

Red Cross Nurse Heroine of Two Flu Epidemics in Alaska

By W. Henwick Smith.
Scarcely more than a score and five years ago fair-haired and blue-eyed Idyl Davis first saw the light of day.

Neighbors of Dr. and Mrs. C. H. A. Davis in San Pablo said that not another baby in all of Contra Costa county, California, cried as little as did Baby Idyl—as she lay in her mother's arms even as a tiny baby. Idyl displayed a certain fortitude, the nurse told members of the family.

Those who believe that certain well-defined characteristics indicative of personality when the child is born, cannot be detected in a very young baby are mistaken—at least



Mrs. Idyl Davis Sleichter.

those who become acquainted with Baby Idyl believe her future fraught with the possibility of great accomplishment. Her clear blue eyes virtually beamed determination, while the baby hands bespoke work to be done.

Related to Rockefeller.
But after all, why should not Baby Idyl have shown signs of approaching glorious womanhood with a set purpose? Her grandmother, Helen Augusta Rockefeller, wife of Harman, first cousin to John D. Rockefeller, looked upon life with the belief that no day should pass without her having contributed something worth while to her fellowman.

The mother of Idyl, Mrs. Davis who was Evelyn Augusta Rockefeller, like her own mother, never regarded this world as a place to come, frivel away an allotted span, and pass on leaving behind not even the remembrance of one deed well done.

So when Idyl Davis, who in womanhood became Mrs. Sleichter, entered Franklin hospital school of nursing, friends of the family were surprised to hear she had decided to follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother. Early in life had Idyl Davis come to the conclusion that she could best contribute her mite by serving humanity as a nurse.

Such headlines as these appeared in California newspapers the latter part of August when Idyl Davis Sleichter returned home: "Red Cross Angel of Mercy in Far North Back Home"; "Red Cross Nurse Heroine of Two Influenza Epidemics, Returns Home."

Last fall Idyl Davis Sleichter went to Fairbanks to assume her duties as public health nurse. But this was not the first glimpse of the snowy waste lands for Mrs. Sleichter—when she was 15, went to Chena to visit

her grandmother. For three years she remained in the far north, attending school in Chena, and having for her friends native Indians and Eskimos. Her grandmother, Mrs. Rockefeller, who had come to Alaska during the Yukon gold rush, was at that time owner and manager of the first steam laundry in the north-land. Her mother, Mrs. Davis, who had left California a few years before, then held a position as post-mistress in Chena.

When Mrs. Sleichter was assigned to the post in Fairbanks she was delighted, for she had long wished to return to Alaska in her profession, knowing that opportunity for service as a nurse there was great. However, Mrs. Sleichter did not realize when she was making herself comfortable in her log cabin home in Fairbanks, prepared to face with a smile the very worst weather which was sure to come with the winter, that she was destined to be the heroine of two devastating influenza epidemics before the spring and summer had disappeared.

Is "Flu" Specialist.
Idyl Davis Sleichter describes herself professionally as "flu specialist" for after all she proved herself exceptionally capable in handling this disease during the war, when she was placed in charge of an emergency influenza hospital in Iowa, and later in California. So when the call for her to administer relief in an influenza epidemic reached Fairbanks, Mrs. Sleichter jumped at the chance to get on the job.

Her most recent experience battling flu was at Fort Yukon the latter part of July. Three months previously Mrs. Sleichter had gone to Rampart to serve in a similar epidemic.

Dr. Grafton Burke of the Mission Hospital at Fort Yukon, the capacity of which is 20 patients, telegraphed Fairbanks for aid, stating that the hospital was already overcrowded with both white and Indian patients, and that the Indians in the village were almost to a man down with the flu.

Had Mrs. Sleichter been forced to go by boat to Fort Yukon, a six-day trip, her service there might have been virtually nil, and it developed that the boat was not due for three days. The only alternative was for her to make the trip in an airplane.

On the afternoon of July 18, six hours after the call for help had reached Fairbanks, Idyl Davis Sleichter left in a Foraker plane, the property of a private corporation, for Fort Yukon, piloted by Noel Wein. Two hours later Mrs. Sleichter was safely landed on a sandbar two and a half miles north of Fort Yukon. She regards her journey of two hundred miles in two hours as a commonplace experience. The many lakes over which she passed resembled hand mirrors, Mrs. Sleichter says—the trees looked like toy ones—seagulls resembled butterflies.

First Airplane in Arctic Circle.
"All the Indians able to be up met us in power boats, and had lit fires to aid us in landing although it wasn't dark. Ours was the first airplane to land in the Arctic circle. From the sand bar landing I took a launch to Fort Yukon. The only baggage I had with me was a handbag and a packet of drugs. I spent nine days in Fort Yukon, on the job night and day. There were 318 Indians and 18 whites ill—twelve deaths, but three from tuberculosis.

"I did all work in the village, except cook, without the aid of Dr. Burke or his two regular nurses who were snowed under at the hospital.

