

Lt. Carpenter Tells Life of Army Nurse Near Norman Front

An interesting picture of the life of an army nurse in France is given in a recent letter written by Second Lt. Mary Louise Carpenter, a niece of Alfred S. V. Carpenter, Topside, and Leonard Carpenter, Veritas orchards. Lt. Carpenter who has visited in Medford many times, went overseas first in May of 1941 with the Red Cross Harvard unit and later transferred to the army nurse corps.

Describing her departure from England, the nurse wrote, "As I remember, I arose in the morning of the day we left at 3:30 or so. We'd had so many 'dry' runs and had spent so much time sitting fully dressed in battle clothes on top of our luggage in front of our tent that I didn't think we'd be going that day, either. Fortunately, I had a good murder story to read during those times. It certainly was exciting when we finally piled into trucks. It was a warm day and we had the canvas sides rolled up, so we were much cheered by other truckloads of our soldiers. Even British women in the streets waved and cheered us as we went by which surprised me. We landed here just about 24 hours later and reached our hospital for supper."

Likes Night Shift

Explaining her work, Lt. Carpenter wrote, "I rather like nights, especially when I can get a good sleep in the daytime, as I can when it's not rainy and I take my bed out under the apple tree. Sleeping in the tent with the other four coming and going and various others stopping in is a bit like sleeping in Grand Central station, as the saying goes. We keep busy all night; most of our patients are so sick they need lots of atten-

tion—only one last night slept the whole night through like a normal person. Nursing usually isn't very sad—here it's just the reverse; if there's one patient you don't need to worry about, he's the exception.

"It was a great crisis one day when one of our patients was ordered up, because the hospital provides no sort of slippers and all the patients' clothing is turned in to Q. M. when they arrive here. Fortunately, this patient had small feet, for a man, so I lent him my bedroom slippers. Of course, there are lots of minor injuries to soldiers, but other sorts of hospitals get them.

Fox Holes Tried

"A few nights some of us have slept in fox holes (they get them dug under their beds in the tent), but most of the noise we hear here is that of our own artillery. Occasionally a Jerry has come over, but they don't bomb a hospital by day and it would be only an accident if one dropped here at night, so I feel safe and much more comfortable in my bed."

The writer described the unit's social life and in this connection wrote that she and a nurse companion had visited an ordnance unit nearby twice, the second time "supposedly for steak, but civilian affairs division had moved into the nearby town and closed the black market where the little French boy was going to get the meat for the officers. I think the French boy, who is 16 but looks 12, had tonsillitis when the ordnance company arrived, and they got an army doctor to go to him, so he's been their middleman ever since." Lt. Carpenter then described how they entertained visitors one evening and "had a lot of fun popping corn and toasting marshmallows on a gasoline stove belonging to a nurse in the other platoon."

Patient Recovers

Later she wrote: "I had another night on duty and it made me quite happy as two of the patients who the night before had looked like certain for death were doing well. It was the third night I'd had one of them—the first night he got oxygen the whole time and, except for coughing spells during which I was sure he'd choke to death, he just lay breathing with difficulty and looking waxy. He was a chest wound. The second night he was better, but still didn't respond, although by morning he would drink water. So it seemed wonderful when this morning he really emerged into a reasoning being and a

personality. I keep my fingers crossed about chest cases, though.

"There's a fairly prosperous farmer family next to us of whom we see a bit (we live in their cow pasture and sometimes the cows feed here, also the geese and a couple of donkeys). The family came to our Fourth of July party. Bastille day we had a banquet with veal (half dollar sized pieces) and flowers that they provided, to which they came and there were speeches and singing. It was a nice affair. One of our officers told us that the youngest son of the farmers, when the Germans were here, had to go to the nearest town three days a week to work. A German general was in the second story of one of the buildings and when he watched, they had to work, but otherwise they loafed. So it took them three weeks to dig a very little ditch. The French around here had given up hope that the Allies would come, but on D-day, when they awoke to the noise of the great bombardment, they knew we had come and the boy decided he needn't go to work for the Germans that day.

"Mail certainly means more in this kind of existence than it ever did before—more even than in England, as it's the only warm, human thing reaching in to us from the outside—the real world."

In closing, the nurse asked for copies of certain books and for some popcorn.

THE GRANGE

Talent Grange

At the last regular meeting of Talent Grange, August 3, a good crowd was in attendance. The program included an article read by Mrs. W. W. Robison regarding the shortage of alfalfa and clover seed. Another article, read by C. E. Berg, told of plans under way for disposal of surplus foodstuff at close of the war.

H. E. C. will meet Tuesday, August 8, for a picnic dinner at the home of Mrs. T. J. Bell in Talent. Mr. and Mrs. Vic Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Robison and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lacey were named to serve on the refreshment committee for next meeting, August 17.

