

Ex-Jap Prisoners Are Mentally Fit

In spite of having spent three years in Japanese prison camps, most of the time on starvation rations and subjected to frequent beatings, American soldiers who survived this ordeal show little mental effect as a result of their sufferings. This fact has just been made public in a report issued by Lt. Col. Norman Q. Brill. Colonel Brill was in charge of neuro-psychiatric findings made by teams of medical specialists who met all men when they first landed in the United States after liberation.

Considerable importance was attached to early medical contact with the released soldier because, according to Dr. Brill, "never before in this country's history had such a large group been exposed to starvation, torture and humiliation." The psychiatrists were interested in the factors that were responsible for the survival of these men when so many of their comrades in about the same physical condition when captured, had succumbed. The nearest they came to finding a common factor was what is described in the report as a "tremendous will to live." Otherwise the soldiers differed in about every way possible.

"All of the," says Colonel Brill's report, "lived only for the day (of liberation). Indeed when one of them would fall to concentrate on or begin to hoard food, or gave way to morbid thoughts concerning the seemingly hope-

less situation, he was earmarked by his companions as quite likely to die shortly. A prisoner who would hoard his rice allowance for several meals in order to enjoy the sensation of one large meal was referred to as 'rice happy.' This was generally an indication of the beginning of deterioration and early death.

"When those of lesser spiritual strength became ill they were likely to give up, quit eating entirely, and frequently would die within a few days. One fails to find a scientific reason or an adequate term to explain survival. It seemed to some of the examiners that 'courage' was the best word. It seemed that the only common factor among the survivors was that they had courage. They never stopped in their struggle for survival — this strength and courage had no connection with social background or education."

The men themselves, the report added, expressed no concern about their ability to re-adjust to life in the United States. Regardless of the future, they felt they could meet any situation likely to arise after living through the prison camp years.

Local News Items

C. A. MacKenzie is building another house on his property on Easy Street.

Mrs. Frank Sullivan, after a brief visit at the home ranch, returned last week with daughter, Mrs. Steinke, to Reedsport. Mrs. Sullivan's health is quite poor.

A crew, under supervision of

Bill Merritt, is building a water storage dam, on Ransom creek, near where the pump has stood for many years. The re-enforced concrete structure will hold back a reservoir of about 50,000 gallons which, according to Elmer Bankus, in addition to the same amount in the water tank in town, will have a reserve capacity of about 100,000 gallons.

Among the few new building requests passed upon by the federal housing authorities, as listed in recent Portland papers, was approval of the application of Roy Sunderland, of Brookings, for construction of a new filling station, the cost being listed as \$12,000.

In order that the school authorities may have a better idea of what accommodations they will be called upon to supply when school starts this fall, all parents whose children will attend, for first time, are urged to notify the school clerk, Mrs. Dora Beaulieu, who lives across the street from the community church.

The school board has contracted with a teacher of early days: Mrs. Gladys Payne, who first qualified to teach around here about 1908, has since mothered a family and

is now a grandmother to another generation. When Mrs. Payne first applied for a teacher's certificate, in this county, she and Mrs. Glistner Hoagland, another candidate, set out for Gold Beach on horse back, to take the required examinations. The arduous trip, in a bad winter storm, took the trio two full days. When school begins this fall she will have charge of the seventh grade.

Mrs. Phyllis Miller entertained for a bridal shower at her home, Wednesday afternoon, in honor of Mrs. Calvin Musser. She was assisted by Mrs. Beth Simon. Guests were Mesdames Marguerite Mattson, Helen Hanscam, Marian Han-

scam, Norma Myers, Doris Payne, Wanda Voy, Doris Miller, Katie Hull and Miss Jean Farnery of Crescent City, sister of the bride.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Babin, former residents who now live at Grants Pass, have purchased three lots from Elmer Babin on the corner between the grocery house and the Catholic church, according to reports. The Babin home to soon build there.

Thor Ask brought in an excess surplus international TD9 for the Kerr Logging Co., for delivery at their tract near the Jeff Howell place.

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