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Volume II, Number 7 Colorado Springs November 28, 1942

THANKSGIVING 1942

FARM EMERGENCY OVER

Thanksgiving Day was a day of work for all CPS men but a night of celebration and festivities. Work went on as usual which was the thing done by many people all over the world. However, a special dinner and program took place in the evening which made up for the hard day's work.

One hundred and sixty people were seated at the tables while 20 more worked in the kitchen. This was the largest meal served in our dining hall since last Thanksgiving Day. The
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FIRE CALLS

A fire call came in during the Sunday School period on Nov. 15. The call came from Palmer Lake which requested several truckloads of men to fight a forest fire. Within 25 minutes the men had changed from their Sunday clothes and the first group were on their way.

C.P.S. #5 boys have fought a number of large prairie fires but this was their first experience in combating a forest fire. Fortunately the fire was quickly brought under control by the combined efforts of the Palmer Lake fire department and our men. By supper time all the men were back in camp.

While they were gone, a grass fire broke out a half-mile from camp. For a few minutes it threatened to sweep into camp but the men who remained in camp were aided by a change of wind in subduing it.

On the heels of these two fires followed a number of other large grass fires which have kept the camp standby crews quite busy.

Emergency farm labor is over for Camp #5 and the crews are going back to regular soil conservation and forestry work. A dangerous farm labor shortage which threatened this year's sugar-beet crop, was the condition facing the farmers of El Paso County nine weeks ago. The camp was called upon to help alleviate the situation, which plan soon received Selective Service approval and the work commenced.

Most of the emergency work consisted of "topping beets" but the first two weeks were devoted to harvesting corn and filling silos. Twenty men participated in the corn harvest and did over one thousand dollars worth of labor.

In the beet work however, a daily average of 60 men was maintained and 324 acres of large beets were harvested. Neither the total number of tons of beets harvested nor the value of the labor rendered in terms of
(Continued on Page 4)

NEW ROOMS

Two new rooms have been constructed on the stage of the Assembly Hall. The stage was more than adequate for platform use, so partitions were built making two additional rooms available.

One room is being used as a crafts room and also a storeroom for materials and supplies. The second room comprises the living quarters for the carpenter shop attendant.

New lighting fixtures have also been installed in the Assembly Hall itself and the platform has been repainted, both of which add much to the attractiveness of the hall.

WE GIVE THEE THANKS

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.--Psalms 107:1

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.--I Thessalonians 5:18

Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.--I Corinthians 15:57

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.--Ephesians 5:20

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.--Colossians 3:17

THANKSGIVING 1942 - Continued

tables were decorated in typical fall colors and candles illumined the scene. One hundred and fifteen pounds of dressed chicken were donated for this meal by the Mennonite Brethren church of Hillsboro, Kansas, which was very mush enjoyed by all present.

Otto Pauls was the toastmaster for the evening. Introductions were made of visiting personalities and a number of impromptu speeches were given, interspersed with many witty and humorous stories. In the way of music, one of the camp's quartets rendered two numbers and Alvin Buller led in general singing.

A short Thanksgiving prayer meeting was held in the lounge room to end the day in thanking God for His care and guidance over us during the past year.

Though spontaneous good humor reigned during the meal and happy Christian fellowship was had, still in the hearts of the men there were the thoughts of home and the memory of better years when the world was at peace and war was still but an ugly probability.

GAEDDERT ~~NEWS~~

Albert Gaeddert, former Director of Camp #5, stopped in over the weekend of November 15. He served in the camp pulpit Sunday morning; helped to fight a forest fire in the afternoon; and lead a gathering in a group discussion in the evening.

The discussion in the evening covered all phases of C.P.S. life and the new events taking place regarding our work were talked through. Many campers availed themselves of the opportunity of consulting Rev. Gaeddert about their personal problems which was quite helpful.

ARRIVALS AND DISCHARGES

The camp has lost two men and gained ten, for a net gain of eight since the last issue of this paper.

Carl Gerriets was released last week and becomes the fifth man to be released from this camp upon the completion of a prison sentence. He was paroled to the camp in the summer of 1941, and remained here until his sentence expired this month. Ed Tioszen recently received his release in order that he might enter the nation's armed forces.

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PIKE VIEW PEACE NEWS

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VIII. MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

French Reconstruction

Following World War I, rehabilitating France was one of the chiefest concerns of the American people. Untold devastation was wrought on the battlefields of France which had to be taken care of. France had to be rebuilt!

Fifty-one Mennonites took part in this reconstruction work in France, being associated with a larger unit known as the Friends Mission. The Mennonites did not work as a separate unit here but worked together with the others in the Friends Mission. The total personnel of this group numbered 300.

The reconstruction work took on the form of housing first of all. Two factories were established in southern France which built cheap houses in sections. These sections, all standardized and numbered, were then transported by the relief trucks to the war-stricken areas. There, small groups of relief workers known as "equipes", did the actual building of these houses designed for the homeless French refugees and built on their home places. It took a four or five man crew only an average of two days to construct one of these houses. It has been stated that in some mysterious way, word would get out that a village was being rebuilt and soon the refugees would be coming back--sometimes even before the houses could be built.

