

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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THE NEED FOR SWIMMING LESSONS

Another successful swimming campaign came to a close last week, under the direction of the Red Cross, here in Ashland and Medford. We have been assured that it was successful, and here at Ashland the figures of attendance would tend to prove the assertion. Something like 196 were registered and the daily attendance was in the 140s. That is a lot of youngsters to teach swimming, many of them only beginners, others somewhat more advanced, but very few of them what might be termed as accomplished swimmers.

As fine as the course of instruction is, it seems to us that it is far too incomplete. A two-weeks hurried up course of instruction for 200 children, with a half hour devoted to each group, can hardly be called a complete swimming course. It may give the child the fundamentals so that they can get a start and try to pick up by themselves further proficiency in swimming.

The real need is for a swimming pool in the high school, with a compulsory course, all able-bodied children required to pass a set standard in swimming. Credit could be given in school, or the work could be a part of their physical education course, and be a part of the regular curriculum.

The Ashland high school has no adequate gymnasium, at the senior high school, but post war plans are in the picture for such a gymnasium. We hope it includes a swimming pool.

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OUR FIRST CLASS POST OFFICE

Ashland was given the news last week of the boosting of the post office to a first class rating. Maybe many of our readers do not realize the significance of such a move, but it is a healthy sign. A careful scrutiny of the figures as released last week, indicate that Ashland has enjoyed a steady growth in population, for one of the best barometers of business and population in any town is the stamp sales at the post office. It is a sure method of telling whether a town is progressing or slipping backward.

While the fact that the post office was raised to first class, will make very little difference to the post office service, or employees, it gives certain prestige to a town to be classed in the first rank.

There is no doubt that Ashland is growing steadily, and when the war comes to a close, and building materials are again available, this city will see a huge increase in homes and business buildings, that will increase the towns population and business even more. As we see it, it all comes as a part of the industrial expansion of the Pacific Northwest, and one that means a better town for Ashland.

The announcement that three more lumber and processing mills are planning to locate here is encouraging. No doubt there will be others.

New Closing Hours For County Offices

New Saturday closing hours are now in effect for the county courthouse, it was stated by Judge J. B. Coleman, with 12 noon being the closing time instead of 1 p.m. The new closing time is in accord with a law passed

by the last session of the legislature setting the hours of business for counties with populations less than 200,000.

As set by the law, courthouse offices will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on all judicial days except for offices with but one employee or assistans, which offices may close for the noon hour.

Democratic Procedure

By Ruth Taylor

One thing that strikes me most forcible these days is a new clarification of conscience. People are accepting their personal responsibilities, Americans won't stand for being pushed around - but neither do they want to do the pushing. They are standing on their own two feet and thinking for themselves.

The other day there came to my desk a little pamphlet called "Ten Commandments For Investors". What does that have to do with democracy? It has a lot to do with it - as any one who has ever tried to run even a peanut stand knows. Of course, the men with ideas could wait until they made enough to set up in business for themselves - but who should live that long?

And, while we are on the subject - what is an investor? Or, perhaps I should say, who isn't an investor? We invest when we buy a home, when we hold life insurance, when we deposit our precious cash in banks - and when we buy War Bonds. We are investors in the future. We are but part of the whole. We are stockholders in America, Incorporated.

Here is what impressed me in the pamphlet. First of all, it came out into the open. It frankly represented Investors. It didn't attempt to finagle and conceal its purpose under flowery terms. It was aboveboard about its aims. It was the code - written by a business man and a lawyer - of an organization of investors, organized just as workmen, farmers, business groups, are, to represent their interests and to establish the collective bargaining power of small investors.

But, instead of presenting a series of claims, or a bill of rights it present ten commandments for investors. Not what they demanded of others, but what they demanded of themselves. They assumed responsibilities and listed them, together with their own aims.

That is what I call democratic procedure. I'm opposed to pressure groups as such - but I'm all for those who try fairly to sell their fellow citizens on the rightness of their cause. Pressure is un-American. Selling is democratic. Americans don't coerce. They try to convince. And if they lose, they get up and try again.

