COUNTY OVERVIEW 19/11

M A R I O N C O U N T Y D E F E N S E
C O U N C I L

R E P O R T O F

COUNTY COORDINATOR

FISCAL YEAR 1942-1943

IN GENERAL

As contemplated in the table of organization for County Defense Councils, the work of this council has been divided between the Executive Committee and the office of the coordinator.

These general duties are divided roughly as follows:-

1. The Executive Committee handles all matters of finance and policy.

2. The office of coordinator handles all details pertaining to organization and the handling of routine matters.

Obviously it would place too great a burden on this committee to be compelled to meet and decide each small matter of routine and organization, therefore the coordinator has handled these matters thru competent and trust-worthy assistants and has only called upon this committee for aid when absolutely necessary.

It is the purpose of this report therefore to summarize and attempt to give you a picture of the workings of the County Defense Council as set up and operating.

Suffice it to say that this report will be as brief as possible considering the magnitude of the organization.

The past year has seen many changes in the organization of Civilian Defense, the chief of which has been the addition of the Citizens Service Corps to our organization. Defense Councils are now the over-all organization charged with the responsibility of prosecuting and coordinating the entire war effort.

As a matter of fact the name "Defense Council" is now a misnomer as Defense Councils are now in fact "War Councils".

Therefore for the sake of clarity this report will be divided into two parts:-

1. The Citizens Defense Corps

2. The Citizens Service Corps.

OFFICERS

From the table of organization, specified in the page following it will be noted that there are many persons in charge of the various phases of Civilian Defense. For the purpose of this report we shall name only those with whom we are directly concerned and upon whom rests the responsibility of organization and direction.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chandler P. Brown, Chairman
G. F. Chambers
Tom Windishar
W. J. Entress
Jake Fuhrer
Judge Grant Murphy
Judge George Rossman

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Aurora - -	Pphean Sayre Sr.
Brooks - -	Ronald Jones
Jefferson	J. T. Jones
Gervais -	Gus Moisan (Mayor)
Mill City	Tom Allen
Mt. Angel	J. H. Fournier
Salem - -	Tom Armstrong
Silverton	Reber Allen (Mayor)
Stayton	Larry Siegmund (Mayor)
St. Paul	Ross Coleman
Turner	William Ball
Woodburn	Frank Burlingham

COORDINATOR

Bryan H. Conley

COMMANDER CITIZENS DEFENSE CORPS

E. L. Crawford

DIRECTOR CITIZENS SERVICE CORPS

G. W. (Judd) Davis

BLOCK LEADER CHIEF

Miss Hazel Harper

GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK

The best summary that can be given of the scope of work performed by the coordinator's office is to enumerate the various subdivisions in the correspondence file. The following will give you some idea:-

CITIZENS DEFENSE CORPS

Advertising
Aircraft Observers
Air Raid Precautions
Auxiliary Police
Alien Permits
Blackouts
Black Out Permits
Bombs
Confidential
Control Center
Coordinator Reports
Decontamination
Dimout General
Dimout Enforcement
Emergency Utilities
Evacuation
Fingerprinting
Fire Reserves
General
Governor
Incident Reports
Insignia
Insurance
Medical Aid
Memoranda
News Letter
Oregon Womens Ambulance Corps
Oregon State Defense Council
Officers
Office of Civilian Defense
Personnel
Priorities
Proclamations
Public Information
Public Schools
Public Utilities
Pump Purchase
Radio
Receipts
Red Cross
Requisitions
Rumor and Propaganda
Staff Corps
Supplies
Training

CITIZENS SERVICE CORPS

Advertising
Agriculture
Block Leader
Consumers Interest & Rationing
Director
Education
Enrollment
Entertainment
General
Information
Labor
Nutrition
Public Welfare
Salvage
Supplies
Transportation
Victory Book
Youth Participation

CITIZENS DEFENSE CORPS

E. L. Crawford, Commander

Within the past year several important changes have been made in the organization of the Citizens Defense Corps. Part of these has been due to revised regulations coming from Washington, D. C. and part of them are due to the passage of the Oregon Civilian Defense Act.

