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First Aiders Wanted

MEN are needed this Friday night in the Fire Hall.

What's going on there is as old as sin. Since women have curled their hair, or as long as monks have thrown up their hands at the world, First Aid to the injured has been known and practised.

Under the leadership of such time-tried men as R. E. Eyolfson, chief first aid instructor, or John (Joek) Davidson, superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, one can learn the first necessity of life—health.

Health is what the most backward natives in the world place at the head of their list in the jungles of Mexico. These are the Lacandon Indians who set broken bones with homemade splints, and know how to treat flesh wounds with fresh earth or leaf poultices.

First aid is their precaution against hazardous hunting. Health to them is the normal state of life.

Whether savage or civilized, good health is the common link of good sense.

Before a man frets on lesser things, let him first be practical. Let him consider the art of living. And to live, the ancients say, "is to love thy neighbor."

And the art of loving your neighbor is in the story of the Good Samaritan who bound his neighbor's wounds, "pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

First aiding follows these principles.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

THOSE TIGERS, SNAKES

NEW DELHI, India.—Just before I left home, Sikh friends who had spent most of their lives in Canada said to me:

"Whatever you do, when you go out to India, don't try to out-Gordon Gordon Sinclair. Don't give us another 'Footloose in India' series."

"No chance of that, even if I tried," I answered. "Gordon's in a class by himself. So long as I don't go 'Headloose in India' I'll be satisfied."

But my resolution to look the other way whenever anybody mentioned snakes, tigers, yogis, holy men who walk on fire or sit on nails, has been shaken!

For ten days hand running the Delhi papers have carried items about a tiger operating just south of this great capital. Today they report that it killed a cow last night in the village of Motki Majid.

MY UNPLANNED INTRODUCTION to the snakes of India came yesterday. Just across from me lives Elizabeth Brunner, a Hungarian girl painter who came out to this country when her mother felt a compulsion to study Indian mysticism.

The mother, herself an artist of note, died a couple of years ago and Elizabeth has stayed on here alone. She is a portrait painter of an extremely high order, and her two life-size pictures of Tagore are as fine works as I have seen for a long time. Also a fine one of Mr. Nehru.

YESTERDAY MORNING, ELIZABETH and I went for a car ride. But no sooner had we got going than Elizabeth shrieked to the driver: "Stop! Stop! There they are! There they are!"

It turned out that "they" were Elizabeth's pet snakes—hooded cobras, no less. I had already seen their portrait, painted by Elizabeth, and she was anxious to convince me that they were just as nice and friendly in real life as she said they were in the picture.

As the grey-bearded snake charmer uncovered the round wicker baskets in which he transports his pets, a crowd gathered by a magic process.

The cobra seemed sleepy at first, until his master sort of tickled him under the chin. But Elizabeth patted him and fondled him (the snake, I mean, if it was a him, not her). She kept shrieking to me:

"See what a pretty face he has. See what a pretty face he has."

I knew that Elizabeth believed in Gandhi teachings of ahimsa—that is, that if you are kind and harmless toward other creatures, they will be kind to you. I have a great admiration for that doctrine myself. But I could not help but ask myself:

"I wonder if the cobra believes in ahimsa, too."

WE DROVE THROUGH THE bazaars and saw all the amazing sights and sounds that one always sees there. For me there was one new one: Two full-grown men taking a thorough soap and water bath in plain sight at a street corner tap. They were modestly enough covered amidships, and completely indifferent to passers-by.

AS EVERYBODY KNOWS, COWS and water buffaloes walk everywhere in India—even in the most crowded streets. But, strangely enough, they never seem out of place.

You may ask, what is the difference between a cow and a water buffalo? The best answer I can extract is "about one hundred rupees." That is, a buffalo is worth about \$25 more than a cow. Experts also tell me the milk is richer—that is, about six percent butterfat instead of four or four and a half percent.

They have a folk-saying here that any human who drinks buffalo milk becomes slow and phlegmatic, like the buffalo. If so, all milk drinkers must be affected. For they mix the two kinds of milk in the distributing plants in order to get the precise standard of butterfat which the law demands.

ELIZABETH TOOK ME TO SEE one of the most influential editors in all India. He talked to me with the utmost candor for over an hour.

He was not talking for verbatim quotation. But one thing he did say:

The Western democracies in general, and the U.S.A. in particular, are losing ground in the ideological struggle for the hearts and minds of the people of India, and all Asia, because they have no real contact with the great mass of the people.

The diplomats see government heads, fellow diplomats, and meet the society leaders in the Asian countries. But it is precisely these "society" leaders who are everywhere on the defensive in their own lands—who are, in fact, "on the way out."

The above words came from a key Indian who wants the cause of the West to win out, but who believes there must be a drastically new approach if that is to be so.

ray ..

Reflects and Reminisces

Butter at eighty-five cents. It wasn't anything like that, for price, when made the hard way in the little old churns. And that was some considerable time ago.

A FEW DAYS AWAY

Every night, lately, these broadcasts have been doing their damndest to make us feel as Irish as County Clare. All this was pleasant at first. Indeed, one might just as well say it is yet. But when you absorb "The Minstrel Boy," "Kathleen Mavourneen," "The Rose of Tralee" and a few others due later on, one wonders what the reaction will be, on or about March the seventeenth. That's Saturday!

