

TEACHER AT FORT OMAHA GREATEST AMERICAN FLIER

Leo Stevens Went Up in Balloon When Mere Boy; Since Has Made Many Flights and Parachute Drops.

By BEATRICE FURMAN.

As you enter the balloon house at Fort Omaha you may meet an unobtrusive man in his shirt sleeves sitting on the floor mending a balloon.

Probably a workman or a janitor, you guess, as you go on looking for Leo Stevens, chief instructor of the only balloon school in the United States, the man who gave up a \$20,000 a year business to teach Uncle Sam's soldiers how to fly, the man to whom the Pathé company offered \$25,000 a year to do balloon stunts for them. You inquire at the office for him.

"Hi, Leo," yells some one, probably the office boy. "Someone to see you."

The shirt-sleeved individual rises and picks his way across the floor through the balloon paraphernalia scattered there.

"What can I do for you?" he asks politely, rolling down his shirt sleeves. And it isn't a silk shirt either. His wife might have picked it off the bargain counter for a dollar and a half.

As you talk to Mr. Stevens and note his sincere consideration for everyone you are reminded by force of contrast of the kaiser-like manners of a young national guard captain.

Leading Balloonist.

Here are some facts about Mr. Stevens:

One of the greatest balloonists in the world.

Greatest parachute-leaper in the world.

Greatest balloon manufacturer in the United States.

Man who made ballooning the fad of the smart set of the east.

The man who hobnobs with the Vanderbilts and other millionaires in the east, all of whom are anxious to take a flight with him.

The first man in the country to build a dirigible balloon of the aeroplane type.

The man with the greatest number of record flights to his credit. Among these are a 783-mile flight from Rochester, N. Y., to Ludlow, S. C., made in about eleven hours, and a flight with Harry Atwood to New York from St. Louis. In this flight Stevens furnished the machine and did the work, while Atwood met the press and got the attention.

The man who backed Harriett Quimby in her fatal flight across the English channel.

Complimented by Allies.

Taking these and a hundred similar facts into consideration, Uncle Sam thinks himself lucky to get Mr. Stevens to teach the young balloon observers. That Stevens is making good in his new job as teacher is shown by the compliments of members of the British Flying corps who have visited Fort Omaha.

His career as a balloonist began at the age of 12. His father and Tom Johnson, the Cleveland magnate, had opened up an amusement park in Cleveland. A balloon flight was scheduled to open up the wonderful new park and all Cleveland prepared to watch it. But the flight was taken a few hours before advertised, with no witnesses and with only a somewhat scared but game small boy as passenger.

Little Leo was even then wild over balloons and begged in vain to be allowed to go up with the aeronaut. Being refused, he climbed into the basket early in the morning and cut the rope.

"I had not the least idea how to manage the balloon," said Mr. Stevens. "But, scared as I was, I was happy. I landed some sixty miles away. After my father had recovered from his fright I got a wallowing. But I also got offers from museum and circus managers all over the country."

When my parents went to Europe soon after I ran away and became a balloonist. As far as I know, I still hold this first record, being the youngest balloonist ever to go up alone.

Mr. Stevens is, of course, as much at home in the air as a bird in a wire. He has made twice as many parachute jumps as any other two men in this country. His greatest jump was from a height of 9,000 feet.

"But I get dizzy when looking down from a tall building," he smiled. "So don't let the fact that you do prevent you from joining the aviation corps. When you get up in the air, that passes, and you feel like a fixture in the sky."

Fort Omaha Notes.

Thirty new army trucks have been brought to Fort Omaha for use by the balloon school.

A first aid class for the Red Cross work was held Wednesday morning at the home of Mrs. Lahn, wife of Major Lahn. Officers and daughters of the officers stationed there attended.

Major and Mrs. Lahn entertained informally Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Lahn, wife of Major Lahn, officers and daughters of the officers stationed there attended.

Lieutenant Davidson probably will be acting chief instructor of the balloon school during the absence of Leo Stevens in New York. Lieutenant Davidson is looking very

Pay Day, the Best of All, as It Looks At the Camp of the "Fighting Fourth"



Soldiers Are Happy When They Draw Their First Money From Uncle Sam



Top—Major Irvin V. Todd, commander, standing; Captain H. H. Wallace, paymaster central division, seated with gun; Lieutenant Tupper Wyman, Company B, with back turned.



Bottom—Same officers with Private Sepas receiving pay; Packard car donated by Orr Motor company to transport paymaster.

ALIMONY GIVEN ATTORNEY ARTHUR

Court Decrees Doctor-Wife Must Pay Aged Lawyer Fifteen Hundred Reactionary Alimony.

