

# The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. III.

JULY 25, 1920

No. 10.

## BEAR FOR MASCOT

### CUB WILL ACCOMPANY TEAMS THIS FALL

"Isis, infant bear and prodigy of the Isis Patrol of the Shriners, has lost his happy home in Salina. He was railroaded recently to St. John's School where he is to receive training with the rest of the youngsters at that institution.

His lessons will be mostly along lines of physical instruction and some of the coarser arts probably, and his training will be given him by Major Ganssle.

Isis is the bear which the members of Isis Shrine brought back with them from Portland." From the Salina Evening Journal of July 15.

St. John's football team will have a worthy mascot this fall, as the foregoing news item from the Salina Journal shows. When the Salina Shriners were out in Idaho, on their way back from Portland, two members bought a small brown bear. It was finally decided that the bear should be kept at St. John's School and he has been here for several weeks.

Young as the bear is, he handles his paws like a professional boxer—except that he violates the rules occasionally by nipping with his teeth. He has already taken on several neighborhood dogs,—and every cadet here in summer school.

The bear is kept chained during the day, not for fear that he will run away but to keep him out of the various rooms and offices. He likes nothing better than to get in the barracks and race from room to room with some one after him. After supper each evening he is turned loose for a time and he then takes a hand in most any game the summer students happen to be playing.

### Ready a Bookkeeper

Richard Ready has been working as a bookkeeper with a contracting firm. The contractors are putting in a hard-surfaced road near Ready's home.

## NELSON SENDS FIRST LETTER

### Lower School Boy To Take Long Auto Trip

The first letter received by THE SKIRMISHER in answer to the queries sent out was from George W. Nelson, Jr., a lower-school boy last year. As it was the first letter received, it will be printed in full. Owing to space limitations, the other letters will have to be summarized. His letter follows:

"I received your letter today and was glad to hear from you. I have often thought of you and wondered what was going on out there and if it wasn't rather sleepy since the noise had gone.

"I am going to tell you a little about myself. First of all, I am the best craw-dad fisherman in the state and enjoy the sport very much.

"The street in front of our house is smooth and dandy for roller-skating and we kids have a good time playing 'shinney.'

"Saturday the 10th we start on a camping trip, going from here to Colorado Springs, Denver, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, Portland and Seattle. Then down the coast to Frisco and Los Angeles. We expect to be on the road from four to six weeks. There will be four cars in our party and sixteen people (9 kids) and we expect to have the time of our young lives.

"We celebrated the Fourth of July yesterday and I had a great time shooting fire crackers, Roman candles, etc. and eating ice-cream and chicken (Oh boy!). I wish the Fourth would come every other day."

Shortly after the foregoing letter was received by THE SKIRMISHER, Nelson came through Salina with his father and mother in their car and they made a brief visit at the school.

### Lippincott Working in Denver

Lippincott has been working in the receiving department at Hendrie and Botthoff's in Denver since school was out. He said he had seen Jackson, McDonald, Hill and Kemp.

## SUMMER SCHOOL ON

### ST. JOHN'S HOLDING EIGHT-WEEKS SESSION

For the first time in its history, St. John's has conducted a summer school. Each summer heretofore, several boys have remained after the regular session to make up work with some instructor, or to do advanced work for the next year. This year it was decided to have a regular summer school course of eight weeks.

The session opened June 8th and will close August 2. The work is confined entirely to grade schools classes, no high-school subjects being offered. Study hall and all classes are held in the morning.

In the afternoon there is an hour's drill, followed by athletics of various sorts—baseball one day, volley ball another, basketball another, swimming parties at the Y. M. C. A. pool. There is no evening study hall. Call to quarters goes at 8:30 with tattoo at 9:15 and taps at 9:30. First call, by the way, does not go until 7 a. m., with breakfast at 7:30.

The summer students were in camp June 6 to June 14, at Bob Whites, the regular camping place. At the last minute they were unable to get a cook and Captain Shideler, assisted by one or two of the cadets, did the cooking. However, as all the boys were very anxious to stay longer when the order came to break camp, it is assumed that Captain Shideler made a very able substitute cook.

