

SOCIETY

Phone 555 or 556

Life of Medical Missionaries Not Exciting, Schnaffers Write

Songa Mission Hospital
Kamina, Belgian Congo
AFRICA
February 14, 1956

Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

Valentine's Day ought to be a good one for writing to you who are dear to our hearts. Your Christmas cards and letters really helped our holiday season and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Since we wrote you last Marlowe has been gone from home quite a bit attending committee meetings in Elisabethville and the Division Council in Capetown, 3000 miles away. He's a little tired of train travel - especially on wood-burning, non-air-conditioned trains. And we were very tired of being without him. The next time we'll all be going together. In April we're going on a five-weeks trip visiting some of the other stations in the Congo. It is partly a vacation trip, partly to visit the dispensaries where there are only nurses.

Many of you asked questions in your Christmas letters. Believe we will devote most of this letter to answering those questions.

We receive mail once a week here. Our mail comes from Kamina, the nearest town which is 60 miles away on a dirt road, on a truck to within eight miles of the Mission. We send a native the eight miles on a bicycle to get the sack of post. Mail comes on Wednesday and goes out on Sunday.

by the same procedure. The boy may sit there 24 hours with mail if the truck has broken down someplace or gotten stuck in the mud. All building supplies which we don't make also arrive from here and Marlowe brings them home on the trailer. We make our own sand and bricks, etc.

The majority of the natives in this area live in homes made of mud plastered onto a pole frame, with grass roofs. Some of the chiefs and more industrious natives use sun-dried bricks to build. Most of the homes have no windows. The fires they build inside have only one advantage from our viewpoint, the smoke discourages termites from eating the roof. We have had to have a new grass roof put on our chicken house twice since being here, so now we're turning a bit native, we're building a fire in the chicken house every day to keep the termites from eating the roof away again so quickly. The chickens don't seem to mind.

The main article of the native diet is manioc, a plant from whose white thick roots they make flour, and the leaves are used like spinach. We eat the leaves occasionally ourselves; the rest of the family like them but not I. The root part, when cooked and mashed and combined with cheese and egg, makes a very tasty "potato patty." The natives pour the manioc flour into boiling water, stir until it is well mixed and

then roll the paste into balls with their fingers as they eat it, usually dipped in the manioc greens or into a fish stew if they happen to have it. They eat just one meal a day - in the middle of the afternoon. Occasionally they have peanuts, rice, or beans but usually, day after day, it's manioc.

The natives here are quite responsive and agreeable as a whole. They love a good time and, if one drives thru the leper colony in the evening, he'll find the natives all gathered in groups around fires, singing or playing homemade instruments or just talking and laughing. They love to get pictures and magazines. Visiting some of the students' houses the other day I found Review and Herald as wallpaper. In some other parts of the Congo the natives are more sober and unemotional. We're glad they're enthusiastic here. After special music in church they all "Hmmm" real loudly with their lips closed. If we give someone a tin can or old clothes they clap their hands and "waf waf" (thank you) exuberantly many times.

We had another baptism last Sabbath - five Mission folk and six from the leper colony. Seeing the white-robed natives go down into the water to show that they are following in the Master's footsteps is always a precious, thrilling experience for us. They study two years before they are baptized, so that they know what they believe and why they believe it. If people in the States would study their Bibles for themselves even half that long, what a different place it would be! Much error and many false churches would cease to exist.

Over a million francs were received in Harvest Ingathering in the Congo in 1955. That's \$20,000.

One afternoon in January Rita and I went with Marlowe, one of the white nurses and three of the black ones to a village about 30 miles away to do some vaccinating. Smallpox has broken out again. There was a cloudburst while we were driving as far as the road went. We were glad it stopped when we got there, as we had about a 15 minute walk into the village. Our raincoats protected us from the tall drippy grass but 'twas so sticky hot that we got just as soaked inside from perspiration. About 250 natives lined up very willingly to be vaccinated - they have seen what smallpox can do. The black nurses scrubbed their arms first with a brush and soap. Why the brush? It was really needed on some of them. The natives all want to crowd in at the front of the line. Telling them to take their place at the end and trying to keep them in an orderly line usually gets across after telling them 10 times. They must be dealt with like children. We had to give them medical certificates showing the date of their vaccination (required by government). They all laughed at the way we pronounced their names when giving out their certificates so Marlowe had them try to pronounce our names and we in turn laughed at them. They can't say R, usually substitute L. Natives with names like Morrison are called Mollison, Aaron is Aalon.

