washwoman, of course, washes and irons clothes, as the name would indicate; many times the clothes look as though they had not been done either, and Mrs. Beach has to keep after them pretty close. The night watchman sleeps under the house at night and cuts enough wood for the cook in the day time.

The first dispensary assistant sells drugs, makes out bills, makes calls, etc. The second assistant does the surgical dressings, sells drugs and waits on the patients. The third assistant carries water, scrubs the floors, cuts grass and goes to school. This brings about the duties of our numerous servants may not be of much interest to you; the reason I recite it is, I have heard missionaries criticized for having so many servants. And I used to think that it did not seem necessary; however, they are a necessary evil. We would much rather do our own work; it would be much easier, but in a tropical climate it is not a wise thing to do, and besides we are paid a salary by the board for doing missionary work, and if we tried to do all of our own housework we would not have time for anything else.

Now a little about the country and people that may be of interest to you. This is a tropical climate; our rainy season is about over for this year. It commenced about the first of May. Next comes the cool season, and it will last until the first of March, when the hot, dry season commences, and lasts until the first of May. We notice the rainy season the most; the humidity is very bad at first when the rains start and gradually everything gets so damp and wet that they mold, and at times there is not enough sun to dry clothes, and everything steams and molds. The cool season last year was very cool at times, and we suffered more discomfort than we ever did in America in the winter time up in Minnesota where it was 40 and 50 degrees below zero for weeks. One's blood gets pretty thin out here and the nights are very damp in the cool season. When it is 50 degrees above zero, you think you will surely freeze, and it takes all the clothes one can get to keep warm.

The natives suffer a great deal in the cold weather; many of them have very little clothing and when it is very cold they have to sit up by the fire all night to keep warm. Of course, no one freezes to death, but you can suffer a lot from the cold here; you freeze to death. The dry, hot season is really the best time of the year; it is a dry heat that one does not notice very much, and the nights are usually quite cool.

The natives are a very good-natured, easy-going class of people; they do not believe in doing more work than is necessary to keep them in rice, and the more of that that the women can do, the better the men like it. They live on rice mostly, and it is the principal and about the only crop that they raise; many of them have small gardens that they grow a little corn, tobacco, a poor grade of melons and beans. The rice crop has just

been planted and they will harvest about Christmas time.

The best fruit we get is mangoes, but they only last about a month in May and June. Bananas are pretty good, and there is an abundance of them. Other fruits are papayas, rose apples, guavas, pomelos, limes and many other sour and bitter fruits that no one but a native will eat.

Good vegetables are hard to get here; cannot grow potatoes at all and the only ones we get are shipped in from China or Java and cost about a dollar a quart. We have not had potatoes for so long we have forgotten what they taste like, and William will not eat anything else if we have them on the table. Potatoes will grow here, but before they get large enough to eat, the white ants devour them. Most other vegetables will grow here, but are a lot of trouble to start on account of ants and other pests. We have some seeds coming from England and will start a garden next month.

Tigers have been very bad around here this year; have eaten quite a number of natives and many cattle. I have had some experience hunting them this year that made my hair stand on end, but have not been successful in bagging one as yet. Have ordered a good rifle that I expect pretty soon, and next year I hope to be able to buy some grizzly bear traps and will try and thin out the tiger population a little. I feel mighty sorry for some of the natives out near the foot-hills of the mountains; they have no guns, and when the tigers come, all they can do is to make a big noise and scare them away. About two months ago a tiger jumped into a native house where the family was sleeping and took a 5-month-old baby out of its mother's arms. The father followed the tiger with a torch and got close enough a couple of times to see the tiger playing with his dead baby, but could not get to the baby. After daylight the father of the baby got some neighbors and they went in search of the child and found the tiger still playing with his little prey. They succeeded in getting the baby, but the tiger is still at large, eating up their cattle and occasionally a native.

Our compound is located in the west bank of the Nan river, and is a very pretty place. The compound is too large for one family to keep up in the rainy season; the grass and weeds grow so fast here in the tropics that one man cannot take care of a very large compound. Our house is quite large, five large rooms, two bath rooms and a kitchen. The house is on pillars, about ten feet from the ground. Last year the river overflowed its banks and we had three feet of water under the house and the whole compound was under water. This year—last week, in fact—the river got on another rampage and the back of the compound was flooded, but it did not get under the house. Floods always remind me of that first flood we had in Platts-mouth, and it is not a very pleasant memory. Have they got that street fixed yet so that it does not soak you folks out every year?

Do not worry about the little work you are doing at home. It counts for just as much, and I often think it really means more than the work here on the foreign field. The work on the foreign field is very discouraging at times. It is so hard to get the heathen ideas from all of the old heathen ideas, even after he has become a Christian.

One of the hardest things to contend with here on the mission field is, one has to give out all the time and there is no way of getting any spiritual strength from others.

