

The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. II.

APRIL 10, 1919

No. 9.

SALINA BOYS EDITORS

SKIRMISHER NOT THE ONLY ST. JOHN'S PUBLICATION

Whether they were inspired by the appearance or dissatisfied by the policy of THE SKIRMISHER, members of this paper's staff are unable to say. At any rate, some of the smaller boys have started papers for themselves. It is reported that eight papers in all were to be started. To date, however, THE SKIRMISHER has received copies of four other St. John's papers. One of these, has since discontinued publication. The three others, though, are still "going concerns." The copies seen so far are:

The Hayfield News: Staff, Henry Allard, John Hardman, Thoborne Skaggs, J. H. Coyte and Mark Swerdfefer. This is the only paper that is "printed." The printing establishment consists of a typewriter belonging to Dr. E. H. Rudd, chaplain, and operated by Mark Swerdfefer, the "publisher." The other papers are written out in long-hand. All cadets live on the first floor of the Barracks.

First Floor Star: Staff, John Hardman and Richard Hamm.

The Third Floor Eagle. The staff of this paper, shown on its third page follows: Editor-in-chief and humorist, Parvin Pattison; associate editor and sport editor, Paul Snyder; cartoonist, Cyrus Waite; reporter, Hines.

The Little Paper, Waite editor, has discontinued.

These papers carry school news and school jokes. They have one advantage over the Skirmisher. They print articles the Skirmisher "dissent" print. Extracts from three papers follow:

Mrs. Harris of Eldorado is visiting her two sons, Kenneth Harris the elder and John Harris the smaller.—From "First Floor Star", Hamm and Hardman, editors.

The chapel has been held in the morning since April 7 and so far the

service is doing very well.—From the "Hayfield News."

Sergeant Hayden to Cadet Snyder, "on squad." "How many times do I have to tell you to stop talking?"

Cadet Snyder: "As many times as I talk."—From "The Third Floor Eagle." (Cadet Snyder evidently has trouble in store for him.)

Band Goes To Tescott

St. John's Cadet Band took its first out-of-town trip when it went with the Basketball team recently to Tescott. The trip was made in motor cars. The band played several numbers on the main street at Tescott, then marched to the High School where the game was played. They played a concert here before the game and several numbers between halves.

Comes of Newspaper Family

Cadet Henry Allard of St. John's School, on the staff of one of the school 'papers' now put out by the smaller boys, comes from a newspaper family.

He is a grandson of Mr. H. T. Wright, for a number of years treasurer of the Star-Journal of Pueblo, Colo.

Reno and Bell In Band

Richard Reno of Company A and Robert Bell of Company B have been attached to the band awaiting a final transfer. Reno plays alto and Bell plays trombone. Reno's home is in Ohio. Bell is from Colorado.

Enters Son In School

Dr. J. S. Jackson of Denver, Colo., was in Salina last week and entered his son, Melvin Jackson, in St. John's Military School. Cadet Jackson is in the Third Form, or first year High School.

Spends Week In Salina

Mrs. J. B. Bell of Loveland, Colo., spent last week in Salina, visiting her son Cadet Robert Bell.

BEAT SALINA AGAIN

CADET FIVE WINS SECOND VICTORY OVER HIGH

St. John's Military School ended its basketball season last week when it gained a victory over its old rivals, the Salina High School by the score of 31 to 24 on the Junior High School floor. The Cadets outplayed their opponents in both halves.

Salina made the first score when Carroll shot a basket at the very first of the game. Skilling followed with two baskets and a free throw which put the cadets in the lead. St. John's kept the lead, winning the first half 15 to 12 and the second 16 to 12.

Skilling made most of the points for the cadets. Carroll and Gillman did most of the scoring for Salina. This is the second time this season that St. John's has defeated Salina, winning the first game 38 to 25.

