



Ibrahim Ozegentas, a young teacher from Turkey stopped at the home of Erskine Miller in Brookings on a recent visit to this country.

## World Peace Through People To People Program

Erskine R. Miller

Uncle Sam has finally learned what stamp collectors have known for many years — that international understanding and good will is fostered through personal correspondence. No official program of propaganda or economic aid can take the place of personal contact. Word now comes out of Washington that this has been officially recognized and a program is being developed to encourage international person-to-person contacts. A Division of the U.S. Information Service has been designated to handle this program. It is understood that the President strongly supports the project because of his great interest in world peace.

Years ago this writer began to correspond with foreigners. At that time I was not interested in philately and my desire was simply for friendly contacts and exchange of magazines, photos, picture post cards, etc. Almost immediately it developed that practically all who wrote to me were interested in stamps as well as mail. The two just naturally go together.

To please my penpals I acquired supplies of U.S. stamps. I became a philatelist! Now my foreign interchanges give me double pleasure; but the friendly letter-writing is of greater interest than the stamp collecting.

Any philatelist who has foreign pen-friends can easily demonstrate the efficacy of personal letters to promote international good will. I have found that teachers are most interesting ones, and they surely are an excellent means for spreading good will for America.

A few days ago I received a letter from Omar Kelani, an Arab who teaches at the Sharkia School in Kuwait, Arabia. He is 22 years of age (see above photo). The little boy whom he is holding by the hand is the son of a prince of Arabia. Just think of the opportunity, through Omar Kelani, to foster good will for the United States to his fifteen or twenty pupils! Omar tells me he has read about Addison, Franklin, Lincoln, Einstein, and others; and now his ambition is to save enough money so that he may come to this country and study mechanical engineering.

Another teacher is Ibrahim Ozegentas from Ankara, Turkey. A young man, married, with a wife and child. After we corresponded for a year or so, he came to this country on a joint project between the Turkish government and the Ford Foundation. He visited us in our home for three days; and while here he made an address to the pupils of our high school.

The photo shows us at my home. You can see we are friends. And this past Christmas he sent me a card and wrote me a letter, from which I quote: "I remember the beautiful landscape of your area, the Pacific Ocean, waves, seagulls, redwood trees, and friends." I think his friendship for the U.S. will endure.

A teacher in Czechoslovakia is Mila Hamouz. He is seen here with his wife and little Helen — they have their troubles, you may be sure. After the Hungarian revolt, he wrote me: "I won-

der how everything ends. Many changes should be done even with us, but it would not be good to solve the situation with arms. We had enough of it during the last war." Do you think he wants world peace?

Another teacher is Janssen Andeweg in Merauke, Dutch New Guinea. Poor Dutchman, the Japs captured him when they took over the Indies and he spent nearly four years in a concentration camp. After the war he married and now has four children, so I guess it's New Guinea for him hereafter. The friendly letters have been coming for over four years!

From Sandor Molnar in Kaposvar, Hungary, came a letter in January 1957, in which he writes: "Here at Kaposvar there was no struggle, and we are healthy all together. I have to send very many thanks to your nation for helping our poor nation by the Red Cross." A fine family.

My experience convinces me practically all of my correspondents, irrespective of race, color or creed, want one thing: an opportunity to live in peace and enjoy a few of the comforts of life. Every stamp collector in this country has an opportunity to render assistance to the "people to people" program, and to benefit himself intellectually, through foreign correspondence.

### VALUE OF O & C

### TIMBER LAGS BEHIND

Value of timber sales on O & C forests in Western Oregon are lagging behind last year by about 40 percent.

### TWO TO ATTEND

### SENIOR WEEK END

### AT OREGON STATE

Robert Dimmick and Larry Hannon, high school seniors from Brookings have registered with Oregon State college to participate April 26 to 28 in the annual Senior week end activities.

PILOT

FEATURE PAGE

### ANOTHER FINE FEED COMING UP AT VFW

A smorgasbord will be spread in the VFW hall this coming Saturday afternoon and evening, from 5:30 to 7:30. Proceeds from the feed, at \$1.50 for 75 cents for children, will go towards completing the Scout building.

The supper is being prepared under the direction of the ladies of the Emblem Club and the VFW Auxiliary, Mesdames Alice Bordwell, Clara Bowlin, Velma Bingman, Dollie Brainard, Edith Wells, Harriett Baker, Ruby Lowe, and Irmadee LaBarge, and will be held in the VFW hall.

The food will be donated and cooked by the ladies, who are members of the sponsoring groups for the Girl Scouts and the Brownies.

Tickets may be had from any member of the Girl Scouts, Brownies or at the door.

Captain and Mrs. Robert Brooks and two sons have returned to Travis Air Force Base, Calif. after enjoying a weeks visit with his parents, the Bert Brooks' and other relatives in this vicinity.

### DRIVE CAREFULLY

The tourists are here

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TEACHER OMAR KELANI holding the hand of a son of an Arabian Prince. Mr. Kelani teaches at the Sharkia school in Kuwait. He is a regular correspondent of Erskine Miller, of Brookings.