

# The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. II.

FEBRUARY 10, 1919

No. 5.

## ASK TO BE KILLED

### STUDENTS, WITHOUT READING, SIGN A PETITION

Acting on the theory that people will sign practically any sort of a petition without reading it carefully, if the introduction of the petition sounds all right, A. G. Oliver, senior captain of the cadet corps at St. John's Military School, recently circulated a petition calling for the decapitation of those signing. He obtained fifty signatures.

He would have gotten more signatures if there had been time. In the petition the words "HOLIDAY" and "TUESDAY, FEBRUARY FOURTH" were typewritten in capitals and stood out from the rest of the petition. These were the words that did the work.

A dance was given at the school that night. During an intermission the names of the signers were called out and the cadets were told to form a line in the center of the dancing floor. After they had done this, the petition was read to the amusement of the guests and the consternation of the cadets. The signers then, for the first time, discovered what they had signed.

Cadet G. K. Harris stood in line without having signed the petition. When the names were being called out, thinking he was going to miss a holiday, he stood anxiously nearby. Sergeant Stanley Skilling noticed his agitation, and whispered, "Slip in line, they'll not notice that your name wasn't called." Harris obeyed cheerfully and stood in line at attention with the rest. The petition follows:

"St. John's Military School, Salina, Kansas, Feb. 3, 1919.

### TO THE FACULTY OF ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby respectfully submit the following petition:

"That in view of the fact that the cadet corps has been unusually conscientious in the performance of its

duties and obligations and that the school spirit heretofore displayed has been a great credit to the institution, and since the officers have been very punctilious in the performance of their duties to the great assistance and relief of the faculty,

"Be it hereby respectfully petitioned that if

### A HOLIDAY

be considered on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY FOURTH the faculty postpone the same indefinitely as an unworthy reward for the above-mentioned excellencies and virtues.

"As a more fitting recognition of our achievements, we beg that something be granted which will not soon be forgotten. On the date aforementioned, we request that we, the undersigned, be conducted to the rear of the gymnasium and be there noisily decapitated.

"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, kite strings, photographs, marbles, shinney clubs, pennants, paper aeroplanes and chewing gum we dedicate to the school, (Continued on Page Six)

### Former Artilleryman on Faculty

St. John's now has former artilleryman on its faculty. Raymond R. Shideler of Battery F, 28th Field Artillery, is now teaching bookkeeping and other commercial branches.

Mr. Shideler is an experienced teacher, having taught several years in the Kansas public schools before going into the army. He was in the Tenth Division six months, stationed at Camp Funston and was mustered out last month. He is now living at 327 North Ninth Street, Salina. His home is in Silver Lake, Kansas.

### Mrs. W. L. Ganssle Returns

Mrs. W. L. Ganssle recently returned from a five-weeks' stay in Racine, Wisconsin, where she was visiting her mother, Mrs. L. F. Pierce and her brothers.

## CADETS GIVE DANCE

### GUESTS FROM TOWN ENJOY SCHOOL HOSPITALITY

St. John's gave its first dance of the school year last Monday night in the gymnasium. The cadet corps and about one hundred guests from town danced from 8:30 to 11:30. No dances were held before Christmas on account of the influenza epidemic.

Guests were met at the entrance of Vail Hall by Cadet Lloyd Umstot, who had charge of their reception. After removing wraps, they were taken to the gymnasium by Cadets Edwards, Hyde J. and Ritterbush. Here members of the faculty were in the receiving line.

After the arrival of all guests, the evening began with a grand march. Refreshments were served at 10:30 o'clock and during this intermission the cadets who had signed the petition supposedly asking for a holiday were called out to stand in line and hear what they had really asked for.

Rows of pennants hung from wires strung diagonally across the gymnasium and streamers over the windows furnished attractive decorations. The high ceiling lights were festooned with crepe paper. A special light at the east end of the hall, with the S. J. M. S. monogram furnished light for several moonlight dances.

Credit for the decorating goes to Frank Blaney of Sapulpa, Okla., first sergeant of Company B, who not only designed the scheme but did most of the work of placing the decorations.

The next social event will be a Valentine dance.

### Mid-Year Exams Last Week

Final examinations in half-year subjects and the regular monthly quizzes in the all-year studies were held Wednesday and Thursday of last week. As soon as the grades have been averaged, the standing of the cadets, based on their work since the holidays, will be published.