You will recall that County Defense Councils were originally concerned with six main divisions of defense work:-

Police
Fire
Emergency Food and Housing
Utilities
Communications
Medical

These functions have now been taken over by City Defense Councils, thus leaving a very distinct division of authority between the City Commanders and the County Commanders.

Before discussing these duties, however, it might be well to call your attention to the provisions of the Oregon Civilian Defense Act. This act requires that fire or other Mutual Aid Equipment may be moved on the orders of the State Fire Marshall immediately upon declaration of martial law. The State of Oregon is then responsible for the moving, care and safe return of the equipment.

DUTIES OF COUNTY COMMANDER

From the above you will note that the County Commander has two very distinct responsibilities.

1. He is the only man in the County who can request mutual aid equipment. He must therefore be in contact with every part of his county during the progress of a raid and must know the over-all picture.

2. His work must dovetail with the operation of the State Control Center. If he must move equipment he must request martial law and request such equipment from the State Fire Marshall.

Since the organization of the State Control Center, Mr. Crawford has been practicing these duties at least once per week and I believe is the first county to adapt his control center to that of the State.

PERSONNEL

Following is a transcript of my report made to the Office of Civilian Defense for the month of April, 1943. I might add that these reports are always made with a great deal of reservations because our greatest problem has been the turnover in population.

Bomb Reconnaisance Agents	12
Incident Officers	17
Staff	125
Drivers	250
Chaplains	11
Instructors	25
Air Raid Wardens	2 040
Emergency Food & Housing	42
Auxiliary Firemen	200
Rescue	18
Auxiliary Police	900
Doctors	43
Nurses Aides	50
Utility repair	100
Decontamination	60
Demolition & Clearance	118
Road repair	98
TOTAL	4 109

INSPECTIONS

In addition to making the above reports approximately every three months, this office is subject to military and state inspections. The last one occurred some two months ago and our short comings at that time were confined mostly to the fact that we did not have our office open during business hours and that some of our personnel cards had not been brot up to date. These shortcomings are being remedied as fast as possible.

This office also carries out inspections of its own thruout the county by means of the telephone hook up from the control center. The last time this test was made it took a little longer than the time allowed. The entire county was contacted in 15 minutes. This must be cut to 10 or possibly 8 minutes.

INVESTIGATIONS

It is not the function of Civilian Defense to carry out any investigations of any type. However, there exists a state of mind among our citizens which necessitates this office working in very close coordination with investigating authorities. Many citizens will not go directly to officials with complaints but will come in and discuss conditions with us. Many of them specifically state they will not talk with local officers. The first question that is always asked of these people is whether or not they are willing to talk to an investigator. After they

are once assurred as to the confidential manner in which such cases are handled by authorities the most of them are willing to tell their story to the right person. Therefore the duty has fallen to this office to make proper contacts for such persons with the correct investigating authority.

Incidentally I might state that since the Japs were moved from the coast that this type of work has dropped at least 50%.

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

We are now in the midst of what is hoped will be our last major organization task, viz. evacuation.

The problem here is to hook transportation onto our emergency food and housing. The Office of Defense Transportation assumes control over all vehicles operating in fleets of 5 or more; thus leaving to Civilian Defense all privately owned automobiles, motorcyles, station wagons, etc. Our job is to organize these cars into groups that may be maneuvered with the least possible delay in event of raids. The job is progressing satisfactorily but a great deal is still left to be done.

CITIZENS SERVICE CORPS

G. W. (Judd) Davis, Director.

This division of Civilian Defense is fast becoming the major job of this office for the reason that here we are in direct contact with many and diverse problems arising from the war effort.

