

PIKE

VIEW

PEACE

NEWS

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THE MANPOWER SITUATION

After the men going to the hospital and the dairy farms had left, our camp strength was down to 93 men on the last of April. On the first of May, five men came back to Colorado Springs from the Trinidad side camp. These were Galen Becker, Harry Buller, Doyle Butler, Jake Doerksen, and Ben Schmidt. At first it was expected that all of the Trinidad men would come back. Since the work was not completed, 15 men remained to finish it.

Needing more men, the Technical Staff, here, arranged with the State Soil Conservation Office at Ft Collins for 5 men from the Buckingham side camp. These men are to stay until the completion of the dam on the Fountain River. Robert Garber, Lee Harms, Wilbert Lehman, Merlin Schweitzer, and Floyd Stutzman arrived here on May 6. These men were told that they were to help on a local emergency. When they arrived they did not know whether it was sugar beets or whether Colorado Springs might be on fire.

With the temporarily loaned men, our camp strength is now at 97 considering transfers since May 1. It has been rumored that our camp is to be filled to capacity again in the near future. That would be about 160 men according to Selective Service figures.

CONTINUED TIES

The twenty-two men on detached dairy service are scattered in all directions. Some live as far as fifty miles north and some as far as fifty miles south of Colorado Springs.

It has been arranged with the employers to give the men permission to come to camp the third Sunday of every month. Our morning services have been changed to 11 o'clock on that day.
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OVERTIME

It has been interesting to note the number of calls the camp has received in the last few weeks from folks in Colorado Springs and vicinity for men to help with gardens and lawns. The fellows have been glad to help relieve some of the labor shortage by working a few hours after having put in a day of work for the government.

Colorado College requested men to work on the campus. Three to six men spent three weeks caring for the lawns and trees. News reached Cragmor Sanitarium and Village that some of the boys were working out on off time. Calls began to come from there.

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STUDY SESSIONS ARRANGED

With many shifts in camp personnel, the educational program for the quarter has been much delayed. Leathercraft and woodturning groups have continued in popularity throughout the transition period, but more formal activities have only begun.

Each Thursday evening, there is a class in Visual Education. We have been able to book a series of films from the University of Colorado which should be very helpful. Our most recent film was a fairly detailed view of the construction of Boulder Dam.

The Core Course on "Mennonites and Their Heritage" began on May 12. The first two meetings of the group will be led by Harry Martens, our director. On May 25-27, Rev. Lester Hostetler of North Newton, Kansas will be with us to discuss early Mennonite History in Europe and America. The class will meet on June 2 for a discussion of "Christian Relationships to State and Community". It is our hope now that Pres. P.C. Hiebert will be able to be with us on June 8-10 to conclude our series of study sessions.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Yes, indeed, we find this world in a chaotic condition in which war and destruction are the primary factors. Besides war and destruction there are many other secondary factors, such as moral degradation, delinquency, and crime. Although these factors are not in the spot light, yet they are affecting civilization and nations to such a degree that their imprints will never be erased from history nor their scars removed from the twentieth century. Who is responsible for these conditions? Are the Christians responsible? Are those who are opposed to war responsible?

Perhaps they are not directly responsible for the conflict which is raging today against our fellowmen of different nationalities, but had each one taken upon himself individually the responsibility for his time, money, and words, many of the existing conditions could have been alleviated if not counteracted. Everyone must bear the responsibility of making his own life either a stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Each one has been given time. Yes, time for us to spend according to our desires and best thinking. How do we use our time? Is our leisure time spent in doing something constructive? For us in CPS much of our time is consumed in carrying out orders given us by higher authority. Let us spend our leisure time at some task which will be of benefit to ourselves and to others. The story is told of a teen age girl who spent four weeks making a small but beautiful piece of embroidery work. Yes, that was a nice piece of work but during those four weeks she had asked to be relieved of teaching her Sunday School Class because she didn't have time to prepare properly. We should seek to use our time, not just in a good way, but in the best way. We should remember the often quoted statement, "The good is the worst enemy of the best".

Responsibility also rests upon the individual for his money. Although much money is no problem for men in CPS, yet we are responsible for the use we make of the little bit we do have. With this question of stewardship comes the problem of tithe for persons in our position. Should persons with little or no income be expected to give a tithe of their meager possessions. A prominent business man in a large city came to his church officials and asked them for advice as to where he should place twelve-hundred dollars in order to do the most for the christian cause. The officials were surprised and questioned the man as to the why of this generous gift. He answered that he was planning to buy a car and that he always made it a practice to let the Lord benefit as much as he. He said that if he could afford to spend twelve-hundred dollars for a personal convenience that he should equal it with a gift to the Lord. In St. Luke 21:1-5 Christ teaches us that it isn't the size of the gift but the spirit in which it is given and the sacrifice on the part of the giver. In many a person's life money becomes too large a factor. That good old Gospel Song, "Land Me Safe On Canaan's Shore," is sung by many who really seem to mean, "Land My Safe On Canaan's Shore". Money and material things may make death-beds terrible or they can become a blessing to the possessor and to others.

Words! Words! Words!, one of the most powerful weapons given to mortal man. They are capable of wounding or comforting at the will of the user. There is no one who can control our words for us. The entire responsibility of the use of this weapon rests with the individual. Abraham Coles says, "Words are free-born and not the vassals of the gruff tyrants of prose to do their bidding only. They have the same right to dance and sing as the dew-drops have to sparkle and the stars to shine." Each individual knows how to use his words, but do we realize how far we miss our goal? Do we give enough encouraging words to our associates or do we use every chance to give them a slam or cutting word? When a friend greets us with a bright "Good-Morning" do we recognize and appreciate it or do we say in a gruff sleepy voice, "What's good about it?"

