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Red Cross Agent of Mercy

The prestige of the American Red Cross has broadened its scope as an organization of mercy from the ending of World War I until now it has touched or will touch the lives of a great number of people, as civilians or as servicemen or servicewomen. It has brought comfort and aid to millions of people when help was needed. The Red Cross is dependent on the generosity of the public during the annual roll call. Its service cannot be greater than the funds allotted to it.

At home the Red Cross has played an important part when disaster struck a family or an individual. It has fed and clothed the homeless and in many cases the Red Cross has helped to put an unfortunate family back to a point where the family was able to lead a normal life. When disaster strikes in the form of a tornado or flood, the Red Cross is the first to reach the scene of disaster with supplies to tide the needy over and even in the landslide of Astoria, the Red Cross is still aiding in the rehabilitation of families in establishing new homes. The Red Cross has aided the unfortunate here and according to the records of the Lane county chapter, has spent more in the area than it has taken in.

The role of the Red Cross is doubly appreciated by some servicemen and their families for this organization has maintained a liaison between many soldiers and their families. Thru efforts of the Red Cross, the missing servicemen have been located, in other instances the Red Cross has served as the contact agency between the serviceman and his family, a contact not often possible. As in the case of the civilian, the soldier is often fed and cared for by the Red Cross, which has supplied needed blood plasma to the army hospitals.

Yes, the Red Cross has established a place in the minds and hearts of the American people, no other agency, no matter how great, can fill it. It is truly and angel of mercy.

Weather Notes

"Spring is sprung, the grass is riz . . ." and the flowers have been here all winter! We walked down several Cottage Grove streets recently to re-acustom ourselves to the idea of stepping with no slush. It was fun. On one east side street we glanced down at the sidewalk and saw white chalk drawings made earlier by some younger citizens. They were drawings of houses and cars. Further down the block we walked right through a carefully drawn-out hopscotch pattern. Had we been younger we might have tried our skill at the age-old game.

Over on the west side we saw, among other spring sights, youngsters bouncing balls on the sidewalk and playing catch. And right out here in front of The Sentinel we watched one young fellow twirling a cane.

But all the hustle and bustle wasn't confined to the youthful set alone. All over the area garden activity ran wild as those of the "green thumb" set worked to ready their gardens. Many, who weren't gardening, were out fixing lawns, trimming trees, and examining flowers.

Yep, spring is sprung, despite some recent frosts, and even if it's raining when you read this, we think you'll agree with that statement. Tennis, anyone? (L.O.)

New Era for Your Dollar

That dollar of yours has taken a fearful beating, so far as purchasing power is concerned. But things are looking up, in the view of Sylvia Porter, a widely syndicated writer on business affairs.

In one of her late columns she said: "It's a new era for your dollar. For the third consecutive year, the dollar you are earning, saving, spending, borrowing, lending or investing is a 'stable' dollar. Its buying power no longer is being slashed by vicious inflation—soaring prices, increasingly shoddy goods, black markets. Your dollar is holding its own. It is buying better quality goods and greater variety of products. It is becoming more worthwhile to save because its value in the marketplace has steadied. At the same time, it is becoming more worthwhile to spend because it commands higher quality and variety of goods at stable prices."

We can see this situation in our retail stores today. Naturally, the dollar doesn't buy what it did in past times—current wages, taxes and other costs preclude that. But its value isn't going steadily downhill either. As Miss Porter also observed, " . . . it has regained respect and respectability." Let's all pray it keeps those characteristics.

Prayer Room

There is a good chance that Congress this year will approve a prayer room in the Capitol. Heretofore there has been no space for such a purpose, but last year Room P59, just off the House floor, became available.

When the inn is overcrowded even a stable may serve for the reception of a new influx of light in human consciousness, a new appearing of divinity in human affairs.

But in the bustling Capitol of a great and powerful nation it is fitting that a quiet room be set aside where overburdened legislators may turn to receive more of that divine light to guide them in the way that they should go.

