

## Heavy Use Of Gas In Wartime Spurs Conservation Act

Austin, Tex. (AP)—With nearly half the natural gas reserves inside its borders and the value of the product becoming greater, Texas soon will take new steps to conserve this natural resource.

Previously the Texas Railroad commission, regulatory body for oil and natural gas, had little reason to take concerted action toward conservation of gas. The resource was worth next to nothing though thousands of cubic feet daily were produced along with the vast amount of crude oil that was flowing out.

While much attention was given to laws governing production of oil, the natural gas regulation rocked along. Actually, some felt there was little incentive to regulate natural gas because unlike crude oil, it had small market worth.

**Possible Rival to Oil**

Now, however, wartime discoveries have proven that natural gas can be used for many things. Some purchasers are paying as high as 10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for it at the wells, and the price, in the view of many experts, will go higher, possibly rivaling oil in the future years.

The next Texas legislative session likely will be asked not only to broaden conservation authority

of the Railroad commission, but also to increase the state tax on natural gas.

Currently the tax is based on value of the resource at the well, a plan which has caused numerous law suits and has caused state tax collectors no end of worry and controversy.

Annually the tax brings the state about \$3,000,000—a mere pittance considering that the state's gross production tax on crude oil is that high now in a single month.

**Higher Tax Expected**

Some post-war prophets of state finance say that the crude oil income will decrease when peace comes. Consequently that will mean a drop in tax receipts from petroleum which account for a large portion of money to operate the state government.

To offset this anticipated decline, a higher tax on natural gas is expected to be proposed.

Texas has 136 fields with nearly 6,000 wells producing natural gas. There are 128 plants to extract gasoline from casinghead and natural gas, which have a processing capacity of 5,237,528,000 feet daily.

### CANCER TOOK 163,000

Houston, Tex. (AP)—Cancer is on the increase in the United States, says Mrs. Emily Bogart of Denver, and is threatening this country more seriously than the Japanese.

Mrs. Bogart, Colorado state commander of the Women's Field Army of the National Cancer society, said at a recent meeting of the Harris county group that cancer took the lives of 163,000 Americans in 1943.

## Street Fighting--Philippine Style



The Philippine village of Pawing, on Leyte Island, offers a moment of rest but not relaxation to these American infantrymen of Gen. MacArthur's liberation army. Cleaning out the last of the enemy required not only men, but hundreds of items of material which were made possible only by your purchases of War Bonds.

Official U.S. Army Photo  
From U.S. Treasury

## Bend Sergeant Sends Nippon Souvenir Home From Pacific

Fort Lewis, Wash., Jan. 5—Members of the 41st division are coming home in substantial numbers. They're not all coming at once—that's impossible due to the lack of shipping space. But one of the largest groups to return in many months arrived this week at war department personnel center, Fort Lewis, most of them on the rotation program, and a few on straight 30-day furloughs.

The straight furlough men will go overseas again. They are key men who are not readily replaced. But after "rotation processing," which included issue of new clothing, physical check-up, and getting their GI pay, the others will spend 21 days at home, then go to a redistribution center at Santa Barbara, Calif., where they will relax in a luxurious hotel ten days before being reassigned to duty in this country.

The battle-scarred veterans were surprised at such a "deal." When life at the redistribution center was briefly described by Lt. Robert B. Purdy, the reception station's adjutant, such comments as "Where's the catch?" and "What do we have to do?" came from the crowd. They may take their wives to Santa Barbara.

Some have two and three-year-old children they have never seen. "I Sgt. Dean E. Stanley, 201 W. 35th, Vancouver, Wash., was interested in only one thing: to see his 30-months old son, Jerard. "That will be about the biggest thrill I ever had," he beamed.

Stanley and his buddies, Cpl. Harry Swerdlik, Sgt. Allen Jones, and S Sgt. Pat DeBiose, all of Portland, were mustered in at Fort Lewis, took basic training here, and were together through 33 months of some of the fiercest Jap-fighting in the South Pacific. Jones was wounded in action at Nassau Bay.

