

Pioneers Trigger Welcome Wagon

It's a long way from today's sleek motorized transportation to the slow moving, lumbering covered wagon of the pioneer days, but there has been one welcoming thought that has transcended the distance without a change in basic idea.

That thought is the welcoming of new arrivals.

In pioneer days, it was customary for an advance scout to ride ahead of the wagon train as it approached one of the communities in the very sparsely settled area

to inform them of the arrival of the newcomers.

The local people would then fill a wagon with provisions to welcome their visitors. The idea was not that the newcomers would need the provisions because they would be available to them as soon as they arrived, but it was to convey a welcome thought to the new arrivals, and was an attempt to influence the travelers to settle in their particular community.

From this idea grew the Welcome Wagon service of today. It was

founded in 1928 by Thomas W. Briggs of Memphis, Tennessee, and this year is celebrating its 30th year of service to communities in the United States, Canada and Hawaii.

Today, Welcome Wagon hostesses, equipped with their identifying beribboned baskets, use somewhat more modern transportation, but contact new residents of their communities with the same basic welcoming thought in mind as did the advance scouts.

They acquaint the new citizens with the advantages of living in their particular community, and present letters of welcome from civic leaders and officials.

The hostess also presents gifts of greeting from local merchants, and carries literature from various civic organizations inviting the newcomers to participate.

Welcome Wagon represents all churches in the area, and thus gives the new resident an opportunity to become affiliated with a church of their choice where they can join in

community life.

It is significant that Welcome Wagon has been cited for its volunteer service and achievement in community and nation by such organizations as the American Red Cross, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, American Heart Association, United States Treasury Department and many other such groups.

Welcome Wagon is a service not only of public relations, but more important, it meets a present-day need in the field of human relations. Approximately a million calls are made annually on behalf of Welcome Wagon's 50,000 sponsors, with more than 5,000 hostesses participating in this program which has often been referred to as the service which is "in the business of building friendships."

The Klamath Falls Welcome Wagon was organized in the spring sponsors, Lee Hendricks Drug Store, Klamath Flower Shop, and the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce are still actively repre-

sented with Welcome Wagon.

Other sponsors are The First National Bank of Oregon; Fluhrer's Bakery; Adah's Beauty Salon; New Method Cleaners; Klamath Falls Creamery; Payless Drug Store; Ead's Furniture & Moving; Associated Insurance Agents; Herald and News; Columbian Optical Company; Smith-Bates Printing Company; Radio Station K-LAD; Pelican Cafe; Bill Davis Flying A Service.

The Welcome Wagon Club, made up of newcomers to the area, meets the third Thursday of each month in the Party Room of the Pelican Cafe, and is another facet of this friendly service. The newcomers meet regularly to enjoy interesting programs and play bridge, canasta and pinocle.

The present hostess, Mrs. Helen Callison, succeeds Mrs. Lela Woods who is now Welcome Wagon supervisor for the state of New Mexico. Assistant hostesses for Klamath Falls are Mrs. Clarice Cox and Mrs. Vera Wizer.

Peiping Reshuffling Half Billion Chinese

By RONALD P. KRISS

TOKYO (UPI) — What may be the greatest reshuffling of human beings in the history of the world is now in full swing inside Red China, according to well-documented sources here.

With remarkable speed, the Communist regime is herding a half-billion Chinese peasants into newly-formed "People's Communes."

The movement began only last April, yet by the end of October it already had engulfed some five hundred million peasants.

This means that the Communist government probably will have completed the whole sweeping movement, carrying one-fifth of the world's population in its path, in a mere seven months.

Eventually, China's rural masses will be organized along military lines in giant communes averaging 20,000 members. Each commune will be a self-contained unit, responsible for agriculture, industry, trade, education and military training within its boundaries.

Peiping describes the communes as "the primary unit of the future Communist society." They are designed to wipe out "certain last vestiges of private ownership of

the means of production."

In fact, they are a long step ahead of the Soviet Union's collective farms in size, in the all-embracing scope of their responsibilities and in their goal of communizing all property in three to six years.

How does this affect the individual peasant? For Wang Hsueh-Chen, a rice farmer of Honan Province, it means sudden transformation into a full-time coal-miner or iron worker.

He will become a specialized worker in a production brigade, drawing a regular salary.

His last few pigs, a cabbage patch and some apple trees will be handed over to the commune. For the present, at least, Wang will be permitted to keep a few chickens, his pet cat and his blue cotton clothing.

Wang will get a maximum of two days off each month, 24 a year. His wife will get three rest days a month, and when she's having her babies, she will rate a full month's leave from the fields.

Actually, the changeover affects Wang's wife more deeply than it does him.

In Honan Province, pilot area for the communes, she is one of seven million women who were "freed" for manual labor with the establishment of a network of communal nurseries and kindergartens to tend her children, mess halls to feed her and her husband and tailoring teams to take care of the family's mending.

The advent of the "People's Communes" marks the third major upheaval in Wang's life in the space of eight years.

In 1950, when Mao Tse-Tung and his "agrarian reformers" came to power, Wang got a small plot of farmland. Five years later, a sullenly resentful Chinese peasantry was swept into cooperatives and Wang lost the land.

Then, last April, China established its first commune — the "sputnik" commune in Honan Province. Wang's cooperative and 26 others were merged into this giant unit of 44,000 persons.

Wang still had some "vestiges of the means of production"—his pigs, his garden patch and his trees. Now, these will go to the commune.

Throughout China this massive consolidation is underway. It will reduce 750,000 farm cooperatives to 25,000 communes.

The big new units are more manageable than the comparatively small cooperatives, and this is the major reason for their creation. When the state wants to build a dam or dig a canal or lay a stretch of railway, it can now draw as many laborers from a single commune as it did from two or three dozen cooperatives.

What is the reaction of Wang—and the rest of China's half-billion peasants—to this swift reorganization?

If one is to believe Radio Peiping, "the new development is being acclaimed at joyous gatherings. Drums and cymbals are sounded and crackers exploded to mark the opening of a new chapter in the peasant's life."

But however he actually does feel, Wang will have to accept the communes, for the regime has staked China's future on them.

Oregon Vet On National Committees

Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, veterinarian in charge of the state department of agriculture's disease control and meat inspection programs, was appointed to the U.S. Livestock Sanitary Association's committees on transmissible diseases of poultry and sheep diseases, at the association's meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, this month.

The association's executive committee approved the western states' agreement regarding movement of cattle from certified brucellosis-free areas to other states without testing. Bodenweiser said this agreement will be subject to complete certification of counties and eventually of states, and will be subject to existing regulations of the various states. However, where present regulation prohibits free movement of this type, immediate steps will be taken to develop a uniform program, he added.

The association's executive committee rejected the acceptance of brucellosis certification solely by 100 per cent vaccination, but said this would be accepted if tied in with slaughter bleeding and sale-yard testing.

Industry will be represented on the executive council of the USLSA as a result of a resolution passed at the meeting. The resolution provides that no more than 50 industry representatives will become members of the executive committee, limited to a maximum of two from each of the four U.S. extension areas. These representatives will be chosen by industry in each area and each member will have a vote.



NEWCOMERS are introduced to many organizations in the Klamath Falls civic program by Welcome Wagon. Here, newcomer Mrs. Ted Hyde, recently of Bly, contributes her services at Red Cross headquarters. Checking files in preparation for the next bloodmobile visit, December 2 and 3 are, left to right, Mrs. Dick Reeder, chairman of Red Cross Volunteers; Mrs. J. T. Runyan, Mrs. Winston Purvine, chairman of volunteer staff aides, and Mrs. Hyde.