The chief in this village of Kibombwe had promised to pay our gas if we would come over and vaccinate. When we were all through, he asked if we wanted to buy some potatoes. They were small but new ones and nice so we bargained for a big basket of them at 80 francs. Then the chief said he would make us a present of them because he loved us. Marlowe looked at me with a very small smile and said "I suppose we're supposed to love him enough to give him the trip free now." We got a bit of the worst of the bargain. Next time we'll take two baskets of potatoes. Guess there's a reason he's the chief.

Yes, I have to teach our children. Rita is in the first grade, Ronnie starting the fourth. It is hard to keep to a schedule when one has to be bookkeeper, secretary, etc., besides. We just don't have school when we have committee meetings and I have from five minutes to cook for. One night while Marlowe was away our pup whined a lot in the evening so I took him in the house and held him on my lap while I typed. The next day Koopmans had the dog had been restless barked a lot that evening too. There were tracks in our driveway, huge ones that the natives said belonged to a hyena. Some of them said they had seen it really looking around me with the flashlight the next few nights when going out to put the light motor off at 10 p.m. The past two weeks hippos have been in the vicinity rampaging through natives' gardens. We haven't been lucky enough to see them but the natives have.

Marlowe accomplished some things by attending the Division Council in Capetown and the year-end committee in Elisabethville, and presenting the needs here at Songa. We are to receive \$2,800 for hospital equipment and \$1,250 for building up the leper colony from the General Conference funds. Also (I feel like shouting it to the tree-tops!) they are placing a call for a second doctor for Songa! Of course it will probably be six to nine months before we see him but the possibility is wonderful. Marlowe's load has been far too heavy and it is tragic to leave the hospital unattended when we go on vacation or Marlowe goes to committee or visiting dispensary. Several deaths resulted this past year from his absence. We sent a couple of patients to the hospital in Kamina while Marlowe was gone but were very dissatisfied with the way the patients are treated there. Some people have no regard for native life.

Some of you mentioned that you didn't seem to have anything to write about and that our lives here seemed more exciting than the routine at home. Of course we don't tell you about the times when we're tired or tired or lonely or homesick. And how hungry we get for your letters with their reminders of the way of life we left behind, and how we love news of the friends we have seen. I'm sure your letters are far more interesting to us than ours are to you.

No matter in what corner of the world we strive to labor for the Master, there are problems as well as thrills, but always the added blessing of contentment comes when we strive to follow His example and do His will. We long for the time when Jesus will return and all suffering, sickness and poverty shall cease.

And so again across the miles we each send out greetings to those whose friendships we cherish.

The Schaffners P. S. Old sheets are needed for bandages for leper patients under the care of Dr. Schaffner. They may be sent or taken to Mrs. Schaffner's mother, Mrs. E. C. Dye, 1016 Taylor street, Cottage Grove. She may be reached by telephone at 4991.

Delegates to Grand Lodge to Be Picked

Delegates to Grand Lodge of the Rebekahs at Tillamook in May will be elected at a meeting of Cottage Grove Rebekah lodge Wednesday, April 11. A district deputy president also will be recommended, and the obligation will be renewed. Refreshment committee for the meeting will be Mrs. Ira Beidler, Mrs. J. F. Godard, Mrs. W. J. Harrison and Mrs. R. C. Brady.

At its last meeting the local lodge voted to give money for a campership for a Girl Scout from this community to attend summer camp at Camp Clewax. After the meeting, which was March 28, a group of members visited Creswell Rebekahs where the Assembly President was making her official visit.

Women View April Chores in Garden

Cottage Grove Home Gardeners met at the home of Mrs. Grant Lovegren for 1:30 p.m. dessert meeting Tuesday.

Mrs. Herman Petersen, Mrs. Bertram Robertson and Mrs. Keith Roberts reviewed various chores to be done in the gardens during April and discussed how winter-damaged shrubs and plants should be trimmed and cared for. Mrs. Vernon Thorsen discussed outdoor fireplaces, patio planting and gardening in pots, tubs and boxes. Mrs. Murland Johnson presented ideas on planting the garden and its location in proximity to the house, patio and service entrances.

Next meeting will be May 1 at Mrs. Keith Roberts' home.

Rainbow Girls To Meet April 9

Rainbow Girls will meet April 9. Recent activities of the group have included putting on initiatory work at a meeting of the Masons March 21. Refreshments were served by the hosts. March 17 the Rainbow girls and several members of the May cleaned up the parking lot at the Masonic lodge.