There are 75,513 4-H clubs in the United States, with an active membership of 1,700,000.

WOMEN IN '40's

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GOLD HILL WAVE WILL BE TRAINED AT MEDIC CENTER

To prepare her to release a trained man for service at an advance base or a fighting ship, Miss Laurene Katherine Kell, hospital apprentice second class, in the WAVES, has been selected for advance training in the U. S. navy medical center, Bethesda, Md., Herbert W. Crain, recruiter-in-charge of the Medford U. S. navy recruiting station which has charge of WAVES applications here, announced yesterday.

Miss Kell is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kell, Gold Hill, Ore. She is a graduate of Gold Hill high school.

On completion of basic training and indoctrination at the naval training school for WAVES, New York city, Miss Kell was chosen for specialized instruction in the hospital corps. When she completes this course she will be assigned to the U. S. naval hospital, where she will receive further specialized training while serving as a hospital corpsman or pharmacist's mate.

Experience as a stenographer with the West Coast Wholesale Drug company, Seattle, prior to her enlistment in the WAVES was a determining factor in her selection for the special training.

Miss Kell is the fourth member of her family to join the armed forces. One brother, Leonard Kell, private first class, is in the Fifth army in Italy; another brother, Ernest Kell, is a sergeant in the AAF in England and a third brother, Clarence Kell, is a sergeant in the medical corps at Fort Benning, Ga.

ZOOT SUITER SOUGHT

St. Louis, Aug. 7.—(U.P.)—Police today searched for an unidentified negro "zoot suiter" who bent to death a white man tentatively identified as Charles N. Case, 41, Salinas, Cal., on a public service streetcar last night.

Salt Lake Lion Named President Of Organization

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 7.—D. A. Skeen of Salt Lake City, Utah, was elected president of the International Association of Lions Clubs at the closing session of the twenty-eighth international annual meeting this week. The association, which added 368 new clubs and had a net increase of 28,000 members during the year ended June 30, now has a total of 4500 clubs and 180,000 members in fourteen countries.

Skeen is a member of the Utah State Bar, the American



D. A. SKEEN
Bar association and the Commercial Law League of America.

In accepting the presidency, Skeen said, "Greater today than ever, is our opportunity for service. We have seen in a short space of time our very right to serve our fellow man challenged. Community life in the world has felt most the impact of this cruel orgy of death and destruction."

"Basically our community life must go on. We as Lions have before us, under world conditions, the great opportunity—yes, responsibility—to heal the wounds and remove the scars of war impact on our respective communities and to make the communities better and life there such that opportunities will attract and bring back with

due appreciation the service men and the war workers."



Olive Barber's Observations

From hotel life in a city of almost a million population to a logging camp 24 miles from the nearest postoffice. Such is the change I've made in the last few days. Strangely, this change was not made because I disliked city life. I love feeling myself a part of the hurrying throng; loved knowing I had a real and interesting role in that life. Too, I found to my surprise that city people are as kindly, as courteous and as warmly human as are country people.

But Destiny, it is said, shapes our ends rough-hew them how we will. So it must have been that Destiny, seeing my pleasure in paths so foreign to those on which she had established me, feared I might be permanently affected. So to offset my pleasure in the crowds and my new job, I was never allowed to find an apartment adequate to my needs. And always homesickness stood ready to engulf me in idle moments, in the still watches of the night.

I would like to think it was authority over me in my new the tender hearts of those in work which caused them to release me from my given word, with the vague promise that maybe they could arrange for me to do the job from the home town. Yet I'm afraid their hearts were cowardly rather than tender, and that they wished only to get rid of me before I cast my sweeping self on their assorted shoulders. I'm no April shower, when I burst into tears. In rural vernacular, I do not weep, I bawl.

At the first word of consent, I went into high gear, headed not for Hillside, but my hus-

Monday, August 7, 1944 MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

band's logging camp. And if this column is to be, as it always has been, an accounting of life as I live it from day to day, then for the next two months there will be little of either city or the country motif in it. Instead, sometimes it will be about the protesting roar of the little creek as it hurdles boulders and rocky ledges on its way to the river. Or of the even louder roar of donkeys and whine of cables.

A few months ago I watched a donkey doctor at work on a cat. He asked me to hand him a ratchet from a nearby tool box. What I handed him, it seemed, was not a ratchet. By the way, what is a ratchet?

CHARMED LIFE

Guam, July 28.—(U.P.)—Maj. Robert P. Felker (2034 Ashland Ave.), St. Paul, whose marines captured the former marine barracks near Orote airstrip here, escaped unharmed today when a Japanese shell hit a tree trunk under which he was standing with 11 other marines, nine of whom were killed or wounded by shrapnel.

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They shot down 23 German and Italian fighters . . . dropped half-a-million pounds of bombs . . . won the Distinguished Unit Badge and countless individual decorations for gallantry in action.

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