

Women in Wartime

Omaha Women In Red Cross Canteen Work

Mrs. L. L. Kountze is
Commandant of Im-
portant Part
of War
Service

WHEN the young manhood of America answered the call of democracy, endangered, it wasn't fear or self-pity that gripped their hearts—it was leaving home, perhaps forever, and all that it meant; mother's care, sister's companionship and the "girls a fellow always knows."

It was the knowledge that newly-made soldiers everywhere were longing for this thing they had left behind that prompted Mrs. Luther L. Kountze to found Red Cross canteen work in Omaha. It is one of the most appreciated and successful of war relief work with its two divisions, the meeting of troop trains and the service of the permanent canteen at Fort Omaha, the only one this side of "over there."

Every day or so the railroad stations are filled with a bevy of smiling young girls and kindly matrons, costumed like the group above in their white aprons and blue-veiled sailors. Armed with baskets of tempting apples, cigarettes, postcards, pencils and magazines, they give every passing man in khaki just such a welcome as he would get in his own home town.

Cheers for Omaha.

No troop train leaves the Gate City without a rousing cheer for the Red Cross canteeners and Omaha. The boys say time and again, "We'll never forget Omaha." They see that someone does care, that the folks over here are back of them. The canteeners love the work. They see its immediate result. They are hoping someone will do things for their sons and brothers. A popular Red Cross poem expresses it very aptly:

"Your boy and my boy,
And how they go today
From your home and my home
To the trenches far away!
Brave lads and true lads,
They never think of fear;
Young men and strong men—
We hold them all so dear;
And the one cross, the Red Cross, the
cross for me and you
Will succor them in every land 'neath
the red and white and blue."

"The low white building with 'Red Cross canteen' painted over the door is the brightest spot at Fort Omaha. With its colony of 2,500 men in preparation for war. During the last week 8,936 orders were filled.

The home cooking, served by attractive canteeners; the porch open during the evenings, where the soldiers in the making may sip a bit over their favorite "banana splits," have accomplished the purpose of providing that longed for "touch of home."

"It's not the food alone," explains Mrs. Kountze, "it's bringing the influence of women into the army post. This is the only way it can be accomplished."

A short while ago, the counter was being redecorated with a new coat of sanitary white paint, and that portion of the building was shut off. Gould Dietz, head of Omaha Red Cross chapter, received a "rush" important! telephone call from Colonel H. D. Hersey, commandant of the post.

Colonel Hersey Approves.

"You are not closing the canteen, are you?" asked the colonel. When he learned it was a temporary arrangement for repairs, he expressed his gratitude.

"You must not think of closing. If you make any change, let it be to enlarge. The benefit to the boys is not to be counted, and since the officers have no mess provided for them, we simply must have the Red Cross canteen."

While women who belong to the canteen service feel gratified at the success of their work and enjoy the contact with those they serve, no one ever denied that "it's hard work." Girls who in more peaceful days were waited upon, quite naturally feel the strain of three and four hours of walking about, handing out "ham and" coffee or roast beef medium.

The soda fountain, open in the evening, is "manned" mostly by girls who spend their days at other kinds of Red Cross work, or who are working "in men's places" in offices or stores. It's not exactly easy standing and walking around (it's against the rules to sit down), until 10 p. m., especially at the end of a wearisome day, but it's wonderfully satisfying to feel that when all kind deeds are added up, canteen work will surely be listed.

"I was hungry and you gave me to eat, thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger and you took me in."

The sacrifice sale which was conducted for the last three days by women of the First Methodist church netted over \$400. A part of the sum will be given to the French war orphans in France. Mrs. Charles Goss had charge of the sale.



Left to Right—Mrs. E. H. Buchner, Miss Mona Cowell, Miss Mildred Todd, Mrs. Robert Bradford, Mrs. Harold Pritchett, Mrs. John McCague, Jr., Miss Carolyn Barkalow, Miss Katherine Thummel and Mrs. George H. Thummel.

Canning Talks Feature of Food Conservation Meetings

LOCAL work in food conservation is taking the form of instruction classes and canning lectures. Meetings in the interest of conservation in general have been held in nearly every district of the city. A report will soon be ready which will show what each district has accomplished.

Miss Nellie Farnsworth, federal food agent, will carry out the following lecture program the coming week:

Monday, 3 p. m., Clifton Hill school. Mrs. E. E. Gilbert, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Canning." 7:30 p. m., Druid Hill school. Mrs. Walter J. Taylor, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Correct Table Service."

Tuesday, 10 a. m., Lothrop district. Mrs. Maynard C. Cole, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Victory Breads." Meeting will be held in the Christian church; 3 p. m., Central district. Mrs. J. H. Craddock, chairman. Canning by cold pack method will be discussed by Miss Farnsworth in Room 325, Central High school. All women are welcome; 7 p. m., Mason school. Mrs. J. P. Winn, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Canning."

Wednesday, 2 p. m., Central Park school. Talk on canning. Mrs. George Devereux, chairman; 3:30 p. m., Miller Park school. Canning by cold pack method.

