

City Briefs

**Marantha** — Missionary Society of Bible Baptist Church meets Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. in Cassel Hall. Hostesses are Mrs. Opal Larson and Mrs. Naomi March. Each member is asked to take one pound of powdered milk.

**Camp Fire Meeting** — The central Klamath Falls Camp Fire leaders and sponsors will meet Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the county library. The program will be on crafts. Mrs. Earl Clark will be the program leader.

**Error Corrected** — The site of a meeting of the north district meeting of Blue Bird and Camp Fire leaders, assistants and sponsors slated for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the residence of Mrs. Ralph Hemmesch, should have been listed as Apartment 12, Linda Vista Court, 1961 Erie, and not the address printed in Friday's paper.

**Ranger** — Mr. Robert L. Cooper, district forest ranger, will be the guest speaker and show a film at a meeting of Eulalia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at 8 o'clock on Monday evening, March 5 in the lecture room of the county library. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Basin Briefs

**Lake County** — Chamber of Commerce regular forum luncheon will be Monday, March 5, 12 noon in the Lakeview Hotel coffee shop.

**Fort Rock** — Mrs. Russell Emery, primary grade teacher, left Thursday for Portland to attend the funeral of her brother, Mrs. Maurice Ward substituted on Thursday and Friday.

**Left** — Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn has returned to Lakeview after an extended visit at Fort Rock with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ward. The recent snow storms delayed her trip home because roads were drifted.

**Hunter** — Bud Newton of Crescent made his first trip to the Fort Rock area last week with his string of hounds to hunt bobcats in the Connelly Hills.

**Keno** — Dick Puckett, education major at Southern Oregon College, was initiated into Future Teachers of America February 22. Puckett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon E. Puckett, Keno.

**Convalescing** — Mrs. Leo Hanks and Mrs. Trow Long of Eastside are convalescing following recent hospitalization. Mrs. Pete Butler of New Pine Creek, is recovering following surgery at Lakeview Hospital on February 21.

**Eastside** — Mrs. Clayton Bradley entertained her adult music class on February 24 with a private recital and noon luncheon. Among those present were Mrs. Barbara Smith, Mrs. A. Harris and Mrs. Viola Bishop of Willow Ranch, Mrs. Margaret Morton and Mrs. Virginia Wilkerson of Lakeview, and Mrs. Eileen O'Neill of Eastside.

**Correction** — Mr. and Mrs. William Theodore Buening, Dunsmuir, are parents of a baby boy born February 21, weight 8 pounds, at the Mount Shasta Community Hospital. Vital statistics February 26 incorrectly stated it was a baby girl.

**Bull** — A truckload of bulls were hauled to Klamath Falls a week ago by Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson for Gus Allen of the Lakeview Meat Company.

**Roche Allard Jr.** — of Eastside is working at the ZX Ranch at Paisley.

**Judy Snider** — daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Snider of Eastside, received medical treatment for an ear infection in Klamath Falls a week ago.

**Dairy** — A. L. Sherk of Coquille spent the weekend visiting his brother-in-law, E. C. Bisbey.

**Home** — Mrs. Joe Vieira and Mrs. Nelson Wood of Dairy recently visited friends at Redding.

**Called** — Mr. and Mrs. Keith Turner of Dairy, were called to Grants Pass last week by the death of Mrs. Turner's father, Jim Smith.

**Moved** — Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Thomas and family, who have made their home in Pine Flat for four years, moved last week to Klamath Falls to live.

**Clara Smith** — has returned to the home of her sister, Mrs. Don Schreiner at Dairy after a year in North Bend and Jacksonville.



ESTHER SEVCIK, Richland, Washington, and her new daughter, Hellen, adopted in Greece when only a few weeks old. The dark-eyed baby is now seven months old and completely recovered from her experience in an orphanage in Athens. Mrs. Sevcik is a former resident of Klamath. —Photo Courtesy Tri-City Herald

Former Klamath Falls Resident Adopts Young Daughter During Trip To Europe

By RUTH KING

Hellen of Greece, a seven-month-old orphan babe from across the sea, is a brand new American citizen, daughter of a former resident of Klamath Falls, Esther Bellant Sevcik. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Guy E. Bellant, 3943 Clinton Avenue.

The dark-eyed baby girl is the fifth child and fourth not her own that Mrs. Sevcik has "mothered."

Hellen is the answer to Esther Sevcik's search for happiness. Her bottles and her crib are welcome additions to her mother's apartment near the atomic energy plant at Hanford, Washington, where she holds a responsible position.