Souvenirs were in abundance—Jap swords, helmets, flags, and knives. Pfc. Harry Melcher, 4540 N. E. 15th Ave., Portland, is taking an elaborate hank-kari knife home for his first sergeant, Emil K. Moen of Bend, Ore., who found it in a cave. Moen has not yet returned to the states.

The handle of the razor-sharp knife is set in jewels and wrapped with a shiny fiber. "The knife is supposed to be handed down from one generation to another," Melcher said. "Each generation sets in a new layer of jewels, and re-wraps the handle. The thing is regarded as a prized possession of the family."

The men are definitely glad to get back. "The guys still over there want to come home, too," said Lewis Hatcher of Seattle. "But most of them realize what the situation is. I have an idea every soldier overseas would like to come home. There's nothing unusual about that."

Average age of the men is around 25. But there are a few who look much younger. While enroute from the port of embarkation, the train stopped at Eugene, Ore., and Pfc. Lawrence Peterson of Astoria, Ore., stepped off with two buddies, Pfc. Harry Melcher, Portland, and S Sgt. Otto E. Boylan, McMinnville, Ore.

Strutting into a cafe, the trio sat down for a bottle of beer. The 22-year-old Peterson, who wears the combat infantry badge, and who drove a truck loaded with TNT and gasoline under fire, was told by the waitress, "Sorry, sonny, I can't serve you beer. You're too young."

**12 REMAIN IN G.A.R.**

Boston (AP)—Of the hundreds of thousands of New England men who answered Lincoln's call to arms in '61, only 12 G.A.R. members still are alive.

## Counties Select Welfare Officer

Madras, January 5 (Special)—Mrs. William Hyslop, for two years with the Douglas county welfare commission in Roseburg has accepted the position of administrator for the Crook and Jefferson welfare commissions, taking the place of Mrs. Lillian Turner Millsap, who resigned following her marriage several weeks ago.

Mrs. Hyslop attended the University of Oregon where she graduated in public welfare work. Mrs. Hyslop will reside in Prineville; her husband being with the armed forces overseas.

Mrs. Millsap was administrator for a year and a half. She left Thursday for Olympia where she will make her home while her husband is stationed at Ft. Lewis.

## Simon P. Conroy Dies in Nanaimo

Madras, January 5 (Special)—Simon P. Conroy, an early day business man here, died in Nanaimo, British Columbia Tuesday at the age of 92. Mr. Conroy came to Oregon in 1904, and became associated with Max Putz and Henry Dietzel in forming the Madras Mercantile and Milling company in that same year. The company also built a large store building which stood on the corner lot west of the present Texaco service station. Later it was moved to its present location and is now occupied by the Deschutes Grain and Feed company. After several years here Mr. Conroy moved to British Columbia.

Mr. Conroy was a Mason and Shriner. Two sons, Bradbury Conroy and William Conroy, of Madras survive, and his wife and six daughters residing in British Columbia.

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### Additional Sports

## Horrell Resigns As UCLA Mentor

Los Angeles, Jan. 5 (AP)—The University of California at Los Angeles was in the market for a new football coach today after accepting the resignation of Edwin C. (Babe) Horrell, head Bruin mentor since December, 1938.

William A. Ackerman, graduate manager of athletics, said no immediate action would be taken toward selecting a successor until Horrell's resignation becomes effective March 1. He declined to state whether he favored appointment of a "big name" coach or the promotion of one of the Bruin assistants.

Assistant coaches Bronco Nagurski and Ray Richards also submitted their resignations to the university's board of control. They said they had no immediate plans for the future.

**Is Voluntary**

Horrell's resignation was voluntary, Ackerman said, when asked if the action was prompted by well-known and widespread alumni dissatisfaction with the Bruin's series of poor seasons.

Horrell, who coached the Bruins' only Rose bowl team in 1942 when it lost to Georgia in the New Year's day classic, 9 to 0, stepped out, he said, because of other business interests. He has been engaged for some time in the produce business as a sideline.

## Americans Hit

(Continued from Page One)

between the three allied armies—and perhaps a fourth—the Germans still were concentrating their main forces on Patton's armor in the south.

The weather was still bitterly cold, hovering not far above zero, and the skies were overcast immobilizing much allied air power. However, unlike yesterday when blizzards raged over much of the battlefield, it was not snowing.

More than 48 hours after the start of the big drive on the northern flank, the nazis still had failed to mount a major counter-attack on that front.

Field dispatches said the Germans were falling back slowly behind a vast mine-field, fighting in small groups with dug-in tanks and machine gun nests, placed in the snow-covered ravines of the Ardennes.

### STATE OF VACATION HOMES

Boston (AP)—The state of Maine leads the nation in percentage of its home occupied only during the vacation season. A recent New England council survey reveals that more than 10 per cent of Maine homes are recreational or seasonal.

## Haupt Pays Fine In Justice Court

Billy Haupt, 330 Olney, was fined \$50 in justice court here at 3 p.m. yesterday by Wilson George, Bend justice of the peace, after pleading guilty to a battery charge preferred by John Murray. Haupt stated that he was not guilty of a similar charge pre-

ferred by Walter Prichard and asked for a trial. George granted this request and released Haupt on his own recognizance. Date of the trial has not yet been set.

The disturbance in which Haupt allegedly participated occurred at the Eastern Star grange hall last Saturday night. Haupt was not arrested.

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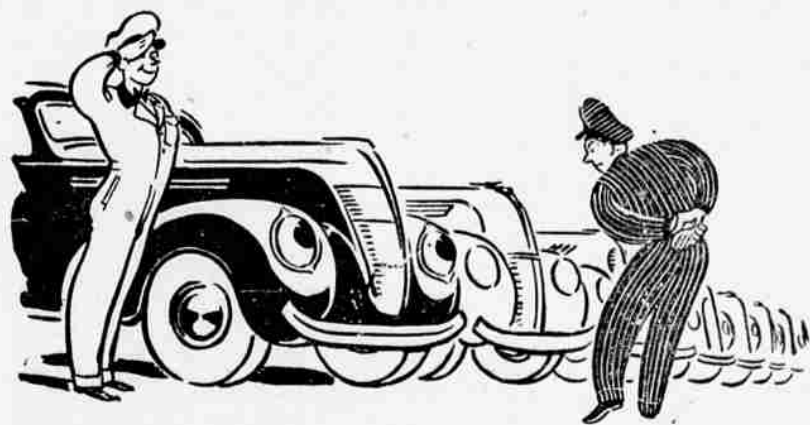
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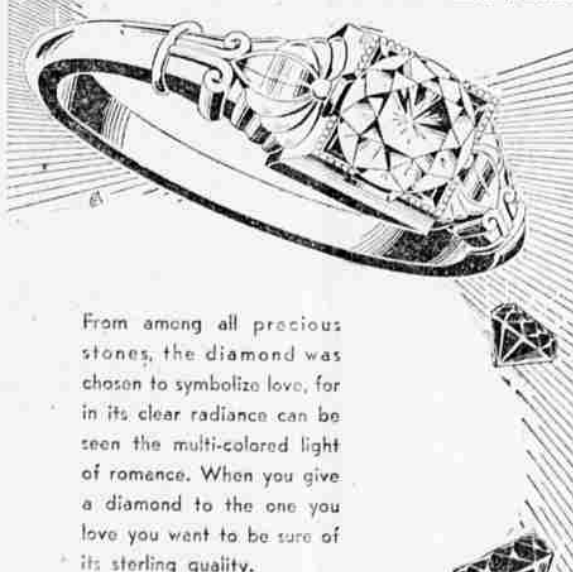
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