

Red Cross Tells Story This Month

Story Of Red Cross Must Begin With The Volunteer

The story of the Red Cross begins with its volunteers. Internationally, the organization was founded by volunteers. It was brought to this country by volunteer leadership. Here in America, Red Cross took deep root because the tradition of neighbors volunteering to help one another and their communities is part of our national heritage.

Providing a means — an organization — through which neighbor can help neighbor, your Red Cross has been on the job for more than 75 years; since June 2, 1917, this community has held a Red Cross charter to help residents of the Klamath Basin to serve our nation and our community. On October 7, 1955, the charter was amended to include the Tulelake and Newell areas and the name changed from "Klamath County" to Klamath Basin Chapter. Headquarters are in the County Library Building; workers include a staff of two and nearly three hundred trained volunteers.

Local activities are governed by a board of thirty volunteers, charged with responsibility for administering a local program to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the charter granted by the Congress of the United States.

Volunteers serve as canteen workers, social welfare aides, blood program nurses, and staff

aides. They teach first aid classes, swimming classes, and instruct expectant parents in the care of young children and infants.

Because the Red Cross program is one of great scope and complexity, misunderstandings are bound to arise and critical questions will often be raised about the organization's activities. Whatever their origin, the Red Cross organization as a whole and the local chapter insists that such questions should be answered fully, frankly, and courteously. Those seeking more information about the organization, and its opportunities to serve, are invited to contact the local chapter.

Although the organization is quasi-governmental in nature, it is supported solely by voluntary contributions of the American people. In this community, the Tulelake Branch holds an annual fund drive in March; in Klamath County the activities are supported by the United Fund-Red Cross campaign held each fall.

Thanks to the success of this campaign, no fund raising activities will be conducted by the Red Cross in Klamath County during March, but the local chapter wishes to express its appreciation to its contributors and to report back to the public the scope and importance of the programs financed by the generous support of local residents.



"THIS IS HIS FIRST DONATION. HE'LL FEEL JUST FINE AFTER HE GIVES"

Blood Donation Program Big RC Item

The use of blood in medicine and surgery was a relatively rare practice prior to World War II. In the early days of the war new techniques for the preservation of blood plasma, and later for the transportation of whole blood, made it possible for the American people to send their blood to military hospitals and battle fronts around the world. This blood, collected by Red Cross at the request of the government, played a major part in reducing death and suffering among wounded servicemen.

With the end of the war, the nation's medical authorities and the Red Cross sought ways to

make lifesaving blood therapy more generally available to the civilian population. The result was the establishment of the Red Cross Blood Program, which began in 1948.

The local Red Cross chapter entered the program in 1951, as one of the 1500 Red Cross chapters providing whole blood to patients in 3,900 hospitals across the nation. The program has met all local needs for whole blood since its inception. Totalling the national figures, we find that volunteer donors provide about two million pints of blood annually; the program costs the Red Cross about \$13,000,000 each year, or a little over

\$6 per pint volunteered. The need for blood increases each year because of the phenomenal growth of America's population and improved medical techniques that develop new uses and hence greater demand for blood.

One of the most dramatic of these is open-heart surgery. Each such operation may require 12 to 20 pints of fresh, whole blood. The blood is pumped through the patient by a heart-lung machine, which takes over the functions of these organs while surgeons operate directly upon the heart itself. This technique is particularly val-

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"YOU MAY GET UP NOW MR. JONES, WE FOUND A SANDBAG TO REPLACE YOU."

Disaster Service Is Big Part Of Red Cross Plans

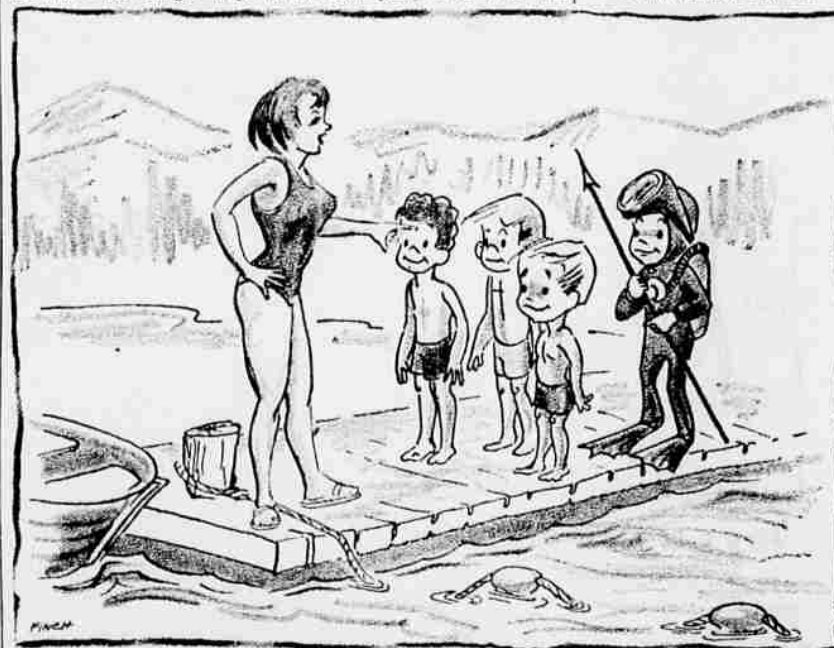
There is nothing beautiful about disaster, which in an instant can wreck the work of a lifetime. But there is something awe-inspiring about the way in which Americans work together to help their stricken neighbors through the medium of Red Cross Disaster Service.

Last year the Red Cross conducted 298 disaster relief operations for victims of fires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, wrecks, and explosions. Food, shelter, clothing and medical aid were given to 88,800 victims; 17,000 families received post-disaster assistance with rehabilitation, including repairing and rebuilding 4,700 homes; Red Cross assists disaster victims with no obligation to re-

pay; all that's required is proof of actual need.

Thankfully, most communities were not hit by disaster; this community can take pride in that it has never failed to meet its full share of the quota on any special disaster appeal launched by the Red Cross. Meanwhile, the local chapter works cooperatively with Civil Defense in disaster preparedness planning, fully aware that disasters seldom respect geography — and "it can happen here."

Red Cross benefits to the nation's disaster victims last year were provided at a cost of \$6,904,482 — nearly seven million good, hard American dollars spent wisely and carefully.



"IS THERE ANYONE IN THE CLASS WHO IS AN ADVANCED SWIMMER?"

Water Safety Courses Taught By RC

The avowed aim of Red Cross is to make every American safe in or on the water. A corps of 70,200 volunteer instructors issued 1,338,000 certificates to individuals completing courses in swimming and life saving.

Beginning at the grass roots level, the organization issues a manual "Teaching Johnny to Swim" for parents to use in teaching youngsters who cannot patronize pools

having an organized instruction program. An award-winning motion picture of the same name is available on free loan to parent groups from the local chapter.

Phenomenal increase in recreational boating has made it a popular family participation sport and has created many new safety problems. Because this community has shared in the increased use of water sports, the local chapter

plans to send two candidates to the Small Craft school to be conducted in Idaho in August, planning to activate a program of small craft safety in the future.

Meanwhile, training of water safety instructors by the Red Cross provides the City Recreation Department, Malin pool, and youth groups qualified teachers in all local swim programs.