

Miss Rachel Payne Sugg Tells Auxiliary About Child Survey

Address of Supervisor of Public Child Welfare Survey Is Interesting

At the request of members of the American Legion Auxiliary who wish to acquaint the people with the work of the Public Child Welfare Survey the address of Miss Sugg before the department convention of the Auxiliary in Greensboro is given in full. The address follows:

Madam President, Distinguished Guests, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary:

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3. 3 General admission tickets to the exposition grounds.
4. Admission to one of the following: Fort Dearborn, Lama Temple, Colonial Village.
5. Sightseeing bus tour of the fair grounds.
6. Includes same as listed in paragraph six above.
For Further information consult Local Agent
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It is a real pleasure to come to you today and extend my thanks for the privilege of having had a share in your Child Welfare Program. I am most grateful to you and I am delighted indeed to be with you here today.

I was very happy when Mrs. Absber asked me to tell you about the Child Survey, which I have been privileged to supervise, for in the delightful contact with Mrs. Absber and the joy of service I have had, I feel in the words of the Christmas card greeting Mrs. Absber, "Of course you've lots of relatives,

But they were wished on you! Your friends don't have to love you.

But gracious! How they do!" It has been a glorious opportunity to work with your President and with your most efficient Secretary, and these associations will constitute a rich heritage of memories which I shall endeavor to share with others.

It is a matter of great pride to me that I have had the pleasure of supervising the Public Welfare Child Survey in North Carolina under the direction of your State director and Department President. Mrs. Absber has done with skill and beauty, whatever she has undertaken. Particularly is this true in her direction of the Survey. The Department of the American Legion Auxiliary honored itself in electing Mrs. Absber its President, for she has won and will continue to win laurels for North Carolina Department of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thinking of her, as I have come to know her these past few months, I'm reminded of the little colored boy, who when asked how old he was, replied, "Counting by years I'm six, but counting by de fun I've had, I'm most a hundred." Counting by years, Mrs. Absber is undoubtedly the youngest grand-

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mother in the state, but counting by the service she has rendered, she's "most a hundred!" The greatest satisfaction comes from accomplishment of work well and unselfishly done, and as we approach the completion of the survey, I feel that every member of this department of loyal women, may rightly enjoy the deep satisfaction of worth-while accomplishment.

To report the number of cards received in our office, is to give you a very inadequate picture of heart-breaking conditions these cases represent in North Carolina. The canvassers have sent me detailed stories of some of their findings which would melt a heart of stone. More and more I am burdened with the responsibility that rests upon this organization, and every other patriotic and civic organization in North Carolina, to do everything possible to alleviate the intolerable conditions which this survey has revealed. A great Frenchman once said, "The future belongs to those who shall have done most for suffering humanity!" The opportunity to possess the future is yours in ministering to these children.

The Public Health is the foundation upon which rests the happiness of the people and the welfare of the Nation. The care of the Public Health is the first duty of the Statesman." In your own North Carolina State Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary is embedded the greatest ideals of true statesmanship; so when she began to work out a project for the welfare of North Carolina, it was this relation between health and happiness that gave birth to the idea of a Public Welfare Survey, which became a reality and the results of which have been more far reaching than can be measured, for as Ruskin says, "When love and skill work together, expect a master piece."

This idea conceived by Mrs. Absber was approved by the National and State Departments of American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, which contributed from Child Welfare Fund, the sum of \$1,500. The project also received the approval of Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, the North Carolina State Administrator and E. R. A. funds in the amount of \$25,252.80 were allotted.

The Legion and Auxiliary are to be congratulated for having sponsored such a worth-while program of service. A number of other states have sent letters of inquiry to the different State Departments, asking for the plan. You should be, and I am sure that you are, elated that North Carolina Department of American Legion and Auxiliary have done such outstanding work and have fostered such an immense project that the other states are following your lead.

I want to commend the Legion and Auxiliary for the co-operation given the canvassers in your respective counties. The canvassers' work was of a superior type because of their interest in Child Welfare, and because of your co-operation. Most of them surely realized what Phillips Brooks meant when he said "He who helps a child, helps humanity with an immediateness which no other help given to human creature in any other stage of human life can possibly give again."

