

Letters to Nephews

Dear Nephew:

If anything is more slithery than trying to write on a cookie sheet when one is propped up in bed, name it. Lying abed does give one a bit of time to think of various things. And what is more interesting than people, sinus infection brought the need for a doctor. With the air as cold as a dead lamb's tongue, I shivered in a heavy robe as I went out on the front porch to ring the ship's bell hanging there, to attract attention. Just as I reached for the rope, a neighbor came in view through the hedge. The hand of God, I called it. She passed the word to our backdoor neighbor, and in a few minutes, looking through my window up the hill, a bit of yellow was seen bobbing along the barn. The gate opened, and a warm red dress showed in the opened cloak. Down the path between the cabbage patch and the bed of carrots, parships, and beets, it moved like a walking flower. On under the almond tree, it passed out of sight into the rose garden. Every day that bit of walking brightness kept tab on me. "I'm all right. I can get up," I'd declare. Only to be told "You stay in bed and keep warm. That wind is bitterly cold. You've no business going out in it as you'd have to do for your wood. Why not

let us keep the fire stoked. You want to get SICK?" Her husband made the morning fire. Wood was corded by the stove to keep it going through the night.

Old time friends, in their seventies, walked the mile from their home two days through that strong bitter wind to help me, too. To old pioneers, having to depend on one another, is no new thing. The doctor? No, she was giving blood transfusions and having another baby (23 for the month, it was said). No longer young feet that took the steps necessary that I might remain in a warm bed in a warm room, pulled e through. Thinking... If they hadn't...

Strange imaginings: a branch of a shrub outside the bedroom window took on strange forms. Once it was a ewe's wideopen mouth panting, panting. One felt the hot day and her exhaustion. Suddenly it became the fierce, fighting features of an Alaskan husky. Eyes, red, teeth bared, ears stiff. And then, what! You'll say, John, "She's loony," and maybe so. But there, on a pond lily leaf sat the most contented-looking mallard—no, teal—on her nest, as if "expecting" any minute.

Smoky and satan did a lot of kicking about having to stay outside, carrots and parships. If they'll only They sat around quite a bit in the clean up on a few unborn families.

All the heart has been taken out of the parships by those gophers. There should have been several sacks to sell. And now, after all that sweat that rained off dad's face...

The Oregon grape outside the dining room window stands straight and proud neon-edged in pure silver. The wild lilac is a voluminous white skirt. The scotch broom is bent with weight, each spine a silver rod. The firs are sprayed with hoarfrost from tip to base. A wash across the way is as unyielding as an Englishman's pride. Bluejays hunt for berries in the porch vines.

"I think about God. Yet I talk of small matters; Now isn't it odd How my idle tongue chatters Of quarrelsome neighbors, Fine weather and rain, Indifferent labors, Indifferent pain, Some trivial style Fashion shifts with a nod, Yet all the while I'm thinking of God."

My love and thoughts are with you. Aunty.

Three Greyhound busses returned from Klamath Falls to Medford and were all practically full. Many of the Camp White boys were on the busses.

More Women Urged To Enlist as Nurses

The army needs nurses! And Oregon has been assigned to a large quota which must be filled if army needs are to be met.

Explaining the need for nurses by the army, Mrs. Sally C. Kerby-Miller, enrollment secretary of the Red Cross who is charged with nurse procurement in Oregon, said that the offensive action on many battlefronts has required the expansion of the army nurse corps to care for the many sick and wounded soldiers which are the inevitable outcome of war.

Student and graduate nurses between the ages of 21 and 40 are eligible to apply for enrollment in the

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corps and all accepted applicants will be commissioned second lieutenants. Duties will take the nurse lieutenants to many sections of the United States as well as overseas.

All qualified women were urged to apply for information and enrollment at the Red Cross headquarters, 1506 S.W. Alder street, Portland, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. of any week day.

Mrs. George Eldon and boys are moving from Portland back to their home in Grants Pass. Mrs. Eldon's husband, Capt. Eldon, is in England.

VISITS AT TRACY HOME—

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Fluery and family of Chiloquin visited at the P. A. Tracy home Sunday. They were returning from a two weeks visit with relatives in Portland and vicinity. They said if we thought we had seen any water here we should have been up there. They also visited the Wm. Dobbins family at Glenade. Mr. Dobbins who used to be a lineman for Copco in Medford, is manager of their electric store there. Mrs. Dobbins is a sister of Mr. Fluery.

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THANK YOU!

The people who live in the cities, towns and villages along Southern Pacific's lines in the West have just provided a fine example of war-time cooperation.

We think this cooperation deserves recognition and we want to say "thank you" . . . since Southern Pacific was primarily concerned. And we're quite sure the many thousands of men in uniform who benefitted too, would also like to join us in this expression of appreciation.

Early in December we were faced with the problem of providing transportation during the holidays for a very large number of men in the armed services who were to be given holiday furloughs. Because of the pressure of war traffic on our equipment . . . cars and locomotives . . . we knew that we could not provide transportation for all these service men and the normal number of civilian holiday travelers too.

So we arranged a somewhat drastic and extensive program requiring coach reservations for virtually all trains, and set aside a major portion of both Pullman and coach space for the service men. Then we ran advertising telling people what our problem was, and why we could not take care of everyone who would like to travel during the holidays. We asked people *not* to "Try the Train".

As a result many people gave up holiday trips they very much wanted to make. The amount of civilian travel, compared with December, 1941, was considerably reduced and we took care of the service men in good shape. There was comparatively little congestion, and all essential travel was accommodated.

So we know that people generally have cooperated . . . and we give you all a hearty "thank you."

May we also express our appreciation at this time for your considerate and understanding attitude towards Southern Pacific and its service during the last twelve months?

We hope you will continue to confine your trips, in 1943, to essential travel.

A. T. MERCIER, President

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The Friendly Southern Pacific