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GENERAL SALVAGE BRANCH
Conservation Division, War Production Board
State Salvage Committee
State Council of Defense Cooperating
314 Pioneer Trust Building
Salem, Oregon
February 1, 1943

TO: Honorable Earl Snell, Governor of the State of Oregon

FROM: Claude I. Sersanous, Chairman, Oregon State Salvage Committee
W. Roderick Finney, Assistant Executive Secretary for Oregon

SUBJECT: REPORT OF OREGON STATE SALVAGE COMMITTEE FOR 1942

The Organization

In accordance with provisions of the attached War Bulletin No. 23, the Oregon Salvage for Victory Program was officially established on March 9, 1942.

Subsequently, the appointments of Mr. Claude I. Sersanous as State Chairman and of Mr. Ralph H. Mitchell as Executive Secretary for Oregon were announced by Governor Charles A. Sprague and the basic salvage plan was effected with the selection of County and Community committees in every sector of the State.

In all instances, these selections were negotiated through the facilities of the Oregon Civilian Defense Council, their State and County Coordinators, and were followed by official appointments from the Governor.

As a result, 36 county committees and 273 local committees were duly organized and operating early in the year.

Meanwhile, the State Salvage Committee was created, consisting of some 46 Oregon citizens and providing a cross-section of virtually all activities, state-wide in scope. A roster of this Committee is enclosed herewith.

On March 19, 1942, offices were established in the Pioneer Trust Building, Rooms 313, 314, and 315, Salem, Oregon, with the personnel consisting of Mr. Mitchell, Executive Secretary, and Miss Blanche Ferguson and Miss Ann Hawkins, Clerk-Stenographers. Miss Margie Noll later replaced Miss Hawkins, resigned, and under date of September 1, Mr. W. Roderick Finney was added to the staff as assistant to Mr. Mitchell, his official station being designated as The Dalles, Oregon.

Early in October, still another staff member was welcomed into the fold when Mrs. Ethel Keck of Seaside, Oregon, was appointed Vice-Chairman of the State Salvage Committee by Governor Sprague to promote and organize the Women's activities as they pertain to salvage.

At the very beginning of the Salvage Program, every effort was made by Mr. Sersanous and by Mr. Mitchell to stress the vital importance of strong, well-organized county and unit committees--so established and so coordinated as to obtain the maximum of results with a minimum of time and effort.

Personnel of county and unit committees, for example, were selected to include representation from Civilian Defense Councils, USDA War Boards, schools, press, radio, women's organizations, civic groups, Chambers of Commerce and many other leading organizations and groups in each community.

County and unit committees, in many instances, set aside one afternoon or evening per week or month for meetings--a plan which they are being urged to follow for the duration of the War. At these meetings, progressive Salvage programs--devised and submitted by the Conservation Division, War Production Board, and the State Salvage Committee--are discussed, formulated and, in some cases, transposed to local levels to fit the conditions as they exist in the respective localities. Moreover, most of these committees have been paid personal visits by Messrs. Sersanous, Mitchell and Finney and, later, by Mrs. Keck, all of whom have endeavored, whenever possible, to call on the various County Chairmen and Aides of Oregon, offering them assistance and advice wherever it was deemed necessary or desired.

Since one of their most important functions is that of an active and responsible publicity media, it perhaps is well to point out that County and Unit Salvage Committees of Oregon have maintained the finest relations with the press and radio and have placed particular emphasis on "localized" news stories, all of which not only have been most liberally used by publishers and editors but also have been widely read by the people to whom they are directed.

In addition, many tons of literature pertaining to the three fundamentals of salvage -- (1) What is needed, (2) What the material is used for, and (3) How it is to be collected -- were shipped from the State Office in 1942 and subsequently were distributed to the public by County and Unit Salvage Committees. Distribution

Therefore, with the above objectives having been accomplished to a great degree throughout Oregon, it is the firm belief of the State Salvage Committee that whatever success it may have achieved in the preceding nine months is due largely to the organization and functions of the many volunteer county and community committeemen and assisting agencies who operated so faithfully during the year 1942.

Also, too much credit cannot be given the innumerable private as well as public organizations, institutions and business concerns which provided welcome and material assistance in promoting and collecting various waste materials, and the people of Oregon-at-large who responded so magnificently to the Call for Scrap.

Programs Of 1942

As well as aiding in the conservation and gathering of countless lesser articles necessary in the successful prosecution of the War Effort, State and County Salvage Committees undertook to promote, organize and collect six major waste materials during 1942. These included (1) Waste Paper, (2) Scrap Metals, (3) Scrap Rubber, (4) Waste Kitchen Fats, (5) Silk Stockings, (6) Tin Cans.