We have not heard a prayer, a sermon or a religious talk in the English language for a year, and very few since we came here. Of course, we go to church, but the whole service is in the native tongue, and we do not understand but very little of it yet, so all we get is what we read and get for ourselves. When you add to the trying climate, the discouragements and hard work of a mission field and then deprive one of any spiritual help, it is a hard test on one's faith.

Missionaries who have been on the field a great many years seem to get quite self-sufficient and forget that the new missionaries on the field who do not understand the language need some kind of spiritual help.

Another thing that we notice is the climate. Some way it gets into your system; the brain grows dull; the blood becomes thin; the nerves seem to be exposed and are easily irritated, and one is inclined to get a pessimistic way of looking at life with all of its ups and downs.

Guess that is enough trouble for this time, but before I quit the subject—I forgot to say that good music, a thing that always was a large factor in keeping me in the right road, is another thing that we do not hear at all. We have a Victor victrola, and that helps out a lot, but I miss the good church music very much.

We have a good survey on the way out here, I hope, and after it comes

we can entertain the children a little better. We had a single buggy last year, but it has gone to the bad now, and we have had no rig of any kind for over six months. Our annual supply of goods are about due in Bangkok now. If the war in Europe has not held them up, as I said before I believe, we only get goods from America and England once a year, and have to order about everything that we eat and wear from there. Get most of our groceries from England, and other things from America. It is no easy task to think of what you want to eat a year in advance.

By the way, I am still wearing a belt that I bought from you the last time I was in the store; however, it is about done for, and I wish I had another; am liable to send you a mail order most any time; can't leave the old store.

Kindly remember me to Dr. Livingston when you see him, and all other friends, especially Geo. Dovey and Crisp. Do not suppose I have very many friends in town now; however, I would like to drop in on you and see how many I could find.

Our furlough is not due for about four years yet, but the time soon slips around; seems as though we have only been here a few months now. Time flies very fast on the mission field. It takes so long to get mail and answers to letters that one gets out of the habit of figuring in days, weeks or months, and years are about the only thing that we have any use for. We get mail once a week and send mail out once a week. This week we did not get much of anything on account of the high water and war.

Will be mighty glad when this horrible war is ended. It seems terrible that nations cannot settle their troubles in this day and age without killing each other. The more one sees of Asia and Europe the more you think of America. We can sing "America" and gaze on the stars and stripes with more feeling now than I ever dreamed that I could muster up for either. America is head and shoulders above Europe and Asia, in every possible way that I can think of in the line of good qualities. Japan's much vaunted modern civilization is nothing but a thin, fragile, sickening veneer, as far as we could see, and, of course, we saw the best they had, I suppose. Suppose tourists passing through a country cannot possibly judge rightly; however, one cannot but form an opinion from what they see. John Chinaman is so far ahead of the Japs that they never will catch up with them in any respect.

It is high time for me to close. Think it is enough for this time, anyway. Do not forget to write. With kindest regards to Cliff and family, and all other friends, I beg to remain

Your old friend,
WILL BEACH.
P. S. Mrs. Beach sends kindest regards also.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ORGANIZE A FAST FOOT BALL TEAM

From Tuesday's Daily.

The Platts-mouth High school is about to take a trip into the football arena, if all reports are true, as the boys are now practicing with a view of gathering together a team with which to defend the name of the school on the gridiron and have the prospects of a game in a short time with the South Omaha team. This is the first time since 1907 that the Platts-mouth High school has had a football team and the renewal of the interest in the school in this line will furnish the boys a chance to indulge in this good, clean sport. The announcement that there would be a team in the school has produced great enthusiasm among the scholars in the different classes of the school and the opening game will be awaited with the greatest of interest among all of the young people attending the school.

Daughter at Ralph White Home.

From Wednesday's Daily.

The news has been received in this city by the relatives of the arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph White at Victoria, Tex., on Thursday, November 5, of a sweet, little daughter. The delight of the parents is intense over the advent of the little daughter, who has been christened Lois Elaine White, and it is the wish of the many friends of the family in this city that the little lady may be a joy and comfort to her parents during their lifetime. Mr. White is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. White of this city and is manager of the Bell telephone interests in Victoria. At the last reports the mother and little daughter were doing nicely.

For Sale.
Modern, up-to-date bungalow residence. Close in, cheap, if taken soon. See Chas. E. Martin. 11-11-34d

AUTOMOBILE PARTY FROM LINCOLN HAVE A VERY CLOSE CALL JUST SOUTH OF TOWN

From Wednesday's Daily.

Last evening toward dusk an auto party from Lincoln, bound into Omaha, came near meeting with a very serious accident at the concrete culvert, near the farm home of B. W. Livingston, south of this city. The party had just come over the south road from Union, and in the dusk failed to clearly see the culvert, which is set quite low, and before the car could be stopped it had crashed into the railing at the side, knocking off a part of the concrete work and damaging the machine slightly, but not enough to cause any bad injury to the car or the occupants, and they were enabled to continue their journey on into this city and thence on to Omaha. The machine was a light model which probably saved it from being mashed up quite badly, and as it was the lamps and a part of the radiator were the chief sufferers from the accident. The names of the occupants of the car could not be learned.

