

SOUTHERN OREGON NEWS REVIEW

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GIFT HORSES

Ever since time immemorial members of the human race have been looking gift horses in the mouth. This universal practice gave a sage some matter for thought and he coined the phrase "Never look a gift horse in the mouth". It was common sense advice, but it always has failed to prevent the receipt of a gift horse from looking into the horse's mouth.

This week the Red Cross begins its annual campaign for funds to carry on its world scattered projects of rehabilitation and reconstruction of war torn areas, assistance and aid to American soldiers, and relief in times of emergency.

During the past war the Red Cross was considered by a large vociferous group of GI's as a gift horse, and the mouth of the horse was opened for a look-see, time after time. Evidently what many of the GI's saw there didn't please them. For many and loud were the GI complaints about the Red Cross.

Yet in 50 per cent of the cases where complaints were being made the complaineer was usually one of the off duty lounge lizards who spent his off duty hours wearing out the seat of his pants on soft Red Cross cushions in the Burra Club or some other Red Cross installation.

In the other 50 per cent of the cases the individual who complained was the type who had never gone near a Red Cross installation except once, and that was the time when on a big drunk in Calcutta he ran out of money and stopped at the Red Cross to borrow enough to complete his orgy, after he got turned down he reiterated by spreading all the slander and gossip he could about the Red Cross.

It was the same old case of the gift horse not being quite as nice as a horse bought and paid for in the market. The Red Cross which in the various Theaters of War operated canteens, recreation rooms, hotels, rest-

aurants, rest camps, and furnished entertainment and diversion to thousands and thousands of soldiers operated at a loss. In cases where it was necessary to charge for food or rooms the charge was figured as being "at cost".

In Kunming, China the Red Cross operated a hotel and dining room. The dining room was the only place in the entire city where one could obtain a civilian meal without danger of cholera. A complete five course dinner could be had for 65c there. In the city one could take one's chances with cholera, plague, typhoid, dysentery, and 14 unnamed Asiatic diseases at a price that ranged from \$2.50 gold to \$12.00 gold. Yet many were the screams of both officers and enlisted men at having to pay 65c for a meal at the Red Cross club. It should have been free, according to their lights.

There is a parallel to this in the annals of World War I. The YMCA, which operated a system much like the Red Cross in this last fiasco, came out of Pershing's war with one of the biggest black eyes any charitable organization ever had to sport. The YMCA had quite a struggle to get rid of that mouse, and when World War II came along the YMCA directors were happy to let the Red Cross handle overseas installations, completely.

It all comes back to the basic fact that rarely individuals really appreciate that which is given to them. People prefer and like better those things for which they work and pay.

Yet despite the fact that individuals continue to look into the mouth of the gift horse known as Red Cross and continue to state in loud voices that they are unhappy about the things which they claim to find there, the Red Cross does do a job, an important job, though often a thankless one.

Although the shooting is over the American Army is still spread over a major portion of the worlds surface, and the Red Cross is the major factor in providing diversion, entertainment, and relaxation for the GI's who are still overseas.

The Red Cross is also back in full swing as a major force in helping to rehabilitate Europe. And here on the home front the Red Cross is again in operation as an emergency disaster corps, ready to aid any portion of the country should disaster strike.

The Red Cross drive begins this week. We feel, after having seen the Red Cross in action throughout fully one half of the world that the work it does, and has done, is important. Some one agency must and should do this type of work. If not the Red Cross what or who

will do relief work in the stricken areas. If not the Red Cross, what and who will furnish entertainment and recreation to the members of our Armed Forces who are in the occupation zones.

Membership to the Red Cross is still \$1.00. The rise in the cost of living hasn't reached the membership rolls of the Red Cross. It's a dollar well spent, even though it does go to feed a gift horse.



LOOKING FOR Bargains

Take a Squint at these

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

A Definition of Our Town

Somebody defined our town just the other day as "A place where the people talk about you behind your back, and come to wait on you when you're sick."

I've got to admit there's something to it. A lot of our folks are inclined to be pretty outspoken and quick to criticize ... even about little things, like a woman's hat, or a man's preference for a glass of beer, or the color of Hartman's new barn.

But when anyone's in trouble, those differences and points of

criticism are forgotten ... and folks become neighborly and helpful, like they really are.