WASTE PAPER--As early in the year as possible, Salvage programs were launched on a state-wide basis, some of these initial drives including iron and steel, rubber, rags, bags and waste paper. In Oregon, as in many other states on the West Coast, the paper drive brought forth such a tremendous volume of material from the people--Boy Scouts, school children and other Youth organizations were especially active in putting this program across--that subsequent collections of paper were discontinued until further notice.

KITCHEN FATS--A national program calling for the continuous collection of household fats was launched by State and County Salvage Committees during the month of June when housewives were urged to save, strain and store in one or two-pound containers all waste cooking fats, with instructions to take them to their nearest butcher after a pound or more had been collected.

At the instigation of Mr. Mitchell, a meeting of Oregon renderers and meat packers was held in Salem, July 1, at which time state representatives of the rendering and packing industry elected Mr. William Denley of Portland as the organization representative on the State Salvage Committee and Contact Man on the National Kitchen Fats Program. The rendering industry also pledged its fullest support in the collection of fats at this meeting and collections have been continuous throughout Oregon since and will remain so until the war is ended.

SCRAP RUBBER--Although President Roosevelt's Scrap Rubber Drive (June & July) was directed, mobilized and sponsored by the nation's oil industry--and all possible credit is due this industry for the grand job it did--State and County Salvage Committees also were able to play important parts in this program through their connections with the press and radio and by the distribution of pamphlets and other publicity material to the general public. At the conclusion of the President's drive, rubber collections were continued as a part of the State Salvage program and many additional tons of tires and "Victory" rubber were gathered and shipped during the last six months of the year.

As a matter of record, Oregon finished first in the nation in the President's Rubber Drive, collecting a grand total of 10,225 tons of rubber during the campaign, or an average of 18.75 pounds per person.

SCRAP METALS--The need for scrap iron and steel to keep the nation's furnaces and smelters operating at maximum capacity was apparent from the very start of the Salvage for Victory program. As the war progressed, however, this need became increasingly apparent and it soon was recognized that stockpiles of scrap would have to be accumulated along rail and truck sidings if America's war industries were to be supplied during the winter months. For these reasons, emphasis was placed early in the spring and continued until late in the fall on the importance of collecting all available scrap metals.

To promote, abet and accelerate these collections, several programs were launched by the War Production Board and the State Salvage Committee in 1942 and were carried through to successful conclusions by the various county and community committees and their cooperating agencies.

Early in July, for example, a National Advertising Campaign on Scrap Collection was financed by steel and other industries vitally connected with War Work and was conducted through daily and weekly newspapers as well as radio stations throughout the entire United States.

Also, at about the same time, it was announced that Oregon had been asked to attain or exceed a quota of 100,000 tons of scrap metal during the last six months of the year--an average of approximately 200 pounds per every man, woman and child.

petroleum, rubber and automotive interests) taking the lead in assisting the county and unit salvage committees. Respective state chairmen of these units who will continue to supplement and coordinate their efforts with those of the State Salvage Committee for the duration include the following: H. H. Ramsay, petroleum interests; C. W. Thorp, rubber interests; John M. Burt, farm equipment industry, and A. B. Smith, automotive industry.

Further invaluable aid was rendered the "National Scrap Harvest" by the Oregon State Extension Service and their county agricultural agents who made surveys of locations, quantities and availability of scrap in rural areas. These surveys, compiled in many respects through the facilities of Neighborhood Leader plans, enabled salvage committees to dispatch men and trucks over designated routes, thus eliminating much waste motion.

Along with this rural scrap collection program "Junk Rallies" were staged in some cities and communities, resulting in the gathering of additional valuable scrap.

Despite these cooperative efforts, however, and despite the fact that Oregon led all Western States in July shipments in relation to their six-month overall quotas, the WPB advised on September 11 that the scrap still was not coming in fast enough to keep all the steel mills in full 24-hour operation and that "we will all have to work just that much harder during the months to come".

One week later, at the request of Donald Nelson, newspaper publishers of the United States accepted the responsibility for staging a "Newspapers' United Scrap Drive". Subsequently, Mr. Philip L. Jackson was named chairman of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers committee on this particular program and on September 27 all daily and weekly newspapers of Oregon launched an intensive publicity and promotional program. Also as of this date, the State Salvage Committee announced that it was sponsoring a fund of \$2,000 to be given as prize awards for the county, firm, organization and school turning in the greatest quantity of scrap per capita during the course of the Newspaper campaign.