## GIVES NEW TABLE RULES

## Unsigned Letter to Skirmisher Suggests Changes In Customs

From time to time THE SKIRMISHER receives suggestions and communications for publication. From time to time this paper has published such communications, provided the communications are signed and the suggestions made with a view of adding to the value and pleasure of school life. The following communication was anonymous. Contrary to its usual custom, THE SKIRMISHER prints it, hoping the author may be discovered and given----what he deserves. The communication follows:

St. John's Military School, Salina, Kansas, Feb. 9, 1919.  
Special Order No. 1313 1/2.

1. The following rules shall hereafter govern the conduct of the cadet corps while in the mess-hall.

2. On entering the hall, cadets will make a wild dash and get places at the tables the quickest way possible, being careful to trample the younger cadets underfoot. (If you are lucky enough to get a seat, sit down immediately or you are likely to lose it to some older cadet.)

3. At the table, cadets will sit as much on their neck as possible. They will unfold the napkins and proceed shine their shoes. The butter will serve as a temporary polish. After this, all will play "S. J. M. S. Forever" with the knives, forks, spoons and napkin rings. Slouching or leaning on the elbows is required.

4. In dinking tea or coffee, the cadets will not remove their spoons from the cups, as they serve as ballast.

5. The knife must be used to convey food to the mouth. (Square beans and peas will be furnished expressly for this purpose).

6. Soup may be gargled or siphoned, but yodelling is prohibited.

7. Portions of food placed in the mouth should be large enough to cause choking. Open mouth wide when masticating.

8. Cadet will drape knives and forks gracefully over the side of plates when passing up for a second helping.

9. Every one is required to "cuss" the waiter at every meal.

10. Talking between tables, especially those on opposite sides of the mess-hall is encouraged, as it brings out the home atmosphere.

11. No food is to be taken from

tables except on blouses, shirts or ties.

12. Not more than one loaf of bread or one box of crackers is to be broken into soup at one time.

13. Food or dishes must not be passed across tables. They should be thrown.

14. Proper English is prohibited at the tables. A book of slang may be obtained from the undersigned.

This order will go into effect immediately.

By order of  
I. BALLEM OUTT.

## AVIATOR FOR ST. JOHN'S

## Lieut. Edward Morgenstern to Return as Instructor

St. John's is to have an officer from the flying corps of the army on its faculty for Lieutenant Edward Morgenstern of Salina, Kansas, is to resume his duties as instructor at St. John's School. Captain Lue E. Fiero, former instructor who had planned to be here at the opening of the second semester has written that he will be unable to return before several months, owing to the illness of his mother. He is at present in Minneapolis, Minn.

Lieutenant Morgenstern was recently discharged from the army. He held his commission in the aviation section. He has agreed to act as pilot and instructor----if the school or any of the cadets decide to buy an aeroplane.

Lieutenant Morgenstern taught mathematics at St. John's last year, leaving in March to enter the army. He went to the ground school for training aviators at Berkeley, Calif. From there he was transferred to San Diego, Calif. He received his commission last fall.

## LT. JOHNSON HEADS JUNIORS

## Newly-elected Fifth-form President is From Salina

Lieutenant Bruce Johnson of Salina, Kansas, was elected president of the juniors at a recent meeting of that class. Sergeant Henry Perry of Hutchinson, Kansas, was elected secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Grace Ganssle Plank, sister of Major W. L. Ganssle, head of the school, was requested to act as faculty adviser.

Lieutenant Johnson named Cadets Bruce Davis, Belmont Rising and Howard Hayden as a social committee. These, with Lieutenant Johnson, will arrange with the seniors for a junior-senior prom.

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## LOSE FOUR STRAIGHT GAMES

## St. John's Basketball Team Has Unsuccessful Trip

The St. John's basketball team lost four hard-fought games to three fast teams last week. The victors were the high school fives of Ellsworth, Russell and Solomon, two games being played with Ellsworth and one with each of the others. The scores were: Ellsworth 40, Cadets 23, in first game; Ellsworth 64, Cadets 11 in second game at Ellsworth. Russell 18, Cadets 15, at Russell. Solomon 48, Cadets 33, at Solomon. The games in detail follow.

## Ellsworth Wins First

In their first game with St. John's on the St. John's court, Ellsworth gave the cadets their first defeat of the season by the score of 40 to 23. The feature of the game was the teamwork of the high school boys and their accurate basket-shooting. Kyle, Gamber and Grothusen made all of Ellsworth's points. Skilling for St. John's made 15 of his team's 23.