Stardusters Join Oregon Knotheads

A new beginners class in round dancing started Thursday, March 29, for anyone interested in learning to round dance is an open class and no previous dancing experience is necessary. Classes are conducted at Maple school, 21st and J streets, Springfield, starting at 8 p.m. "Dude" and Thena Sibley are the instructors. Anyone wanting more information about the class may call "Dude" Sibley at 121512.

Dancing will start at 8 p.m. Friday evening at the Cottage Grove VFW hall and all square dancers are welcome. Club members are asked to take either sandwiches, cake or cookies. Mr. and Mrs. George Sibley and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph DeJarnett are in charge of refreshments.

The following Stardusters attended the Willamalane Dancers square dance March 29 at the Springfield Memorial building: Messrs. and Mrs. "Fitz" Fitzgerald, Ray Comstock, Rolland Northway, Glen Westfall and George Sibley and Mrs. Mable Bassett.

A group of Stardusters traveled to McMinnville over the weekend to attend a square dance called by Robby Robinson, professional caller. They were: Messrs. and Mrs. Chuck McCoy, "Dude" Sibley, DeJarnett, George Sibley and Westfall. While there four of the couples joined a state square dance club called the (Oregon) Knotheads. There are also Knot-head clubs in other states. To be eligible for membership, members have to have traveled more than 100 miles to attend a square dance. Those joining the Knot-heads were: Messrs. and Mrs. DeJarnett, George Sibley, "Dude" Sibley and Westfall.

Mt. View Children Hunt Easter Eggs

By Mrs. Walter N. Downs
Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Layne entertained the first and second grades of the Mount View school with an Easter egg hunt at the Layne home Friday afternoon, March 30.

Children arrived on the school bus in the afternoon and hunted eggs that the bunny hid in the garage on account of the rain. They also were surprised with suckers and candy eggs.

Refreshments of cookies and fruit juice were served from the first grade: Dolores Sears, Teresa Dowis, Joe Potter, Brenda Ulmer, Judy Jackson, Danny Peterson, Patty Allridge, Mary Giffen, Ronald Marsh and Ronny Giffen; and these second graders: Cecil Morton, Scott Dugan, Barry Phillips, Walda Jane Layne, Connie Potter, Geraldine Higgins, Pat Williams, Jimmy Edwards, Jane Johnson, and Gilda Mullens. Sherry Hamilton was ill and unable to attend.

LaSells Stewarts Married 48 Years

Mr. and Mrs. LaSells Stewart observed their 48th wedding anniversary March 31.

Their children, Loran and Faye Stewart and Mrs. Larry Chapman, and families gathered at the home Sunday to congratulate their parents and presented them with gifts and flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were married 48 years ago at Lents, Ore., at the home of a friend of Mrs. Stewart.

FRIENDS INVITED TO BIRTHDAY PARTY

Mrs. Nona Kelly was pleasantly surprised Thursday afternoon when several friends came to help her celebrate her birthday. Refreshments of cake, ice cream and coffee were brought and served by her two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Alta Kelly and Mrs. Harvey Kelly. Games were played and Mrs. Mae Barton and Mrs. Beryl Shattuck won prizes. Mrs. Kelly received several gifts.

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"THE JUST PRIDE OF PATRIOTISM"—Miss Gertrude S. Carraway, President General, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, urges nationwide observance of AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH to fortify the country against the spread of Communism. She is showing one of George Washington's letters owned by the D.A.R.

Friendly Club Has 28th Anniversary

Twenty-eighth birthday anniversary of Friendly club was observed March 27 with a covered dish dinner at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. C. N. Land, Mrs. P. C. Christensen, a former member, was a guest, and all 13 members of the club were present. They are: Mrs. Walter Sorensen, Mrs. H. B. Bredvege, Mrs. E. C. Shipley, Mrs. C. C. Collier, Mrs. Maggie Wertz, Mrs. Ed Hoyt, Mrs. William Watson, Mrs. Tom Biggenstaff, Mrs. Charles Akerblade, Mrs. Harley Gates, Mrs. Nelson DeYoung, Mrs. N. E. Compton, and Mrs. Land.

Mrs. DeYoung and Mrs. Gates made the birthday cake, which was decorated with red roses and lighted candles. Three-year-old Linda Bauder of Vancouver, Wash., accompanied her grandmother, Mrs. Akerblade, to the party.