From where I sit, criticism never did much harm to anybody, so long as folks don't let it guide their actions ... so long as they respect our individual preferences, whether they apply to hats or beer. That's the way it is in our town, anyway, and I hope that it's the same in yours.

Joe Marsh

Contributed States Brewers Foundation

Monuments and markers. See Burns Memorials. On the Plaza.

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Children 13c, tax 3 - 16c
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VARSITY

Cut Me Out and Hang Me Up

Theatre Opens Week Days 6:45 p.m., Saturday and Sundays Continuous from 12:45 p.m.

SUN. - MON.

MAR. 9-10

Danny Kaye - Virginia Mayo
"THE KID FROM BROOKLYN"
in Technicolor
—PLUS—
Alan Curtis - Evelyn Ankers
"Flight To Nowhere"

MAR. 16-17

Dennis Morgan - Jack Carson
"The Time, The Place and the Girl"
in Technicolor
—PLUS—
Russell Hayden - Inez Cooper
"North of the Border"
Latest News and Cartoon

MAR. 23-24

HUMPHREY BOGART
LAUREN BACALL

"THE BIG SLEEP"

Latest News and Cartoon

MAR. 30-31

Gary Cooper - Lilli Palmer
"CLOAK AND DAGGER"
—PLUS—
Paul Kelly - Osa Massen
"Strange Journey"
Latest News and Cartoon

APRIL 6-7

Jean Parker - Russell Hayden
"ROLLING HOME"
—PLUS—
Wallace Beery - Edward Arnold
"THE MIGHTY MCGURK"

TUES. - WED.

MARCH 11-12

Errol Flynn - Eleanor Parker
"NEVER SAY GOODBYE"
—PLUS—
Glenn Vernon - Marcia McGuire
"Ding Dong Williams"
Selected Short Subjects

MARCH 18-19

Vivian Blaine - Harry James
"IF I'M LUCKY"
—PLUS—
Belita - Barry Sullivan
"Suspense"
Selected Short Subjects

—Added—
"OPEN THE DOOR, RICHARD"

MARCH 25-26

Sidney Greenstreet - Peter Lorre
"THE VERDICT"
—PLUS—
JAMES MASON
"Hotel Reserve"
Selected Short Subjects

APRIL 1-2

Maria Ouspenskaya - Philip Dorn
"I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU"
—PLUS—
Phil Terry - Ann Savage
"The Dark Horse"

APRIL 8-9

Edw. G. Robinson - Orson Welles
"THE STRANGER"
—PLUS—
Eddie Albert - Faye Marlowe
"Rendezvous with Annie"

THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY

MARCH 13-14-15

BING CROSBY - FRED ASTAIRE
"BLUE SKIES"
in Technicolor

HEY, KIDS! — DON'T FORGET
6 BIG CARTOONS — EVERY SATURDAY 3 P. M.

MARCH 20-21-22

FRANK SINATRA
VAN JOHNSON - JUDY GARLAND
ROBERT WALKER - LUCILLE BREMER

"TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY"

The Greatest Technicolor Musical of All Time
Cartoon and Latest News

HEY, KIDS! — DON'T FORGET
6 BIG CARTOONS — EVERY SATURDAY 3 P. M.

MARCH 27-28-29

Brian Donlevy - Robert Walker

"The Beginning or the End"

The True Story of the Atom Bomb
Cartoon and Latest News

HEY, KIDS! — DON'T FORGET
6 BIG CARTOONS — EVERY SATURDAY 3 P. M.

APRIL 3-4-5

INGRID BERGMAN - CARY GRANT
In Alfred Hitchcock's

"NOTORIOUS"

—also—
ROY ROGERS - GABBY HAYES - TRIGGER
"HELDORADO"

HEY, KIDS! — DON'T FORGET
6 BIG CARTOONS — EVERY SATURDAY 3 P. M.

APRIL 10-11-12

BOB HOPE - JOAN CAULFIELD
"MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE"

—PLUS—
ROBERT YOUNG - ANN RICHARDS
"The Searching Wind"

HEY, KIDS! — DON'T FORGET
6 BIG CARTOONS — EVERY SATURDAY 3 P. M.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE