

## 'Black-Eyed Pea' Battle Rages Between Virginia and Texas

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Feb. 2 (AP)—You have the word of the senator: Virginians are bigger and huskier than Texans because Virginia womenfolk know how to cook black-eyed peas.

Sen. A. Willis Robertson of Lexington stood up, drummed his chest, and submitted himself as a towering example. The democrat from Virginia is six feet 2 1/2 inches tall and said that his son is the same height and weighs more than 200 pounds.

Robertson was the host in what was logged as the "second round of the black-eyed pea battle." On Jan. 19, Rep. Lindley Beckworth of Gladewater, Tex., pitched a luncheon and served, as a side dish, Texas black-eyed peas flown from the Lone Star state. Beckworth at the time pronounced his peas unexcelled — of course.

Yesterday, Robertson replied in kind with a luncheon for Beckworth and Senator Tom Connally, D., Tex.

It was listed as a "contest but there was no decision."

Robertson said his peas were furnished by Henry Taylor of Walkerton, Va., "one of the best pea-growers in the nation."

The big, graying gentleman from Virginia wasn't bashful in his praise of the black-eyed peas produced in his state.

"Of course," said the senator, "we must recognize the fact that no black-eyed pea can rise above the quality of its chef. That principally is where the Virginia product excels. Virginia housewives know the flavoring qualities of Smithfield cured hog jowl — and that flavoring is deftly added to Virginia peas."

Robertson seemed amazed to learn that everybody in the world did not know that corn bread made of "flinty white corn ground on a stone slowly turned by water power" makes a fine "with it" for black-eyed peas.

"In the summer," he added "of course you serve good old corn pone made of nothing but meal with salt and water and cooked quickly in a hot oven and eaten while steaming hot. In the late winter and early spring, the Virginia housewife

serves tender, succulent turnip greens with black-eyed peas and corn bread — accompanied by freshly churned buttermilk, as cool as the dew on white clover and speckled with yellow butter as though it had been sprinkled with gold dust. In summer, the accompanying vegetables are stewed tomatoes with bread crumbs and sugar, plus corn puddin', rich with cream."

At his luncheon, the Virginian dished up peas cooked his way and the Texas way.

He announced to his guests that he hoped "my Texas friends will not think I am taking unfair advantage of the Texas growers if I slipped a little hog jowl in with the peas. That's the way we do it at home, where we produce the best black-eyed peas in the world."

As a teaser, the senator passed out saucers of Texas peas. "These," he said, "are prepared with a piece of white bacon. You can smell the difference."

He invited comment. There was a loud slapping of peas around the table as the guests from Texas gave the two dishes an "honest test."

Then the man from Virginia got his comment.

It came from Beckworth, who admitted he had enjoyed his meal, and thanked his colleague for same.

"But senator," he said. "You

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## Flood Control Action Sought

Albany — Speed-up of construction work on the Green Peter flood control dam on the Quartzville river in eastern Linn county is wanted by Linn county farms. 75 of them made known recently when at a drainage conference in the Veteran's Memorial hall where they passed a motion asking Oregon's delegation in congress to attempt immediate procurement of the required appropriation.

The farmers took this action after hearing an extensive review of Linn county's drainage, irrigation and flood control problems by local speakers and U.S. engineers.

County Extension Agent O. E. Mikesell asserted that drainage is one of the foremost problems in Linn county and said that the county encompasses 240,000 acres of soil types which would benefit from either open or ditch or tile drainage.

### Club Members Invited

Willamina — Local boys and girls in 4-H dairy and livestock clubs have been invited to attend the 4-H banquet for all Polk county livestock club members, sponsored annually by the McMinnville Cooperative Creamery, will be Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 in the Rickreall Grange hall.

mention hog jowl and you mention white bacon. You use the jowl; we use the bacon. But the last time I looked, both jowl and bacon came from the hog. Could it be the same hog?"

The luncheon adjourned.

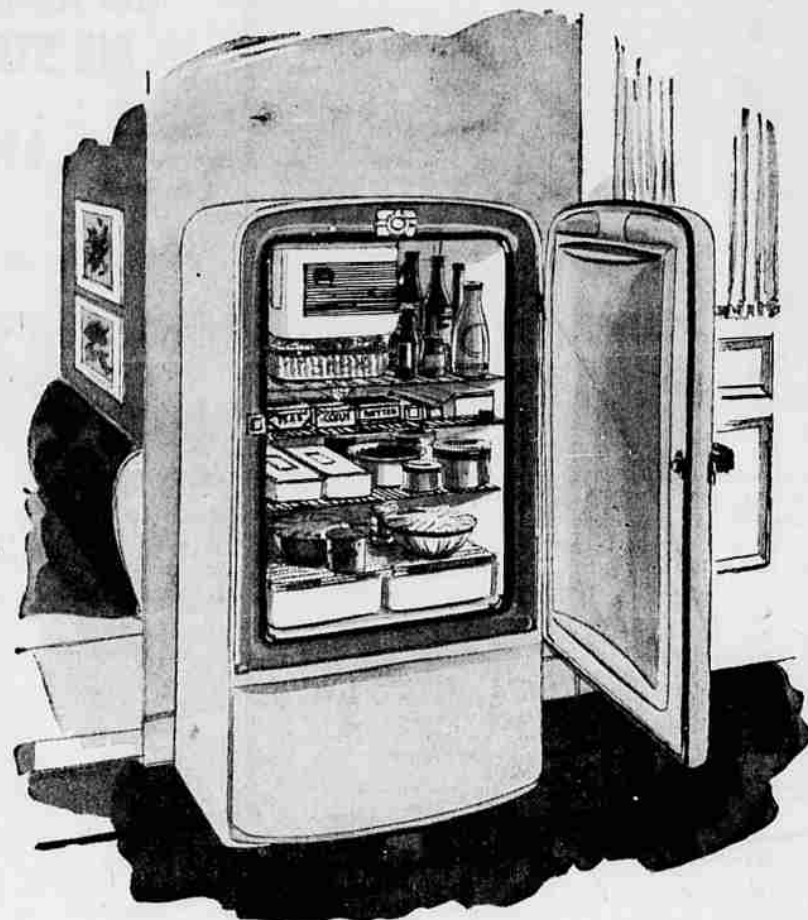
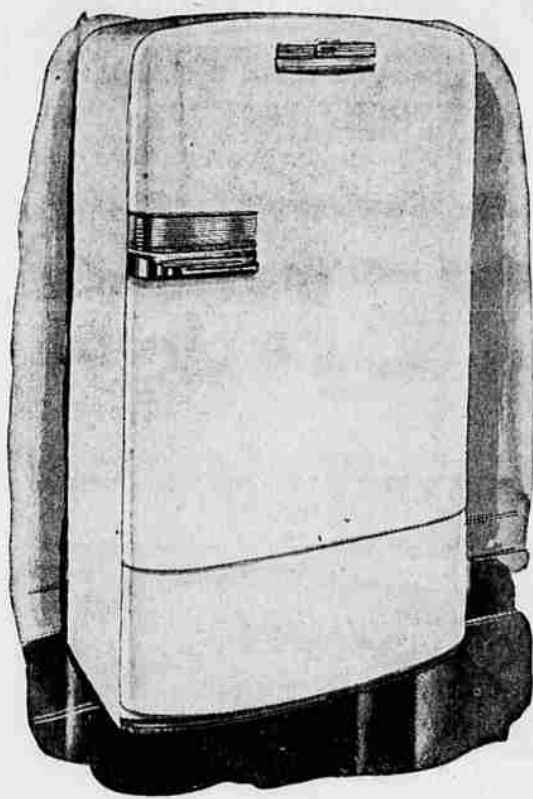
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