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Subject: Recreation in Civilian Defense Program.
Read by: Walter R. May
Date: November 3, 1941
Time: 1:35 p.m.

Announcer: Recreation for the benefit of members of our armed forces, men engaged in defense industry and for the entire civilian populace, is essential during the present emergency. Today we have Mr. Walter W. R. May, chairman of the State Recreation committee of the Oregon State Defense Council, with us and we will ask Mr. May some questions in order to learn about the recreational plans for Oregon. Mr. May, first of all, will you tell us about your setup?

May: Certainly. The recreation program has a definite place in the civilian defense program and, as you just said, to help build and maintain the morale of the men in military service, in defense industry and the population at large. For that reason, Governor Sprague has set up a recreation committee in the Oregon State Defense organization and it is my privilege to serve as chairman of this committee. Prominent men and women throughout the state are members of this state committee.

Announcer: How will your committee operate?

May: This committee will work strictly through local and county committees and will endeavor to give assistance to local civilian defense organization and act as a liaison organization between local communities and the State and Federal governments. Our committee will be ready at all times to assist local committees in setting up recreation programs whenever they are needed. And one more thing, this committee will endeavor to act as a sentinel and point out to local committees the ulterior, vicious or destructive influences at work in any community in the state that are tending to impair the morale and health of the men in service.

Announcer: Will your committee actually handle any recreational programs?

May: No, the State Recreation Committee is not an operating one. It will not undertake to provide recreation programs, dances, dinners or public entertainments for men in the service or defense workers. It will, however, assist local communities in providing high grade entertainment.

Announcer: Your committee, I believe, is a part of the national civilian defense set-up.

May: Yes, we will co-operate closely with Jerrold Owen, State Defense Coordinator and with Federal Security Administrator, Mr. Paul V. McNutt, who is also the Coordinator of Health, Welfare, Recreation and Related Activities of the Council of National Defense. This agency has assigned Mr. Don T. Orput, who is field representative in Oregon.

Announcer: Now, Mr. May, can you give us some idea of how your activities work out?

May: There are certain sections in Oregon where recreational programs are necessary. Take ^Hermiston in Eastern Oregon. Here, a town of barely 800 population, grew almost overnight to a populace of more than 8,000 persons. The majority of these are workers on the huge \$10,000,000 Ordnance depot now under construction. Temporary recreation centers are already established and federal money has been allocated by a recreation center building.

Announcer: I presume that there is a serious health problem in this community, also.

May: Yes, there is and our committee is giving all aid possible to local officials to cope with this situation.

Announcer: I suppose that the biggest recreational activity will be centered in Portland.

May: That is true, for in Portland there is a concentration of several thousand troops at the airbase and in the engineer's corps. In addition, Portland serves as a leave area for the men in Vancouver Barracks and is also a stop-over place for uniformed men in transit. Portland is also the center of at least 10,000 defense workers.

Announcer: What has been done in Portland towards a definite recreational program?

May: Just last week a hospitality and recreation center was set up in the Portland Hotel at the corner of Broadway and Morrison. Mayor Riley has named a recreation committee of volunteers to assist in handling this center; with Capt. Fred Roberts of the Portland Fire Bureau in charge. In addition, Fire Chief Edward Boatright, who is acting as coordinator of the Multnomah Defense Council, has prepared a city-wide program of activities to be carried out by the recreation department of the City Park Bureau. This particular program will be directed by Miss Dorothea Lensch, who will make use of community centers, park buildings, school gymnasiums and other facilities throughout the city.

Announcer: And how about other cities in Oregon?

May: I spoke of Hermiston where work is under way. At Astoria, a recreation center has been set up by local interests and it is expected that federal funds will be provided for a separate building. Astoria, as you know, is the leave center for troops from Fort Stevens, as well as men from the Tongue Point Naval Air Base.

Announcer: I would think that many of the men would go down to Seaside and other beach towns.

May: That's right. At Seaside, a recreation center has been set up at local expense with prospect of aid from the Federal Government. At Pendleton, where a large air base is almost completed and is operating, a recreation room has been provided for men in service. Down at Medford, where a military cantonment is planned, a complete recreation committee organization has been set up. A large room has been obtained in the Court House and more than 500 men used this hospitality center during the recent troop movements. Many other cities and towns in the Willamette Valley and other parts of the State all are preparing for developments that will be necessary in the near future.

Announcer: Now, how can the average citizen aid in this recreational program,
Mr. May?

May: Civilians can be of real value if they will volunteer to work with the local committees. At the hospitality centers, civilians can learn what they can do for the men. An example would be to take a couple of soldiers, sailors or marines home to dinner. Tickets to theatres could be furnished. Dances and amusements can be arranged. The man in uniform does not enjoy walking aimlessly on the streets while on leave, and we all should be ready to try and show him that we appreciate what he is doing for us.

Announcer: I can see where this program will give thousands of our citizens an opportunity of participating in the civilian defense program.

May: You're right. We cannot build morale among the men in service merely by talking about it. Work is necessary. It doesn't make much difference just what each individual does in the program, it's the little things in the aggregate that will bring success to this program.

Announcer: Thank you, Mr. May, for the valuable information you have given us,
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