As Americans, we hold as our basic thesis that the good of the majority is the good of all - with due protection to all minorities; that all men are entitled to equal treatment and to equal responsibility. As Americans we cannot have one without the other. As Americans we are entitled to both.

Sgt. Oscar Silver with 15th Army in Germany

With The Fifteenth United States Army in Germany—Its big howitzers quieted with the coming of peace in Europe, the 529th Field Artillery Battalion of the XXII Corps is now on occupational duty as part of Lieutenant General Leonard T. Gerow's Fifteenth U. S. Army.

Filling a multi-purposed position in an area thirty miles in length and ten miles in width, the battalion divides its attention between guarding road junctions,

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shepherding displaced nationals, rounding up former members of the Nazi party, and controlling an outlet of the "Cordon Sanitaire" on the Rhine River.

In position on the west side of the Rhine during the elimination of the Ruhr Pocket, the gun crews of the 529th's eight-inch howitzers occupied their time by softening up the entrapped Germans for the advancing American infantry.

Controlling the outlet of the "Cordon Sanitaire" on the Rhine was one of the first duties of the battalion. Dusting displaced persons with DDT powder was a long way from ramming the breeches of their guns with another type of powder that would throw a 200-pound projectile across the Rhine with a few thousand yards to spare. Now that the war had finished, the next requirement on the 529th's varied curriculum was to scour the area for members of the Nazi party who were known to be traveling under an assumed name and with forged credentials. For this function, the battalion's S-2 section took over; the Kreisleiter of Cologne, Alfons Schaller, known to many Germans as the "Hangman" was soon apprehended. With the Kreisleiter were two less important Nazi officials, but of no less importance when the subject was the perpetration of the Nazi doctrines.

Along with the apprehension of the various Nazis, displaced persons began to fill the 529th's three D. P. camps. Two of the enclosures hold 4,000 Russian nationals and the third hold 2,500 Polish nationals. Each camp discharges small groups each day for repatriation to the respective homeland.

On one of the first convoys to make a direct crossing from the United States to France, the 529th landed at Le Havre on the 11th of March, and was immediately assigned to the Fifteenth Army.

Sidelights on the 529th's numerous problems would have to include the transaction of business with persons speaking a total of twenty languages. It is only through the medium of the enemy's tongue, German, that a conversation can be carried on with members of the 529th and the numerous countries represented as no interpreters have been assigned to assist the battalion in its functions.

Members of this battalion include: Sgt. Oscar F. Silver Jr., of 329 Beach St. Ashland.

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Elks War Work Given in Report

Washington, D. C., June 14—The Elks made their "report to the Nation" today, presenting a published resume of the Order's comprehensive war activities to President Truman, to the Secretaries of War and the Navy and to members of Congress.

The activities reviewed in the report represent a total expenditure of \$1,300,000, according to the Elks War Commission, which conducts the fraternity's war programs.

A special delegation of Elks headed by Dr. Robert South Barrett, Grand Exalted Ruler, made the presentation. In the group were the Chairman and members of the Elks War Commission and members of the Board of Grand Trustees.

In accepting the Report to the Nation, President Truman praised the war accomplishments of the Elks as "a record of which the Order of Elks and the whole nation can be proud."

Among some of the many activities, summed up in the Report, have been the establishment of more than 400 schools for training young men desiring to take aviation cadet courses; the recruitment of men for the Naval Air corps, ground crews for the Army Air Corps, and volunteers for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy Seabees; the evacuation of children from war zones; the collection of books for the Merchant Marine; the recruitment of nurses for Veterans Hospitals, and the establishment of Elks Fraternal Centers to provide meals, relaxation, and overnight accommodations for those in the armed services.

The Report tells how The Elks War Commission in cooperation with the subordinate lodges have promoted letter writing to members in the services, and have sent gift boxes and supplies of cigarettes and tobacco overseas.

Elks are providing entertainment to more than 150,000 convalescent veterans in hospitals throughout the nation, the report points out. Yet another activity has been the aid given to internees recently released from Jap camps in the Philippines.

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