A RECKLESS PRACTICE OFTEN GETS PERSONS INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE

From Wednesday's Daily.

There is always a more or less element of risk in the committing of thoughtless mischief, as was shown yesterday when two young men were fined in the county court for having shot off a glass insulator on a telegraph pole in the vicinity of Murock. The deed was not done with the desire to inflict any injury to the telegraph company, but merely in a thoughtless desire to practice with the rifle carried by the boys, and as a result of it they were compelled to pay a fine of \$10, which is the lowest figure allowed under the law for a fine of this offense where the damage is less than \$25, but it lies in the discretion of the court to make the fine anything from \$10 to \$500. For the injury or destruction of property of greater value than \$25 the penalty is from one to three years in the penitentiary. The young boys out for a little fun should be very careful what they do in order to keep themselves out of serious trouble, as in the instance of the two boys shooting at the telegraph line. If the wire had been put out of commission, and the company been unable to deliver messages over it, there would have been but little difficulty in showing the damage to be over \$25, and then the lads would have been up against it in good shape, and can consider themselves lucky that it was no worse for them, but they would do well to avoid any repetition of the offense.

As Rev. Mr. Orr's two boys were playing with bow and arrow last week one of them accidentally shot his brother in the eye with an arrow, inflicting a painful wound, but fortunately not a serious one.

Our jolly old fellow citizen, Mike McGuire, has sold out his interest in the Omaha establishment of McGuire & Curtis, and come back to stay with the good people of Platts-mouth. We always thought Mc. knew where he belonged.

At the fair yesterday afternoon as a riding man named Sam Hall was riding a horse in a race, a lot of cows went to cross the track and his horse ran into one, throwing the rider and horse down, the horse falling on the boy and injuring him badly but not dangerously.

We paid a visit to Hon. John Brown last week and were very much pleased to see him so improved in health and so hopeful of the future. If Johnny boy gets well, and there is scarcely a doubt of it now, his friends will have something to say at our county convention soon to come off.

We most sincerely hope that Mr.



C. E. Wescott's Sons

—Everybody's Store—
IN PLATTSMOUTH FORTY YEARS AGO
Items of Interest to Our Readers
Clipped from the Newspaper
Files of Many Years Ago.

A steer got on the rampage here last Saturday afternoon, and caused several men and boys, but fortunately they all escaped without any serious hurt.

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Buy Your Overcoat Now

From November to April you will have need for a heavy overcoat every day. Save yourself from the bad effects of an early cold by having evercoat protection now on these first 'halfway' wintry days. Now before you have become hardened to the cold winds is the time for you to be cautious.

We're prepared to show you a great variety of overcoats, 42 inches to 50 inches in length, Chinchillas in shawl collar styles, Meltons and Kerseys with velvet collars, rough mixtures made with high collars and raglan shoulders. An extremely new style made with kimono sleeves, and box back, deep velvet collar. All garments from high grade makers; materials—all wool; styles—the last word.

Our showing this year is especially strong in the popular prices, \$15, \$17, \$18 and \$20.

Other lines \$10 to \$12.50
Best coats \$25 to \$30.

Manhattan Shirts
Falter & Thierolf
Stetson Hats

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE BANK OF CASS COUNTY

The Bank of Cass County of Platts-mouth, Nebraska.

Charter No. 642.
Incorporated in the state of Nebraska, at the close of business, October 31, 1914.

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts	50,187 82
Overdrafts	5,212 77
Bonds, securities, judgments, claims, etc.	16,320 23
Other assets	None
Real estate—house furniture and fixtures	9,200 00
Other real estate	12,118 75
Current expenses, taxes and interest paid	15,000 00
Cash on hand	172 45
Due from national and state banks	25,215 25
Checks and notes of exchange	15,175 00
Notes and bills receivable	5,550 00
Gold coin	5,550 00
Silver, nickels and cents	3,149 41
Total	\$222,282 41

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000 00
Surplus fund	20,000 00
Undivided profits	27,247 22
Dividends unpaid	None
Individual deposits	None
Current certificates of deposit	None
Time certificates of deposit	12,121 49
Checks and notes of deposit	10,000 00
Cashier's checks outstanding	16,622 82
Due to national and state banks	12,227 00
Notes and bills re-advanced	None
Bills payable	20,000 00
Depositors' guaranty fund	3,380 78
Total	\$222,282 41

STATE OF NEBRASKA, I, T. M. PATTERSON, cashier of the above named bank do hereby certify that the above statement is a correct and true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board. T. M. PATTERSON, Cashier.

CHAS. C. PARMELEE, Director
Attest: T. G. BURNINGBELL, Director
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of October, 1914.
VIRMA HAYES, Notary Public.

[Seal] My commission expires July 14th, 1917.