

Resident Seeks Discarded Clothing For Families In His Native Montebourg

By Helen Bishop

It is common knowledge that people in a great part of Europe are hungry, homeless and without clothes, and a great many relief agencies have operated to abate the situation until now many of the countries are taken care of.

There is one town in Normandy, however, that is still without shelter and clothing. It is Montebourg in Normandy, the home town of Leon de St. Nicolas, owner of Leon's Beauty Salon in the Hammond building.

"The people in Montebourg are desperate for clothing now that winter is almost upon them," he told The Eccentric. "It's a very small town—one-fifth the size of Birmingham, and during the Normandy invasion by American troops, it was absolutely devastated. It has a well-known record of the most bombed town during the invasion. Fifteen thousand shells fell on it in three weeks."

"A number of Birmingham boys who were over there during the war have seen Montebourg and

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Royal Oak Hospital Now Offers Service To Birmingham Vets

"Home town" hospital care for eligible Birmingham veterans is now in operation in Royal Oak with final arrangements being completed by the Royal Oak General Hospital and the Veterans Administration through Michigan Hospital service. It has been announced this week.

The new program for veterans care, pioneered in Michigan by the Veterans Administration, was designed to help relieve the great demands upon the regular veterans hospitals. It authorizes veterans to go to any registered hospital where care or treatment in a veterans institution is not "feasibly available." A similar program, which entitles veterans with service-connected disabilities to receive treatment and care from local doctors, is also in operation in Royal Oak through Foreign Medical Services.

The procedure to be followed by veterans in obtaining hospital care is, briefly, as follows:

"The veteran who needs care will apply through his nearest Veterans Administration Contact Representative to the Veterans Administration. The V. A. will determine eligibility and subsequently issue authority for care to the Michigan Hospital Service, which will forward the authorization to the veteran. The veteran will present the authorization to the hospital at the time of his admission."

The Royal Oak General Hospital is one of the majority of Michigan hospitals who have joined with the medical profession in the program of providing "home town" medical and hospital care to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

"Anyone who could make up a package of old clothing to send to these people whose homes were demolished while winning the war can stop in at my shop for the names of families and individuals who do need clothing items."

"Shoes with good stout soles would be particularly welcomed over there as they have no leather to mend their old shoes with. Old or unused clothing, particularly men's suits and overcoats, are absolutely essential and baby clothes are impossible for them to obtain."

People Just Want Clothing

"To send a Christmas box of discarded clothing of from 5 to 15 pounds in weight costs only 50c to \$1.25 by mail, and one package would mean so much to those people. They do not ask for money or

food, although they are almost without coffee, sugar and other items—they can get along using the rough care they have—but they must have clothing to live. A suit that a man here would discard might be their "Sunday" suit for years to come.

There are bombed towns in France and other countries that have been "taken over" by charity organizations—it would be a fine thing if the people of Birmingham could ransom their attics and closets for clothes they no longer use to take over this little "absolutely devastated" town of Montebourg and send enough clothing to give them one warm outfit each."

Pictures of the town before and after bombing, and of the people of the town, bear out graphically Leon's plea. A book, published in French by a friend of the de St. Nicolas family, has been written on the "Battle of Montebourg," as yet not translated into English, the book is available in his office for those who would like to see just how badly the people need assistance of some kind. He will give the name of one family or several to whom packages can be sent.

P.S. stands for Prompt Service which you will get by using Eccentric Want Ads.

Quiz Expected To Boost Children's Interest In Music

"At a time when awareness of music comes more and more into prominence, it seems only right to introduce our children to it at an early age," said Dr. Dwight B. Ireland when the current classical music program was introduced in the elementary schools in Birmingham last week.

"For the past two years, we have been giving the children of Birmingham an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate music through listening to records. This year an added stimulus to the listening program has been planned, culminated in a contest in the Spring. In the contest, it is expected that each child know the title and composer of each record listened to. Of course, since knowledge increases in each grade, the first and second grades will be expected to know only six titles and composers of simpler pieces, and the music will be more difficult to remember as the child progresses."

Imitate Natural Objects

Eighteen records from various composers will be used in the program, he said, and will be divided into six units of three records each. The records will also be listened to from time to time and used in the contest. Each unit is named, and the one now being played in the schools is entitled "Sounds in Nature."

"Composers can imitate in melody, rhythm and harmony many objects in nature with which children are acquainted," Ireland explained. "Actually instruments themselves are made of a means which nature provides, so composers are ever inspired to depict nature's sounds in music. 'The Flight of the Bumble-Be', 'The Cuckoo', and 'The Storm', from the William Tell Overture comprise the first unit. Other unit titles include: Toys, Dance Rhythms, National Music, Composers and Impressions."

"The Baldwin Public Library has promised to make these available to any family who wishes to augment the school's musical program."

"As each different unit is launched at the school, the compositions and composers will be known to the parents of the children so that they may get these records and further assist in giving them the child a comprehensive musical background," Ireland stated.

Zoning Hearing

December 9 is the hearing date set for Mrs. C. K. Latham's petition for re-zoning her property on Lincoln avenue at Southfield to a multiple family residence classification. It is now in the single residence classification. The Plan Commission unanimously denied her request at their last meeting.

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