

Dr. Albert Schweitzer Turns Down Invitation to Visit in This Country



DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER Turns Down Invitation

By HENRY G. OWEN
United Press International
St. Louis - (UPI) - Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the 88-year-old humanitarian - physician of Africa, wants to die in the jungles he has called home for 52 years.

This was his reason for turning down an invitation to the United States, according to Lisle Ramsey of St. Louis, who traveled 12,000 miles to deliver it.

Ramsey, and his 10-year-old son, Max, flew to Schweitzer's hospital at Lambarene, Gabon, in what used to be French Equatorial Africa, on behalf of a U.S. Citizens committee.

The group wanted Schweitzer to participate in a nationwide conference on the Christian and American roles in aid to underdeveloped countries. Its members include UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I'm like a ripe fruit in the wind," Schweitzer said. "I have much to do to prepare the hospital so it will continue. I will not leave again."

What began at a nearby Protestant mission as a one-room infirmary has become a 52-building hospital which, Ramsey said, had 300 - 400 beds.

The doctor is a man with a sense of humor and a great compassion for animals, Ramsey said he found during time spent at the hospital. Young Max said Schweitzer once chided him in German for brushing an ant off his sleeve because, "When you do that, it breaks their legs."

No swatter is ever raised to a fly in the hospital, Ramsey said, rather attendants sweep them into glass bottles for release outside.

Schweitzer usually carries food for a myriad of animals around the hospital area. "You should see the crowd of goats that follows him," Max said.

The doctor's commentary on the world outside is often humorous, according to Ramsey, Charles de Gaulle, as described by Schweitzer, "has a long nose and doesn't know where to keep it." The trouble with the Congo, he felt, is "everybody's playing politics and nobody's working."

He expressed regret for being unable to join the Ramseys on a river trip to a native village because "being a theologian, I never have a day off."

Ordained Minister
Schweitzer is an ordained Lutheran minister but, in his own mind, "Herr Schweitzer is Herr Schweitzer... I do not belong to any particular denomination." The Unitarian church counts him as an honorary member but, "I am friendly and have the warmest of friendships with all denominations," he was quoted by Ramsey.

The doctor was worried about the state of the world, Ramsey said. "I am much more concerned than I was

three years ago," he said about the possibility of a third world war.

"President Kennedy and Mr. Khrushchev must reach agreement quickly on nuclear testing and disarmament," Schweitzer said. "I fear Khrushchev's successor may be another Stalin."

The doctor regards Africa as "a child - other countries must not help them too much. They must learn to work for themselves." The major problem is a poor diet and Africans "need training in simple agriculture," he said.

Always in Authority
He suggested older people be assigned to Africa in the Peace Corps because of tribal customs whereby "the older person is always in authority."

According to Ramsey, the doctor begins a typical day at 6 a.m. with a visit to the

wards. After breakfast at 7:30 a.m. he divides the rest of the day for hospital administration, correspondence and receiving visitors.

The hospital is operated to make the most of what trained help is available and families accompanying patients to the grounds take over much of the care.

The families, "accompanied by dogs, goats and livestock," simply move in for an extended stay with the patient, except if he is in the emergency ward, Ramsey said.

Do All The Nursing
"They cook and do all of the nursing," he said. "Recovery time is considerably longer. Nobody leaves until he's completely back on his feet."

Ramsey had previously visited Schweitzer in 1960, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. He represented the Religious Heritage Society of

America at the celebration. It was for that reason, he said, the Citizens committee asked him to make contact with Schweitzer about the proposed United States trip, which would have taken him to Houston, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington and New York.

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Thespian Troupe Has Good Evening Of 'Angel Street'

American audiences love that thriller known both as "Angel Street" and "Gaslight" - one the original stage version and the other the film.

So naturally, those who saw the opening performance of the play as given "in the round" Thursday night by the Medford High school Thespian troupe had a good evening. Some of the younger ones could not suppress squeaks of excitement and one bit of stage business had some of the spectators audibly beseeching one of the actors "to pick up the hat!"

We had wondered how "Angel Street" would turn out as an arena-type production, but as directed by Mrs. Lenore Zapell of the school drama department, it works very well. The closeness of the audience to the actors heightens and magnifies the tenseness of the dramatic situations.

Plays Effectively
Jackie King effectively plays Mrs. Manningham as a woman in a fear - induced trance punctuated with occasional fits of pleading and hysteria. Paul Jenny is well cast as the handsome, cruel husband attempting to drive his wife insane. Tracy Blackstone gave a smooth performance as the housekeeper, Elizabeth, and Rhonda Farfan gives a pert, lively interpretation of the maid Nancy who is "taken" with her employer.

Greg Keith, cast as Detective Rough, gave a comfortable, casual yet effective interpretation of the man who solves the mystery of the long-lost jewels.

Dave Regneit and Mike DeSalvio made brief appearances as policemen. The former is also the stage manager, Dave Billingsly handles the lights, Penny Sage the sound, and Christy Elmore, Pat Longmore and Penny Sage are the properties crew.

Take Time To Assemble
Properties took more time to assemble and include such articles as a smelling salts bottle, a velvet family album, an old-fashioned ink stand, a brooch which opens to reveal nine rubies, a liquor flask and a jewelry's eye glass.

Some of the handsome Victorian furniture and other needed articles were loaned by an Ashland antique store

Artificial Valves Implanted in Heart

Portland—UPI—Three artificial valves have been successfully implanted in the heart of a patient at the University of Oregon Medical hospital here, marking the first time such a procedure has been accomplished, a school spokesman said Friday.

The patient, Virgil Robert, 30, Portland, was suffering from a rheumatic disease which had damaged his aortic, mitral and tricuspid valves, the school said.

The 8-hour surgical feat was undertaken Feb. 21 by a team of surgeons headed by Dr. Albert Starr, a pioneer in the field of heart valve replacement.

Roberts, a 30-year-old father of two daughters, was reported progressing well.

Bids for Water System Called

Klamath Falls - Bids for construction of a central water system to service the forest service recreation area at Lake of the Woods are being called for by the Winema National forest.

The proposed water development will include a central pumping station, storage tank, and main distribution lines to service the Aspen Point, Rainbow and Sunset Campgrounds on the west side of Lake of the Woods.

Sealed bids for construction of the facility will be received by the regional forester in Portland not later than 4 p.m. May 15.

Information concerning the proposed development may be secured from the office of the forest supervisor, 411 Main st., Klamath Falls.

Other recreation developments currently under contract at the Lake of the Woods area include a water distribution line in the Aspen Point Camp and six restroom buildings, also in the Aspen Point area. Work on these projects will be under way as soon as snow melts.

Work will be so scheduled as to interfere as little as possible with the use of the campgrounds.

A Show-Me trip for interested bidders will be held Monday, May 6, starting at 10 a.m. The group will assemble at the Lake of the Woods Resort. The trip will provide an opportunity for interested bidders to review specifications of the proposed project.

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County Receives Beverage Tax Funds

Jackson county has received \$1,321.29 of the quarterly payment of \$64,933.95 from the state tax on alcoholic beverages, County Treasurer Karl Janouch said today.

The quarterly payment makes the total collected by the county so far \$6,000.75 for the three quarters. The fourth quarterly payment is due in July.

The payment is slightly higher than the \$1,139.32 received for the same quarter last year.

Medford has received \$923.42; Ashland, \$337.17; Butte Falls, \$13.31; Central Point, \$90.47; Eagle Point, \$26.75; Gold Hill, \$21.63; Jacksonville, \$41.70; Phoenix, \$31.09; Rogue River, \$18.50; and Talent \$33.23.

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