Following is a transcript of my report made to the Office of Civilian Defense as of February, 1943:-

Child Care	18
Consumer(Rationing)	200
Family Security	28
Health & Hospitals	220
Information	10
Library	42
Block Leaders	1 000
Nutrition	138
Recreation	2 854
Salvage	170
Schools & Education	200
Red Cross	5 762
Youth participation	1 200
TOTAL	11 842

GENERAL POLICY

It will be recalled that many of the above activities were organized and in operation before the Service Corps came into operation. Our duty therefore has been confined toward eliminating duplication of effort and to giving each department an over-all picture of the war effort.

In carrying on these activities the addition of the Block Leaders has proven invaluable. Thru them we have a means of developing team work upon the part of the householders and the various agencies involved.

At the present time we have an emergency in issueing A ration books for gasoline. We have contacted Block Leaders informing them of our problem and asking them to secure sufficient volunteers to complete the job by July 21.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Following is a brief summary of work accomplished by this department:-

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

A very active committee consisting of Amos Bierly, Dr. Stone, Agnes Booth and the new Boy Scout Executive are doing an excellent job in this department. This committee considers the problems of Juvenile Delinquency, Venereal Diseases, etc., and attempts to apply remedies.

The remedy thus far applied is keeping the child busy. In connection with the County Agent and the Employment Service this committee has worked out the platoon system for harvesting berry crops.

BLOCK LEADERS

To Miss Hazel Harper, Block Leader chief must go the credit of organizing Block Leaders in Salem, Silverton and Woodburn. This organization is now functioning in these three cities and judging from reports received have been doing a good job. They now number well over 1000 women.

SALVAGE

Other than recommending the original committees for appointment this council has not been called upon to help with the salvage campaign.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This committee has for its purpose the preservation of public records. Its Chairman is Miss Eleanor Stevens, State Librarian. Emergency reception centers for public documents have been arranged at points east of the Cascades. This work has now been completed.

RATIONING

This Council originally recommended for appointment the four rationing boards now functioning in the county. Other than a little incident occurring in Woodburn (at which time the entire board resigned) these boards have functioned 100%. We are now providing this department with sufficient volunteers to get the new gasoline ration book out.

AGRICULTURE

Several problems arose at the beginning of the Victory Garden campaign. It was necessary to get owners of lots and gardeners together. Then it was necessary to make available tools for the preparation of the gardens. We were able to be of some assistance on this problem.

L OR SUPPLY AND TRAINING

Our activities in this regard have been twofold:-

1. Attempting to encourage people to prepare themselves for jobs in defense industries.

2. Providing Farm labor.

Available personnel for defense industries has been pretty well exhausted. However by use of the Block Leaders we have been able to interest some of those who were available.

The problem of farm labor, as previously noted is being handled by a joint committee composed of the Employment Service, County Agent and Youth participation in Civilian Defense. This committee has also prevented the disruption of the programs set forth in previous years by the Employment Service. You will recall that there was a move initiated in Washington, D. C. to transfer this work over to the County Agent. Thru the work of this joint committee this move was frustrated insofar as Marion County is concerned. I also understand that Marion County is now being used as a model all over the nation, particularly in the use of the platoon system.

CHILD WELFARE

This is a department in which a great deal of work has been necessary. The question of care of children while their parents were working has become a major one. Mr. Davis, however, has recently set up a committee to care for this problem.

RECREATION

Many problems have arisen in regard to entertainment of soldiers. They have been met promptly by the USO and other local agencies altho there is still room for more work. Sooner or later we are going to be confronted with the problem of entertainment for the negro soldier. It is now becoming acute in Pendleton and Dallas but to date has not arisen here.

In closing I want to express my appreciation for the wonderful cooperation always accorded me by this committee, and to also pay tribute to the loyal and faithful work performed by Mr. Crawford, Mr. Davis and Miss Harper. These people together with their many assistants have performed and are performing yeoman service for Civilian Defense in Marion County and thru them I want to express my thanks to the thousands of people of Marion County who are working almost to beyond the point of exhaustion to keep our organization fit for duty at a moments notice.

Respectfully submitted

Bryan H. Conley
Coordinator