

## LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Bert Segur

Valair, Bohol, Sept. 20.

Dear Folks—You speak of your menagerie in your room, but you ought to see this place. Lizards, snakes, cockroaches, locusts and everything else. We came across a green snake the other day that looked exactly like a green branch. One fellow saw it swinging and didn't realize that it was a snake until he was within four feet of it and then he jumped about twenty. It was long and slim like the American garter snake and deadly poisonous. One of the Philippines killed it with his bolo. One lizard we have here looks just like a small alligator. There are bats here whose wings measure seven feet tip to tip. They look like an American eagle coming when you see them in the distance. We also have musical mosquitoes here in such numbers that we put special nets over our beds at night. Ants of all kinds are in great abundance. The queerest thing I ever saw was a bug one of the men found at Camp 6. It was thin like it had been pressed. Legs protruded from the sides. I wish I could show you how this country looks. We are on a plateau now about 950 feet above sea level. There are little knolls all around us one hundred to two hundred feet high.

As to the news, there I am the same as ever nothing doing. You spoke of your picnic. I guess I told you of my races on the Mongolia and how I got a Hawaiian coat of arms. Your story of letting an umbrella take you back puts me in mind of an experience we had here in coming up to Lombok from Loay to commence our survey. There is a tidal stream comes up there. The current is very swift, when the tide goes down. We loaded our stuff and our rodmen into two boats and told a couple of natives to row them up the river, expecting of course, that our men would help. We started the boats at 6:00 and started to walk at 8:00. We got there at 9:00 went over to see the presidents and found an American school teacher, who had us come to his boarding place to eat. We loaned him our Chinese cook with the instructions to get some of our stuff as soon as it came and get a good dinner. 11:00 came and no banchos. We got uneasy and

gave the cook some money to buy supplies. It was three o'clock before the boats got there and then we saw what was the matter. In one boat heavily loaded all the rodmen sat down and were letting the tow do all the rowing and the other boat had hoisted the sail and expected a light wind to blow them against an outgoing tide. They had gone two miles in nine hours.

I wish sometimes that I could get back for Sunday for a good time there and get out of this cussing mess, but the salary and the work are extremely interesting. I went to church this morning and saw their method of service. The women here all have to wear a white crimping. The women sit on the floor, the men sit in seats. The women enter the church at the side, the men enter at the front. The churchgoers here are out of all proportion to the size of the town. We are living here at Valair in a portion of the church. The entire party is in the church, with the comforts of life for all and still we do not use any where near the entire house. At Lombok we lived in the padre's house, tomorrow we go to Carmena and I don't know what we will strike there, probably our tents, as we're supposed to strike all of the time.

I forgot to tell you about the locusts here. Yesterday our line went through a place that was rice as far as you could see either way. I saw what I thought was leaves flying although I haven't seen any leaves fall here. Then they got thicker and thicker, as thick as a heavy snow. I asked the rodman what they were and he informed me that they were rice locusts or grasshoppers. We have the rainy season now. It rains every day, commencing generally at 12:00 to 2:00 and lasting indefinitely. The other day one of the laborers on the transitman's party wanted to light his pipe. He got a piece of dead bamboo and split it. He rubbed the split place with another piece of bamboo and soon had a little stack of smoking sawdust, which he put in his pipe. I'll never be out of fire now. The women here are very poor at arithmetic. They bring mangoes to the camp to sell. Offer them \$1.20 a dozen for them and they

won't take it. They must have \$1.50, but they will sell for 10¢ apiece. One of the fellows sent out a washing. The customary price for washing is 5¢ a piece. This woman sent the washing back saying she wanted 10¢. He had three large pieces and 6 small ones. He told the boy to take them to another woman and that he would give 6¢ a piece. He came back saying that the woman would wash the small pieces for 5¢ and the big ones for 8¢. He let her do the washing.

This is all I think of now. Save these letters. I am trying to make my letters and pictures make a description of what I have seen of the world. So long, BERT.

### FRENCH TOWNSHIP ITEMS.

Revival services commenced at Winchester church Dec. 6. Rev. G. Freeman in charge; also other ministers. All invited.

Rev. Emma Smith, perhaps the youngest licensed minister in Indiana, but fifteen years of age, has returned home after assisting in a revival service at Jay City. She is not only an excellent minister for her age, but a good vocal soloist.

Mr. Jacob Isch is unable to go out riding since cold weather. Complete recovery for him is doubtful.

John Shan left on the Friday afternoon train, from Monroe enroute to Huntingdon.

A letter from Harry O. Grove and family of Texas, says fine weather. All well and enjoying themselves fairly well.

Mrs. Adolph Rinehart and babe are getting along fine.

Simon Smith was a business caller at Berne Saturday.

### BASE BALL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

The stockholders of the Decatur base ball association are hereby notified that a meeting will be held at the office of Galloway & Lower at 7:30 on Wednesday evening, December 9, for the purpose of arranging for the payment of several old debts against the said association. A movement is on to sell the property, and if this is not done it will be necessary to make an assessment against the stockholders. If you have an opinion on the matter, you should be present at this time to express same as some definite action must be taken at this time to avoid suits for collection of these accounts. Please be there if interested.

J. H. Heller, Pres.  
Fred Vaughn, Secy.

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**PUBLIC SALE**  
The undersigned will offer for sale at the Barnett farm, five miles southeast of Decatur and 2½ miles west of Pleasant Mills, beginning at 10 o'clock a. m., Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1908, the following personal property:

Horses—Fourteen head of horses, consisting of 5 brood mares, 1 brown mare 12 years old, 1 black mare, 11 years old, 1 grey mare, 11 years old, 1 grey mare 13 years old, 1 roan mare 8 years old with colt by side; 1 two-year-old roan gelding, 1 roan, 1 black, 1 gray and 1 bay geldings, each one year old, 3 spring colts, 1 grey horse colt, 2 bay horse colts.

Cattle—Five head of milch cows, all will be fresh soon.

Machinery—Two breaking plows, riding corn plow, double and single shovel plows, 1 Deering mower, 1 new Deere hay rake, 1 Ohio truck wagon with iron wheels, 2 buggies, 1 sleigh almost as good as new, 1 set sleigh bells, 1 set double work harness, 1 set single harness, 1 new comb fly shuttle carpet loom, about 4 dozen chickens, 5 guineas, cane molasses, apple butter, canned fruit and jellies, 25 shocks corn fodder, 1 milk tank, some can seed, cook stove, gasoline stove with three burners, Wilton heater, household goods and kitchen furniture and numerous other articles.

Terms of Sale—\$5.00 and under cash on day of sale; over \$5.00 a credit of nine months time will be given to purchaser who gives approved security or five per cent off for cash.

A. C. HOWER.  
LENHART BROS.

John Spuhler, Auct.  
T. J. Durkin, Clerk.

### PUBLIC SALE.

The undersigned will offer for sale at the A. J. Smith farm 2½ miles south of Decatur, Indiana, on the Monroe road, beginning at 10 o'clock a. m., Thursday, Dec. 10, 1908, the following personal property: Two horses—One gray mare 10 years old and 1 black mare 10 years old. Two cows—One brindle cow, will be fresh January 8, 1909, 1 red cow will be fresh July 25, 1909. Three brood sows—One will farrow in February and 1 in March; 9 head of shoats weighing about 75 pounds. Implements—One McCormick binder, 1 McCormick mower, 1 McCormick hay rake, 1 Rock Island hay loader, 1 two-horse corn cultivator, 1 breaking plow, 1 double shovel plow, 1 iron frame spike tooth harrow, 1 wood frame spring tooth harrow, 1 spading disc

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## Will Conrad

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