

SURVEY REVEALS GAL'S PREFERENCE TO STAY ON JOBS

Want to Continue Working But Those Last Hired are First Fired.

By Genevieve Scott
United Press Correspondent
Detroit (U.P.)—Rosie the Riveter probably will change her slacks involuntarily for a post-war housedress unless unprecedented peacetime production is achieved in the automotive industry.

Interviews with high-ranking officials of leading automobile companies and with labor representatives showed one thing clearly—that the woman war worker, the lowest in seniority rating, will be the first to feel the blow of large contract cancellations.

Cutbacks already approximating \$2,000,000 have caused a drop of three per cent in women's automotive employment since January, 1944, according to figures of the automobile council for war production. At the present time, 27 per cent, or

200,000 of the workers, are women, compared to 7 per cent in pre-war automotive production.

A survey by United Automobile Workers (CIO), showed 85 per cent of the women answered "yes" to the question:

"If a job is available, will you continue to work outside your home after the war?"

Similar queries by the Thompson Products Co. and Bendix Aviation Corp. showed affirmative replies from 84 per cent and 64 per cent of the women respectively.

Last Hired, First Fired

Top representatives of labor and management say that under provisions of union contracts, women workers, the latest hired, are placed at the bottom of seniority lists. Consequently, they are the first fired when production falls or contracts are cancelled.

Officials of Ford, Packard, General Motors, and Bendix pointed out that many of the women will return to their homes, having accepted war work as a wartime duty. Others will join returning veteran husbands and many are expected to leave when the \$53.66 average weekly wage is lowered by abolishment of overtime.

But the women who had not worked before—the young girl on her first job and the women without children—are expected to remain. Some maintained they liked factory work, did not find it physically hard and found it more interesting than pre-war feminine occupations.

Captured British Parachutists



This radiophoto, received in New York from Stockholm Pressens Bild Agency, shows, according to original Nazi caption, Allied parachutists captured in Holland, presumably at Arnhem. Soldier in center, his face drawn with pain, is supported by his comrades.

"If we are going to reach a high national income, there must be more women employees," said Ernest Breech, president of Bendix Aviation. "Women have become accustomed to making high incomes and it is hard for them to quit and go back home. It's a laudible ambition to keep as many women employed as possible."

Essential in Radio

Breech said he would not expect women to be kept on heavy labor jobs, but that they would prove essential in the radio division of the company, a small pre-war division, which he said will become a vital part of the organization.

Plans of General Motors, as summarized by C. E. Wilson, president, would provide maintenance of employment of 400,

000, compared to the 284,000 figure before Pearl Harbor. Ten per cent of the pre-war employees were women while the corporation now employs 135,000 women workers or 30 per cent of the total.

Ford and Packard show a percentage of women employees of 34 and 28 per cent respectively.

"Women will be at the bottom of the seniority list and the returning veteran at the top," a Ford spokesman said. "If there is a turn to all-out production, to maintain a high national income, there will be a great shortage of labor when industry drives to meet the demand. Then women will be back in the factory."

R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO president, predicted a lay-off period for women immediately following the war.

"But if the capacity production is maintained as soon as normal output is resumed," he declared, "there will be jobs for all. We must have maximum utilization of our nation's machinery, labor power and natural resources. Management cannot forget the job women have done in this war and there won't be any seniority trouble if there is plenty of work."

"After the last war, women went into the office. After World War II, they will go into the plant, to stay."

GIFTS FOR BOYS

Burrillville, R. I.—(U.P.)—This town of 8,000 persons is planning a very practical welcome celebration for its veterans of the present war. The town is planning to raise at least \$52,000 to make gifts to its 900 boys in the service. One of the recent money-raising events was a white elephant sale to which citizens contributed everything from rabbits to oil paintings.