The high school five scored first and held the lead throughout, although for the first quarter St. John's was close behind them. In the second quarter Ellsworth got down to business and made 18 points to the cadets' 6, the half ending 26 to 12 in favor of the visitors.

The cadets did much better in the second half, making 11 points and holding Ellsworth down to 14. The lineup:

Ellsworth	Pos.	St. John's
Gamber	F	Aitken
Kyle	F	Skilling
Grothusen	C	Muir
	C	Stubbs
Ambrust	G	Oliver
Durr	G	Umstot
Keeley	G	Davis
	G	Johnson

Baskets: Grothusen 7; Gamber 6; Kyle 8; Skilling 4; Aitken 2; Muir 1; Davis 1. Free throws: Skilling 7 out of 10; Kyle 8 out of 16. Personal fouls: Oliver 2; Davis 1; Stubbs 1; Skilling 1; Technical fouls: Stubbs 5; Aitken 4; Kyle 3; Gamber 2; Ambrust 2; Durr 2; Grothusen 1; Muir 1; Skilling 1.

## Cadets Lose Return Match

The return game between Ellsworth and the cadets played on the high

school team's court was a walk-over for the town boys, to the tune of 64 to 11. Ellsworth started scoring from the beginning and made 31 points in the first half, while the cadets made only two free throws.

St. John's seemed unable to get together and did not put up the game they had in the first game with the same opponents. The line-up.

Ellsworth	Pos.	St. John's
Kyle	F	Skilling
Gamber	F	Aitken
Keeley	F	Davis
Grothusen	C	Muir
	C	Buchanan
Durr	G	Oliver
Starly	G	
Ambrust	G	Wyber
	G	Johnson

Baskets: Kyle 9; Gamber 6; Grothusen 6; Keeley 6; Ambrust 3; Skilling 3; Davis 1. Free throws: Skilling 3; Kyle 3; Grothusen 1. Technical fouls: Skilling 2; Aitken 1; Buchanan 1; Grothusen 1. Personal fouls: Kyle 2; Grothusen 2; Oliver 2; Aitken 1; Keeley 1; Ambrust 1.

## Defeated in Third Game

Expecting to redeem their defeat at the hands of Ellsworth by a victory over Russell the following night, the St. John's cadets found themselves losers by the score of 18 to 15 when the final whistle blew. Boyd, Upkyke and Preston did the scoring for Russell while Skilling made all the points for St. John's.

At the beginning of the game, the ball went from one end of the court to the other, neither team scoring for some time. Russell was the first to make a basket. At the end of the first half the high school boys were leading 12 to 7.

Russell started out well again in the second half and with but five minutes to play the score was 16 to 9 in their favor. Here the cadets braced up and made three goals but were unable to overcome the high school's lead. Wyber, who had done good work for the cadets the night before, was unable to get into this game because of an injured hand. The line-up:

Russell	Pos.	St. John's
Preston	F	Skilling
Updyke	F	Aitken
	F	Davis
Boyd	C	Buchanan
	C	Muir
Small	G	Oliver
Hines	G	Johnson

(Continued on Page Five)

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From S. J. M. S. Dictionary: Bullring. A short lane that is all turns.



# The Skirmisher

Published Bi-Monthly by the Cadets of  
St. John's Military School,  
Salina, Kansas.

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The coming of national prohibition  
is provoking a lot of dry wit.

"Rich Man's Son Kidnapped." Head-  
line. An heir raid, so to speak.

"Find Rare Birds In Louisiana."  
Headline. But why go to Louisiana?

A New Yorker named Stich has  
made a new speed record for short-  
hand. A Stich in fast-time, as it  
were.

An officer at Fort Sill gets his mail  
by air—while the rest of us must be  
content to fill ours with the same,  
heated.

A city paper gives a recipe for  
what it calls a "one-dish meal" but  
that's nothing new to a guy what's  
stood in line with his mess-kit.

Fred Hohenzollern, oldest son of  
Will Hohenzollern, is suing his wife  
for divorce. Will's youngest boy is  
reported to have taken a job with an  
automobile house. Will has had more  
or less trouble with his sons for some  
time.