Thursday, 10 a. m., Dundee school. Mrs. Wynne Dressler, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Canning." 3 p. m., Farnam school. Canning by cold pack method.

Friday, 2 p. m., Dupont school. Mrs. Albert Hruban, chairman; 7:45 p. m., Howard Kennedy school. Mrs. W. H. Weymuller, chairman. Instruction class, subject, "Cake and Flour Mixtures With Flour Substitutes."

War Work Notes

A benefit Red Cross card party and auction sale will be held Tuesday evening in the Scottish Rite cathedral by the Scottish Rite Woman's club. All members, friends and Scottish Rite Masons are invited.

The club will hold the last meeting of the season at 2 p. m. Friday in the cathedral. The following will take part on the program: Mesdames Joseph Lawrence, O. Y. Kring, Ray Abbott, Edward Thomann, J. M. Prime, C. O. Pickett, N. C. Christensen and Christman.

A Red Cross benefit was given by eight small children Saturday afternoon. The program consisted of patriotic recitations and was given at the home of Mrs. Elmer Johnson. The sum of \$5 was realized and will be given to the Hanscom Park War Relief circle. The children who took part included Myrene Knode, Katherine, Helen and James Murphy, Glenn and Ralph Thompson and Philip and Stewart Johnson.

What Omaha Red Cross Funds Maintain

Departments of— Chairmen—
Surgical Dressings—Mrs. Walter Silver.
Hospital Garments—Mrs. Arthur Mullen.
Knitting—Mrs. A. W. Jefferis.
Canteen—Mrs. Luther L. Kountze.
Salvage—Mrs. Frank Adams.
Civilian Relief—Mrs. C. M. Wilhelm.
Public Workshop—Mrs. Frank Carmichael.
Nurses' Service—Miss Gertrude R. Smith.
Medical Advice—Dr. A. F. Jonas.
Nebraska Base Hospital—Major A. C. Stokes.
Omaha Ambulance Company—Captain A. L. Lindquist.
Junior Organization—Superintendent J. H. Beveridge.
Comfort Kits—Mrs. T. M. Orr.
Christmas Packages—Mrs. T. L. Davis.
Hospital Comforts—Mrs. Gould Dietz.
Refugee Clothing—Herbert Wheeler and Arthur Gujou.

Nebraskans in Washington See Flight of First Air-Mail Car

Washington Bureau of The
Omaha Bee, 1311 G Street.

EACH week in Washington seems more important and more interesting in history making than the last. This week has been a particularly interesting one, in society and to women, for in these days women are mixed up in all the history and all social affairs in Washington are more or less historic. The president and Mrs. Wilson had a box party on Monday night for the performance of the "all-star" benefit for the Red Cross when something like \$20,000 was made for that cause. They received the heroic "blue devils" of France in the White House in the afternoon of that day, and on Tuesday they received the delegates to the convention of the Woman's Council of National Defense.

The week marked the first air-mail car to fly with United States mail to New York, at which the president and Mrs. Wilson and all the members of the official set who could take a few minutes from their work were grouped around the great green field in the Potomac park to see the flight. It was a perfect day, with the historic Potomac, the familiar pillars of Arlington across the river, the Washington monument, the tops of the public buildings and the capitol in the distance, all gleaming in the sunshine as though smiling with approval and satisfaction.

Lady Reading, wife of the brilliant ambassador from Great Britain, accompanied by Mrs. Crozier, wife of General William Crozier, walked as close to the rail of the field as possible and was deeply thrilled. She was simply dressed in a dark gray cloth suit with small black hat turned up flatly at the front. Her skirt was ankle length and her shoes were the proverbial English sensible type, made for walking and not for daintiness. She looked anything but like a woman whose wealth is estimated at thirty million dollars, aside from the twenty millions accredited to her husband. She was one of the most practical and perfectly human women who has ever been known in public life here.

The president's daughter, Mrs. McAdoo, was present inside the lines with the presidential party, to bid Godspeed to the plucky mail carrier. She wore a suit of white cotton, a short skirt, and a three-quarters length cape of the same, lined with white silk, and a white sailor with a flowing veil of thin white chiffon. Mrs. Wilson was in a modest suit of black with small black hat.

This remarkable week has seen the decisions of those in authority to open Mount Vernon, the home of General Washington, to the public on Sundays and to admit soldiers and sailors in uniform free of charge, and to permit the playing of professional ball games on the Sabbath day,

which has been prohibited always here. Now we have the theaters all open on Sundays and the public libraries.

Gossip of Nebraskans.

Mrs. Straeten, wife of Dr. Robert Straeten, U. S. N., who is here with her mother, Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, during the absence of her husband at sea, is expecting to go to New York for a ten days' visit this month or early next month, when Dr. Straeten's ship, the Pennsylvania, comes into port. Miss Helen Purcell of Broken Bow, Neb., cousin of Mrs. Straeten, will accompany her to New York.

Mrs. Reavis, wife of Representative C. Frank Reavis of Falls City, Neb., (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

South Side Girls "Adopt" Fort Crook Soldiers For War Period

THE Isabella club, composed of young women from the South Side, is an organization to give dances for soldiers at Fort Crook. Mrs. Charles Burke, wife of the secretary of the Knights of Columbus but at the post, is the organizer and sponsor.