John G. Arthur, aged lawyer, now an inmate of the Florence House of Hope, won his fight for divorce against Dr. Mattie L. Arthur, prominent woman physician.

Judge Leslie, sitting in divorce court, settled the bitter matrimonial row between a couple married nearly forty years ago when he granted Mr. Arthur a decree and awarded him \$1,500 reactionary alimony.

It was one of the rare cases in court annals where a husband was granted alimony.

The hard fought divorce suit lasted a week. Both sides were represented by battalions of attorneys and charges of a sensational character were made.

Mr. Arthur filed the original suit on grounds of alleged cruelty, charging that his doctor-wife was domineering and "bossy" and had finally thrust him out into "a cold world."

Dr. Arthur brought counter-action and alleged her husband was a "shitless, no account lawyer" and had never contributed a cent toward the support of the household for more than twenty years. She testified she had always earned the money for the family, while her husband stayed at home and washed the dishes, made garden and "inkered about the house."

The Arthurs were married in 1880, but testimony disclosed he did not tell his wife of a former marriage and the existence of a grown daughter until recent years.

The big row was over property. Another suit involving considerable real estate and other holdings is pending.

Judge Leslie in granting a decree deplored the fact a couple should be divorced after living together nearly forty years.

He censured Mr. Arthur for not telling his wife of the former marriage, but declared on the face of things she condoned his act by continuing to live with him after learning the truth.

Judge Leslie said he recognized the fact Dr. Arthur's earnings had been greater than those of her husband, but said evidence showed Mr. Arthur had made fortunate investments.

Vagabond Found With Money to Pay His Fine

John Petrova is a rare species of the "vag." Police Judge Fitzgerald fined John \$5 and costs on the charge of vagrancy. Sergeant Wilson is so used to bawling out, "All right, step back in here," after each sentence for vagrancy that he had the words out of his mouth before he had time to reach down in his sock and secure \$7.50. John, of course, was then exempt from "stepping back in" and went his way.

Contemplated Using Stone To Construct New Road

The attention of the city council was called to a large pile of stone in the vicinity of Thirty-third and Parker streets which residents in the district said had been condemned by the government for building purposes. Residents complained that the street contractor contemplated using the stone in constructing the road from Thirty-third to Thirty-fourth and Parker streets.

"Swat the Fly" is Motto Of Commissioner Connell

City Health Commissioner Connell would have the council pass an ordinance jailing all persons who do not kill flies.

"It's an easy matter to catch them in screen fly catchers and then kill them. Each housewife should have a catcher placed on her garbage can," he said.

Special Garbage Fund Started For This Money

A resolution introduced by Commissioner Kugel to turn in all garbage contract money to the health department was referred to the legal department.

Commissioner Butler insisted it would not be proper to turn the money into the health fund. He urged that it be turned into a separate fund.

WEBSTER SAYS CITY RIGHTS ARE GONE

Three Judges Hearing Arguments in Case to Determine Status of Street Railway Franchise Rights.

Hearing on a motion to strike out certain portions of the petition in the suit of the city of Omaha against the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company, which refer to the earnings and proceeds of the old horse car company, granted a franchise by the state in 1867, was begun before three district judges—Judge Day, Judge Redick and Judge Troup—yesterday.

Though the city is not claiming the right to take possession of the street railway property, under the reversion clause of the franchise granted the original car company fifty years ago, it is claiming the right to have an accounting to ascertain to what extent the old horse car company earnings and bonds entered into consolidation and merged with later systems, including the present Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company.

The reversion clause in the original charter provided that at the end of fifty years the property of the old horse car company should revert to the city.

Charter from State.

John Lee Webster, counsel for the street railway company, pointed out that the state legislature granted the charter in 1867, not the city.

In 1887 and 1888 the city voted franchises to build the first cable and electric lines.

Mr. Webster said the original horse car property, which was to revert to the city, was wiped out years ago. He contended under the right of reversion the physical property of the old horse car company—depots, cars and other equipment—was to revert to the city, not the earnings or bonds.

He declared the only way the city could have enforced the reversion clause would have been to refuse to grant franchises for electric lines and insist in keeping the old horse car lines in operation till the end of the fifty years.

He said public opinion would have forestalled any such plan.

Corporation Counsel Lambert is representing the city.

Objects to Stepmother As the Administratrix

Acting County Judge Sundblad heard objections by Mrs. Juanita Stewart to the appointment of Mrs. Gertrude L. Slater as administratrix of the estate of the late Samuel Slater Thursday. Mrs. Stewart is a daughter by Mr. Slater's first marriage. Mrs. Slater is his widow by second marriage.

