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OPA to Blame for Sugar Shortage Says Congressman From 2nd Oregon District

Representative Lowell Stockman, republican of Oregon, member of the Republican Congressional Study committee made the statement that the OPA statement blaming the current shortage of sugar for home canning on last year's chiseling by housewives on their canning ration is a "typical administration smoke screen designed to cover its own fumbling and inefficiency."

"The fact is," Representative Stockman said, "that if the beet sugar growers of this country had been encouraged even to maintain the production of sugar they turned out in 1940, instead of planting their land to dry peas, there would have been more additional sugar available for canning this year than OPA charges housewives with having falsely secured for that purpose last year."

"In 1940," he said, "American beet, sugar growers planted 916,000 acres of sugar beets and produced 1,773,000 tons sugar. In 1944 those same sugar growers planted only 558,000 acres and produced only 985,000 tons of sugar. The reason for the decrease in sugar acreage is that administration food theorists decided," Representative Stockman said, "this nation needed dry peas far more than it needed sugar and boosted the price of peas almost 300 percent while permitting the price of sugar beets to go up less than 80 percent. The result is, that while there is now a shortage of sugar so acute that vast quantities of fruit may go to waste this summer because it cannot be canned, we have dry peas literally running out of our warehouse windows."

"The story behind the dry peas is that early in the war administration food theorists decided that sooner or later we were going to run short of meat and called in dietary experts to figure out a substitute protein food for the American people. Dry peas are one of the foods highest in protein value, so it was determined that dry peas would supplant meat in the American diet. Thereupon, the growing of dry peas was encouraged by a government subsidy and support price which raised the price from an average of \$1.90 in 1940 to \$5.65 for U. S. No. 1 peas and \$5.40 for U. S. No. 2s in 1944. At the same time the average price of sugar beets was permitted to increase only from \$7.02 to \$12.50 per ton."

"The response was what might

have been expected. Acreage which had been devoted to sugar beets and other crops was planted in field peas and production jumped from 3,439,000 bushels in 1940 to 8,873,000 bushels in 1944. While sugar beet acreage was decreasing from 916,000 acres in 1940 to 558,000 acres in 1944, the acreage planted to dry peas jumped from 240,000 in 1940 to 727,000 in 1944.

"Montana, Idaho and Colorado are important beet sugar producing states. In 1944 their combined sugar beet acreage was 70,000 acres less than in 1940."

"OPA's next move will probably be to tell housewives how they can use dry peas as a substitute for sugar in canning, for while canning quotas of sugar are being reduced this summer, we produced in 1944 more than five times as many dried peas as our total civilian requirements, and still have more than 440,500,000 pounds of them on hand."

"OPA officials seek to blame the present shortage of sugar for canning on last year's chiseling by housewives, by which they mean use of sugar obtained with canning coupons for other household purposes in this manner. By a strange coincidence, this is the exact amount by which OPA itself exceeded its allocation of sugar for canning purposes."

"In 1944 OPA was allocated 750,000 tons of sugar for home canning use. Against this allocation OPA authorized use of canning coupons totaling 1,150,000 tons—exactly 400,000 tons over its allocation. If the sugar for which these coupons were issued was not available from the home canning allocation, it had to come from the allocation for other domestic uses. Therefore, if OPA exceeded its canning sugar allocation, the sugar those coupons called for had to come from the normal home supply and its use for ordinary home consumption was not a criminal diversion but the purpose for which the sugar was allocated in the first place."

Regardless of the purpose to which household sugar was put in 1944, however, it is obvious that if American beet sugar growers had been encouraged to produce even at the 1944 level, we should have had 788,000 more tons of sugar for all purposes this year than we now have. This year's sugar shortage cannot be blamed on American housewives, but upon administration bungling."

Death Summons Ernest K. Wyland

Ernest Wyland, 59, passed away Wednesday morning at the family residence in Heppner following an illness of approximately two years.

Mr. Wyland was a native son of Morrow county. He was born Nov. 14, 1885, in Heppner, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wyland, having been early settlers in the Hardman section. He attended school in Hardman and Heppner and in 1910 was married to Ora Devin, member of another pioneer family of the county. He farmed in the Hardman section a number of years and later resided on Rhea creek just below Ruggs, remaining there until illness made it necessary to give up ranch life.

Surviving besides Mrs. Wyland are two children, Ellis J. Wyland, Pendleton, and Elma (Mrs. Ben White who resides in Arizona, and one sister, Mrs. Eppler Dickey of John Day.

Funeral arrangements were being withheld pending word from Mrs. White who expressed a desire to be present but because of distance could not state definitely when she could arrive.