The challenge goes out to everyone to make himself responsible for the things in his life which he can control. A nation is made up of individuals. If each individual will make himself worthy then the nation will be worthy. We shall no longer shift the responsibility but take the burden of improving our lives, our community, and our world upon ourselves. By God's help it can be done.

This morning it is cool and the sky is overcast. At day-break, mist filled the air and the kitchen fire felt good. Yesterday was hot but Sunday morning stoves cold for weeks were filled with packing crate wood and again became ruddy. The cold came from Saturday night's snow. Rain fell first until night crowded closer. Then snow fell like balls of cotton. Dark eyed youngsters clung to hurried parents with one hand but turned and with the other reached heavenward to catch the falling flakes. Wide eyed oldsters glanced up at a smooth grey sky, and wondered where such huge flakes were coming from. A snowy night, lacy trees, and lights: that is truly God's wonderland.

Right now this looks like it's going to be a very ordinary day. We ate this morning at seven, as usual, and left for the field at eight. The crew forgot the peaches for lunch and I had to overtake them in the grocery-all but even that wasn't too exciting. Toby and I will work peeling spuds, sweeping, watering lawns, and doing myriads of tasks that housewives know about. We got only part of the ironing done yesterday. That will have to be finished today if we get time.

In dusty clothes and with browned faces the fellows will storm through the kitchen at five-thirty tonight. They will glance to see if there might be roast or fried kid or perhaps salmon loaf for supper, or if this is one of the days when there weren't too many ration points to spend. Their spirits will rise or fall accordingly. We here will be too busy stirring in thickenings and frying and washing field dishes and mashing and slicing all at the same time to hear any remarks made. We will greet them with a very dead-pan expression.

Now someone will ask about the stamps I got for him or if there is hot water, and my hands will be too wet to answer either question. Things will take shape though, somehow the steaming bowls will find a place on the table, and we will eat.

In desperation someone will call a second time for the bread and in as much desperation someone else will neglect to heed his call, thinking instead about how the beans are too soupy or whether he should get some cowboy boots too so that he could rate like the others. Someone will again have allowed a little vacuum to determine whether he picked rocks or not today.

Do I hear some announcements?" someone will cautiously remark. And I will know it is time to get in the last word before the game starts. There will be ball tonight again. Everyone was too stiff last night and besides the dog-eared ball had to be sewn anyway. Everyone will make a dash for the door tonight except Toby and I.

After all there are dishes to be washed again. Soup bones have to be started or spuds yet to peel for tomorrow's lunch. In solitude we will work. That means we won't say anything because we're too busy scraping and so forth. The day will be almost over.

Idesperately we will work! No, that isn't right, but I have to find a word beginning with the fourth letter in the alphabet to let you know we're still here. Today will be a very ordinary day! We will glance at the calendar to see about our furlough. Who said it will still be seven more weeks before we can take one and even then something may happen so we can't go?

It is cool today and the sky is still overcast.

SMOKE-JUMPING -- A PREVIEW
by Roy Wenger

In western Montana, on the grounds of the Forest Ranger Station beside the cool waters of Seeley Lake, 13 CPS men are completing their second week of hard work and study to become parachute riggers. If they can meet the rigid requirements, they will soon be ready to pack and repair parachutes for themselves and 47 additional CPS men who will begin their smoke-jumper training next Monday. A rigger knows he has the life of a companion in his hands each time he packs a chute. He knows, therefore, that he dare not make one mistake or permit one oversight -- the cost would be too great. And so the men work hard and listen carefully while their experienced instructor shows them how to pack a canopy or how to repair a harness.

Ever present in the minds of these men is the thought: "When I have finished my ground training, will I really be able to take that first jump out into space?". During the next month each will be able to answer that question for himself. After their training, the men will be ready to go on call to drop by parachute to forest fires in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and in other states into which they may be called.

The project superintendent is training with the group to become a smoke-jumper, and therefore is unusually close to the men and can appreciate their problems. The nature of the task demands that each man have confidence in the ability of every other man, and the technical staff is encouraging mutual understanding and trust among the men.

Although it has just begun, one may predict that the smoke-jumpers project will offer a creative service by helping to protect the forests of the west from destruction by fire. One may also predict an eventful summer for 60 men in Civilian Public Service.

"He is the freeman, whom the truth makes free,
And all are slaves besides."

--Cowper--

OVERTIME (continued)

Cragmor is located up the hill half a mile west of camp. It is a T.B. Sanitarium. Because of the shortage of labor, much of the work has been neglected. Some of the boys have been carrying trays to the patients, others have been scrubbing floors and walls. Much of the work in the Village has been yard work and spring cleanup.

There have been several jobs for private families in town, and the need has been so great that the folks have been glad to drive both ways to the camp to get and return the fellows.

None of the work has been solicited. Word has traveled from person to person. With present shortages, the help has been much appreciated. And we too have been happy for the chance to help.

CONTINUED TIES (Cont'd)

That gives the boys sufficient time for the morning chores, and in most cases the boys do not have to be back for the evening chores of that day. The fellows have most of the day to meet with other friends at camp.

The National Service Board is sending The Reporter to the boys directly and the M.C.C. is sending them the CPS Newsletter. No doubt all of the boys will appreciate this service since it gives them an opportunity to keep in touch with CPS work in other areas. The Pike View Peace News is also being mailed to all of these men. It is expected that we will find other opportunities to share things of common interest with them. We also hope that the fellows will feel at home in camp and come to spend as much time as possible with us.

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