## Cadet Basketeers Go To Dance

The rigid system of "keeping in  
training" that an athlete undergoes  
has its compensations at times when  
the men are allowed to "break over"  
for a little while. Members of the  
St. John's Military School basketball  
team were entertained at dances at  
both Ellsworth and Russell after their  
games at those towns last week.  
Those who made the trip with Coach  
Cannon were: Capt. A. G. Oliver,  
Lieutenant Ralph Muir, Lieutenant  
Bruce Johnson, Lieutenant D. W. Bu-  
chanan, Sergeants Robert Wyber and  
Stanley Skilling, Corporal Bruce  
Davis and Cadets Dayle Aitken and  
Lloyd Umstot.

## Cadet McNair's Parents Here

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. McNair of Ly-  
ons, Kansas, visited their son Cadet  
John McNair recently. Mr. and Mrs.  
McNair were on their way to Kansas  
City.

## HEARS FROM FRENCH ORPHAN

### Letter Is Published So That All May Read

The following letter, in thanks for  
a remittance in aid of a French or-  
phan, has been received by Mrs. W.  
L. Ganssle, wife of Major W. L.  
Ganssle, superintendent of St. John's  
School. The letter follows as written:

Port de Laune, ce 28 Decembre, 1918.  
Chere bienfaitrice:

Je viens de recevoir un mandat  
de 65 francs de votre generosite. Je  
vous en remercie de tout mon coeur.  
Ca m'aidera a nourrir et a entretenir  
la petite qui me donne beaucoup de  
plaisir. Elle apprend bien a l'ecole, je  
crois qu'elle sera capable bientot de  
remercier elle-meme sa chere bien-  
faitrice.

Avec mes remerciements, recevez  
chere Madame mes respectueuses salu-  
tations.

Vve. Pention a Port de Laune  
Canton de Geyrehorade,  
Landes.

### Asks After "The Bull Ring"

That "it seemed good to get THE  
SKIRMISHER and read what was  
happening at the school" was the  
message in a recent letter from John  
Fields of Liberal, Kansas, received  
by Major W. L. Ganssle, superinten-  
dent. Fields was in school at St.  
John's last year. He said that he  
would be back next fall "in time for  
football." He asked, also, whether  
"the old bull-ring" was lonesome.  
(Editor's note: The old "bull-ring"  
has a few devoted friends this year  
that do their best to allay its sorrow  
for the departed ones who used to  
take their outings there.)

### Praise For Our Want-Ads

Cadet B. K. Johnson has given us  
another instance of the value of our  
want-ads. It will be remembered by  
SKIRMISHER readers that Cadet  
Johnson inserted an ad in the last is-  
sue to sell a half-pair of shoes. With-  
in a few minutes after the issue was  
out, Cadet Cramm had bought the  
shoe. It is presumed Cramm bought  
the shoe to speculate, as he himself  
has two legs.

### Cadet Johnson's Mother Here

Mrs. C. M. Johnson of Miltonvale,  
Kansas, spent a few days here recent-  
ly visiting her son Cadet B. K. John-  
son.

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**LOSE FOUR STRAIGHT GAMES**  
(Continued from Page Three)

Baskets: Updyke 3; Boyd 2; Preston 2; Skilling 5. Free throws: Updyke 3; Preston 1; Skilling 5. Technical fouls: Hines 2; Updyke 1; Skilling 1; Johnson 1; Davis 1. Personal fouls: Preston 2; Boyd 2; Small 1; Davis 2; Buchanan 1; Johnson 1.

**Lose Solomon Game**

Solomon High School basketball team defeated St. John's Military School 48 to 33 in the game at Solomon. With but five minutes to play in the first half and with the score 26 to 7 in favor of the Solomon, the cadets braced up and made six straight baskets. In the second half Solomon, however, made 22 points to 14 for the cadets, ending the game 48 to 33. The line-up:

Solomon	Pos.	St. John's
Scott	F.	Skilling
Kenison	F.	Aitken
DeNio	C.	Muir
Rasher	G.	Oliver
Butcher	G.	Davis

Baskets: Scott 13; Kenison 4; DeNio 3; Butcher 2; Skilling 10; Muir 2; Davis 3. Free throws: Scott 4; Skilling 3. Technical fouls: Scott 3; Kenison 1; DeNio 1; Skilling 1; Aitken 3; Muir 1; Davis 3. Personal fouls: Scott 1; DeNio 1; Muir 1; Oliver 1.