### Attend Fare-Well Dinner

Captain R. R. Shideler and Captain S. W. Small of St. John's attended the farewell dinner given recently at the Y. M. C. A. for Mr. R. D. Palmer, physical director of the local Y. M. C. A. Mr. Palmer is leaving Salina and will be physical director at the Y. M. C. A. at Topeka. He is well-known to the St. John's Cadets, as he acted as referee in the majority of the basketball games played by the Cadets this year and last.

### Is Near War Zone

A recent letter that Captain S. W. Small has received from his mother who is in Red Cross work in Beirut, Syria, shows that she is living very near to where actual war condition exist.

She told of being one of a party of Red Cross people to meet a train-load of Armenian refugees who were coming from Amtab not far from there. The Turks, at that time, were bombarding the city, which was filled principally with Armenian women and children. Moslem marauding bands were frequently making raids and carrying off cattle. The French, she added, seemed powerless to do anything, although French soldiers have been sent at times to protect the Armenians.

She also told of taking four Armenian girls and a boy down to a seaport, from where they would sail for America. The fact that there were still five of one family who had escaped massacre was considered remarkable.

### Youngsters Sound Reveille

Major and Mrs. J. L. Wier got up very early the morning they left Salina to catch the Missouri Pacific to Hutchinson. Here they took the Santa Fe to California. After having made reveille throughout the year and getting up so early that Tuesday morning, Major Wier was counting on sleeping late his first morning on the Pullman. However fate had willed otherwise.

In a recent letter to Captain Hicklin he said that the car had a good sized detail of babies aboard; that the babies sounded reveille about 4 o'clock that morning; that they then "continued to play a march until everybody on board was awake."

### Robinson Working in Texas

Buell Robinson is now in Ranger, Texas, working with his father. Robinson visited with Bailey in Augusta several weeks immediately after the close of school. He saw the Rev. Frank R. Myers, chaplain of St. John's, when the latter was in Augusta in interest of the school.

### Hayden Working in Greeley

\*Hayden is now working in Greeley, having just returned from a vacation in the mountains, where he spent most of his time fishing. He had just seen John Hardman, who was on his way to the Yellowstone National Park.

### E. A. Thompson in San Antonio

Ernest A. Thompson, a cadet here from 1902 to 1906, is another St. John's boy who recently applied for a commission in the regular army. After leaving St. John's in 1906, Thompson enlisted in the army and served until 1911. At the outbreak of the war with Germany, he went back into the army, this time as a first lieutenant. He was promoted to the rank of captain while in France. While in St. John's Thompson made the highest scholastic average in 1903 and won the competitive drill medal in 1904. His address is the Portland Hotel, 112 West Pecan Street, San Antonio, Texas.

### Hart Hits High Hills

"This summer I have been hitting the high places" writes Walton Hart from Colorado Springs. That is, I have been taking tourists on the mountain drives, to Pike's Peak, the Cave of the Winds and any other lofty region they choose. So far we have met with no accidents, though we came pretty near having one when a new driver went up a road he should have used to come down."

He said that Vincent Kepp had been down from Denver twice and that he saw Kenneth Harris when the latter was driving through. Kermit Graybill was in Manitou when Hart wrote.

### Fleming is in Canada.

Jay Choke Fleming is in Canada. He left Denver the last of June, going to Cambridge, Ohio. From there they went to Cleveland and traveled by boat to Buffalo, Toronto and Montreal. He is now at Gould Postoffice, Province of Quebec, Canada. This is a small town about a hundred miles west of Montreal and is eight miles from a railroad. He said he was going to work for his cousin in a garage. Choke will be in Canada until the last of August.

### Cameron Cleaning Clothes

Morris Cameron has been working in a cleaning establishment this summer. He said he intended working there until the last few weeks of vacation, when he was going on a fishing trip.

B. K. Johnson, a St. John's cadet in 1918-19, paid a brief visit to the school recently, while driving through Salina on his way to his home in Miltonvale, Kansas.



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Blair Wilson '02, In Virginia

A letter was received a short time ago, from Blair Wilson, who graduated from St. John's in 1902, saying that he was planning to take the examinations for a commission in the regular army. His present address is 409 Botetourt St., Norfolk, Virginia.

**W. H. Allen to Return**

W. H. Allen, former instructor at St. John's Military School, will be on the faculty here this year. He will teach modern languages and act as secretary. He is at present at his home in Cardiff, South Wales, England.