Building houses was not the only responsibility of the relief workers. Food supplies, livestock and farm equipment had been destroyed, which condition presaged a famine. To meet this, stores were established in the different villages and goods were sold at cost, or less, to the returned refugees. In extreme cases food and clothing were even given away but every effort was made to keep the people from becoming pauperized.

An agriculture department was also maintained which aided in such work as plowing, threshing grain, making hay, and shipping goats, rabbits, chickens, and bees to the war-stricken areas.

Dentists, doctors, nurses and sanitary experts were included among the relief workers to minister to their own needs as well as those of the refugees. Last but not least, was the ministry of the gospel carried out by the workers. Church services were conducted and Sunday Schools were started. This, together with the quiet ministry of person to person contacts had a marked influence upon the French people. In a letter Vernon Smucker wrote, "They soon learned that these men (relief workers) were opposed to war, and that they were doing these deeds of kindness not from any selfish motives but because of definite religious convictions."* --IR

*Hartzler, J. S., Mennonites in the World War

(This is the eighth article in the M.C.C. Series)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 15

- 9:00 AM - Sermon: by Rev. Albert Gaeddert on "The Good Shepherd and the Abundant Life."
- 10:00 AM - Sunday School hour
- 8:00 PM - Group discussion on CPS, lead by Rev. A. Gaeddert.

November 22

- 9:00 AM - Sermonette and Devotions by Bro. Dave Miller (Amish)
Sermon: by Brother Harry Diener
- 10:00 AM - Sunday School hour
- 8:00 PM - Sermon: by Brother Dave Miller.

MISSIONARY FROM INDIA HERE

Rev. J.N.C. Hiebert, returned missionary from India, of the Mennonite Brethren church, spoke Monday evening, Nov. 23, giving the campers a brief account of the work in their mission field. He illustrated his lecture with colored slides showing the people of India, their customs, problems and needs.

At the end of his talk Rev. Hiebert extended to the campers the call to the mission field and expressed the hope that many would feel led to take up this kind of work following camp.

FARM EMERGENCY OVER - Continued

money have been determined.

The campees who have been helping in the harvest have received very courteous and excellent cooperation in most cases and it is hoped that these efforts will further show the sincerity of our convictions.

The major SCS projects now being started following the emergency work are: (1) building a masonry by-pass; (2) cleaning out irrigation ditches; (3) working on a bridge construction project; and (4) constructing several rock and wire check dams. Other projects will be added from time to time.

C.P.S. EXCHANGE

Welfare Hospital, New York

This detached service unit administered by the Friends is the first detached unit to publish a paper. The name of the paper is "PULSE" and the work of the unit is to act as guinea-pigs in a high altitude nutrition research project.

Kane, Pennsylvania

A total of 35 tons of food was donated to Camp Kane in the last few weeks by the Brethren churches of that district!

Big Flats, New York

Ten pigs have been added to the 200 laying hens already at the camp farm and much is expected in the way of future menus.

Belton, Montana

Five campees were recently given a coveted assignment which was to obtain a winter's supply of venison for the camp. It is believed that this task of deer hunting will take the men into some of the most rugged country found here.

TO LEAD OR TO FOLLOW?

The cup of my mind was filled with light,
But the darkness on their faces
Made me put out my light
And join them;
I could not deny that we were brothers;
It was after we were wandering
in the dark
That they told me they had come looking
For light.

--Harper G. Brown

ARRIVALS AND DISCHARGES - Continued

Out of eighteen men expected in the last week or so, ten have arrived to this date. They are:

- Reuben Becker.....Helena, Okla.
- Harry A. Froese.....Buhler, Kan.
- Harvey H. Jantz.....Elk City, Kan.
- Ralph R. Koehn.....Isabella, Okla.
- Edward Ratzlaff.....Henderson, Neb.
- Paul W. Ratzlaff.....Corn, Okla.
- Harvey Stucky.....Pretty Prairie, Kan.
- Walter Stucky.....Moundridge, Kan.
- Mahlon, Wagler.....Partridge, Kan.
- Allen R. Wiens.....Isabella, Okla.

There are now 159 men in camp.

SCHOOL FOR BOYS

A new type of project for CPS work was recently started in a school for delinquent, colored boys. The school is called the Cheltenham School For Boys, Cheltenham, Md., and will use 15 CPS men (negro and white) to act as cottage masters, clerical, kitchen and general workers.

Cheltenham houses between 300 and 400 boys ranging in age between 10 and 18. The Director is Dr. Vance Thomas who, together with his assistant, Dr. Clark, interviewed men from Friends and Brethren camps, largely where colored men were located.

CAMPER SICK

It was with regret that the camp learned of the sickness of Henry Ediger. He had an attack of kidney trouble while home on furlough and was immediately taken to the hospital. It will be a number of weeks before he will be able to return.

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