

THE GREATER OMAHA GUIDE  
CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION  
FOR NINETEEN YEARS—



FOR THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year; hundreds of thousands or millions of people struggling with unnecessary physical handicaps—blind or deaf or crippled or half sick, and all quite needlessly. This is not a record for any nation to be proud of. The cost in human suffering cannot be measured. In cold money terms, the loss is likewise huge. It is in fact many times the amount required to prevent these evils.

It's no wonder that the American people are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with this situation. It's no wonder that they are now demanding a positive program for improving the nation's health.

Over 10 years ago the federal government set up a nationwide system of insurance against the hazards of old age and unemployment. We are now the only great industrial country which does not have similar social insurance against the cost of illness. It is high time for national action to provide cash payments in time of sickness and to remove financial barriers to adequate medical care.

Joe Worker and his family illustrate the typical situation in many wage earners' families. Joe is tired after the long war years in which he pushed himself to the utmost to speed victory. Hours were long and working conditions were not of the best. He looks older than his years, even though he doesn't know what's wrong with him. Why waste money on going to the doctor, now that it is so hard to make ends meet?

His wife does go to the doctor—she has a pain in her back that she cannot seem to get rid of. Maybe a specialist would be able to help her more, but she is afraid of expensive treatment.

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She gets along as best she can.  
John, aged 12, is full of energy and in good health thank goodness. They do not have many worries about him, except trying to get enough meat and milk and bread to keep up with his appetite. Little Mary, aged 4, has not been so strong; they have made it a point to take her to the doctor regularly even though this has cost quite a bit. They have read the bulletins of the U. S. Children's Bureau about the importance of regular examinations, vitamins, and so forth. One of these days they are going to have to have her tonsils out at quite a cost, but if that is the worst, they will be able to meet it.

There are many families much worse off than Joe Worker's. They have been overwhelmed by long-drawn-out illness which has cut off the father's income at the same time that huge bills have piled up. Their small savings have been spent for doctors' bills, and yet they have not been able to get as good care as needed. Many families live in smaller or poorer communities than Joe Worker, where there are few or no doctors.

There are other families that have been especially lucky and that have had no great problems of medical care. They enjoy good health, they have a good doctor, and a nice home in a good neighborhood, with plenty of play space. Yet even they may be overwhelmed if disease strikes the wage earner. Some are now carrying hospital insurance or may be protected to some extent by a sick benefit plan negotiated by a union. But only a few of even this lucky group, those with large savings, can be sure of paying the doctor in those unexpected but all too frequent cases when a long-drawn-out illness strikes.

During the war, more than a third of the registrants were turned down by Selective Service because of poor health. And these rejections were all among young men. Even those who were accepted often had some physical defects, like poor teeth or bad vision, that the Army tried to correct.

Why should so many young Americans be in poor health? Well, the U. S. Public Health Service tried to answer that question by studying what happened in Hagerstown, Maryland, where they had been keeping track of the health of growing children for about twenty years. Most of the Hagerstown boys who were rejected for military service because of medical defects had those same defects when they were children. For example, three-quarters of the children who were rated as underweight and undernourished 15 years earlier were rejected by Selective Service. Half the children who were later disqualified because of eye defects had poor vision 15 years earlier.

What's the use of examining children, and writing down on a record what's wrong with them? Of course, the Public Health Service doctors hoped their parents would have those defects taken care of. But how? If they didn't have the money, how could they? Several studies have shown that people go into debt for medical reasons more than for any other reason.

That's why insurance against medical costs is so important. Illness often strikes individuals without warning, but for large groups of people, it's easy to predict how much sickness there will be, say, in a year. Then if every one in a large group regularly contributes a little to a common fund, each family unfortunate enough to be stricken with illness will be able to get the right kind of medical care when it is needed. The bigger you make the group, the less each individual has to pay because then you're spreading the risk more. That's why the government should create one big medical insurance system for everybody. The voluntary plan are all right in a small way. They help—but they aren't enough.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT  
NEGRO ATHLETIC PROWESS

By John M. Lee

NEW YORK—Long ago, the experts who are spending their lives trying to prove that the Negro is inferior, came to the conclusion that the best way to explain away the prominence of Negro athletes in the various branches of sports was to admit it on the basis that the Negro is more animal than the Caucasian. Well, animal or vegetable, the brown boys are still in their toppling over records in everything from ping pong to heavyweight boxing.