Mr. Allen formerly taught at St. John's in 1911-12 and 1912-13. From St. John's he went to Stuyvesant School, Warrenton, Virginia, a private school for boys. He has also taught at a military school in New Jersey. After leaving St. John's Mr. Allen married Kathleen Bromby at Sheveport, La. She was the daughter of Mr. George Bromby who was organist at Christ Cathedral when Mr. Allen was connected with St. John's.

**Names His Dog "Duke"**

John Howell, lower school boy who made the highest general average of any cadet in school this year, writes that he has recently bought a Scotch Collie pup and named it Duke, after the famous St. John's mascot. He has heard from several other smaller boys, —Bailey and the Rushmers. Howell has been looking after the chickens—likewise the cows—at their ranch. On the Fourth of July he witnessed an old-fashioned "broncho-busting." He has also found time to learn the International signal code. He and his bro-

**Umstot Sees Buchanan**

Shortly after the close of school, Lloyd Umstot, 1920 graduate, went to West Virginia for a three-weeks' stay. On returning home he went to the harvest fields. He stopped over in Kansas City with D. W. Buchanan, 1919 grad. Buchanan is working for the Larabee Flour Mills there. Umstot learned that Alvin Stubbs, former St. John's boy, is now on a ranch in Colorado. He also saw another St. John's former cadet in Kansas City, "Red" Weinberg.

**John Bland Married**

Major W. L. Ganssle has received the announcement of the marriage of Miss Nelda Marguerite Murdoch to John C. Bland, former St. John's cadet. They will be at home at Oilton, Okla., after the first of September. Bland was here in 1917-18 and again in 1919. He won his letter on Major Wier's football team last fall.

**Benest Is Farming**

Benest is now farming near his home. For awhile he was one of the army of travelling harvesters. However, when he arrived in Oklahoma, he found so many men there he couldn't get work. "And of course I was broke" he added. Benest saw Parker in Enid, Oklahoma, and George Thompson in Wichita.

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# The Skirmisher

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## FACULTY ON VACATION TOO

### Several, However, Have Remained at the School

Some of the members of the St. John's faculty left shortly after school was out, on their vacations. Others remained at the school and will take their vacations later.

Major W. L. Ganssle, superintendent, Mrs. Ganssle and their little daughter, Catherine Joyce, have returned to St. John's and will live at the school this year. Last winter they lived in Salina. They are returning to the apartment they formerly occupied, the apartment that was occupied this past winter by Major and Mrs. Wier.

Major Ganssle went with the Shriners on their trip to Portland. He returned by way of Denver, spending some time there in interest of the school. He may go out in interest of St. John's later in the summer.

Major and Mrs. Wier left as soon as school was out for their home in California. They visited for awhile at the home of Mrs. Wier's mother in Los Angeles. They are now in San Diego. They will leave San Diego probably a month before school opens here. Major Wier probably will visit a number of places in Wyoming and Colorado, in interest of St. John's on their way back to Salina.

Captain Maurice Hicklin at present is at St. John's. He has been handling office work and looking after the advertising and inquiries. He and Mrs. Hicklin will go to Kansas City August 1.

Captain N. A. Barker is spending the summer at his home in Cambridge, Mass. Captain Barker left Salina shortly after the close of school, going earlier than usual as he wished to be in Cambridge in time to attend the reunion of his class at Harvard University.

Captain Lee V. Vernon is in Evanston, Ill., for the summer. Mr. Vernon will not return to St. John's this year. In a letter some time ago to Captain Hicklin, he said that he might go into the advertising business.

The Rev. Frank R. Myers is now in Colorado. Until a short time ago he

was traveling in Kansas in interest of St. John's.

Captain R. R. Shideler and Captain S. W. Small remained over to take charge of the summer school at St. John's. Captain Shideler is now near Estes Park, Colorado in summer school. Captain Small plans going north, for a stay at Racine, Wisconsin, and at Minneapolis.

### THE REV. MR. MYERS TO MARRY Bride-to-be Former Teacher In His Sunday School.

Miss Jesse E. Coryell of Carbondale, Colo., and the Rev. Frank R. Myers, chaplain and headmaster of St. John's Military School, will be married August 4 at St. Barnabas Church, Glenwood Springs, Colo., by the Rev. Edwin Johnson.