**LYDA NOW IN NEW JERSEY**

Former Student, Sergeant of Infantry, on Special Duty

W. P. Lyda, former student, has written Major W. L. Ganssle for news of the school. He is now at a camp at Cresskill, New Jersey and is only a short ride from New York City. Lyda, for a time, was in the Medical Corps and stationed at Fort Riley.

His organization was sent to a port of embarkation some months ago but he was among several picked for special duty at the camp. He transferred from the Medical Corps to the Infantry and was appointed sergeant. He is one of a group of two lieutenants and six sergeants stationed permanently at the camp to look after soldiers going through. His home is in Great Bend, Kansas.

Two girls at a Missouri girls' boarding school received telegraphic proposals. Now let's see—who was it called up the telegraph office from St. John's?

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### ASK TO BE KILLED (Continued from Page One)

hoping thereby to preserve the memory of otherwise useless lives.

"ALL OF WHICH WE HUMBLY PETITION."

Signed:

1st Lt. R. A. Muir.  
Corp. Bruce V. Davis.  
Cecil Cleveland.  
Bellmont Rising.  
Billy Breene.  
C. N. Fluke.  
R. T. Haley.  
C. L. Lippincott.  
W. D. Faurot.  
J. Hall.  
B. T. Robinson.  
G. Hart.  
B. H. Newland.  
B. K. Johnson.  
R. McNall.  
G. E. Mummah.  
T. Smith.  
G. Hepworth.  
H. Hayden.  
Alan Conner.  
H. Fulwider.  
M. D. Swerdfeger.  
John Blankinship.  
Paul Gardner.  
Lionel P. Shaw.  
R. Hamm.  
J. Harris.  
W. D. Aitken.  
R. Ammerman.  
L. Chambers.  
H. Allard.  
J. Hines.  
E. H. Stinson.  
R. E. Edwards.  
N. B. Goffe.  
Paul F. Ordning.  
T. Skaggs.  
D. Walters.  
J. Schlesinger.  
J. Coyte.  
D. Bland.  
H. D. Mitchell.  
G. B. Sturtz.  
C. F. Wagner.  
N. J. Allen.  
D. Strange.  
Don A. McLeod.  
L. S. Umstot.  
J. H. McNair.  
H. H. Shellenberger.

#### Mrs. Allard Visits Son

Mrs. Harriet W. Allard visited her son, Cadet Henry Allard, at the school here recently, while on her way from Pueblo, Colo., to Manhattan, Kansas. Mrs. Allard is with the Extension Division of the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan.

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**WANT-AD SECTION**

Wanted—Petitions to sign. Petitions signed at any time for anything; no questions asked. See me before asking others. R. Muir.

Wanted—Something to get in on, even if I haven't signed up for it. Lance-Corporal K. G. H.

Customers wanted—Having recently purchased the stock of shoe belonging to B. K. Johnson, I have set up business in my quarters on the third floor. Business hours after taps. Shoes for one-legged men only. R. Cramm.

Wanted—Advice on curing my lame foot. It is all right after school hours but gets exceedingly lame every morning about drill time. Corporal B. V. D.

Wanted—A lawyer to take my case. Have just cause for action for alienation of affection against a certain lance-corporal in B Company. See Bleeding Hart.

Notice—Cadets are requested to refrain from putting desks, pennants, chairs and other inflammable materials in their memory books. St. John's School.

Free—My booklet on how to eat six helpings of beans and stay well. Abie O.

Musical—'Cello lessons. See me for terms. Sergeant Dodge.

Wanted—A bass drummer, must be able to keep time in all sorts of weather and play in any key. Read at sight and transpose all standard band music. Must be willing to practice after taps. Apply by letter to Sergeant Dodge, care of the band, giving age, weight, height and biceps measurements. All photos will be returned.

Matches wanted—The last two squads of B Company desire to meet a similar number of cadets of equal weight in a "stand-at-attention" contest. Roy Edwards and Pug Pattison, managers.

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Wanted—Suggestions for dance decorations. See F. B.

Wanted—A Hart specialist. See Lion G. H.

Wanted—A fire extinguisher. Tanner & Umstot.

Wanted—Room-mate; must be good at making beds and sweeping. See H. H. Hayden.

Wanted—A substantial chair. L. B., care of band.

For Sale—One box .22 cartridges; box broken; so am I. Terms cash. Address C. F. W., Care of "Trombone Section, S. J. M. S. Band."

Wanted—Crumb tray; large one preferred. A. T. Conner.

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