Spotlighted this season, and top attraction for a long time to come, is the record being made by Jackie Robinson as a Brooklyn Dodger minor leaguer. Because of his personality, intelligence, ability and his position as the first Negro to break into the organized game, Jackie will be something of a legend wherever and whenever the game comes up for discussion. There will be some who will look upon him as an accident, and there will be others in his own race who will consider him a superman. Actually Jackie is what the guy who keeps the records of the game will call a top grade ball player.

Along with Jackie are two other high class performers in the great American game. Roy Campanella and Donald Newcombe are Dodgerites assigned to the Nashua Club of the New England League. Campanella, a recruit from the Elite Giants who hold forth down Baltimore way, is a faultless guardian of the keystone sack, with a quick eye and a hefty swing. He likes to warm up for his catching duties by blasting out home runs. Newcombe formerly tossed them over for the Newark Eagles, and he is pitching his way to a permanent berth on the big time train. There will be a lot of speculation about both of these boys, but what will outweigh all of the talk is the fact that they are two good ballplayers who knew what they wanted and worked hard to get it.

Joe Louis who occupies the top money-making position in the sports world has been analyzed and studied by all sorts of experts who want to find out why he won the championship. They assign all sorts of reasons to his success, but none of them bother to see the simple truth, which is just that Joe Louis is the best heavyweight.

In basketball, track, swimming, football and many of the hundred other sports, Negro performers exhibit marked ability and championship form. High Schools and Colleges throughout the North, South, East and West turn up with amazing regularity. Negro boys who show excellent athletic ability. Not all of the crack performers are privileged to be heralded around the world, or to become a part of a championship team. Most of them are destined to have their prowess and acclaim remain a matter for local consumption, but there is no denying the contribution they make to the record of the game they play.

While this piece is concerned with the male of the species, Negro women have also excelled in the sports world. They have proven themselves proficient in such strenuous male pursuits as football, basketball, bowling and boxing. Tuskegee Institute is the proud possessor of a one woman championship team in the person of the speed and stamina of Miss Alice Coachman who for the past several years has run her way into the athletic hall of fame.

Whether or not there is some significance in the consistency

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of Negro athletes is a point I shall not undertake to resolve. It is sufficient that such is the case, and it is important that it remain the case. All of the propaganda in the world can never be as effective as a sound mind in a strong body acting with coordinated effort to excel in clean, honest sport.

Notwithstanding the fact that some unathletic thinkers with narrow minds are trying to prove that physical triumph is purely animal triumph, Negro boys and girls should take advantage of the fine weather that is on the way and take every opportunity to play hard at some sport. It is a sure way to rid the mind and body of dangerous poisons. The lessons learned on the field of sport will come in handy in later life. Athletics develop the mind as well as the body, and a good athlete is the possessor of some fine reflex actions.

Training the mind and the body to function at their highest levels is the surest way to combat stupid racial propaganda. To survive it is necessary to be alert and be able to act swiftly. Now that spring is here and summer is on the way, let's start building a finer generation of ourselves by giving the youngsters a chance to take part in sports.

A man held in custody here and identified by Sheriff Forest Castle as Richard Russell Thomas, 42, formerly of Chicago, allegedly confessed last week to the brutal slaying of six year old Suzanne Degnan in Chicago last January 7th. Thomas, male nurse and musician shown here in the sheriff's office at Phoenix as he wrote a note which was forwarded to Chicago police for comparison with the Degnan ransom note.

