

Homemakers Column

By Aldene N. Roberts, HDA

Hello There:

Most of you had a part in sending boxes of used clothing to Austria in response to the letter which I read to the Home Extension Units in November. This letter was from Mrs. Hubert Miller, wife of Col. Miller, Commanding General of the United States forces in Austria, stationed in Vienna, and told of the needs over there. Yesterday I received a letter of thanks, and want to share it with you.

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

There has been such an overwhelming generous response to the letter sent my sister in Vancouver, Washington, I am forced to resort to a form letter, because my correspondence is more than I can handle. Letters and packages and requests for individual names and pictures and these histories are arriving in every mail from many cities and towns the length of the Pacific coast. It is my earnest desire to answer every letter and acknowledge every package immediately but no one individual can possibly handle this amount of correspondence. I must spend my days going about the city, interviewing and choosing the most deserving families and institutions and also find time to unpack and sort the great quantities of wonderful things that have already arrived from you generous people in the States. The most important thing, of course, is to get the things that have come into the hands of those who need them so badly as quickly as possible. But it is almost as important to let those who sent the packages know at once that their gifts have been received. I have already acknowledged a large number but, at present, I am thirty-four boxes behind and today's mail will bring many more. However, the name and address of the sender in each box is written down, as each box is opened, together with a list of every article contained in it, and an acknowledgement will be sent as soon as possible.

It will take an organization of some size to handle this situation efficiently. Mrs. Geoffrey Keyes, wife of the Commanding General of the United States forces in Austria, is intensely interested in bringing aid to the

Austrians and is spending almost all of her time on relief work. Headed by Mrs. Keyes and directed by Mrs. Hurless, wife of Colonel H. B. Hurless, who is as interested as I am in bringing help to these hopeless people ever here, a committee of American women has been organized to try to coordinate the work done by individuals. They will take over my individual effort. In that way you can be absolutely certain that everything you send will go where it is most needed and get there more quickly than it would if I continued working alone. Miss Opal Hall, an outstandingly fine and capable woman who heads the American Red Cross in Austria, is doing a heroic job with limited means. The committee of women who will handle the things you send will work closely with Miss Hall. In this way you can be sure that the things you send will be untouched from the time you put them in the box, yourself, until they are taken out over here by women whom you can completely trust.

"My husband's tour of duty here will end about the middle of February, 1948. Any packages addressed to us personally, after about December 15th, will run the risk of being sent back to us in the States, wherever we are stationed. So please do not send any more packages to me. General Keyes has come to our rescue by giving us a mailing address for you that will be permanent and always safe. Mail your packages to:

The United States High Commissioner, Hq., U. S. Forces in Austria, APO 777, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

"General Keyes is the present High Commissioner and will probably remain for several years. If he should be sent to a different command, a man of his same high calibre will replace him. So the above address will always be good.

"I know that those of you who have received pictures and addresses of certain children or families would like to mail boxes to them directly. I am sorry to have to tell you that boxes mailed directly to those addresses stand little chance of arriving without first having been looted of the best articles. Things taken out are usually sold to the black market. Only packages mailed through the United States mail service, handled all the way by American post offices, are sure to arrive safely and unopened.

"Fortunately, we have been able to arrange it so that your packages can reach those for whom they are intended, unopened. If you will write clearly in one corner, in a way that cannot be rubbed off in such long and rough shipment, the name and address of the person or institution for which it is intended, your box will be taken by a member of this committee directly to that person or institution.

"Those of you who have asked for certain numbers of individuals of various ages and their addresses and pictures, and have not yet received them, will perhaps forgive me when I tell you that for the last month I have worked as hard as I can every day, all day long and late into the night trying to get the information you ask for and trying not to let you wait for an acknowledgement of your letters and packages, but it is more than one person can handle. I am about at the point of collapse.

This tremendous response has been the most surprising and heart warming experience of my life. I hope that your interest in the orphans and the destitutes over here will continue and I am sure that it will when you know that such women as I have told

you about will take care of the packages you send. If you write, please address your letters to Mrs. H. B. Hurless, c/o Col. Hurless, Provost Marshal Section, Hq. USFA APO 777, New York, N. Y. She will see that someone on her committee answers your letter at once. Things like letters or cards can safely be sent directly to the Austrians you are interested in.

"If there are any of you who have sent boxes and never received an acknowledgement, it is because a few boxes have been received with the return address so badly rubbed off or torn in the mails that it was not possible to make them out.

"I would like to thank every one of you, personally, and tell you how much it means over here for these people to get the things you are sending. I am sorry to have to do it with this form letter.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Hubert L. Miller"

This personal postscript was added referring to the box sent from Gold Beach.

"Mrs. Miller has requested that I let you know that we have received your letter and one box. The box arrived in good condition and the many useful and warm clothing, sweaters, underwear, shirts, house-shoes, socks, ladies suits, etc. In each box we pack for a family, always we put in the essentials—such as needles, tape, crayons for the small children, candles, etc.

"You know these people have so little and are artists when it comes to patching and combing worn clothing. I would like to tell you where each article goes,

but here is the way we work the welfare room. A group under Mrs. Kelly's direction opens the boxes, lists the articles and place them on the shelves according to age and use. Another group visits the home to see the need and sizes, they then fill the box and take it to the family. Many times several families will be supplied something from a number of boxes we receive. But you may rest assured that we are doing our utmost to give only to the needy and they are so grateful for the smallest article.

Thank you so much for your generous response and we shall let you know when your other boxes arrive.

Sincerely,
Mollie May Rogers"

Boy Scout News

Hi Fellow Scouts:

By now all of you fellows have been given tickets to sell for the Scout Benefit. Hit the ball with these now and we'll have some money in the treasury to use for those over night hikes and camping trips you want. Another thing you might remember, the patrol selling the most tickets goes to a movie in Crescent City.

The Eagle patrol says they've about got their leanto finished at the camp grounds. Not bad looking either. You Bears should take a look, and then see if you can get a better one built.

If the weather permits it we'll have the next meeting at the camp grounds, if its raining we'll have it at the church basement. You fellows who aren't sure of where to go see your patrol leader, he'll have all the infor-

mation. Any of you scouts who know any fellows who should be in the scouts had better keep your eyes on them and tell your patrol leader about it because we're going to have a membership contest soon.

The Eagle patrol is putting on a demonstration of lashings at this meeting, so all scouts going after the pioneering merit badge can get some pointers. Better be at the meeting to get this.

Brad

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