Mr. Myers was in charge of St. Paul's church a few years ago at Marble, Colorado and Miss Coryell taught in his Sunday School. She is a graduate of the Colorado State Teachers' College at Greeley, Colo. and has taught for three years, two years in Colorado and the past year in Idaho. She will handle lower school classes at St. John's this year.

They will be in Colorado until about the first of September.

### LEFT OUT? HERE'S "WHY"

#### Vacation Skirmisher Could Not Wait For More Letters

Letters were sent out some time ago to all cadets at St. John's this year asking that they write in what they have been doing so far this summer, and also tell of any St. John's Cadets they have seen or heard from. While it would be more interesting if it were possible to wait until more letters arrive, it is now necessary to draw the "dead line." To date word has been received from the following:

Morris Cameron, Donald Pattison, Walter Howell, John Howell, Vernon Benest, Jay Fleming, Walton Hart, C. L. Lippincott, Buell Robinson, George Webb, Howard Hayden, Stanley Skilling, R. M. Ready, Horace Winger, George Nelson, Gardiner Hart, Cecil Straub, Lloyd Umstot, Bruce Johnson, Belmont Rising, Frederick Frey, Andrew Wilson, Verne Ross, Ronald McDonald, James Bunnell, Howard Fulwider.

Miss Pauline Jones, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Maurice Hicklin at St. John's Military School, has returned to her home in Kansas City.

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**Football Prospects Good**

With seven first team men and a larger number of last year's second team football men already enrolled and with other players who have said they were returning but to date have not sent in their applications, Major Wier should have a good bunch here at the beginning of school this fall. He has already practically completed his schedule and has only two open dates left.

**Howell W., Calf-Breaker**

Walter Howell wrote July 13 that he had been in the harvest fields. He said that during their spare time—his and John's probably—they had been breaking calves to ride. "I got unloaded twice in succession off a two-year-old calf but it didn't hurt much." He had seen Richard Jones' father in Holly, shortly before writing.

**Pattison to Take Trip**

Donald Pattison has been taking a real vacation since school was out, and has had a number of auto trips. He said he had heard from Wood and that they wanted to room together again next year. They expect to drive to Wisconsin about the middle of August.

Mrs. R. R. Shideler, wife of Captain Shideler of St. John's School, is visiting at her former home at Silver Lake, near Topeka.

**Fulwider Runs a Tractor**

For the first three weeks that Howard Fulwider was at home, he worked as time-keeper on a big building that was being erected there. However, there wasn't enough machinery to that job, so quit to run a large tractor. At present he is breaking sod twenty-two miles in the country and "feeling fine."

**Floyd Rose In Army**

Floyd H. Rose, who was a cadet in St. John's in 1908-9 is now a captain in the army. His address, as given in a letter of June 17, is: Captain Floyd H. Rose, care of Headquarters, Seventh Division, Camp Funston, Kansas.

**Straub a Potato-King**

Cecil Straub is working for his brother-in-law near Lenape, Kansas, looking after some 70 acres of potatoes. He says this is putting muscle on him, which he hopes to use in football this fall.

**Record Attendance Indicated**

Judging from the number of present enrollments, St. John's is going to have a record attendance this year. More applications have been received to date than during any previous year at this time.

**Andrew Wilson Farming**

Andrew Wilson has been busy on the farm since leaving school. He has been plowing corn, putting up alfalfa and harvesting. So far he has not seen any of the St. John's boys.

**Hart at Cheyenne**

Gardiner Hart was expecting to enter summer school at the School of Mines at Golden, Colorado, according to a letter written July 6. He said he had spent a good deal of his time with Kenneth Harris in Colorado.

**Ross in a Garage**

Verne Ross has been working in his father's garage so far this summer. He intends going to Colorado later. He has heard from Brewer and has seen Wilhite and Wagner several times.

**Burkett Drives Through**

Flavius Burkett of Topeka, former St. John's student, drove through Salina and stopped at the school for a little while recently. He was on his way to Denver.

**Carl Johnson Re-enters**

Carl Johnson of Salina, brother of Cadet Captain Bruce Johnson, has enrolled in St. John's for the coming year. Carl was in St. John's two years, 1917-18 and 1918-19. He expects to try out for the football team this fall.

**McDonald a Carpenter**

Ronald McDonald of Denver has been helping upbuild the nation this summer. He is working in his home town as a carpenter. McDonald spent last summer in Salina, working at the Lamer Hotel and also put in a "hitch" in the harvest fields.

