

Teacher Recalls Red Cross Aid While In Prison Camp

(Editor's Note: Since March 1956 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the American Red Cross, a series of pictures and thumb nail sketches of Red Cross volunteers now in action in Red Cross work will be presented through the cooperation of the Klamath Basin Red Cross Chapter. Interest of the volunteers is divided among the Red Cross blood program, first aid, water safety, nursing services, Junior Red Cross, home service, disaster work and chapter administration.

Everett D. Peery, director of special education, Klamath County School District is interested in



EVERETT D. PEERY

marily in speech correction work, helping children with speech difficulties, in supervising teachers who do home teaching for those children unable to attend classes because of illness and in giving psychiatric tests and securing material for children who have vision, hearing or other difficulties. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the local chapter of the American Red Cross; president of the Inter-Agency Council; commander of the Klamath Falls Squadron of Civil Air Patrol; member of the Klamath Air Search and Rescue Unit, Air Force Reserve, numerous educational and professional organizations and the First Christian Church. His reason for interest in Red Cross work follows:

"I took the Red Cross more or less for granted before the war. I contributed to it and thought no more about it. On August 25, 1944, the B-17 bomber of which I was the pilot was badly damaged and caught fire on a run over Germany. We all were able to parachute from the crippled plane but were captured and imprisoned almost immediately by the Gestapo. After several days of being shifted from one place to another, being interrogated and fed bread

and water, I had my first contact with the International Red Cross. Each of us was given a laundry mailing case containing: Toilet articles — tooth brush and paste, comb, razor, blades and soap, toilet soap, wash cloth and towel, a shirt, a sweater, if still have the sweater, knit by a lady in New Jersey and a pair of socks.

"During the first four and a half months I was held in Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany. This was a Luftwaffe prison and conditions were bearable. We depended upon parcels of Red Cross food to supplement the meager German fare. The Germans supplied us with small quantities of potatoes, cabbage, pea flour, and a kind of black bread which was about 75 per cent sawdust and ground acorns. When fresh, this bread tasted like pitch. Once or twice we received a small ration of a starchy, tough meat.

"We also received Red Cross parcels containing margarine or butter, crackers (hard tack type), cocoa or 'D' ration chocolate, coffee or tea, canned meat and fish, powdered milk, sugar, and a pack or two of cigarettes. These packages were designed to feed one person for a week. There were nine men in my group, and we received four or five packages a week for the nine of us. The nine of us slept, cooked, ate and spent most of our time in a room not as big as most living rooms.

"During the last of January we were roused in the middle of the night and told to prepare to march to a new camp. We dressed in the warmest clothes we could find, made packs out of blankets and took all the food we could carry and left our barracks. As we left, the compound with its barbed wire and sentry posts, we were each given one of the Red Cross parcels. We stuffed food into pockets and carried everything we could.

"We were marched for nine days through the East German countryside. We marched in snow and had one pretty good blizzard. Several of the men were forced to quit and were taken away by the Germans. Others suffered frostbite and other more or less minor difficulties. On the tenth day we were loaded, fifty to a car, in '40 x 8' box cars. We spent 5 days in these cars without an opportunity to warm our food or ourselves. Our rations were very low and the Germans furnished us with bread and 'Blutwurst' which was rather unpalatable when cold.

"We finally reached our new camp on the fourteenth day. Most of us were sick and had little strength. After we were processed and assigned to a barracks we again received some German rations and later we again got some Red Cross parcels.

"Food soon ran short and then the Red Cross parcels didn't even arrive. For about a month, we were living on a starvation diet. Most of us lost weight and strength. Each day we prayed that the Red Cross parcels would come. At last, early one morning we were awakened by



A NEW BICYCLE on display at Piggly Wiggly Store will be given to some lucky boy or girl at a movie treat at the Pelican Theater, Friday, March 16, starting at 12:30 p.m. There will be three cartoons and a full feature and admission will be five Sego Milk labels or coupons. Ray Tomlinson, Southern Oregon representative for Sego Milk, is working with all of the supermarkets and grocery stores in Klamath Falls on the promotion. Other gifts to those attending will include several pairs of roller skates. Klamath Falls is the only city on the West Coast where this promotion is being held during school Spring Vacation week.

shouts and cheers. We soon learned that trucks bearing the beautiful Red Cross were lined up at the gate. We waited in impatient confusion for the packages to be distributed, speculating on what we would eat first, how much we would receive and when. At last the parcels were brought to us and rationed out. We weren't able to eat enough so that we were no longer hungry, but we could sleep a little better that night.

"From then on, we ate better until we were finally liberated by American forces. I, along with thousands of other men who were prisoners of war or 'Kriegies,' feel that without the Red Cross our lives would have been a great deal more difficult and many of us would likely have died of insufficient nutrition.

"In some small way I hope that my contributions of money, time and blood will help to express my gratitude for the Red Cross and perhaps to ease the pangs of hunger and might help save the life of one of my fellow men."

Farm Bureau Meet Held

EDGEWOOD — Three speakers were on the February 27 program of the Edgewood Farm Bureau. Tom Williams of Montague spoke on spray materials. Sedge Nelson, assistant farm adviser from Yreka, spoke on beef cattle management and Dudley Zoller, county agriculture commissioner, spoke on the 1955 agricultural crop production.

Ernest Solus presided and refreshments were served by Mrs. Gertrude Crechioni and Mrs. Ernest Bridwell of Gazelle.

Plans for the March 10 dance at the Farm Bureau Hall in Edgewood were completed. Oliver Solus, chairman for the dance, said the Marina Peery orchestra will furnish music. Midnight supper will be served.

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Crisis Appears In Libya When Births Near

CAIRO, Egypt (UP)—The desert kingdom of Libya headed steadily toward a constitutional crisis today, both the wives of King Idriss are expecting.

Court experts were pondering the problem of which child will become the crown prince — and eventually the king — if both are boys.

Queen Aliya's child is expected first, but she is Idriss' second wife — married last year after his first wife, Fatima, failed to bear Idriss an heir.

Aliya proved fecund from the

start, but shortly after she announced she was having a baby she, too, was with child.

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