The entire cadet battalion, headed by the band, attended the game. The band gave a short concert before the game and also between halves. The lineup:

Salina	Pos.	St. John's
Carroll	F	Skilling
Gillman	F	Aitken
Nelson	C	Muir
McLean	G	Wyber
Staples	G	Oliver
Snapp	G	Starr

Summary: Score: St. John's 31; Salina High School, 24. Baskets: Carroll, 6; Gillman, 3; Nelson, 1; McLean, 1; Skilling, 9; Aitken, 2; Muir, 1. Free throws: Carroll, 1; Gillman, 1; Skilling, 7. Personal fouls: Carroll, 2; Nelson, 3; McLean, 3; Staples, 3; Skilling, 1; Muir, 2; Wyber, 4. Technical fouls: Staples, 1; Skilling, 3; Muir, 1.

Umpire, Rex Brown, Schmelzers', Kansas City. Referee, L. L. Smith, Salina; Scorer, S. W. Small, St. John's; Timer, Lieut. Walter Miller, St. John's.

TANNER HEADS GRADE LIST**Recent Figures Show That Fifth Form Cadet Is Leading**

Figures recently available show that Theodore Tanner, Fifth Form, made the highest average for the school period ending March 6, 1919. His average was 92.5. Tanner's home is in Filer, Idaho. The three cadets in each form, who were given first, second and third place in their respective forms follow. The Sixth Form corresponds to the senior year in high schools.

Sixth Form

- 1st.—Robert Wyber.
2nd.—Ralph Dodge.
3rd.—D. W. Buchanan.

Fifth Form

- 1st.—Theodore Tanner.
2nd.—Lloyd Umstot.
3rd.—Bruce Johnson.

Fourth Form

- 1st.—Alan Conner.
2nd.—Stanley Skilling.
3rd.—J. W. Fleming.

Third Form

- 1st.—Harland Mitchell.
2nd.—Robert Kirkpatrick.
3rd.—Carlyle Fluke.

Second Form

- 1st.—Jefferson Schlesinger.
2nd.—R. W. Barnes.
3rd.—Parvin Pattison.

First Form

- 1st.—Davis Bland.
2nd.—Daniel Walter.
3rd.—John Hall and Lionel Shaw, tied.

Now Holding Formal Guard Mount

"Formal guard mounting will ordinarily be held only in posts or camps where a band is present."—From the Manual of Interior Guard Duty. Evening parade at St. John's Military School has for a time been replaced by formal guard mount. Formal guard mount probably will be held several times a week from now on until the end of school. Informal guard mount was held heretofore.

BASKETBALL SEASON ENDED**Summary Shows Cadets Won 9 of 16 Games**

The victory of the St. John's Military School basketball team over the Salina High School last week ended for the cadets a basketball season in which the cadets won nine out of sixteen games.

Stanley Skilling, who alternated at forward and center made more than two-thirds of the total number of points made by his team. The games and their scores follow:

- St. John's, 27; Tescott, 15.
St. John's, 51; New Cambria, 16.
Ellsworth, 40; St. John's, 23.
Ellsworth, 64; St. John's, 11.
Russell, 18; St. John's, 15.
Solomon, 48; St. John's, 33.
St. John's, 46; McPherson, 41.
St. John's, 38; Salina, 25.
Solomon, 38; St. John's, 27.
St. John's, 40; Bennington, 22.
St. John's, 43; Tescott, 13.
Solomon, 40; St. John's, 36.
St. John's, 60; Bennington, 35.
St. John's, 29; Bennington, 20.
Tescott, 26; St. John's, 24.
St. John's, 31; Salina, 24.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE TALKS**Tells Cadets Use of Tobacco Will Lower Their Resistance**

That tobacco and alcohol reduce greatly the ability of men to stand the hardships of soldier life was the point made by Sergeant-Major Schoof, late of the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada, in his talk to the cadet corps of St. John's Military School recently.

He told how men addicted to drinking and smoking were among the first of those to give out in the march of a certain British regiment in an African desert. He was especially bitter against cigarette smoking.

Sergeant-Major Schoof called himself a soldier of fortune and told of his life of thirty years as a soldier in various parts of the world. He had with him a large collection of souvenirs, including Japanese armor, helmets and breastplates.

