

Only Waste, Surplus Material Accepted by NY Charity Group

New York—(UPI)—Make a cash donation to a charity called "Hobbies for All Ages" and it will be returned to you.

Send old clothes or remodeled games and they, too, will be returned.

"We accept only waste and surplus materials," said George Silberberg, the retired engineer who heads the off-beat charity on behalf of the Grand Street Boys, a New York do-good organization.

More than 6,000 tiny and giant industries have contributed more than one million dollars' worth of "waste" to "Hobbies" during the last four years.

The materials detoured from the scrap heap may look from the scrap heap may look like the inventive cogs in his brain to figure out ways the aged, teenagers, prison inmates and the sick can use the oddments in their hobbies.

Fashions Case

He'll take a couple of miles of worn out electric wire, pull off the insulation and fashion a cigarette case from some of the copper inside. He'll take a carton of old-fashioned shoulder pads and sew them together, making a quilt or a

bed jacket—to prove that there is good in waste.

The hobbies he thus dreams up are blue-printed and passed out to more than 700 homes and centers for the aged, hospitals, settlement houses, mental hygiene agencies, clubs, camps, and Veterans Administration hospitals across the nation.

Silberberg was injured during the early 1940s. He spent several years in a wheel chair wondering if he'd ever walk again. It was then that he resolved to help others to chase boredom—if he ever walked again.

He walked eventually, but at first he didn't altogether give up his engineering business for his charitable work. It wasn't until five years ago that he surrendered completely, abandoning the notion of ever working for pay again.

Struck by Poverty

"My wife and I were on one of those 66-day cruises and I was struck by poverty and suffering that existed in places we visited," he said. "It's silly, I thought, to spend my time making money for us to spend on pleasure. That is the work of fools."

ber runs the charity like a penny-pinching miser. Once a week, he dons tattered clothes and climbs behind the wheel of a five-ton truck to make pick-ups-himself.

His "helpers" on the truck are recruited from the ranks of retired businessmen. One is Dan Salk, father of Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the polio vaccine developer.

When Silberberg gets a "please help us" letter from a social worker or recreation leader, he looks up the organization involved. If it's legitimate, he puts together a carton—or a couple dozen—of the waste materials.

Silberberg has two rules for the groups that get the material. One—they must write thank-you letters to the firms that donated the material and copies are to be sent to Silberberg.

Two, they must agree to have a birthday party once a month for all the folks in the group who had a birthday during the month.

"Even in a prison," he said, "a birthday party is a big booster of morale."

Keeping the overhead low is a prime problem in organized charity, according to Silberberg. Volunteers run the office and handle correspondence. One of these is Mrs. Silberberg.

Silberberg assisted by his

Hiring Women Creates Uproar In Postoffices

Portland—(UPI)—A directive ordering hiring of more women in postoffices has brought about a battle of sexes here.

Male employees charge discrimination and fear their jobs might be down-graded; women claim every citizen has a right to a job—man or woman.

Follows Orders

The directive was sent last month from Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield. Postmaster Albert M. Hodler said he had no opinion about the dispute between men and women. "All I can do is follow orders."

He hired two women which was a break in past policy of hiring women only to replace women.

Richard Robedeau, president of the Portland local of the National Federation of Postal Clerks, said preparations to battle the directive were being made. He charged that if large numbers of women were hired "our jobs will be down-graded, our skills scoffed at and future pay increases will be made most difficult."

Robedeau said the policy discriminated against unemployed heads of families and did not take into account seniority or disability rights in job classifications. He said most male postal clerks now have both light and heavy jobs but that hiring of more women would upset the balance.

A veteran woman postal employee, who asked that she not be identified, said "every citizen has a right to a job... they don't want women because women can sort... they also stick to their jobs better." She indicated the women would not sit back and let the men go unchallenged.

EDENS VISIT PARIS

Paris—(UPI)—Former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and his wife were in Paris today for a three-day visit. Eden said his visit was "strictly private."

DRINK AUTHORITY DIES

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—(UPI)—Dr. Howard W. Haggard, 71, an authority on alcoholism, died Wednesday.

SINGER LEAVES HOSPITAL

New York—(UPI)—French singer Edith Piaf left Harkness Pavilion of Presbyterian hospital Tuesday to rest following abdominal operations.

W. T. "Bill" Fasel

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