Then, on October 25 as a part of the National School Salvage Program originated by the War Production Board and directed by the United States Office of Education, millions of school children joined with the newspapers and salvage committees in "Getting In The Scrap". In Oregon, the school program was directed by Rex Putnam, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and was made possible through the combined efforts of all county and city superintendents, teachers and pupils.

In most counties, all of these plans - newspapers, schools, Scrap Harvests, etc. - were blended into one coordinated program during the last week in September and the first three weeks of October with the result that the drive for scrap was immensely intensified. County courts and municipalities, for example, liberally provided trucks and manpower to abet those already furnished by salvage committees, inter-industry committees and farm equipment dealers. In many counties, trucks, equipment and men also were forthcoming from such state and government agencies as the Soil Conservation Service, Grazing Service, WPA, State Highway Commission, etc., while school children, farmers and business men pitched in on the collections.

In addition, several counties and cities went so far as to declare "Scrap Holidays"; closing their stores and schools that they might collect scrap to lick the Jap. Farmers in the country and labor organizations in the cities also were most helpful in the drives, while service clubs and other groups gave valuable assistance to salvage committees in a great many respects.

SILK STOCKINGS--The collection of women's wornout and discarded silk or nylon stockings was launched in Oregon on November 16 when hosiery collection depots were established in all retail stores having women's or misses' hosiery departments. State, county and community salvage committees have been publicizing this program, which is of a permanent nature, and also have been able to assist the smaller stores by "pooling" the contributions, and sending them in 100-pound lots or better to the Defense Supplies Corporation, N. Y. Although the program was started little more than two months ago, many hundreds of pounds of stockings already have been reported received throughout the state and now are available for shipment and conversion into gun powder bags and other materials essential to the War Effort.

TIN CANS--The combined patriotic cooperation of school children, members of the Oregon Carbonated Beverage Bottlers Association and county and community salvage committees soon is expected to result in the collection and shipment of tin cans from many sections of Oregon. Since December 1, ten carloads of cans have been shipped from the Portland area and other shipments to the detinning plant at South San Francisco, California, are anticipated in the immediate future.

Of recent date, Mr. Sorsanous, State Salvage Chairman, and Mr. Mitchell, Executive Secretary for Oregon, held several meetings with Western Oregon bottlers relating to the collection and shipment of tin cans. In Oregon, the plan is for school children to gather the cans from the households and concentrate them at centrally-

transported to rail points for loading and shipment. Similar meetings are planned for the southern and eastern sectors of the State within the next few weeks, following which a coordinated collection program is expected to be gotten underway in all but the thinly-populated areas. Meanwhile, all residents of Oregon are being urged to save and prepare (wash, tear off labels, cut off both ends and flatten) every tin can. State, county and community salvage committees are now bending every effort to convey this message to their people.

OTHER WASTE MATERIALS--In addition to sponsoring the above major programs, State and County Salvage Committees have taken the lead or participated in publicizing and conserving many other articles during the past year. Some of these include non-ferrous metals, tin toothpaste tubes (to be turned in to retail druggists), wild animal hides, metal keys, grain sacks, manila rope and rags.

The Year's Record

People of Oregon have every reason to look with pride on the past year's salvage record. In this connection, attention is called:

- (1) To Oregon's claim of being the first state in the Union to complete its scrap iron and steel quota of 100,000 tons from July 1, 1942, to January 1, 1943. This quota was reached on November 15 and since then Oregon made its quota of over 200 pounds per capita, with figures including industrial, auto graveyard and special projects salvage sections.
- (2) To the fact that Oregon finished fourth in the nation in the collection of scrap iron and steel during the Newspaper publicity drive, with Kansas taking first place, Vermont, second; and Washington, third.
- (3) To 19 out of the 36 counties in the state of Oregon which have qualified for WPB scrap pennant awards to be flown from their respective county court houses on the basis of having collected 100 pounds or more of metals per capita.
- (4) To Oregon's claim, second to Wyoming, of what is thought to be a national record for school children in the collection of scrap -- 13,831 pounds per student from the Powers High School of Powers, Oregon, having an enrollment of 45 students.