He has talked at many military schools and colleges in the United States. He was on his way to Mexico City.

Selby Visited at Home

Corporal Robert Selby of Company B visited at his home in Downs, Kansas, recently.

PETITION IS STILL GOING**The Literary Digest Comments On Captain Oliver's Experiment**

Maybe it is because most of us, at some time or other, have done the same thing. At any rate, the story of Captain A. G. Oliver and his "petition" is still going. The following is taken from the March 29th number of the Literary Digest.

"People don't read petitions, they merely sign them, and a bright young upper-classman in St. John's Military School, at Salina, Kansas, can prove it. He circulated a piece of paper requesting the decapitation of those who signed, representing that it was a petition for a holiday and found plenty of his fellow students ready to put their signatures to a document providing not only that they should be 'noisily decapitated,' but that their parents need not be notified 'as it will not be worth while,' and that their personal belongings, 'such as old shoes, pants, marbles and chewing-gum' should be bestowed on the school, 'thereby to preserve the memory of otherwise worthless lives.' From either the psychological or jocular standpoint, the bright young man's experiment was a large success. Also, according to the account of the hoax published in the school paper, 'The Skirmisher,' he chose a way of making public the contents of his petition that enabled him to get a little additional snap into it."

The Literary Digest printed the petition in full.

New Corporals Appointed

Five new lance-corporals were appointed and two lance corporals were re-appointed by recent special orders at St. John's Military School. Special Order No. 65 named the following cadets of B Company as lance-corporals:

- Robert Kirkpatrick (re-appointed).
Richard Hamm (re-appointed).
Billie Breene.
Fred Chambers.

Special Order No. 72 named the following cadets lance-corporals in Company A:

- Dayle Aitken.
Douglas Strange.
Lloyd Umstot.

Mrs. A. B. Buchanan Here

Mrs. A. B. Buchanan of Kansas City spent several days in Salina last week, visiting her son, Lieut. D. W. Buchanan of St. John's Military School.

What Are You Signing?

Evidence accumulates that people do not read petitions, they sign them. One of the upper classmen at St. John's Military School at Salina, Kansas, circulated a petition requesting the decapitation of those signing it, and fifty of his fellow students affixed their names to it on sight.

The petition was represented as containing a request for a holiday and it did start out to read in that way, but further down it read in such a way that the signers requested that any proposed holiday should be indefinitely postponed, and that "the undersigned be conducted to the rear of the gymnasium and be there noisily decapitated." The document went on as follows:

"The formality of notifying our parents can be done away with, as it will not be worth while. All our belongings, such as text books, old shoes, pants, jerseys, kitemstrings, photographs, marbles, shinny clubs, pennants, paper airplanes and chewing gum we dedicate to the school, hoping thereby to preserve the memory of otherwise useless lives. All of which we humbly petition."

The petition and the names of the signers were then published in the school paper and caused some stir, especially among those who had signed. The incident seems to be one that carries its own valuable lesson to "free signers." It is important always to read to the very end of any document to which signatures are asked, for the possibilities of a "joker" in such document are great, and may result in consequences other than the easy signer intends or favors when he affixes his John Hancock.—From The Journal, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Captain Swerdfeger Lands

Captain Swerdfeger, father of Cadet Mark Swerdfeger of St. John's School has arrived in this country, after a ten-month's stay in France, according to a telegram received last week by Cadet Swerdfeger. His return to America was somewhat of a surprise to his son, as the latter had received a letter the week before saying that Captain Swerdfeger contemplated taking a course in a medical school in France.

Shellenberger Visits Home

Cadet Harold Shellenberger spent the week-end at his home in Lyons last week.

Is Connoisseur of Ties

Ties aren't worn. They're unloaded.

When Cadet Samuel Clarke visited his home in Washington, Kansas, recently, he had no trouble going there, but his return to school was not so easy. Leaving Washington early Monday morning he drove to Greenleaf and took a train for Beloit.