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BURDIC DESCRIBES LIFE IN PACIFIC IN ROTARY TALK

Interesting high-lights of life in the South Pacific combat area were told the Medford Rotary club Tuesday by Major R. L. Burdick of Ashland, recently returned from three years of army service. Speaking at the Hotel Medford, Major Burdick described the exciting early days of the war when his first assignment was on Kauai, the Hawaiian group. The island people firmly believed that the Japs would come after the Pearl Harbor attack but soon settled down to normal living with the reassurance of American troops garrisoned there.

Swimming, fishing, lobster diving and hunting pheasant and wild boar somewhat relieved the monotony of army life on Kauai, Burdick said.

Major Burdick's next post was on Guadalcanal after it had been conquered from the Japanese. Mosquitos in the Solomon island area were more dangerous than the Japs, and accounted for the bulk of American casualties, the speaker said. Various tropical diseases, with which American troops contended in the earlier phases of the Solomon campaign, were described.

The few Japanese prisoners taken in the South Seas operations were treated with full consideration. Major Burdick was especially impressed with the stoicism of these prisoners when being treated for wounds.

In concluding his address, Burdick described the topography and climate of the South Sea islands and gave a verbal picture of the interesting natives who inhabit them.

George Buchanan, representing the Toastmasters club, spoke briefly of the aims and objectives of the Medford community chest and national war fund.

U. S. Girls Smoke Pipes Say Japs

By United Press

Listeners to a Japanese broadcast were told Wednesday "there is a shortage of cigarettes" in the United States and that "some American women have already taken up pipe smoking."

The broadcast was recorded by the Federal Communications commission from a broadcast directed to Europe by the Japanese Domei news agency.

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Medford Brothers Meet By Chance in Overseas Service

Two Medford boys, sons of Mrs. Edith Watson, 718 1/2 West Main street met while in France recently and had a two hour visit according to word received by their mother in a letter. They were Pvt. Jack Watson and his brother Pfc. Glen Watson.

Pfc. Watson, who was awarded the Purple Heart medal after being wounded during the invasion of the European mainland, had been returned to his company from a hospital in England. Seeing a military policeman with a shoulder patch of his brother's outfit he inquired as to their whereabouts and the brothers were soon reunited for a short visit.

Pvt. Watson had been overseas about a year and prior to entering the army was a logger. His brother has been overseas only two months.

Talent Sergeant Wins Battle Star

Talent, Oct. 5.—T/Sgt. Elmer I. Ogborn has been awarded another campaign battle star according to information received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Ogborn of Talent. The sergeant already wears an Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster won in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. He is now in France and is with the headquarters squadron of a transport command.

Prior to his enlistment in the air corps in January of 1941 Sgt. Ogborn was employed by the Crater Lake Motor company and he has served overseas for 18 months. He is a graduate of the Talent high school.

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Medford Couple Get "Inside" Tip War Will Come To End On Oct. 26

If the war ends on the 26th of this month, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Wilson of 7 Chestnut street will have "something to talk about" for a long time to come, for when the Wilsons were recently in Seattle, a very interesting episode climaxed with the prediction that the war would be over Oct. 26.

The Wilsons, with a friend, were in a Seattle depot about to buy tickets for Everett, Wash. The friend asked for her ticket and was considerably startled when a strange Chinese gentleman offered to purchase it for her, remarking that she had no money. After a search proved this to be true, the Chinese stranger further informed the woman that her purse was home on her dressing table.

"If you are able to determine such a thing as this, tell me when the war will end", the Seattle woman inquired, and the

Chinaman replied, "the war will end Oct. 26."
Since the friend's money was found on the dressing table, the Wilsons now are anxiously waiting for the 26th to arrive.

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Ralph McGonagle Awarded Infantry Combat Insignia

With the Fifth Army, Italy—Private First Class Ralph D. McGonagle, whose home is on Route 2, Medford, Ore., has been cited by his regiment of the 88th Infantry Division and awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for actual participation in combat with the enemy on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

Pfc. McGonagle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. McGonagle of route 2, Box 46. His wife resides with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sparks, Ross Lane. Other relatives in Medford include his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. William McGonagle, Howard avenue.

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