—Christian Science Monitor

Speaking of mosquitoes we asked the county mosquito controller if it were true that only the female of the species had long bills and did all the stinging. He said yes and so far as it could be determined the stingerless male mosquito's sole purpose in life was to fertilize the female and after that he curls up and dies. Not unlike some other species we would say.

Now that you have gotten over the March 15 government operation you have a good chance to live another year. Oh well! In another month we can all go fishing.

They now have a brush for cleaning the tongue. Something which has been badly needed but will be seldom used.

A contemporary writes that a college education never hurts anyone willing to learn something afterwards.

He said he didn't see why he had to have a reason for divorce when he had none for getting married.

When it comes to diet, a word to the wise is usually sufficient.

Girls now wear lipstick which glows in the dark. They have to keep reminding us.

Letter From Washington

Administration Wins First Big Test

By Harris Ellsworth
Representative, Fourth District

Once again the republican members of the House of Representatives have demonstrated their unity behind the Eisenhower administration and the republican program. It was a narrow margin but by a vote of 210 to 204 we defeated a motion which would have more or less scuttled the big tax revision bill. I feel that this was the first really big test of administration strength in the house. Until quite recently the opposition has been doing considerable talking about their backing of Eisenhower. I believe some of them have even said that they were supporting the President's program better than the Republicans. That claim could, of course, stand in the absence of proof to the contrary. Now there is proof clear and positive that this country DOES operate under a two-party system. It has been proven also that the program of the republican President can be enacted only if his party also controls the House. The "loyal opposition" is in fact a party of opposition which the vote referred to above so clearly indicates—it was almost strictly on party lines.

In addition to helping clear the air on the question as to who is and who is not supporting the President, the close vote on the recommitment motion on the tax bill disproved another recent propaganda attack against the republicans in Congress. It has been widely claimed, you know, that the republicans are split asunder and that instead of being an organized party backing our President, the majority party was supposed to be split into warring factions. That, of course, has not been true during this administration—but now on two hotly contested con-

troversial issues, the record of unity stands clear and sharp and indisputable.

Since this letter is turning out to be very partisan I think I'll mention something else that has been irking me for some little time. Our political opposition has been having a grand time predicting and moaning over the economic depression which this administration is supposed to be bringing on to our country. They have pointed to unemployment figures and slumps (sometimes only seasonally normal) in some industries. The truth is that unemployment has not during this administration come even very close to being as bad as it was in 1949 and the spring of 1950. That situation was not called a depression. Experienced observers are now freely predicting that 1954 will be the second most prosperous year for the people of our country in all its history. The most prosperous year was 1953, the FIRST year of the Eisenhower administration!

But to bring this discussion closer to home, let me cite some figures that just came to my desk. The principal employing industry in Oregon is the lumber and logging industry. If it is in a slump our whole state is in the economic doldrums. The barometer of that industry is the record of orders or sales versus production. If the mills produce more than they can sell, the industry is down. If orders exceed production that means it is in good shape. For the week ending March 6, orders exceeded production by 11.6%. For the year 1954 to date, orders have exceeded production by 6.8%.

So it seems that our opposition prophets of gloom and of republican party disunity will have to look for some other propaganda horses to ride.

House Passes Record Number Bills Past Week

During the past week the House of Representatives has considered and passed more big and important bills than I have seen acted upon in a similar period of time since I have been a member of Congress. Majority leader Halleck, of Indiana, was right when he predicted that the week would make legislative history.

Heading the list for the week was the Highway Construction bill involving the expenditure of some \$875,000 annually for two years on roads and highways throughout our country. For the first time the amount to be spent on highways will be just about equal to the amount of money paid by highway users in the form of the federal tax on gasoline. Of particular importance to our region was the adoption by the House of an amendment by Oregon's new representative, Sam Coon of Baker, to increase the amount to be allocated for Forest Highways.

Next came the first of the bills to carry out President Eisenhower's recommendations on the subject of health. This was a bill to extend the provisions of the Hill-Burton Act which provides aid for hospital construction. The new hospital construction bill will permit similar grants for the purpose of building non-profit hospitals for the chronically ill, for the construction of nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities and diagnostic or treatment centers.

