

Spokane Renters Split on Decontrol

SPOKANE — (AP) — Little less than a month ago landlords complained about the rental situation in Spokane. Now it's the tenants who are grumbling.

On July 25, word was received from National Housing Expediter Tighe Woods that federal rent control in this city of 150,000 had been removed. Woods acted on the recommendation of a five-member area rent advisory board.

Decontrol Work

Rental property owners had complained bitterly of the restriction and worked vigorously to have them removed. They gathered their facts and their work was rewarded by the committee's recommendation for decontrol.

This week some 200 tenants complained equally as bitterly. The Spokane Tenants' Assn. was formed to consolidate their own facts and figures. Some said their rents had been doubled.

Chairman of the tenants' assoc-

iation is W. L. Williams, a Gonzaga University law student and former football star at the University of Idaho.

Says Rents Up

Williams said information given to him indicated that landlords had increased rents by 40 per cent in an average of more than 200 cases. The association plans to ask all tenants through newspaper advertisements for information on rental increases. It plans to investigate reports of exorbitant increase.

A. L. Spooner, chairman of the Spokane Property and Home Owners' Association, said he believed the vast majority had been reasonable about rent increases.

"There may have been a few excesses," Spooner said, "but on the whole property owners have raised their prices within reason and have cooperated with the association."

The association threatened recently to blacklist owners who exceeded the agreed limit of a 25 per cent increase. The association adopted that figure voluntarily.

Spooner estimated that approximately 40 per cent of the landlords had let their rents stand without increases.

The landlords' spokesman said reports made to him indicated that rentals had become easier since decontrol. Property owners are looking around more than before. Spooner said that empty units were being seen by from five to eight prospective tenants before they were rented.

The newly-formed tenants' association is going ahead with its probe, however. It plans to ask the national housing expediter to bring back controls if abuses are extensive.

'Pop' Will Get Island Trip

FORT LEWIS — (AP) — About 48,000 Fort Lewis soldiers probably are writing home this week-end with word to the effect: "Don't look now, Pop, but you're in line for an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii."

It's true, too. A representative father will be chosen by a board of representatives from the Second Division headquarters and the chaplain's office. The lucky father will be transported from his home to Fort Lewis, travel to Oahu and back with forces engaged in a large-scale maneuver in the islands and while there participate in a week-long recreation period in Honolulu.

The father will be chosen upon the son's actual and potential value as a soldier, availability of the father for the trip, and originality of reasons listed by the lucky man's sponsor (his son).

The winner will be dubbed "Second Division Dad" but fathers of other Fort Lewis soldiers are eligible. The maneuvers probably will start in October.

Auto Production Slated to Rise

DETROIT — (AP) — United States automobile plants will hit an all-time record production total of 643,000 cars and trucks for August, Ward's automotive reports estimated.

The statistical agency compared the figure with the industry's monthly high of 621,910 cars and trucks, established in April, 1929.

Bethel School Students Find Local Work

BETHEL—Several high school students from this district have been placed in local jobs recently, according to M. V. Ploghoft, assistant principal of Willamette High School and student employment coordinator.

He said employer's cooperation with school officials has been gratifying during the past week, following published requests for student employment.

Ploghoft pointed out that the increased cost of living has affected school students as well as adults; and higher school costs—fees, clothing suitable for school wear, and other costs—must be met by the student or his family.

If students are allowed to earn expense money, he said, family financial burdens are eased greatly. Some students are searching for jobs by which they can earn this money, he emphasized.

He said a more comprehensive plan for the student employment service will be inaugurated when school offices are moved to the new high school this fall.

Personal contacts will then be made between school officials and local employers in an effort to assure greater cooperation between employers and students.

Gift to Prince Charlie Brings 'Thank You'

Charles Dreankhahn, 457 Lawrence St., sent a gift picture of Christ to another Charles, three weeks ago—Bonny Prince Charles of England, son of Princess Elizabeth and Duke Phillip of Edinburgh.

This week he received a thank you note from the royal family, reading, in part, "the Princess accepts this gift with great pleasure as a token of the good wishes of you and your family."

The note was on stationery from Clarence House, St. James, and signed by Jean Uphinstone, "lady-in-waiting."

AUSTRIA RAIN COSTLY

VIENNA, Austria — (AP) — Heavy rainfall in Austria in the last 10 days has caused damage estimated at 80,000,000 schillings (\$8,000,000), official sources say. Some lowland crops were flooded. Snow fell heavily in the Alpine districts.



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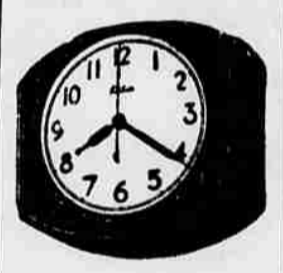
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