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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1939

Praise to Meridian

American Red Cross, Boise chapter, room 241 Sonna Building, Boise Idaho. On behalf of Boise Chapter, American Red Cross, as instructed by the chapter chairman, we wish to express our sincere thanks for the exceptionally fine roll call returns from Meridian.

To know we have so many interested members and contributors in that section is gratifying and we hope to keep them on our membership rolls each year. Signed, Mary Zumwalt, Rural Chairman Roll Call service for the Red Cross.

Be thankful every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breathe in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know. —Kingsley.

Dear Editor—Don't you admire the hotel waiter?

Yes we certainly do. He knows on which side of the plate to put the fork.

History . . . is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind. —Gibbon.

Regulations is better than physic. We should assist, not force, nature. Eat, with moderation, what you know agrees with you. Nothing is good for the body but what we can digest. What will procure digestion? Exercise! What will recruit strength? Sleep! What will soften the suffering of incurable evils? Patience! — Voltaire.

KEEP OUT!

The following notice was inserted in a rural weekly:
"Anyone found near my hen-house at night will be found there next morning."

Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop.—Ovid.

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest;

Home-keeping hearts are happy.



Dan Barker Tells of Meridian in Gay '90s

An interesting story of early Meridian is pictured by Dan Barker, well-loved citizen and retired rancher, in the anniversary edition of the Boise Capital News.

Barker came west to look the country over in 1894 after ten years of hard sledding in Nebraska. There his fine corn land which for ten years had produced 80 bushels to the acre followed with ten years of unproductiveness. Drouth and wind raised troubles, but it took a cyclone and hailstorm to drive him out for good.

After inspecting conditions all through the west as far as Oregon, Dan Barker decided on Meridian as the ideal place for him to start anew. So he returned to Nebraska, packed up his family and possessions including stock and equipment which could not be sold even at auction because of absence of spending money among Nebraska neighbors, and arrived back in Idaho in 1895.

"We stepped off the train and into the mud," he says, "and layed our hands to grubbing sagebrush for a crop of potatoes."

Ten acres of spuds kept the Barker family alive. They sold

these to the army post located in Boise on a government contract at 75 cents per bushel, secured because of the fine quality of Idaho's finest crop raised on virgin lava soil.

"It was the certainty of schooling for my eight children then of school age and the friendly outlook of water," which encouraged me to choose Meridian as our home," Mr. Barker reports. "When the government contract put us on easy street, I knew the choice was right."

With hard work on good soil Barker provided well for his large family. When war came in Europe he went into the sheep business and caught it on the upswing. With lambs selling for \$25 apiece as soon as they could stand, he made a tidy sum out of the sheep business, more than he had made in the 40 years of dirt farming. In 1925 he retired from the ranch, which he still owns, taking permanent residence in downtown Meridian.

Barker, whom many know as "Uncle Dan," says that at no time during his years in Meridian has he known booms to have hit the town. Nor have there been any disastrous fires, catastrophies or other disrupting influences. Meridian has grown unperceptibly from year to year, slowly, steadily, solidly into a progressive community.

The King and Queen of England "Carry On"



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