Miss Leta Humphreys left Sunday for Portland where she is engaged in buying new stock for the Humphreys Drug company. She was accompanied to the city by Mrs. F. W. Turner, Mrs. Joe Hughes and Miss Rose Hoosier.

RAISED TO CAPTAIN

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Drake have been informed that their son, Lt. Donald Drake, has been raised to the rank of captain.

Eagle to Scream In Morrow County On Fourth of July

Civilian Air Patrol Plans Celebration For Two Towns

It has been quite a spell since the eagle screamed in the good old American tradition in this neck of the woods but taking a tip from the stir around Heppner this week it will be only a matter of weeks until such another celebration is recorded. Announcement has been made by the Civilian Air Patrol unit, with headquarters at Heppner, that a full day observance of Heppner and Lexington with a program following the military manner.

Headed by the commanding officer, Lt. Walter Ready, the staff of the Heppner unit including Lt. Richard Hayes, in charge of cadets; Lt. M. R. Wightman, parade; Pvt. Earl McKinney, transportation; Archie Munkers and Pirl Howell, maintenance; Sgt. Lloyd Burkenbine, first aid; Lt. Edmond Gonty, M. P.; Lt. Conley Lanham, finance; Cpl. Alma Perkins, advertising; Pvt. Henry Perkins, carnival; Lt. Walter Ready, airport and personnel, and Sgt. Venice Stiles, clerk, plan the making for a big day, offering a type of celebration new to this section.

A tentative program calls for a parade at 10 a. m. in Heppner, with local and visiting units in full dress. Lodges and other organizations of Heppner have been asked to participate. Following the parade a drill contest will be held at the Rodeo grounds participated in by visiting and local CAP units. Plans contemplate the assembling of 35 planes from Oregon, Washington and Idaho which will pass in review over the field during the contests.

The afternoon program will open at 2 o'clock with a parade in Lexington, with an air meet and dedication ceremony at the proposed Lexington airport, the site for which is expected to be purchased by that time. Members of the local unit are arranging a carnival and jitney dance to be held in the Odd-fellows hall until late evening when a dance will be given in the Lexington grange hall. A public dance will be held the evening of July 3 at the fair pavilion in Heppner.

The City of Lexington, negotiator and purchaser of the airport, has tendered Heppner CAP first rights on the field in token of the unit's efforts in behalf of the port.

Nicoli Thompsen Dies in Norway

News of the death of Nicoli Thompsen, former Ella and Gooseberry farmer, was contained in a letter from Mrs. Erling Thompsen of McMinnville, formerly of Ione.

The family recently received the news through the Norwegian consul at San Francisco. Mr. Thompsen died Jan. 22 of this year in Norway and information was relayed through Stockholm, Sweden.

Mrs. Thompsen included news notes relative to other members of the family. Lt. Ted Thompsen, home from duty in the Pacific, is visiting at the home of his mother, Mrs. Karen Thompsen, in McMinnville. Ted was in command of a mine sweeper and took part in the landing of troops on Saipan and other points in the Marianas. He will be reassigned from Washington, D. C. after June 17.

James Thompsen left May 31 to begin training with the navy at San Diego.

Pvt. Norris Thompsen recently graduated from army air corps radio school at Sioux Falls, S. D. and spent a 30-day furlough in McMinnville and Portland. He has been sent to an airbase in Madison, Wis. for further training.

The Thompsen boys attended school in Ione when the family resided in Morrow county.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Baker left for Portland Tuesday on a business trip.

School Election On Docket Monday

Taxpayers of the district should bear in mind the annual school meeting scheduled to open at 2 p. m. Monday, June 18 at the city hall in Heppner. Election of one director is part of the business to come before the meeting. C. W. Barlow is the outgoing director and he has not indicated, publically at least, whether he intends to run again.

A special election will be held to vote on the question of increasing the tax levy over the amount limited by section 11, Article XI, state constitution. The district finds it needs to exceed the six percent limitation to the amount of \$7,282.34.

Aviation Subject Of Meeting Here

The future of aviation was discussed at some length Wednesday evening in a meeting at the city hall when representatives of the Shell Oil company gave their version of skyway activity following the war.

Speakers were M. K. Lakin and J. M. Beatie and they left no doubt in the minds of their hearers relative to expansion of air industry, which they contend will outstrip the development of the automobile industry following the first world war.

HAS NEW TILE FLOOR

Patrons of Heppner cafe walked into the restaurant on a new tile floor when the popular eating place reopened for business this morning. Harvey White, proprietor, closed the restaurant for two days while Gus Nikander and Setward Cole were laying the new floor covering. The tile comes in foot square blocks and although having the appearance of linoleum is of more durable material. The proprietor is as happy as a small boy with his first pair of brass tipped boots.