I had to pay an American 416 a day to cook for my patients. The diet for my patients was as follows: Morning: Cereal (cream of wheat or oatmeal), soft boiled eggs, hot milk. Noon: Fish, fried or boiled, rice or potatoes, sometimes carbon or mousmeat in a stew. Evening: Vegetable soup. You can't feed a native three squares a day—it would make him too lazy, and he would never get well."

The experience of Mrs. Sleichter in the epidemic at Fort Yukon was preceded by a similar one at Rampart in the late spring. She made the trip to Rampart, a distance of more than three hundred miles, by sled and dog-team.

On reaching Rampart, she found eighty-three natives sick, and even she herself was out of the running with influenza for three days. In Rampart Mrs. Sleichter did among other things, help make, cover and line a casket, pull teeth, sing at a funeral, and haul water. Life in Alaska during the past six months for Idyl Davis Sleichter has been one influenza epidemic after another.

In the late fall Idyl Davis Sleichter returns to her post at Fairbanks. She is very much concerned over the future of the Alaska Indian, declaring that unless the government takes immediate steps to guard their health more carefully, the Indians will soon all die off because of tuberculosis.

THE IRON HORSE MASTERFUL FILM

Two ribbons of steel stretched their way across the United States to weld a continent and a nation together in 1889. They were the vision of Abra-

ham Lincoln, and authorized by him to proceed on their mighty undertaking just as the clouds of the civil war gathered. What Lincoln saw in this vision of a great national contact by rail has now been offered in a motion picture that has grasped and reproduced the indomitable spirit that drove epic after epic in this steel girth as a cost of life and property almost appalling.

"The Iron Horse" in its showing at Hunt's Craterian last night was all that has been promised. It is a picture that takes its rightful position alongside "The Covered Wagon" and "America."

"The Iron Horse" is a beautiful love story offering an effective setting in the actual events long since recorded by historians. One witnesses the progress of love from childhood to the culmination in a wedding that is almost as significant to the audience as is the wedding of the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific with their joining rail lines. One does not lose sight of the romantic story in the spectacular events with their historical authenticity, neither does one lose sight of the real significance of the picture in bringing a realization of the magnitude and far reaching effects of the building of the first transcontinental rail line.

Indian warfare adds a thrilling scene. One sees the charging Redskins make their attack on the little construction gang, the flight of the locomotive for reserves, and a battle that almost brings the audience to its feet. Then there is the beef strike when the sullen foreigners refuse to work for fight until they have the promised beef. Again the scouts under Buffalo Bill's direction charge into a buffalo herd and bring down the animals in a thrilling hunt to get food for the workers when the beef fails to arrive.

Many other high lights are in this picture, each of which stands out in bold relief as a climax in itself. And through it all the love story of a man and a maid goes on and on. Madge

Attention W. O. W.
On Friday evening, Sept. 18th, Medford Camp 99 will put on a stag party. This will be a big get-together meeting for members and their 35th Anniversary candidates. Entertainment and big feed. 154*



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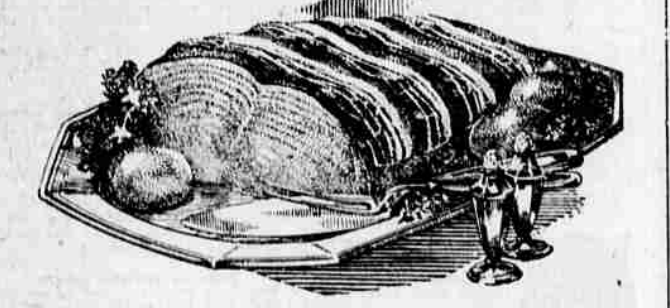
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Filet of Salmon Broiled with Bacon is just one of the many unusual ways in which Frye's "Delicious" Brand Bacon can be used to vary the regular menu.

1 lb. salmon (in chunk from middle of fish) 8 slices FRYE'S DELICIOUS BACON

Cut salmon in four strips, lengthwise of the fish. Remove bone, but leave on skin. Heat shallow baking dish and rub with split clove of garlic, then rub with FRYE'S "WILD ROSE" LARD. Lay fish on dish skin side down and spread bacon over; broil until bacon is brown, then remove to hot platter. Broil fish 10 minutes longer, turning to brown on both sides. Add salt, parsley, paprika and lemon to drippings in pan and pour over fish arranged on hot platter with bacon. Garnish with sliced young onions, green peppers and cucumbers sprinkled with paprika.

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TOMORROW Is the Last Day of the Jackson County Fair

ONE OF THE BEST PROGRAMS OF THE FAIR HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR THIS DAY, INCLUDING

- Three Running Races
- Three Auto Races
- Three Motorcycle Races
- Novelty Auto Races
- MCCleave's Horse Show
- Vaudeville

The Exhibits are pronounced by all to be the best ever shown at any fair in this county, and the prize ribbons are on them.

There will be afternoon and evening free programs in the Merchants Building, plenty of good music on the grounds, dancing in the pavilion, and the fair will close with a

BIG SHAM BATTLE

Commencing at 7:30 P. M. in front of the grand stand. The local National Guard Company has all the necessary guns and other equipment to make this a big event. Ashland and Grants Pass National Guard companies have been asked to take part.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION OF THE FAIR BY ATTENDING THE LAST DAY