At Beloit he asked when the train left for Solomon and thought the agent said at 8:55 o'clock. So he started out to spend a few minutes seeing the town. At 8:55, Clark was at the station but the train wasn't. At 9 o'clock he ventured to ask how late the train was and learned it had left at 8:05 o'clock.

He was wondering how he could avoid being late on pass when a freight train pulled in. Clarke decided to ride the freight. He did. The freight crew had to unload ties. Clarke inferred from their conversation that if they were properly approached they would permit him to help unload the ties. He asked. They assented. He did.

Clarke can now tell you the exact number of ties it takes to lay a mile of railroad.

Reno Directs Onion Planting

It's told of the Marines that in an organization there is always some one who can do anything wanted, from any profession or trade. St. John's can't lay claim to that but it has some experts in various lines just the same. When Major W. L. Ganssle decided to start the cadets gardening, he had them begin with onions. Naturally he got Cadet Richard Reno to superintend this work. Cadet Reno's father has large onion farms in Ohio and Michigan. The one in Ohio contains 1,300 acres and the Michigan farm 500 acres. On these farms they plant onions with a drill and cultivate them about ten times during the season.

The present onion "orchard" for St. John's was planted east of the school, near the new dormitory-cottages.

Gives Dinner Party for Son

Mrs. Lyda M. Vaughan of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who visited her son, Cadet Hart of St. John's last week, entertained for him at a dinner party at the Lamer. The guests were, Misses Marie Gafford, Dorothy King, Hortense Pierce, Rose Nelson; Cadets Frank Blaney, Gardiner Hart and Robert Kirkpatrick.

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"A Soup Kitchen Expands." Headline. So do the patrons, if they take enough.

"Good old days." Where do you get that stuff. Ice-cream was unknown until 1816.

The fellow who said that only trifles inspire poets evidently has never written a sonnet about "her."

History is full of Pretenders but so far no one has appeared in this country pretending to be the Kaiser.

"He has plenty of sand" means something in Kansas where they pay royalties for taking it out of streams.

Cadet Hardman, appearing with a camera. "I'm a would-be sport." Sergeant Skilling: "Mostly wood."

It's the custom at St. John's for cadets wanting something charged down town, to write out a request for an order. The following was one of the orders. "Cadet Blank wishes an order for a 'heir' cut." To date, though, the heir hasn't been cut off.

Visits School on Way to Kansas City

Mrs. W. H. Gardner of Hutchinson, Kansas spent Sunday here with her son, Cadet Paul Gardner, while on her way to Kansas City.

Mrs. Lyda M. Vaughan Here

Mrs. Lyda M. Vaughan was in Salina last week visiting her son Cadet Gardner Hart. Her home is in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Cadet McNair Returns to School

Cadet John McNair returned to St. John's School the first of this week after a three weeks' illness at his home in Lyons, Kansas.

Starr Visits at Haskell

Cadet Walter Starr visited friends at Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kansas, Saturday and Sunday of last week.

SECTION CHIEFS WORKING

Must Do Hall Orderly's Job If Latter Fails

Section chiefs have developed a creditable zeal in the performance of their duty in seeing that their respective sections are properly cleaned each morning. They have heretofore attended to this duty very well but now they are taking a more personal interest. And here's the reason:

When the inspecting officer finds a section improperly policed, he not only finds out who failed to do his work but then sees that the section chief himself sweeps the section. "Let George do it" may work very well some places but a section chief now knows that if "George" skips out, he must take his place. The fact that the section chief now has to do this at recess time, when the mail is given out, also is sharpening his personal interest.

Love's Labor Lost

A playlet in one Act. and several Scenes.

Cast.

Officer on duty, Captain Morgenstern.

Hard-working cadet, Byron Newland.

Place: Study Hall, St. John's School.

Time: Most any old time.

Scene 1: Cadet Newland at large table in study hall seemingly busy studying.

Scene 2: Enter Captain Morgenstern. (Eagle-eye business). Sees that Cadet Newland is writing a letter. Walks towards Newland. (Latter registers unconcern).

Scene 3: Exit Captain Morgenstern with confiscated letter.

Curtain.

Note for the public. This playlet probably will be given again this week in study hall by Cadet Newland, with another instructor in the cast.

Mrs. Aitken Visits Son

Mrs. John Aitken of St. John's Kansas, and her daughter, Mrs. John Williams recently visited Mrs. Aitken's son, Cadet Dayle Aitken of St. John's School.

Chapel Now Morning Service

Chapel services are now held in the morning from 8 o'clock to 8:15 instead of after retreat, from 5:45 o'clock to 6 o'clock. The change went into effect the first of this week.

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DANCING HALL IN CONNECTION

Former Cadet Hogrefe Was Gassed

Joseph Hogrefe, a former St. John's student, is now at his home at 947 Acoma street, Denver, having recently been discharged from the army. Hogrefe was in France and was gassed. This information was received by Sergt. Fritz Wiedey recently in a letter from Hogrefe. The latter was a student at St. John's from 1915 to 1918, leaving school to enlist in the artillery. He was soon sent across. For some time after being gassed, Hogrefe was in a hospital in France. The letter said that the gas affected his eyes. He was discharged at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

To Use Double-Decked Beds

Double-decked beds, ordered for St. John's School some time ago, recently arrived. These beds will be put in the cottages as they will take up only half the present floor space. Others probably will be set up on the first floor for the smaller cadets. The dormitory formerly used by eight small boys has been turned into an infirmary. This is used for light cases of sickness that do not necessitate the removal of the cadet to St. Barnabas Hospital, which is on the campus and about two blocks from Vail Hall.

Lose Game At Tescott

Over-confidence on the part of the cadets caused them to lose a basketball game when they were defeated at Tescott 26 to 24. In a previous game they had defeated Tescott. At the end of the first half the score was 13 to 13. In the second half the cadets led off and soon had the score 24 to 16 in their favor. With about five minutes to play, the score was tied. Shortly before the final whistle, Tescott made another basket which won the game for them.

School Installs Laundry

St. John's School is now operating a laundry of its own. Equipment for the laundry was bought through the Salina Light, Power and Gas Company and was recently installed by a representative of that company. The machines are run by electricity. Some of the larger pieces will still be sent down town but most of work for the cadets will now be done at the school. Laundry is now collected on each floor under the supervision of the cadet floor officer who is responsible for the correct marking and listing of each piece.

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Soldier Tells of War-Time Party in France

Mrs. Maurice Hicklin recently received a letter from her brother, Corp. Arthur C. Jones, who is in France, saying that he had visited what he termed "the Crown Prince's tunnel" a short time ago. The letter, in part, follows:

"Wednesday I took a trip to Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304 out in No Man's land near here. I do not see how anybody could have lived on those hills. Every inch is shell-torn.

"I also went through the Crown Prince's tunnel. It is quite an affair and shows the thoroughness of the German in every detail. It even has an electric light plant."

Corporal Jones also told of attending a dance at Verdun where there were more than a hundred soldiers and only twelve nurses. In order to even up things, they had a novel plan for the dances. Needless to say, no girl sat out a dance.

"There were more than a hundred men and twelve girls. Each man was given one of the four letters, a "Y", an "M", a "C" or an "A." A Y. M. C. A. man would hold up one of these letters. When he blew his whistle, the men with that letter made a wild dash for the girls."

Cadet's Uncle Red Cross Major

The following is taken from a Salina paper: "The Salina friends of Leslie Gray will be glad to learn that he has been made commander of the western zone in France with the rank in the Red Cross organization of Major. There are only four majors in the Red Cross outside of Paris, the highest officer being lieutenant colonel." Major Leslie Gray who formerly lived in Salina, is an uncle of Cadet Leslie Gray of St. John's School.

Visits Home in Sylvia

Cadet Vernon Lang of Company A and Cadet Clarence Wagner of the Cadet Band visited at their home in Sylvia, Kansas, last week.

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