Besides the parties, members have raised funds to decorate the Knights of Columbus hut. A cozy fireplace, many sofa pillows, victrola and magazines make the rooms a homelike place for the men. The girls are now collecting money to buy supplies needed for the altar and sacrists.

The club attributes its success to the stringent rules adopted and enforced. No girl under 20 years of age is invited to attend club dances.

Miss Teresa M. Kopietz is president. Miss Blanche Wallweber secretary and Miss Bertha M. Lichnovsky treasurer. The chaperons are Mesdames George Parks, J. M. McCarthy, P. M. Campbell, William Dittman, W. E. Casely, Richard Novak, John Flynn, D. J. Farrell, William W. Yager and W. L. Conboy.

The members are Misses Katherine Healey, Winifred Waite, Mary Connelly, Gertrude Sullivan, Teresa Healey, Julia A. Kopietz and Katherine Parks.

Cards of membership which are not transferable bear the following rules on the back:

Girls admitted by card only. Club will have responsible chaperons present.

Girls to come in groups and leave in groups.

Simple dresses to be worn.

No girl will be allowed to leave the building with a soldier.
Dancing from 8:30 p. m. to 11:30 p. m.

All Work and Some Fun in Red Cross

Gabby Dettays Gleans
Merry Tales Among
Workers in Busy
Red Cross
Centers

By GABBY DETTAYS

IT'S FUNNY what a liberal education army life is proving to be for some erstwhile college boys who, when they were circulating around this town, would never dream that scrubbing anything except their teeth would ever be in their life.

But that's just what it's come to. Witness the Omaha ambulance company down at southern Camp Taylor (pronounced without the "r"), which is composed of such a lot of Omaha's favorite sons.

According to their custom, Omaha youths are doing this rather than domestic exercise in topnotch fashion. In fact, the gentle art of the lady "mop-up" has been so well mastered by these boys of the sanitary corps that this hitherto women's field is in danger.

Cloudbursts greatly aid in the practice of the wiping up. Camp Taylor is frequently flooded and with the appearance of the gayly colored rainbow, out come the boys with the mops.

Herman Hart and Paul Samuelson are mentioned by visiting brother members as among the most finished artists with the bucket and suds (soap suds, of course, not the wet state variety), and while Ralph Powell, recently recruited, is only an amateur, he shows promise of no mean ability when he gets used to the water.

A YOUNG lieutenant who has recently come to the balloon school from California finds Omaha very dull and withal very inhospitable. The young officer in lonely desperation attended the supper dance at the Fontenelle the first night of his arrival. It seems that in California an army officer may hand his card to a waiter and designate the girl with whom he wishes to dance.

Forthwith the dusky menial hands the card to the girl, she smiles in acquiescence, and a most enjoyable acquaintance is begun to the accompaniment of jazz music. But, imagine if you can, the feeling which came over this officer when he attempted this little plan at the supper dance in our own fair city. For, all the poor man received in exchange for a perfectly good engraved card was a haughty stare!

"This is an awful town!" he yelled to a fair worker at the canteen over his combination salad.

"THE handsomest man" was in Omaha Wednesday. At least, so the fortunate Omahans who met Prince Stanislaus Poniatowski of the Polish mission, staunchly assert. And he is young—but 23; has wealth—several millions; and is most courageous and chivalrous—he is a lieutenant in the French army, in which he enlisted in the aviation section when only 18 years old, was wounded twice and gassed.

The Polish prince was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Chase at luncheon at the Fontenelle Wednesday, on which occasion many prominent Omahans lunching at the hotel were presented to the young soldier.

Two of Omaha's loveliest girls, Miss Menia Davis and Miss Regina Connell, helped make the prince's stay in this city a memorable one for the prince, Gabby is certain.

DAN CUPID has been whispering in Gabby's ear this week and she will pass along the secret to you. A well known Omaha boy left for Fort Ogilthorpe not long ago but he left behind a very charming girl with a sparkling stone on her finger.

She is a resident of the quiet village of Dundee and has done numerous things in the business world. She is a charming girl, one of the jolly kind whom everybody likes. The man in the question is dark and interesting looking and dances "like an angel." Gabby believes he will be just as proficient in military tactics and will no doubt be wearing silver bars on the wedding day.

MISS GERTRUDE YOUNG was busily engaged packing surgical dressings for the French Red Cross section, when a fine young soldier poked his head in at the door.

"Can I be of any assistance," he asked with a bow of deference to the Red Cross worker.

Miss Young gratefully accepted the offer and in the course of the hour's work, asked the young soldier his name.

"Brigham," replied he.

"And my name is Young," laughed she merrily.

A NENT the recent city elections, members of the Omaha Woman's club are expressing their disapproval of the actions of one of their number at the recent luncheon birthday when she arose and moved that the club helped "clean out the city hall."

The wife of one of the since-then deposed officials, a valuable member of the Woman's club, was one of the guests present at the time.