Captain S. W. Small of St. John's was recently scorer at the trap-shoot held in Salina for junior boys and for women. In announcing the event, a local paper referred to it as "crap-shoot" but we have Captain Small's word for it that the spotted ponies did not run.

**United States Their Goal**

Although some authorities have predicted a shortage of foreign population in the United States because of our foreign-born citizens' returning home, evidently in one quarter of Asia Minor there are those who are looking longingly towards the United States.

"America is the goal to which all eyes are turned" was the statement in a letter recently received by Capt. S. W. Small from his mother who is in Red Cross at Beirut, Syria. She is connected with a school for Armenians and Syrians at Beirut. Many of the boys have friends or relatives already in the United States and they hope to join these just as soon as they can.

**Office Moved to Second Floor**

The main office at St. John's has been moved from the fourth floor or main study hall, to the second floor, near the main entrance of Vail Hall. The new location is really a return to the old location as this room was the office several years ago. Since then it has been referred to as the "old office." The change will be welcomed, no doubt, by visitors who will not have to climb to the fourth floor now. As the room is large, it will be subdivided to provide offices for Major W. L. Ganssle, superintendent, the commandant and the office manager.



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#### CAPTAIN SMALL ON LEAVE

**He Will Attend Kenyon College At Gambier, Ohio**

Captain S. W. Small, for three years assistant commandant at St. John's Military School, has been granted a year's leave of absence. He will attend Kenyon College at Gambier, Ohio, this coming school year, where he received a scholarship. Captain Small came to St. John's from Racine College at Racine, Wisconsin, where he had taken a prominent part in school activities and in athletics.

#### Capt. Shideler In Colorado

Capt. R. R. Shideler, who has been in Salina until the last few days handling summer school classes, has gone to Association Postoffice, near Estes Park, Colorado, for a ten-days' intensive course given for men who teach or train boys. The school is under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. and was open only to former service men. These men, limited in number, were picked for their special qualifications. In addition to his work at St. John's, Captain Shideler takes an active interest in boys' work in Salina. He is one of the local scout-masters. Captain Shideler will resume his duties at St. John's July 30.

#### Bunnell at Arkansas City

James Bunnell has been on a farm

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## ATTENDED DANCE AT TOPEKA

Twenty-One Cadets Guests of Senior  
Class of Bethany

Twenty-one Cadets of St. John's Military School, "chaperoned" by Major W. L. Ganssle, superintendent, attended a dance at Bethany College, Topeka, during commencement week. The St. John's Cadets were the guests of the girls of the senior class at Bethany. This was the only dance to which men were invited given at the college during the year. Bethany College is an Episcopal school for girls and was founded by Bishop Thomas, who also founded St. John's Military School.

The Cadets left Salina on the morning Union Pacific, arriving at Topeka that afternoon. During the afternoon they visited the state capitol and the state museum. They also looked up two old St. John's graduates now living in Topeka, Sheldon Wentworth, '03, and Floyd Flanagan, '15.

Dancing began at 8 o'clock that evening and the Cadets had sixteen dances on their programs. In the reception line were Miss Davis, principal of Bethany, members of the faculty and the president of the senior class. Refreshments were served during the dance.

After the dance, the Cadets went to the station, taking an early morning train back to Salina, arriving here at 8 o'clock that morning. The boys were delighted with their trip and the dance at the college. As one of them expressed it, "they had the best time they'd ever had." Those who attended the dance were: Major W. L. Ganssle, Cadets John Fleming, Clarence Wagner, Belmont Rising, Harold Brewer, Edward Sudendorf, McKinley Wood, Ronald McDonald, Melvin Jackson, George Martindale, Richard Ready, Waldron Sanders, Robert Kirkpatrick, Lawrence Bigelow, Howard Hayden, Frank Blaney, Lloyd Umstot, Elmer Hill, Vincent Kemp, Lydon Lippincott, Donald Pattison, Glenn Hepworth.

## Forgets to Check Suit-Case

The last few days of the present regular school term were busy ones for Cadets and instructors. Trunks were issued Sunday, May 30, and the cadet corp was busy packing that afternoon and night. To date, only one report has come of lost baggage—a suit case left at the station in Salina by a boy too eager to stop for such a mere technicality as checking.

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# St. John's Military School

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