Beta Zeta Chapter Has 'Come As You Are' Party

Members of Beta Zeta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha enjoyed a "Come As You Are" party March 28, at the home of Mrs. Taylor Young.

Door prize was won by Mrs. C. E. Buttkie and Mrs. C. M. Lowe won a prize for making the best Easter bonnet. Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. William Gibbons and Mrs. Young.

Next chapter meeting will be April 10 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. George Macready.

BIRTHDAY DINNER HONORS MR. KUHN, MRS. ANDERSON

Mrs. Roy Kuhn was hostess for a birthday dinner Sunday honoring Roy Kuhn and Mrs. Syble Anderson. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Knouse, Terry and Kerry of Disston, Mr. and Mrs. Carol Seals, Vickie and Gayle, Patsy Kuhn and Mr. and Mrs. George Kuhn. Mr. and Mrs. Rex Seals were afternoon visitors.

Navy WAVES comprised 55 percent of the military personnel in the Navy Department in Washington, D. C., during World War II.

Boy, Girl Birth Rate Is Constant Say OSC R. Dann

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Neither wars, depression nor any other factor in the environment seem to have an effect on the birth ratio of boys to girls, according to an Oregon State college sociology professor who has studied U.S. birth statistics for the past 35 years.

Robert H. Dann says the belief that the birth ratio of boys to girls goes up during wartime as nature's way of compensating for men killed in battle is false. The ratio remains the same, figures show.

Dann has compiled sex ratio figures from the U.S. census bureau for 10 states for the period 1915-49. The states, which were the first to begin registering all births, are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

He finds in each of the 35 years—a period that included two World Wars and a major depression—about 105.6 boys were born for each 100 girls. Biggest deviations were in 1925 when the ratio rose to 106.0 and 1936 and 1938 when it dropped to 105.2.

However, Dann does not notice a high degree of correlation between major social events, such as wars and depressions, and the total numbers of births.

For instance, the 10 states had a high rate of births from 1917 to 1921, ranging from 737,572 to 799,741. That included World War I and the immediate post-war period.

Births then began a slow decrease to 1928 when they were 723,655. The depression years following 1929 brought a marked drop-off, reaching a low in 1933 of 594,514.

World War II saw a sharp upward trend. Records for all 48 states show the 1941 total was about 2.5 million. It rose to nearly 3.7 million in 1947, then dropped to about 3.5 million during the next two years. By 1954 it was up to 4.1 million.

Number, costs and causes of farm and home mishaps will be tabulated, says Mrs. John Devereux, Bandon, chairman of the accident reporting committee. Mrs. Eva Stone, Troutdale, and Maynard Hempstead, Albany, are other committee members.

A program to promote safety on Oregon highways will be continued this year through use of reflective materials, according to Mrs. Mabel Mack, assistant director of the Oregon State college extension service and committee secretary.

Strips of reflective tape were applied this week to state cars in the OSC agricultural car pool as part of the distribution campaign. Last year, FFA and 4-H club members handled distributions of reflective tape which was used on about 700 farms to "light up" farm equipment.

Other action taken by the committee at a recent Corvallis meeting included naming of Bauer as chairman of National Farm Safety Week, July 22 to 28, and appointment of Dave Amouth, Oregon City, as FFA representative on the governor's committee, replacing Ron Pitman, Albany.

Navy set eight new records in the 1954 football season—four offensive and four defensive—and finished the season standing fourth in total offense and ninth in total defense among the nation's major collegiate grid teams.

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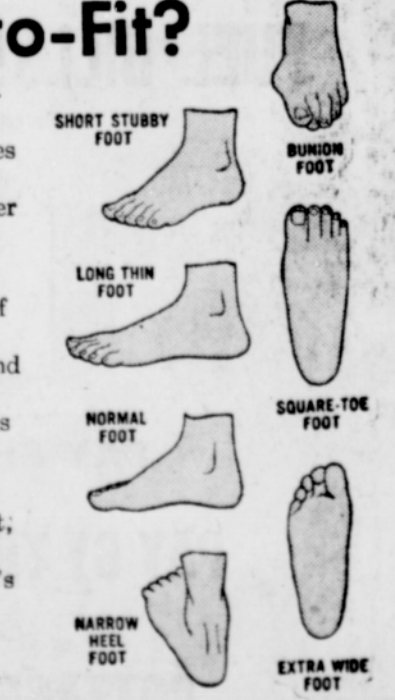
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