Attention further is called to the fact that from reports submitted to them by Mr. Mitchell, Executive Secretary of the State Salvage Committee, Judges Martin Hawkins, William A. Schoenfeld and P. L. Jackson, Chairman, of the Newspaper Scrap Metals Contest, announced the following awards offered by the State Salvage Committee:

- (1) For the Oregon County collecting the greatest number of pounds per capita of county population by the 1940 census, the first prize of a \$1000 war bond was awarded to Morrow County, with a record of 275 pounds per capita. The second prize of a \$500 bond was awarded to Gilliam County with a record of 213 pounds per capita.
- (2) The prize for the individual collecting the greatest number of pounds of scrap metal was awarded to James Hargis, 4064 North Colonial Ave, Portland, Oregon, a student of the Boise Sight Saving School, who collected in excess of 4000 pounds.
- (3) The first prize for the unit boys' and girls' organizations was given to the Cloverdale Cub Scouts whose ten members collected 3030 pounds per Cub.
- (4) As there were no business firms entered in the contest, the judges decided to divide the \$300 bond which was for the business firms to two high schools. The first prize of a \$200 bond was awarded to Powers High School whose 45 students brought in 13,831 pounds per student, and the second prize of a \$100 bond was awarded to the Langlois High School whose 33 students collected 5,703 pounds per student.
- (5) In addition, the judges gave honorable mention to the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society of Albany whose ten members collected 1,286 pounds per member, and to Nels K. Boyd of Portland who individually collected 2,106 pounds.

Other counties, organizations and individuals made splendid records, the judges reported, but furnished no certificates as to actual weights and thus could not be judged in this contest.

representative of the State Salvage Committee to Langlois High School, the Cloverdale Cub Scouts and James Hargis. Awards in the remaining instances are to be made during the latter part of January or early in February.

SCHOOLS IN SALVAGE--School children of Oregon did a grand job in the Scrap Harvest Program as may be seen from the following figures:

- (1) Total collection of scrap in pounds by the school children -- 7,500,000 pounds.
- (2) School collecting greatest number of pounds of scrap -- Lincoln High School, Portland - 200 tons
- (3) School collecting greatest number of pounds of scrap per pupil -- Powers High School, Coos County.
- (4) Schools collecting the most scrap per capita: Powers High School, Coos County, Walter Commons, Principal; Moro High School, Sherman County, Russell A. Hollinshead, Principal; Wasco High School, Sherman County, C. C. Caldwell, Principal.

Of the 1966 schools in the state, not all participated directly in the school program in the Scrap Harvest. Many pooled the scrap collected with that gathered by the community. The 230 schools reporting to the State Department of Education, however, averaged over 17 tons of scrap each.

In accordance with a plan worked out by the Maritime Commission in cooperation with Mr. Mitchell, the Executive Secretary, representatives of the three schools which collected the most scrap per capita were selected to attend the christening and launching of a Liberty ship in Portland on Tuesday, December 22.

Representatives who attended this launching were Jack Bushnell, Powers High School, Powers, Oregon; Helen Griswold, sponsor of the ship "Sacajawea", Powers High School; Donald Thompson, Moro High School; Patricia Pinkerton, Moro High School, flower girl; and Pat O'Meara, Wasco High School.

Mr. Mitchell further was responsible for school ship launching ceremonies of six additional western states during the month of December.

General Summary

Through the office of the Executive Secretary, the State Salvage Committee throughout the year 1942 issued some 115 bulletins and memorandums to its county and community salvage committees, to the members of the State Committee, to newspapers and radio stations and to the general mailing list, the combined total of which now aggregates 150. In addition, countless reams of correspondence - originating from the War Production Board, the State Committee and from County and Community Chairmen - were replied to from this office by the Executive Secretary.

Success of the "Salvage for Victory Campaign" in the words of Mr. Claude I. Sersanous, State Chairman, can be attributed to the following six-point program:

- (1) Good, strong State, County and Local organizations, well organized.
- (2) Efficient organizations manned by efficient personnel and capable and hard-working County and Local Salvage Committeemen.
- (3) Close cooperation with the OCD, its State Coordinator and County Coordinators, U.S.D.A. War Board, Oregon State Extension Service, with its county agents and neighborhood leader plan.
- (4) Splendid assistance and cooperation of the Industrial Salvage Committee of Oregon and its personnel, the Scrap Processors' Section and Special Projects Section.
- (5) An all-out Newspaper Publicity Effort, without precedent in the history of the state.
- (6) As a finale, a most generous and splendid response by the citizens of Oregon.

In Memoriam

On Sunday, January 17, 1943, Ralph H. Mitchell, Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Salvage Committee since its inception, passed away following an illness of only one day.

which Mr. Mitchell was so unstintingly engaged prior to the time of his unexpected and most regretful death.

May it, also, in fullest possible measure, interpret the high and warm esteem with which he was held by all those who were privileged to know or work with him.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Finney".

Rod Finney, Assistant Executive Secretary
Oregon State Salvage Committee