Then came the Excise Tax Reduction bill which sharply reduces nearly all of the nuisance taxes such as the tax on theater admissions, telephone calls, train and other transportation—yes, and on women's handbags. By rough calculation the passage of that bill will reduce federal taxes on such expenditures paid by residents of our Fourth Congressional District nearly \$2,000,000 a year.

As I was driving home from the office the eve-

ning after we passed the Excise Tax Reduction bill I turned on my car radio and heard two different "commentators" moaning over what they alleged to be the fact that Republicans in Congress are in bitter dissension—that we are fighting among ourselves and that our ranks are divided into two or more warring factions. At any time this year or last such statements would be funny, but that evening they were especially ridiculous. It happened that on a very controversial roll call on the tax bill that afternoon, the Republican side of the House of Representatives voted UNANIMOUSLY—not a single Republican voted with the opposition. That has not happened before in more than ten years.

We will shortly have another tax bill on the floor. This one is really a whopper in more ways than one. It is a complete revision of the entire Federal Tax law structure. The printed text requires 875 pages. I am told it is the most voluminous bill ever considered by Congress. That may or may not be so but certainly it is the largest bill I have ever seen.

The House Ways and Means Committee began working on this bill in 1951. As completed it involves some 3,000 changes in the law. A total of 300,000 man hours of work by staff members and experts were required to put it together. The committee heard testimony from more than 600 witnesses in hearings on the bill.

In addition to simplifying and organizing the federal tax laws which have just sort of grown up like "Topsy," the legislation stops more than 50 loopholes, provides specific relief and a fairer taxing basis for retired people, home owners, annuitants, and others who are unduly penalized under existing laws.

About Soil Conservation Districts . . .

Taxpayers Support SCD's in Nation Whether Local One Is Formed or Not

The Sentinel requested Forest Woods, local farmer, to write an article on "Soil Conservation Districts," for the information of its readers, the article follows.

By Forest Woods

The Farm Forum recently held in the City Council Chambers resulted in a decision to start proceedings for the formation of a Soil Conservation District in South Lane County. Since then there have been repeated inquiries of "How much is this going to increase taxes?" and "Just what would I get from a Soil Conservation District?"

If a South Lane Soil Conservation District is formed, tax-payers in every other State in the Union would pay exactly as much in increased taxes as would those residing within the boundaries of the new district.

You, as a tax-payer are now supporting all Soil Conservation Districts organized throughout the United States. Many States are integrated in their entirety into Soil Conservation Districts. You are already footing the bill in these States.

It is only recently that residents of the Western States have realized that they have been paying to furnish these services elsewhere, without taking advantage of their benefits themselves. For example, consider Lane county. Two districts were organized in Lane county in 1946, but no additional ones were formed until last year, at which time the West Central Lane District was created. Farmers in that area have already begun to receive the benefits resultant with formation of the District. And their taxes have been increased no more than yours!

Remember too, a Soil Conservation District has no power to tax, levy bonds or to make assessments.

What Is It?

Before answering the second question of what help each person would receive from the District, let us consider "What Are Soil Conservation Districts?"

Help and assistance in the or-

Bauders to Attend Insurance Meet

Bob Bauder of Cottage Grove, local representative of the State Farm Insurance Companies, Bloomington, Ill., was one of the winners of the State Farm Leaders Club award in 1953. This award is based on the outstanding performance in the sale of all three State Farm lines—automobile, life and fire insurance.

About one thousand State Farm agents qualified for this award. Bauder has represented his company since Jan. 1, 1950.

He will be among those who will attend the State Farm Leaders Club convention at St. Petersburg, Fla., April 5, 6 and 7.

Bauder's office will be open as usual, and Mrs. George Ryland will handle calls, etc. His wife will accompany him on the convention trip. They will drive to St. Petersburg via the southern route. They plan to also visit in New Orleans, Cuba, Georgia, and Washington, D. C. They will return through Kansas City, Missouri.