Sub-Bids to Be Let for New Implement Company

Sub-bids will soon be taken by Architect C. D. Cooley of Kansas City for the various jobs connected with the construction of the new four-story warehouse for the Emerson-Brantingham Implement company at Eleventh and Jackson streets. The building will be 108x132. No general contract will be let.

Resolution to Rewire the City Hall for Ak-Sar-Ben

A resolution was introduced in the city council requesting that the sum of \$500 be set aside for the installation and wiring of the city hall for Ak-Sar-Ben week. The \$500 to include the cost of the bulbs. The resolution stated that the old wires on the outside of the city hall were in a dilapidated condition and "unfit for further use."

Man Recovering from Operation Dies of Heat

Heat prostration is given as the cause of the death of Hans W. Ruge, hotel proprietor of Manning, Ia., on Tuesday. Mr. Ruge was in St. Catherine's hospital recovering from an operation. The body will be sent today from the Stack & Falconer undertaking parlors to Manning.

CANNED GOODS GIVE BODY BLOW TO H. C. L.

Expert Says There Is Every Indication That Prices for Canned Edibles Will Not Rise.

By A. R. GROH.

Keep calm, Mrs. Housewife. When you look at the fixed family income and read of continually rising prices of food, just keep calm. Remember that, in these days when the rumor factories are working night and day, it is a good thing to take stories of prohibitive food prices with a grain of salt.

I know this is not a very popular thing to say. Alarm is the order of the day and perhaps you would be thrilled more if I'd write some hair-raising article about "impending food famine." But I cast temptation aside and raise my banner of Truth on high.

Into the office yesterday filtered a wild-eyed rumor that "canned goods selling now at 15 cents a can will be 40 cents this winter."

Taking a large club, I chased this rumor into a corner and killed it and threw it out in the alley.

In less figurative language, I called on F. S. Keogh, Faxton & Gallagher's canned goods expert. Mr. Keogh was so disgusted with the rumor that he could hardly talk.

All Nonsense.

"It's the worst kind of bosh and nonsense," he said. "The real facts are that canned goods will probably be cheaper this fall than they are now and will continue cheaper. It is all a question of supply and demand. This year the outlook for big crops of all kinds of goods used for canning is excellent. The peas are practically all canned already. They are packed chiefly in Indiana and Michigan. About 9,000,000 cases were packed this summer."

"Isn't it possible that a combine might corner the supply of canned goods?" I asked.

"Certainly not," he said. "There are 4,000 canneries in this country. They have no organization. Any person with \$500 can start canning. There are 150 tomato packers in Missouri; 100 corn packers in Iowa, twenty-five corn packers in Nebraska, and so on. The reason why tomatoes went up last year was that frost killed most of the crop. Only about 9,000,000 cases were packed, whereas the normal pack is 15,000,000 cases."

Fear Causes Rush.

Fear caused many people to lay in big supplies of sugar at \$11 a bag during the rise of two months ago, according to Mr. Keogh. Then they saw the price fall to about \$8.

Of course, flour continues to be high. That is because of speculation, all the dealers say. It is now nearly \$13 a barrel. In submarine-guarded England flour is only \$8.50 a barrel at the present moment.

The constitution forbids "cruel and unusual punishment." If it were not for that I would advocate slow starvation for all food speculators. And the people would shout "amen."

The government embargo on cans has been removed, says Mr. Keogh, and canners can get cans as usual.

With the present prospects of large crops of all things cannable, with the packers preparing to can more than their normal quantity, there is no likelihood of an increase in price worth speaking about. So says Mr. Keogh who is in touch with the situation this year as he has been for many years.

Do your best with your garden stuff. Can and preserve and dry things. And don't waste any nervous energy getting alarmed, because there is no cause for it whatever.

Increase in Salaries Of Jardine's Employees

An increase of salary has been granted the following employees of Commissioner Jardine's department: M. J. Behrens, rodman, \$65 to \$70; E. W. Woodbridge, field engineer, \$115 to \$125; S. J. Anderson, field engineer, \$115 to \$125; W. S. Cook, rodman, \$65 to \$70; H. I. Lindeman, draftsman, \$45 to \$50; H. C. Cotton, chief draftsman, \$150 to \$165; S. L. Zimmerman, draftsman, \$120 to \$125; R. E. Roche, clerk, \$100 to \$110.

C. R. McKay was hired as inspector and field engineer at a salary of \$125 a month and E. L. Cassidy as inspector at \$4 per day.

OMAHA BOY TELLS HOW U. S. TROOPS REACHED FRANCE

Russell Papineau Aboard American Transport Two Weeks Without Knowing His Destination.

The first thing Russell Papineau, 911 South Twenty-fifth street, Omaha, petty officer on the U. S. ship Hancock, did on landing in America after taking our troops to France was to make a dash for home and mother.