MERLE E. HANSEN  
REPORTS ON AVC  
CONVENTION AT  
DES MOINES  
PASS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

I have just returned from a veterans convention. A veterans convention without seeing a single drunk, without a parade, where no one dropped water bags from hotel windows, and where waitresses could maneuver about without having their skirts ripped off by a funny man with a cock hat and a tin horn—no not even any funny hats. I was proud that I was a member of the American Veterans Committee and I felt that I was a part of an important epoch-making event.

But before going into the convention I would like to go into a little background of AVC to give you an idea of what we were trying to do at Des Moines. About 3 years ago three GI's and two officers got together by mail and decided that if veterans were to attain jobs, peace and freedom that we were winning all over the world, they must form a veterans organization which would do the job. However, they didn't feel that it was fair to draw up a cut and dried organization to shove at the veteran when he returned and say—here it is you want to join or don't you? Instead they felt that veterans should have the opportunity after all the fighting was done and men were back to set down together and draw up the kind of organization which would give us that more democratic and prosperous America in a world organized against war.

Before Des Moines it was just what the name implies—a committee. Its committee form it had grown to 60,000 members with 500 chapters in 45 states and over seas chapters all the way from Tokyo to Berlin. The organization had grown so large that it was not possible for all or members to set down together and talk it over so a system of delegates had to be evolved and out of that 850 delegates met in Des Moines representing the 60,000 members.

To assume that it was a quiet affair because there was no drinking or rowdiness would be a very wrong impression indeed. Causes were in session all night long and when the nominating platform and constitution committee adjourned delegates were carried out on their feet by the police. Thomas L. Stokes said this convention was something such as was never seen before by this writer in 25 years of covering national and state political and other conventions.

Even as few conventions (our state Farmers Union Convention) this year, the delegates had to have attended it impressed me as being something more than just the ordinary kind of convention. It was a bunch of serious veterans who realized the seriousness of our times.

Then when a veterans organization goes on record against a bonus, that's news. The AVC's motto is "citizens first, veterans and then therefore we believe that the welfare of the veteran is inseparable from that of the community, the nation—the world.

AVC not only went on record as being against discrimination of any kind but we showed by action that we really meant. Only a few hours after we had passed our anti-discrimination plank, a local restaurant refused to serve one of our Negro delegates. As soon as the convention heard of the incident it set up a committee to investigate and about fifty delegates, led by Oren Root, Jr., (former chairman of the Wilkie Clubs in 1940) picketed the place chanting "The Crow must go". The police captain was summoned and the proprietor of the cafe was arrested for violating the state anti-discrimination law. The whole demonstration was extremely well conducted and lasted only about half an hour. Then several hundred dollars were collected for placing an announcement in the local papers thanking the city authorities for their cooperation and reminding them that the AVC practiced what it preached.

Charles Bolte our present chairman was re-elected chairman by acclamation—except for one die-hard dissenter. The real fight was on the vice chairman, Harrison, former of AVC, ran against Norris Helford. Harrison winning out.

The offices filled were that of a National Planning Committee and which contains a number of exceptionally able men. Some of them are Franklin D. Roosevelt, Oren Root, Jr.; Robert Nathan; Michale Straight; E. J. Kahn and Cord Meyer (Harold Stassen's advisor at the San Francisco Conference).

Our speakers included Henry Wallace, Harold Stassen (an AVC member), Representative Monroney, Bishop B. J. Shell and Walter

Weather.  
We strongly endorsed World Government TVA-type authorities for the Missouri and Columbia Valley, 75 cent minimum wage and veterans housing in the Wyatt Housing Program.

Merle E. Hansen  
Field Secy. for N.E.R. and I.A.A.V. American Veterans Com.

ODDS AND ENDS OF SERVICE COUNT SO VERY, VERY MUCH

Perhaps it's nothing more than a refreshing glass of ice water. But the little things—the odds and ends of service—very often count a great deal, according to Emma W. Reddan.