For many years Mrs. Sevcik has offered her mother-love to unfortunate children and in no small measure they have helped to compensate for the loss of her husband and her own small son during the dark days when World War II flamed across the Pacific.

**FAIR EAST**

Esther Bellant married Paul Sevcik, graduate of Notre Dame and they turned toward the Far East in search of work and adventure. Two openings, one on the Isle of Cyprus, the other in the Philippines, were offered. They chose the latter and set the stage for a heart-breaking and dramatic interlude.

**Democrats Launch Yorty Campaign**

SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—Prominent San Francisco Democrat yesterday launched the Northern California campaign of Samuel W. Yorty for U. S. Senator at a Fairport Hotel luncheon.

Among those announcing support of Yorty were George Killian, president of American President Lines; Sheriff Dan Gallagher, Edward Levin and Ed Mattox, both past state presidents of the Young Democrats.

Fitz-Gerald Ames Sr., will serve as Yorty's campaign director in San Francisco.

Paul Sevcik went overseas in 1937 as a consultant to a mining company. In 1940 a son, Alan Laird was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sevcik.

War was being fomented even then between the United States and Japan but the Sevciks stayed on.

Caught by the war, Paul Sevcik offered to fight and was commissioned with the U.S. Army engineers, fought on Bataan and died on the death march. His small son died too before he was two years old.

**DECORATED**

Esther Sevcik, later decorated by General Douglas MacArthur, found the first child she was to care for, while hiding out from the Japanese in Manila. Under threat of death, she took the wife, son of a German-Jewish couple who had been killed, and her own small son through the gates of Santa Tomas prison. Two years later, her own son gone, she brought the surviving child to this country. A Portland couple adopted him when he was seven.

The role of foster mother fell to her again when the wife of her own brother, an English girl died, leaving a baby boy 22-months old. Esther Sevcik met him at the pier in New York, tagged and afraid, kept him for three years until her brother remarried. Once more her arms were empty.

Her fourth child, a 16-year-old girl, child of a Greek father had been abandoned in Mexico. Through relatives of the girl in Greece, Mrs. Sevcik learned of her plight and offered to help. She put her new daughter through high school and saw her married to an Air Force soldier.

Before long Mrs. Sevcik was restless once more.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Last September she took a three months leave of absence and headed for Europe to visit friends made behind the walls of Santa Tomas and her younger brother, Guy Bellant Jr., in the service of this country in Germany. They toured several countries and went to Athens where wartime friends knew that in the poorest land in all Europe, Greece, there was no shortage of babies to be adopted. Neither was there a shortage of American red tape.

She sought approval of the American consulate to tour the orphanages to look for "the right baby."

She found her, small Hellen, a few weeks old, wrapped in rags and newspapers, lying on an unheated stone floor.

In that building where mortality among the children reached 50 per cent, there was little food, no beds and no clothing.

**ADOPTION**

Legal adoption steps completed, she took the frail child away, only to be served with notice that officials had decided against her taking the babe out of Greece.

But Esther Sevcik refused to be daunted. "It would have been easier," she said, "to have had the adoption annulled, to have saved the consulate embarrassment and to have come about my business." But Esther Sevcik had held Hellen in her arms.

Letters went immediately to Sen. Warren G. Magnuson of the U.S. Immigration Service and to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. A month went by before confirmation of the adoption reached her.

She arranged passage on a plane, boarded it with eight bottles of prepared formula for the baby. Several hours later, over the Atlantic and time for a feeding and the new mother discovered there were no bottles of food on board.

The plane's pilot radioed to Iceland and there, 13 hours later, the plane's crew found six small cans of milk and two bottles. It was 60 below zero weather with a 40-mile per hour gale blowing but the big plane set down for its precious cargo and was airborne again without trouble.

The tiny baby came through with flying colors. A quickie hospital checkup sent her back to Esther Sevcik's warm love and constant care, to a life of freedom and advantages under the Stars and Stripes.

She will visit her new grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bellant at Easter time.

Know your AIR FORCE

"A fire in number four engine of our B17 bomber turned a routine training mission into one of the roughest flights that my crew and I experienced in World War II," recalled Major Oscar D. Whitten, installations and engineering officer at the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport.

The Texas air officer and his crew of nine men were on a training mission over liberated France from their base at Pad-dington, England when the incident occurred. They were stationed with the 406 Bombardment Squadron of the 92nd Bombardment Group at the English base.

The B17 "Flying Fortress" they were flying had two 4,500 pound rocket bombs hung externally under the wing. Whitten's crew, with other aircraft from his squadron, were testing the bombs on a captured German concrete block-house. The bombs were designed for use against the concrete submarine pens the Germans still held on the Dutch coast.

