

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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SECOND SECTION

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Fake Charity Promoters Fleecing Americans Out of Millions Yearly

BY LOUIS CASSELS
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Washington—(U.P.)—Fake charity promoters are fleecing gullible givers of about \$150 million a year.

That's enough money to bail the Red Cross out of its financial crisis... to put the heart, cancer and polio drives over the top... to provide hundreds of summer camps for underprivileged children.

These and other causes which want more public support are among the victims of charity racketeers who pocket about three per cent of America's total contributions to philanthropy, according to the National Better Business Bureau.

The bureau, which has local offices in more than 100 major cities, is taking the lead in an effort to teach Americans how to make sure that their contributions go to legitimate charities instead of to heartless parasites who prey on man's desire to help the unfortunate.

Edward G. Mergardt, vice president of the bureau, said one of the most vicious things about the charity rackets is the fact that their existence tends to make Americans cynical about all charities, the worthy ones as well as the fakes.

Know the Charity

"No one should stop giving to charity just because some purported charities are unworthy," he said. "If you give intelligently, none of your money will be wasted."

The basic rule for intelligent

giving, Mergardt said, is to "know the cause you're supporting." If an appeal sounds worthy, but the sponsoring organization is unfamiliar to you, investigate before reaching for your checkbook.

One easy way to investigate is to write or telephone the nearest Better Business Bureau. The bureau looks into every new charitable solicitation that is called to its attention, and can usually give you prompt advice on which appeals are suspicious.

Beware of solicitors who call by telephone, give you a tear-jerking spiel, and offer to send a collection agent to your home or office right away to pick up your contribution. This is a favorite technique for racketeers. If you get such a telephone call, insist that the "charity" send you full details of the appeal by mail.

Demand Details in Writing

Many promoters, who are conducting purely fraudulent operations, will balk at putting any of their sales talk in writing, or sending it through the mails. They know that this exposes them to prosecution for mail fraud or for obtaining money under false pretenses.

But you can't assume that an appeal is worthy just because it comes to you through the mails. Some of the biggest racketeers operate on a national basis with mail solicitations. Their "letterhead" charities often bear names deceptively similar to those of high reputable organizations. Sometimes they have an

impressive-looking list of "sponsors."

Some of these outfits manage to avoid fraud prosecutions by actually turning over part of their take to the charity they purport to represent. If the appeal is in the name of a boy's camp, for example, the promoter may keep himself clear of the law by sending a dozen boys to a run-down camp—while pocketing thousands of dollars himself as "promotional costs" or "administrative expense."

If you think that a mail solicitation may be deserving (and some very worthy organizations do seek funds nationally by mail), Mergardt's advice is: **Insist on Budget**

"Insist that the organization make available to you a detailed report of its activities, including its budget and an audited financial statement."

"Determine how much of your contribution will actually be spent for the purposes it was solicited for, and what percentage is expended for administration and fund-raising costs, including commissions to promoters or solicitors."

Mergardt said one of the fake charity gimmicks currently in vogue is mailing out unordered merchandise. The merchandise may be religious articles, or some trinket. Usually the recipient is told that his remittance will help to support some needy cause.

Many Americans fall for this racket because they feel that they either have to pay for the

Senate Votes Against Bowles' Appointment

Salem—(U.P.)—The Oregon Senate Wednesday refused to confirm Gov. Robert Holmes' appointment of Rollin E. Bowles to the State Water Resources Board.

Agricultural and irrigation interests had objected to Bowles' appointment because of his record of opposition to dams on Oregon streams. Bowles is past president of the Oregon Isaak Walton league and a Portland attorney.

The vote was 15 to 15, but not necessarily along party lines.

Duane Goodman Named Yell King at OSC

Corvallis—Duane William Goodman, senior student from Medford at Oregon State college, has been chosen yell king at OSC.

A science major, Goodman will be in charge of the rally squad and the rally committee, besides taking care of all rallies and game activities to promote school spirit.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Goodman, 212 Valley View drive, Medford, and is a 1953 graduate of Medford high school.

The 1952 eruption of Kilauea volcano in Hawaii lasted for 136 days.

merchandise, or go to the trouble of returning it. But you don't have to do either, said Mergardt.

"The Post Office has ruled that you have no obligation to remit for unordered merchandise or to spend personal funds or effort for its return to the sender," he said.

Yreka City Council To Consider Plan For Shasta Water

Yreka—At an adjourned meeting Friday, May 24, the Yreka city council will consider a plan to bring three million additional gallons of water to Yreka each day at an estimated total cost of \$564,200.

The plan was presented Monday night in a preliminary engineering survey by Trotter and Associates.

The additional water would come from a section of the Shasta river. Added to the present estimated minimum daily flow of water, the new supply would bring total daily water flow to 4,500,000 gallons.

Used in the new system would be a device known as a Ranney Horizontal Water Collector, consisting of a large caisson sunk into the Shasta river, with fingerlike eight-inch horizontal pipes extending under the gravel bed of the river. The water would be pumped from there. Natural gravels and sands of the river would be utilized to filter

Investigations Necessary

It was pointed out that additional hydrogeological investigations of the river bed would be necessary before a final decision could be made on the proposed plan. Time for completion of river bed testing has been set at about three months.

Proposals incorporated in the preliminary report to provide for future growth and develop of the city included:

1. Possible future construction of a new 125,000 gallon steel storage tank.
2. Future construction of a chlorine mixing basin close to the reservoir at a point which will collect the entire inflow from Greenhorn creek, City well and Old Boston shaft.
3. Building of a dam and storage reservoir upstream on the Shasta or Little Shasta river when future demands require more water.

Angler Makes Futile Thrust; Hooks Two Fish

Reed City, Mich.—(U.P.)—Robert Addington was ice fishing for perch and spearing for pike on Lower Big Stone lake. He hooked a perch at the same time as a pike flashed by. Addington made a futile thrust at the pike with his spear, but to his amazement, the pike swallowed the hooked perch. Addington pulled in both fish.

The Saar region has coal reserves of six billion tons.

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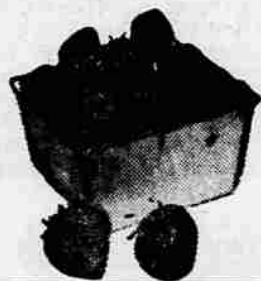
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