Mrs. Reddan, acting director here for Girl Scouts, has announced the organization has stepped back into a pre-war hospital aid program. As the result, nine senior Girl Scouts have taken up part time duty at Methodist Hospital. They are: Grace Kropp, Sally Bond; Carol Albertson; Mary Lou Carnaby; Yvette Costello; Barbara Carnaby; LaDonna Ketchmark; Constance McCandless and Barbara Frederickson.

A wartime organization, known as "Tops" was jointly operated by the Girl Scouts, the Girl Scouts and Girl Reserves. It stood for "Teens Offering Patriotic Service". But their special duty in hospitals and child care centers stopped almost with the end of the war.

The Scouts had performed service like this in the years before the war and it was the thought that it should be continued as a post war project. Mrs. Reddan said, it is hoped that next year the service will be extended into other hospitals.

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE By PILGRIM

BURDETTE DEFEATS HOWARD-KENNEDY IN TRACK MEET

Some thirty-five boys representing the Burdette playground and the Howard Kennedy playground in a track meet at the Burdette field Wednesday, June 26, 1946.

W. Gray, the only double giver promise of being one of the better track men ever produced in the Omaha high schools.

Burdette scored 32 1-2 points to 27 1-2 for Howard Kennedy.

SUMMARY:  
50 yd. dash: 1st McHenry (HK); 2nd Bimms (Burdette); 3rd Triggs (HK); 4th Drake (Burdette).  
100 yd. dash: 1st Watkins (Burdette); 2nd Stevenson (HK); 3rd Taylor (HK); 4th Fairchild (Burdette).  
220 yd. dash: 1st Taylor (HK); 2nd Watkins (Burdette); 3rd Stevenson (HK); 4th Williams (Burdette).  
440 yd. dash: 1st W. Gray (Burdette); 2nd Triggs (HK); 3rd McHenry (HK); 4th Fairchild (Burdette).  
High jump: 1st W. Gray (Burdette); 2nd Carter (Burdette); 3rd Battles (Burdette); 4th Lee (HK).  
440 yd. Relay: Tie between Burdette and Howard Kennedy. (Burdette relay team Bimms, H. Gray, Williams and Watkins); (Howard Kennedy relay team McHenry, Triggs, Stevenson and Taylor).

An estimated 38.5 million bushels of freestones and 20.8 million bushels of California clingstones. Good supplies are expected also in August from the middle Atlantic and central states and again in September from Michigan, New York, New England, and the north western states. Home canning of peaches will be particularly important this year, because the supply of commercially canned fruits is not expected to be large enough to meet consumer demand in the winter and spring ahead.

Department cookery scientists have offered suggestions for using our major plentiful potatoes, not only as an alternate, but as an extender for wheat flour in baking bread. Only a small quantity of potato can be used—about one cup of mashed potatoes to 5 or 6 cups of flour. The mashed potato is thinned with potato water then mixed with the softened yeast cake before the flour is stirred in to make a dough or a sponge. Home bakers may prefer however, to extend their flour supplies with oatmeal, or corn meal finely ground, which may be used to replace as much as one-third of the flour in a standard recipe for white bread.

There are so many potatoes available from the 75 million bushel spring and intermediate crop and so many different ways to prepare them, that homemakers will find it practical to use them following this policy offers every homemaker an opportunity to contribute to the welfare of humanity because it will make more wheat and flour available to feed the starving nations abroad.

is an excellent source of niacin—the important anti-pellagra B-vitamin, and the concentration is particularly high in the breast meat of young chickens like broilers and fryers. In chicken breast the niacin concentration compares favorably with pork liver and beef liver, which have been recognized as among the richest sources of this vitamin, these specialists report. The dark meat, however, is superior in riboflavin and thiamin.

Fruit lovers can revel in the knowledge that peaches, a favorite for home canning and for eating fresh will be plentiful this season. USDA's crop experts say that the 1946 peach crop is the second largest on record—only 1 percent than last year's hamper production. The heaviest supplies are due in July from the 11 southern peach states and from California. The early crop will include

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