Organization of a new district may be secured from the County Agricultural Extension Agent.

Now let us look back to that question, "Just what help would I get from a Soil Conservation District?" Technical help on the farm is provided for each particular problem of conservation farming. Engineering help laying out tile systems for drainage, building irrigation systems, and similar assistance is provided without cost to cooperating farmers asking for such help. Help is given in brush clearing, in soil testing and preparation, in farm maps, in crop adaptation, in combating sheet erosion on sloping lands, in solving fertility problems of soil, in stream bank erosion control, in fertilizer adaptation, in proper application of any type of required in solving soil and water problems.

Yes, it is almost inconceivable that you could fail to be helped, in some way, by the multitudinous services offered by a Soil Conservation District, and—it is equally as inconceivable that the creation of that District would cost you more than one red cent in increased taxes!



By The Rev. D. Hugh Peniston

If you disapprove of what is going on, there are two things you can do about it. You can get up on your hind legs and say so in no uncertain terms. Or you can simply, and in your own quiet way, do something better. The first way is by far the easier, the second so uncommon that anyone who tries it will be called crazy at first, and thereafter considered to be a Saint.

Francis of Assisi, whose life is described in a book called *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, was the second sort of person. He lived in a time when even the church was tinged with a harsh worldliness, but loyalty was greater than criticism in him. He looked about him, missed something, and started to seek it in such a spirit that his quest became contagious until literally thousands had joined him. Simply because he "did something better" the whole world was changed.

They called him "the most perfect Christian since Jesus who ever lived." Roman Catholics and Protestants disagree on many things but have this one thing, at least, in common; our admiration for the "Little Brother" who in a dark time "recaptured the lost radiance of the Christian faith."

Francis was the son of a selfish cloth merchant who would not understand his son's gay impulses of generosity. As the boy grew older and learned the horrors of reality in time of war, melancholy settled on him. One day he met a leper at a sudden turning of the road. Instinctively he recoiled, then mastering himself he embraced the unfortunate outcast, gave him money and clothes, and kissed his hand as if he were a prince. It was the turning point in his life. He was the turning point in responsibility of a most imaginative sort. Disowned by his father, he dedicated himself to joyous poverty, obedience to God, and service to all men.

All this was, of course, unheard of within the structure of a church which existed by wealth, power, and prestige, yet it is to the credit of the church that there were those who understood and encouraged Francis, and an order grew of those who forgot possessions for humble service. To be sure, the order soon slipped from his control; rivalries crept in, and in his last days anxieties afflicted him. But his gift to the world was not the order, but the radiant childlike spirit of his own life.

"Suspension of Disbelief"

The Little Flowers of St. Francis requires what Coleridge called "the willing suspension of disbelief." There are legends and stories which fall strangely on the modern ear. This is not important. Some of the events may not have happened, but they could have happened to St. Francis, because this is the kind of person he was.

There was a wolf, for example, who preyed upon all who strayed outside the walls of the Italian town of Gubbio. Francis went out to see the wolf, for all the people were afraid. In the presence of Francis the wolf was not fierce, but listened to his lecture with downcast eyes. Then Francis led him back into the city where the wolf remained, the pet of all the children, until he died. Perhaps this is a legend, but there is also truth—for in Francis the conflict between man and nature seemed to have been overcome.

What was the secret of this life? Selflessness—complete selflessness. And gratitude for all things. Once in the forest as he was singing a glad hymn of praise, two robbers seized him and beat him and left him naked. But he got up and went on, singing his praise. "What is the perfect joy?" he asked. "To give sight to the blind? To have all knowledge? To speak with the tongues of angels? No, this is the perfect joy—to be cold and wet, and to knock on a door seeking shelter—to be turned away with an insult and then to go in cheerfulness, knowing you have shared in Christ's sufferings."

In a modern life, bent on pleasure, such an experience would not rate high. But few such lives can match in childlike happiness the life of Francis of Assisi, to whom wolves listened, and for whom even the birds were his friends.

