

Serviceman's Wife in Germany Opens Sewing Room, Seeks Help

The HERALD this week received a plea from Mrs. E. E. Ledbetter, who is in Germany with her four children and her husband, Army Sergeant Earl Ledbetter. Her plea is for old clothes which she might be able to use in a project which she has inaugurated in Germany. Mrs. Ledbetter, who is the former Marian Bates, was born in Torrance and attended Torrance schools, according to her sister, Mrs. Williams Cobern, of 1908 Arlington Ave. Because we believe her ambitious project might be aided by friends and neighbors of Mrs. Ledbetter here, we are publishing her letter. Mrs. Ledbetter writes:

"In the rush of modern living filled with all of the luxuries we enjoy, sometimes it is hard to realize what it would be like to suddenly leave our homes and all our earthly possessions behind us, to risk hardship and possible death in order to escape Communist aggression and live in freedom. "Since I have lived in Germany as an Army dependent, I have met and talked with many of these courageous people. Each has a harrowing tale of escape to tell that is proof of tremendous courage. Although these people are thankful to be living in freedom, their suffering is far from over.

Heartbreaking To See
"The situation in the D. P. camps is heartbreaking to see. It is easy to understand why the morale is so low when you find parents unable to send their children to school because they haven't any shoes

or a warm coat to wear. These people not only need warm clothes, but they need something to do with their hands—a feeling of usefulness and accomplishment. "In connection with the War Relief Society, I am setting up a sewing work room in an old bomb shelter for a group of refugee women here in Augsburg (Germany). With the use of old clothes that are collected, I will teach them how to repair, alter, and make things over into much needed children's clothes. The clothes will be sold to other needy families at a very nominal fee. The money received from the sale of these articles will go to the women that work and also help expand the program.

Needs Assistance
"In order to get this project in operation, I need money to buy sewing machines, irons and ironing boards, and flannellette for baby layettes. We also need old clothes and shoes that are mendable. "Although this is a non-secretarian program, the National Catholic Welfare Conference has offered its services by shipping donations of clothing free of charge to Germany. "This organization makes no distinction in race or creed in their effort to aid needy war refugees in Europe. "Within the small group of women I am working with, there are five nationalities and many faiths represented. "There is no better way to fight Communism than to show human kindness by following the Commandments 'Love thy neighbor.' Donations should be sent to: War Relief Services

c/o St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Bureau,
727 North Broadway
Los Angeles, California
Packages should be marked to indicate that the donations are specifically for the "N.C. W.C. Sewing Room Project, Augsburg, Germany," if they are intended for Mrs. Ledbetter's group.



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