GOES TO CONVENTION

Mrs. George Gertson left this morning for Portland where, Friday evening, she will leave for St. Paul, Minn. to attend the national convention of the Degree of Honor Protective Assn. as th Oregon delegate. Returning homeward she will visit Mr. Gertson's relatives in Havre, Mont.

Another sailor at home for a few days is Dewitt Jones Jr., Gm 3/c. His ship is in dry dock for repairs for 30 days so Dee has taken advantage of this opportunity to visit his family and friends.

A recent communique from Bob Runnion states that he anticipates an early trip overseas. At present Bob is in San Diego, Calif.

Morrow County Ward Popular Spot With Patients in McCaw General Hospital

Three young men from McCaw hospital, Sgt. Wright, Sgt. Clark and Cpl. Cramer, the former a veteran of the Pacific war area and the others from the European theater, were guests of the Morrow county unit of the camp and hospital council Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Ralph Reser, secretary of the council accompanied the boys as did a field director. Mrs. Reser spoke on Morrow county's varied interests at McCaw and explained more specifically how she uses the \$25 from the local committee each month. The like parties—and what is a party without pretty girls and food. That is where Mrs. Reser comes to the fore. She gathers 20 or 25 attractive young women and they go to ward 47. Games in which the boys bedfast tho they be, can participate, are played, records are played and then refreshments. It is claimed over at the hospital that Morrow county's ward has the best parties so more and more of the ambulatory patients "just happen to be passing by."

Refreshments, which are meant for 50 have to be expanded to many times that number and those \$25 checks and Mrs. Reser's wise planning do the trick. Incidentally the boys have asked for strawberry short cake and cream for this

Warehousing for 1945 Wheat Crop Presents Problem

Triple-A Official Trying to Remove Local Bottleneck

Unless a solution is found within the next few weeks to the problem of clearing existing storage facilities, a lot of the 1945 wheat crop will be without a home, according to Merle Cummings, state field man for the AAA, who is in the county this week in an effort to help straighten out the warehousing difficulties along the Heppner branch of the Union Pacific system. Cummings related some of the storage facts in a talk before the luncheon group of the chamber of commerce Monday noon.

Warehousing facilities have not been built in proportion to increased production in recent years. That would not be necessary if it were not for the fact that the railroad company cannot spare cars enough to keep the grain rolling to the seaboard terminals, thus taxing the capacity of local storage space. Carryover from the previous year has come to extend right up to harvest season, although every available car is being sent in to move out as much wheat as possible before the 1945 crop begins to roll in.

Cummings stated that storage capacity in use and being built will amount to about 1,644,000 bushels. There is in storage 1,500,000 bushels, of which 340,000 bushels is in Commodity Credit Corporation bins. Should all old wheat be moved out in time for the new crop to be stored there would be a surplus of approximately 1,000,000 bushels if the 1945 crop reaches an estimated 2,800,000 or even 3,000,000 bushels.

"The problem has not been solved, but we are working on it," Cummings stated, "and hope to have something definite within a short time."

The speaker also mentioned that government crop insurance had been reinstated. This covers all risk due to weather conditions. The government lost money on the original program but hopes to make the new law a successful operation.

Guests introduced included R. C. McCracken, insurance man of Portland, Earl Simonton, assistant forest ranger in the Heppner district, and Bernard Davis from the accounting division of the secretary of state's office, here checking over the county's books.

month's party.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thompson were hosts at lunch at the Lucas Place to the visitors and a few guests before the meeting which occurred at 2:30 at the Elks hall.

It has been decided to try raising funds to carry on the committee work another year without solicitation. Neighborhood chairmen have been named by Mrs. Earl Gilliam, finance chairman. If the response is not ample a soliciting campaign will be launched. Contact your chairman or leave your contribution with Mrs. Gilliam or Miss Florence Bergstrom, treasurer. Business people will not be solicited at their residences. Chairmen are the following: Heppner: Mrs. Frank Connor, Mrs. J. O. Hager, Mrs. Elbert Cox, Mrs. Harvey Miller, Mrs. Wm Barkla, Mrs. R. G. McMurtry, Mrs. Fred Parrish and Mrs. Ad Moore; business section, J. O. Turner and Mrs. Earl Gilliam.

Ione, Mrs. Fred Mankin; Lexington, Mrs. Ralph Jackson; North of Lexington, Mrs. Merle Kirk; Alpine, Mrs. Wm J. Doherty; east of Heppner, Mrs. Ray Drake; Lena, Mrs. Edwin Hughes; Eight Mile, Mrs. Ben Anderson; Hardman, Mrs. Jim Hams and Boardman, Mrs. Clyde Tannehill.