(Next week Rev. Peniston will "review" *"Here I Stand"* by Roland Bainton which is the story of the life of Martin Luther.)

Water Dept. Gets Cash Register Fri.

A new piece of furniture was installed in the Water Department a short time ago—if a second-hand cash register can be so called. It was obtained by City Recorder Farney Edwards from the Hart Larsen store in Eugene. When the new machine cost \$1,200, but second-hand price to the city was \$90 plus \$10 for putting it in tiptop working condition.

Edwards is well pleased with the new addition. He says it provides an accurate tape, and that the six money drawers make it possible for each employee to have a separate drawer. It also segregates the sewer and the water money.

Before the cash register was purchased, the department used a cash box. Edwards says the new machine is a great improvement.

Red Cross Dance - March 27

Card Club Meets At Robinson Home

By Mrs. Dale McCoy
Phone 117643

SILK CREEK—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Robinson entertained the Pinochle club at their home Saturday evening. A luncheon of sandwiches and coffee was served to Messrs. and Mmes. Frank McCracken, Jim Morgan and Archie Downie and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.

Miss Ethel Richardson returned home Sunday after having spent a week in San Francisco, Calif., visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey McCauley. Mrs. McCauley and son, Dewey, brought her home and plan to spend a few days visiting in this area.

Little Mickie Cook is quite ill due to a bladder infection.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hankins and Bruce and Gordon spent a few days recently visiting at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hankins at Coos Bay.

Vacation From OTI

Mr. and Mrs. James Thornburg and little daughter, Claudia, of Klamath Falls came Sunday for a week's visit at the home of Mrs. Thornburg's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Poynter. Thornburg is having a week's vacation from Oregon Technical Institute where he is a student.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Single of Grants Pass visited a few days last week with their daughter, Mrs. James Espy, and children.

Little Joey Hathaway had the cast removed from his arm last Thursday and is now wearing an elastic bandage on it.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Munro have bought a piece of property overlooking the ocean at Yachats.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bailey and family spent all day Sunday, March 14 visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Blew and family at Disston.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Harris and three children drove to Silverton on Tuesday of last week and visited with Mrs. Harris' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morgan and three sons and Mrs. Morgan's mother, Mrs. Susan Tanner, went to Myrtle Creek one day last week. Mrs. Tanner stayed for a visit with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Losey.

Wayne Smith of Gold Beach is spending a few days at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Bonnett and little son, David, of Los Angeles, Calif., visited a few days last week at the home of Mrs. Bonnett's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Webb and Jimmie and Carol Ann.

Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Peterson and JoAnn were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Peterson and sons, Duane and Richard, and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Greenough and son, Greg, all of Eugene.

Mrs. Edwin Estes and Geraldine and Carolyn of Yoncalla spent all last week visiting at the home of Mrs. Nettie Estes.

R. E. Poynter received word Friday that his sister, Mrs. Valeria Vinson, of Louisville, Ky., had suffered a stroke and was in serious condition.

Visit at Veterans Hospital
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hankins drove to Portland Saturday evening and spent Sunday visiting with Mrs. Hankins' father, C. W. Letson, at the Veterans hospital. They returned home Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Conley Overholser of Corvallis came Saturday for a week's visit at the Ross Overholser home and with other relatives in this area. Conley is enjoying spring vacation from OSC where he is a student.

Sunday afternoon callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale McCoy and Wayne were Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Gunter and Miss Jimmie Stonecipher of Springfield.

Mrs. Jesse Hocker returned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Overholser Sunday after spending a week at her home at Gillispie Corners.

Mrs. Jimmie Sugg was pleasantly surprised at a "pink and blue" shower Saturday evening at the home of Mrs. Fred Swensen in Eugene. She received many gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Sannar and children returned Saturday from a week's vacation in eastern Oregon. They went as far as Walla Walla Lake and visited with relatives at Joseph, Pendleton and Pilot Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Duncan and Lester and Wally spent the week end at Banks' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Duncan, and family.

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