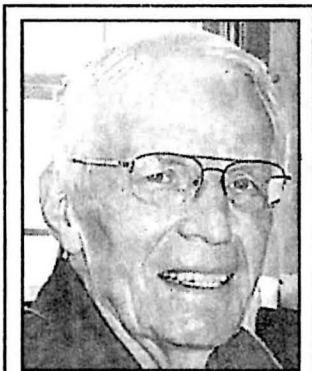


## Washburn During The War Years — The Home Front--3

8/18/11

Paralleling the Civilian Defense Corps was the volunteer Citizens Service Corps, organized in December 1942, with the responsibility of "leading the fight against inefficiency, insecurity, and poor health within the community and thus of increasing the total striking power of the nation." A captain and two lieutenants were appointed, with the city divided into 32 geographic blocks, each with a leader. The block organization was intended to insure that citizens carried out their "contribution to the prosecution of the war," including salvage, war savings, nutrition, services for men in the armed forces, child care, housing, and so on. This elaborate plan, well-meaning as it may have been, was no doubt difficult to implement and probably considered to be too intrusive by many people in the community. In any case, it seems to have suffered the same fate as the Citizens Defense Corps.

Scrap drives, the collection of used, discarded, and surplus rubber, metal, and paper, to make up for shortages of these materials, were held periodically during the war years. The first



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scrap drive was held in July 1941 before the United States entered the war. A nation-wide call went out to collect 10,000 tons of aluminum, enough to construct 4,000 fighter planes. On July 21st, Boy Scouts, 4H Club members, and other volunteers went house to house throughout the county to collect scrap aluminum. About 70,000 tons were collected nationally, but only pure aluminum could be used to construct airplanes, so the scrap aluminum was used for less demanding applications.

The first scrap drive after December 7 was for waste paper, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association

and the Boy Scouts. About six tons of paper were collected by mid-February. The next drive was for scrap iron, held in June 1942. Over 12 tons of iron were collected that were sold to a junk dealer for \$110, the money being donated to the United Service Organization. In August 1942 a county-wide campaign to collect scrap metal was launched, which in two months collected about 550 tons. The Washburn drive was sponsored by the Lions Club, the scrap being collected by school children. The profit of \$138.50, from the sale of the scrap to a local dealer, was given to the school for tools for the manual training department. In December another country-wide drive to collect tin cans was launched. The Times published detailed instructions on how to prepare a can for salvage: "here are the steps to take in salvaging your cans: after opening it and emptying it, rinse it thoroughly with hot water, remove the label, and dry the can. Then cut out the closed end, put both end pieces inside the cylinder and step firmly on the can to make it fairly flat, but

don't stamp on it or pound it." The prepared cans saved by households were taken by children to their schools, which were the collection points. The Times reported in June 1943 that two tons of cans had been trucked to the salvage depot in Ashland, while almost a ton was collected the following month.

In January 1943 the county Defense Board sponsored a campaign to collect old silk and nylon stockings to be recycled for use in powder bags, parachutes, and other war materials. The stockings were collected by school children, then taken to clothing retailers, who served as receiving centers. By June, 52 pounds had been collected in Washburn, with 477 pounds collected throughout the county. This was followed in October by a drive to collect waste paper and tin cans, sponsored by the P.T.A. People were given specific instructions about how to prepare their contributions, which were gathered on street corners by school children, who were called "Waste Paper Commandos." At the end of December about six and one-half tons of paper were

collected, which were transported to Ashland by a county truck. The tin can and waste paper campaign continued through 1944 and 1945, with Du Pont School students going house-to-house on Saturdays, designated as "Salvage Days," to collect the cans and paper. In February 1944 the Du Pont School "Salvage Commandos" collected 9,186 cans, winning "first honors in the statewide tin can collection contest." A special awards ceremony was held in mid-April at the Du Pont club, in which "certificates for outstanding achievement in tin salvage, signed

by Acting Governor Walter S. Goodland, were awarded to students of the fifth grade of the DuPont elementary school." In mid-April 1945, 24,600 pounds of paper and at the end of September, 13,000 pounds of tin cans, were shipped by rail from Washburn. In addition to these major salvage campaigns, there were brief drives to collect other materials, including copper, fat, phonograph records, and tires and other rubber products.