



Hallettsville Boys Abroad

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

Time to take a break from the Spanish American War. I accidentally found the following article in a 1903 Hallettsville Herald newspaper and I wanted to share it with all of you. We will return to the volunteers in February 2025.

Hallettsville Boys Abroad

Hallettsville Herald November 12, 1903

The Herald man while in a reminiscent mood last week started in to make a record of the boys and young men who have left Hallettsville in the past two years to locate elsewhere and was astonished at the magnitude of the list. Its size seemed entirely out of proportion with the size of the town, yet when everything is considered it is nothing unusual.

Hallettsville is an old town, one of the oldest in Texas. It is of a solid, substantial nature and has grown only slightly in the past few years, being the proper size for support by the surrounding country. If it increased in population it would have to depend upon manufacturing and other industries for additional support. The town is without these and consequently the young men growing up here see very few chances, for with every position that opens there are a dozen or more applicants to fill it. Consequently the youngsters who have red blood flowing through their veins and are ambitious to get ahead in the world bid an affectionate good bye to the home folks and strike out for themselves, to survive and rise if their abilities are properly used and to sink if they bow too easily under the rebuffs of fate.

What is applicable to Hallettsville is applicable to every other old town in the state. The American boy of the present is too vigorous and enthusiastic to remain in one rut. He wants to move around, rub up against the world and enjoy the pleasure attached to supporting himself. It is a commendable spirit and the one that has made America the leading nation of the world and placed its citizens to the front in commercial ranks.

While moralizing on this subject it would not be inappropriate to give a list of the Hallettsville youngsters who have gone forth in the past two years to battle for themselves. They are as follows, together with where they are located and what they are doing:

In Houston are Frank Vrazel, salesman; Doc. Ponton, stenographer; Dave Finklestein, salesman; Guy Adams, book-keeper; Fred Kroschel, railroad clerk; Armand Kainer, stenographer; Charley Kainer, stenographer; Floyd Zumwalt, machine shops; Tom Cummings, commission merchant; Schillar Ballard, stenographer; Will Willis, newsboy between Houston and Palestine on I&G, N.; and Arthur and Cleve Price, occupations unknown.

*“Great minds are related to
the brief span of time
during which they live
as great buildings are to a
little square in which they
stand...”*

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In Yoakum are Henry Moehlmann, blacksmith; John Deborah, machine shops; Philip Howerton, ticket agent; and John Thomas with telephone company. Beaumont claims Speck Silber, railway bridge man; Bennett Searcy, with Beaumont Journal; Ike Speary, salesman; and Ferd Stanzel, bartender. John Hawkins is in the comptroller's office at Austin. Charley Miller is relief agent for the SAP, now stationed at Elmendorf. Herman Hollman and Emil Kreklau are in the U.S. Navel service, Hollman as hospital steward and Kreklau as coppersmith, and are both at present stationed in the Philippines.

Sam Schwartz is practicing law in San Antonio. Sam Silber is clerking in Lake Charles, LA. Max Kahn is in New Orleans in the Charity Hospital. Claude Easterling, time keeper on a rice plantation and Ernest Easterling with a surveying corps are both at Markham. Clay Lee is clerking in Eagle Lake. Joe Hemmi went to Mexico as stenographer in a railway office but has returned to Dallas to take an additional course in his studies. Adolph Lindenberg, barber, is also in Dallas. Walter Traxler is running a restaurant at Lane City. Oscar Farenthold is running a tin shop in Georgetown. August Speary is clerking in Runge and John Kuhn is in a Smithville drug store.

Temple is headquarters for Louie Samusch who is with the Santa Fe civil engineering corps. Pat Noble is on a Hill county farm. John Willrich, after traveling with a show, is now teaching music in Schulenburg. Will Zappe is bartending in Shiner. Hix Green is a U.S. artilleryman, stationed at Tampa, FL. Will Bonorden is working at the barber's trade in Moulton. Henry Senftenberg is in the Philippines. Floyd Easterling is residing in Floresville. Will Byrn is foreman of the Shiner Gazette. Arthur Wandel and Willie Moore are in Galveston, Arthur in the grocery business for himself, and Willie on the docks. Walter Carville works in a gin at El Campo. Lloyd Willis is out in Arizona working in the mines. Flem Houchins has gone to Miami, I.T. as traveling collector for a barb wire concern and Billy McKinnon is working down at Bay City.

That's a good list. Perhaps there are others we have overlooked. But I indicates how the American boy, restless of spirit and energetic of nature, leaves home to cleave his way in the world.

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Hallettsville Herald November 19, 1903

The list of the Hallettsville boys who have left the old town within the past two years to carve out their own careers in the world which was published in our last issue, aroused considerable interest. The majority of our people knew that many of the boys were gone but estimated the number at about fifteen or twenty, whereas the list published contained fifty-two names. They were all single men and boys, no mention of the young married men who were away. And the list was a bit incomplete as the Herald has been informed of a few others whose names, place of location and business is appended: Sam Long, working in a San Antonio confectionary; Rudolph Stoeltje in the Sour Lake oil fields; Henry Janacek, bar keeper in Shiner; Fielding Putney, in an Eagle Lake grocery and Roe Willis, book-keeper in a Sugarland cane mill. And there many be others still we have overlooked.