"We had just turned from the initial point at 21,000 feet into the bomb run to the target when number four engine caught on fire," said Maj. Whitten. "The crew all bailed out and the aircraft's fuel tanks exploded right after I jumped from the burning bomber. The bombs didn't explode until they hit the ground."

The tail gunner was the only fatality of the accident — his parachute failed to open and he was killed in the fall. All the other members of the crew survived the drop with only minor injuries.

The fire and explosion destroyed the aircraft so suddenly that the other planes from the squadron didn't see it go down and Maj. Whitten and his crew were listed as missing in action until they were returned to their home base. On his return Maj. Whitten learned that during his absence he had been promoted to the rank of captain.

**PICKED UP**

Immediately after landing the crew was picked up by North African members of the French Army. They were taken to the

nearest military installation — a Canadian Army hospital — and were returned to their English air base several days later.

Maj. Whitten, son of Mrs. Bina Whitten, Houston, Texas, joined the U.S. Army Air Force as an aviation cadet in 1942 from Corpus Christi, Texas. He took his flight training at Visalia and Bak-erfield, California and was commissioned from the twin-engine advanced flying school at Marfa, Texas in October, 1943.

After taking B17 transition flying training at Hobbs, New Mexico, Maj. Whitten was assigned a combat crew with which he trained at Ardmore, Oklahoma before assignment to the English bomber base. The air officer and his crew completed 30 combat missions over Europe.

**CAP LIAISON**

After his return to the United States at the end of World War II, Maj. Whitten was assigned as the liaison officer for the Civil Air Patrol for the state of Mississippi. He remained in this post for one year stationed at Jackson, Mississippi.

From Mississippi the air officer was assigned to headquarters, Strategic Air Command, then located at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., as the fire marshal of that air command, while stationed at Bolling Maj. Whitten took the course at the post engineer's school at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

An overseas assignment followed for the air officer when he was assigned as the air installations officer to Furstenfeldbruck, Germany. During his two year tour at this base, Maj. Whitten flew in the first part of the Berlin air lift.

**COMMENDATION**

While stationed in Germany Maj. Whitten was awarded a commendation ribbon for his work as the air installations officer and for running a firefighters school at the base. Maj. Whitten also designed a fire truck at the base using surplus army equipment left over from World War II.

On his return from Germany in May, 1950 Maj. Whitten returned to civilian life and resided with his wife and family in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was recalled to active duty in August, 1951 during the Korean War and has been on active duty since that time.

When he was recalled to active duty Maj. Whitten was assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California as a squadron commander of the 5th Installations Squadron and officer-in-charge of the base fire department.

**PHILIPPINES**

In June, 1952 the air officer was



MAJOR OSCAR D. WHITTEN

Upon completion of his tour in the Philippines, Maj. Whitten and his family returned to the United States in May, 1955 and he was assigned to the Klamath Falls base in July, 1955. He is the installations and engineering officer at the local base (the title has been changed from base engineer and air installations officer to the present designation). Maj. Whitten will be in charge of the maintenance of all the buildings and facilities of the local base and will also supervise the firefighting crew.

A degree in liberal arts and political science from the University of the Philippines, ended Maj. Whitten's studies at Corpus Christi University, the University of Maryland and Sacramento State College.

The air officer resides at 1234 Eldorado Street with his wife Elizabeth and their four children: Dennis, 11; Michael, 9; Patricia, 7; and Cheryl, 4 years old. Maj. Whitten's family accompanied him to Germany and the Philippines. The Whittens' daughter Patricia was born in Germany.

assigned as the assistant air installations officer of Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. He also commanded the 6200 Installations Squadron at this base. He received a cluster to his commendation ribbon during this time for supervising the completion of several high priority projects in minimum time.

Maj. Whitten received the second cluster to his commendation ribbon for his work in support of a C-119 troop carrier squadron which was supplying the French fighting the communists at Dien Bein Phu in French Indochina. This squadron was commanded by Lt. Col. George W. Kinney, son of Mrs. Nell Kinney, 2340 Everleth Street and Oliver Kinney, Sprague River. Col. Kinney's squadron was from Ashiya, Japan and flew supplies from Clark AFB to Indochina to aid the French.

In addition to the commendation ribbon with two oak leaf clusters Maj. Whitten also wears the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters. He won these decorations in World War II.