A change in senate affairs—more or less indefinite, but persistent—is spoken of from time to time. Something else is noticed, this being the fact of membership including about eighty good Liberals.

DOWN TO CASES

After next Monday, a more sober sort of life, although this has nothing to do with refreshments. Buying on the installment plan won't be so easy and gracious. There will be less cash and a shorter time to repay. The hand of the Department of Finance will be less gentle. We'll all be paying for more defence and fewer of the things one likes to take a fancy to.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Pictures of the federal capital city, back in the 'sixties, are appearing in an Ottawa daily. Things of decided interest are not necessarily up to date. These are so far behind the times that

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just for that reason they command a steadily widening attention. A glance at Canada and Canadians can hardly fail to bring attention. Particularly so, when Confederation was being threshed out.

FAREWELL

Alas for Dawson! It was learned in Parliament yesterday that this former dream city of fortune hunters everywhere is about to become a ghost town although her few remaining people give stout-hearted denials. Fast-growing Whitehorse will be the new capital of Yukon. Dawson's decline was inevitable, but it retains a renown and a fervor approached hardly anywhere else on earth.

That lawyers, who comprise thirty percent of the House of Commons, do most of the talking, is no surprise. Suggestion that they be taxed on lawyers' fees, as noted in the *Printer's Word* would, no doubt, be considered ridiculous. It would, in all likelihood, be called outrageous, preposterous, unconstitutional, unfair, unjust, increase living costs, hurt struggling beginners, be immoral and be condemned in French, English and Latin.

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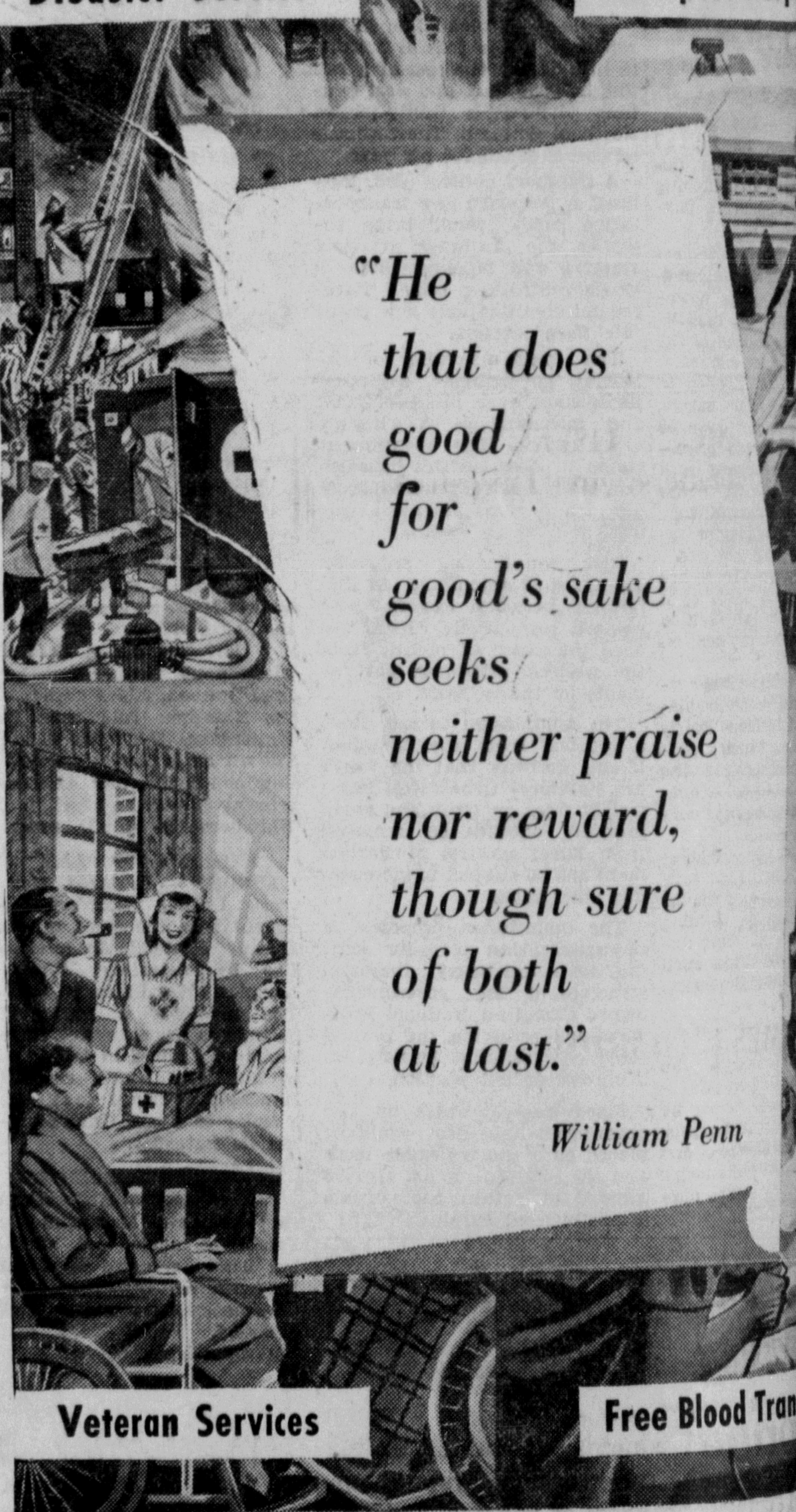
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