"Gee, but Omaha looks good to me! Got any cherry pie, mother?" he said on reaching Omaha.

"I wanted to get off at Council Bluffs and walk in, the train seemed so slow," he added.

While his mother made cherry pies—lots of them—this morning for her sailor boy, he told of his trip to France.

"Not a soul on our ship, even the captain, knew where we were going. He was told to sail in a certain direction, according to certain degrees of latitude and longitude, but that was all. There were about 1,000 United States troops aboard, but even that didn't tell us, for we had been docked for a long time with soldiers living on the board."

"After almost two weeks—we went slowly—we met a French transport. They told us we were near England and on our way to France."

Landed at French Port.

"We landed at a French port—but I am not allowed to tell its name. It has a big supply depot and in its docks were scores of ships from all the neutral and allied nations that had brought supplies to France."

"So it wouldn't do to tell the name of the place, for the enemy might find out about it and try to capture our ships on their way. I can't tell the American port we sailed from, either, for troops may go from there again."

The whole population of the French town flocked to meet us when we came. They were almost in rags, for everyone there is poor now. They were so happy to see the United States ships.

"I stayed in France six days, but didn't have time to go to Paris. French people are not downcast. They still believe they will win. The number of troops wounded and taken prisoner is exaggerated here."

"Over there the papers say 800 men were wounded. By the time it gets in American papers the number is 8,000."

The whole population there is under military rule. In Germany, if a man goes more than a few rods away from his house after 6 p. m. he is shot. A woman cannot go out and dig potatoes out of her own garden without asking a soldier how many she may keep. This is so in all European countries."

Ready for Fight.

Papineau said the American troops were in fine condition when he saw them last.

"Scared? Well, I guess not. They were crazy to get to fighting."

"And don't you worry about our

REGISTRATION DAY FOR WOMEN NEAR

Governor Neville Says He is Ready to Proclaim Day for the Counties to Register.



That the state-wide registration of women for service to Uncle Sam is now a thing of the near future seems probable from the fact that Governor Neville has expressed his readiness to proclaim a day for the registration of women at the regular polling places whenever the preliminary organization is completed by the counties.

Volunteers to serve on the registration board of their county, both women and men, should report at once to the county chairman of the State Council of Defense in the county in which they live.

The registration will be under the direction of the women members of the county branches of the state council. A woman chairman will be appointed from each county. So far only fourteen of the ninety-three counties have reported to headquarters, the appointment of a woman county chairman. Definite plans for the conduct of the registration will be announced shortly.

Four Omaha women are in charge of state departments of the women's committee of the Nebraska State Council of Defense. They are Mrs. Z. T. Lindsey, home and foreign relief; Mrs. Draper Smith, child welfare; Dr. Olga Stastny, naturalization; Dr. Jennie Callias, safeguarding of moral and spiritual forces.

Admits Fingerprints, But is Freed Anyway

Fingerprint identification proved to be insufficient evidence to convict Clarence Kellogg, colored, arrested Monday by Detectives Brinkman and Barta in connection with the theft of whiskey and gin from the home of K. Tierney, 2123 Burdette street.

Julius Mansfield, fingerprint expert, positively identified the marks on the window through which the robber-gained entrance, as the fingerprints of Kellogg.

Senator John Morearty, counsel for Kellogg, admitted the fact, but proved that Kellogg was not in town at the time and that the prints must have been made at some time prior to the robbery. Kellogg was discharged by Police Judge Fitzgerald.

Each Officer Must Turn In Names of Places on Beat

It was recommended by Commissioner Butler that patrolmen turn in writing to the chief of police all places on their beats which they suspect of being disorderly houses.

"Each officer should be held responsible for his territory and should report at once places which he suspects."

Tilessetters Refuse to Work Under Protection

About thirty tilessetters and helpers struck yesterday on the various jobs in the city. Their strike they hold to be not on any grievance of their own, but under the international agreement whereby union men refuse to work on jobs under police surveillance by reason of an injunction.



The Modern Romeo and Juliet

do their courting on a vine-clad veranda by the light—not of the moon—but of an Electric Porch Lamp with its rose-colored silken shade.

An Electric Table Lamp for the Porch

will add greatly to the pleasure of being outdoors summer evenings. With the Portable Electric Lamp you can read or sew in comfort out where the cool evening breezes offer welcome relief from the heat of the day.

Arrange now to have your porch equipped for Electricity. See the Portable Lamps, Electric Fans, Irons and other out-of-doors Electrical conveniences in any Electrical dealer's show-rooms.

NEBRASKA POWER COMPANY

"Your Electric Service Company"

Successor to Omaha Electric Light and Power Company