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THE CAMERA CORNER

By Bud Buesing

Despite some advertising claims to the contrary, cameras are delicate instruments and should be used as such. Never "force" any control that doesn't want to work easily. You may bend or break something that means a costly repair bill. Don't drop your camera or subject it to hard jolts or blows. It could affect the precise alignment between the lens and the film plane. Keep your camera dry, and don't store it in your car's glove compartment on a hot day, when the temperature may become excessive.

Keep your camera lens clean by dusting it occasionally with a soft-bristled brush, then follow by wiping it with lens tissue. Wipe very gently, and never use a scrubbing motion. Don't blow moisture on the lens to clean it. That moisture can do harm. If you ever get caught in the rain with your camera, protect it as much as possible, then dry it thoroughly when you get home. Be sure to open the back so the interior will dry also.

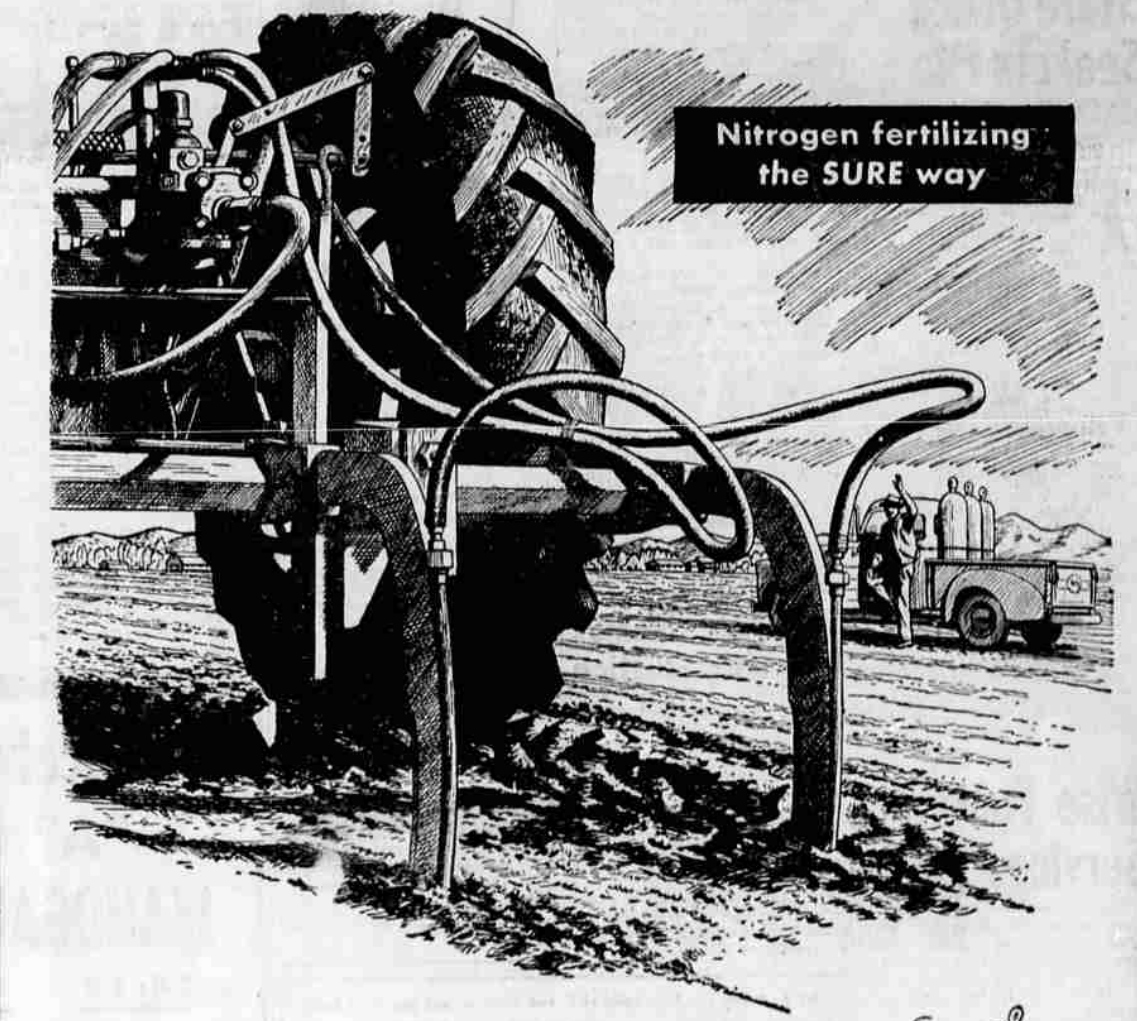
Blow the dust from the interior of your camera every time you load new film. Any dust in the film chamber may settle on the film before it's exposed, which will mean a clear spot on the negative.

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