They were paid only a small amount for their work, and yet they gave unflinchingly and untiringly of their time. More than 50,000 hours of voluntary service have been given. All civic organizations, and public spirited citizens have contributed in every way possible for the success of the survey.

The results of the survey as compiled show the following:

1. 23,629 World War Veterans.
2. 19,769 World War Veteran widows.
3. 825 World War veteran orphans.
4. 4,260 World War Veteran children.
5. 26,244 World War Veteran children.
6. 89 blind veterans.

FAMILY PROTECTION

We realize that an insurance policy of only \$50.00 on children and \$100.00 on adults may seem very small but when we have gone as far as we can with those we love and the time arrives that we have to think of placing them away, even this would be of great help to most of us.

WE WANT TO HELP YOU

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7. 183 deaf and dumb veterans.
8. 617 crippled veterans.
9. 1,064 Tubercular veterans.
10. 9,924 veterans in distress.
11. 11,845 normal veterans.
12. 45 veteran children blind.
13. 78 deaf and dumb veteran children.
14. 194 crippled veteran children.
15. 141 tubercular veteran children.
16. 7,826 veteran children in distress.
17. 47,276 normal veteran children.
18. 2,121 blind state children.
19. 1,025 deaf and dumb state children.
20. 3,751 crippled state children.
21. 16,155 state children in distress.
22. 3,424 tubercular state children.

To take a census of handicapped children and then do nothing more would be only a waste of time and money. To arouse the hopes and aspirations of these unfortunate children and their fond parents, and then do nothing for them would in the words of Dr. Glenn Frank be "nothing more than an adventure in the amiable futility of unintelligent good will."

Have we entered the twilight of evening, or the twilight that will brighten the dawn of a happier day?

"We are all blind until we see That in the human plan Nothing is worth the making If it does not make a man. Why build a Nation glorious If the child unbuilded goes? In vain we build the city Unless the child also grows."

Some facilities already exist in North Carolina for serving these unfortunate children and in cases where the facilities are available, we have used them as we were able.

However, there are other facilities that should be provided. I am sure you will use your best efforts to secure social legislation whereby some of these facilities may be acquired. Aid for handicapped children should not end with physical correction. After medical service has done all it can to relieve and improve their conditions, thousands of them are still handicapped. The state has provided excellent schools for blind. Blind children located through this survey have been referred to this school. The state also has an excellent school for the education and training of the deaf and dumb. Deaf and dumb children have been referred to Dr. Goodwin, Superintendent of schools at Morganton. There are a number of orthopedic clinics in the state which are alleviating the suffering of the cripple. However, no school has been provided in North Carolina for crippled children. If their physical condition doesn't permit

of their climbing flights of stairs and of their using the school equipment made for normal boys and girls, they are deprived of their constitutional right of an education.

For your encouragement, I'm glad to tell you that a friend of the Auxiliary, who became interested in the crippled children listed by the survey is at present working out a plan to establish a center where crippled children in our state may be treated. You will hear the details of this later, and I trust that when this movement materializes, you will give it your most loyal support.

The physically handicapped child needs not only the general education that is provided the normal child by the Public schools, but he also needs vocational guidance and specialized vocational training for a suitable occupation by which he can successfully carry on in competition with the able-bodied and thus make him a self-supporting, independent and useful citizen.

Experience of the canvassers throughout the state have revealed all characteristics which humanity is capable of manifesting.

1. Faith in what medical science is doing for cripples is clearly seen in the following story related by Dr. Stanton, the superintendent of Vocational Rehabilitation.

"To one mother who brought a badly deformed baby into a clinic, I remarked that it must be a terrible shock to give birth

to such a deformed child, but she shook her head and said, no she knew the doctor could make it all right because this was the second crippled child she had brought to the clinic.

2. Courage—One of the canvassers wrote a number of stories on the phase of the survey which appealed to him most, and that was the courage with which the veterans made their gallant

efforts to carry on despite impaired health, financial distress, and impoverished families.

The most typical example of courage, however, was revealed at the end of the survey when one canvasser who had done commendable work, wrote the Supervisor and thanked her for the opportunity of working in the survey; saying that he needed

(Continued on page seven)

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