MRS THOMAS FITZHUGH
MADISON MD

Devoted To The Interests Of The Eastern Shore Of Md

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TODAY and TOMORROW

As opposition was voiced by landholders of Kent Island to the proposed establishment of a major State park at Matapeake, petitions protesting the move were being circulated here today.

This town is the largest of several on the island.

Those who oppose the park find fault with the proposal on the ground that it endeavors to combine too much in a single undertaking, in the proponents of the development plan have suggested creation of recreational and forestry demonstration areas and a game preserve.

Farmers here suggest that the State would do well to look elsewhere for a site to embrace a project of so complex a nature.

They point out that relatively cheap land unsuited for agriculture would be satisfactory, thus making it possible to acquire a much larger acreage elsewhere for the same outlay that would be needed to buy up productive farm land here.

Farmers and residents swung into action today to block the move after Rothe said they had been approached by a real estate broker seeking to get options on a sizable acreage.

David M. Nichols, of Baltimore, who recently purchased a 100-acre farm near the Matapeake Ferry terminal and plans to restore an old brick farm house on the tract, and who owns several other farms between Stevensville and Love Point, said:

"It looks like the proposal for a combination park, game preserve and conservation demonstration area is too hasitly conceived."

He suggested that "action on a park site be deferred until it is definitely ascertained where the proposed bay bridge will be situated."

He added that "it might be that the State would acquire a park area only to find it would be cut in half by approaches to the bridge, which certainly will be built. That would ruin the park. It would endanger the lives of patrons of the park. It would make it impossible to establish in conjunction with the venture a wild-life preserve, because the traffic would drive the animals away."

Mr. Nichols also declared, "The mere fact that the State Road Commission is spending about $1,200,000 for additional ferryboat slips at Matapeake would indicate approach roads will be built to better serve the new facilities.

"If so, these roads might cut up any land acquired now to be poll that its value for the proposed us would be sharply discounted.

It looks like some State officials have put the cart before the horse. Let us us proceed with caution before we commit the State to a vast new park.

"And one major consideration should be to place it so that it could serve a big portion of the State's population. The people on the Eastern Shore certainly don't need a recreational park for them selves alone. But if this park is meant for people of the Western Shore it means further aggravating the bad traffic jams that result from peak usage of the cross-bay ferries."

J. R. Coursey, Chester business man and farmer, who operates an oyster-packing plant and an ice making plant and is the owner of a 100-acre farm on the Romancoke road, said:

"I am opposed to the establishment of a major park at Matapeake.

MUIR, SALISBURY HURLER SIGNED BY PITTSBURGH

Lefty Joe Muir, Salisbury A. A. curve-ball artist who led the Eastern Shore League in the pitching department during the season just closed, gets a shot at organized baseball next year with the Pittsburgh Pirates (York, Pa.) club in the Interstate League.

Muir's record was seven wins and no defeats, 52 hits in 70 innings, and 94 strikeouts.

Gerald Wilson, of Snow Hill, was second in strikeouts, with 137 in 110 innings. George Crockett, of Crisfield, had the second - best pitching record, with five wins and no losses.

GI'S REMEMBER DOOMED GIRL . . . Doomed to die with an incurable brain tumor, Nancy Henderson, 7, whose father is a master sergeant at Camp Lee, Va., is shown at her home at Burlington, Va., surrounded by a few of the many dolls and toys she received thru the Red Cross from soldiers and friends at Camp Lee.

Urges Veterans To File Complete Disability Affidavits

Contents, rather than number, of affidavits submitted by a disabled veteran to a Veterans Administration rating board often determines whether or not the veteran is awarded service connection for his disability, the Disabled American Veterans points out.

Joseph M. Jurceka, Commander of the Talbot Chapter No. 11, St. Michaels, Maryland, said today that a number of veterans are asking "how many" affidavits are needed to prove a disability incurred in service.

"I would like to inform veterans," the DAV Commander said, "that it is not the number of affidavits submitted that determines whether a veteran's disabilities were incurred in service. It is the contents of the affidavits. Generally, two affidavits will be sufficient if the contents definitely bring out the occurence of the disability during the period of service.

"However, affidavits stating opinion are of little or no value; they must be pertinent and material. A statement signed by a veteran is not sufficient. His signature must be witnessed and seal affixed by an authorized Veterans Administration representative or subscribed to before a Notary Public."

Commander Jurceka said veterans should contact service officer Wm. Gilbert Poore, Bozman Maryland for free clerical help and advise in preparing affidavits. The DAV, he said, has obtained pensions for great numbers of disabled veterans whose service records did not show disability service-connected, only to be established later by competent and acceptable evidence presented by the claimant in the form of affidavits.

Farmers Exchange Members Meet

Members of the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange who are served by shipments to Easton, Maryland, met on Friday evening in the auditorium of the County Building.

Percy L. Cox of Easton was elected chairman of the meeting and later was elected to attend the annual meeting of the Exchange to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts, next February. John T. Schmick of Preston was elected as alternate member to attend the annual meeting.

C. D. Kendall in charge of the Cooperative's Feed Service, from Springfield, Mass., reviewed the problems during the war in supplying over 700,000 tons of feed annually to the membership, and stated that the most serious problems facing farmers in the immediate future are the shortages of proteins for feeding and of boxcars for moving mixed feeds forward to the membership.

H. Wallace Cook, of Elkton, Md. fieldman for this area, discussed the history of the service at Easton since its beginning in the late 20's under the direction of Percy L. Cox, and now under O. B. Blades of Preston.

Group singing was led by County Agent R. S. Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Brown. Refreshments were served by the ladies of Easton Grange. The local committee which arranged the meeting was composed of R. C. Mueller, Cordova; Fritz H. Wilkie and Percy L. Cox of Easton, and Lloyd P. Cannon and O. B. Blades of Preston.

PRICES OF WINDOW SHADES BOOSTED FOR THIRD TIME

OPA has granted a 17-per cent price increase to window shade manufacturers who sell to resellers. This means higher prices for consumers.

The boost is the third since May 9 on cloth window shades and window shade rollers.

On May 9 an industry-wide increase of 15 per cent was allowed to stimulate production for the veterans' housing program, with a provison that only about half of the increase could be passed on to the consumer.

On Aug. 15 prices were revised to assure wholesalers and retailers their usual profit margins, with a resulting average increase of 10 per cent in retail prices.

Farm Crops Drop In Value

Maryland farm products in the first six months of this year declined in value $12,376,000 as compared with those of the first six months of 1945, according to the Agriculture Department.

The drop was more pronounced than the trend in the country as a whole, in which farm products in the first half of this year brought $8,726,351,000 as against $8,899,690,000 in 1945.

In Maryland, the total farm products brought in $66,503,000 in the first half of this year, as contrasted with $78,879,000 in the first six months of 1945.

Of the total, livestock and its products acounted for $45,538,000 this year, against $52,915,000 last year, and crops sold for $20,965,000, as against $25,964,000.

FARM PRIICE INDEX IN FIRST DECLINE SINCE JULY, 1940

The Agriculture Department reported that the index of farm prices — reflecting a return of price controls on some products—declined 2 per cent between mid-August and Mid-September.

It was the first decline reported in the index since July, 1940.

The September 15 index was 243 per cent of the 1910-14 average compared with 249 a month earlier and with 197 a year ago.

The department reported also that the index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, declined 4 points during the month—likewise the first to drop in this index since mid-1940. The index was 200 per cent of the 1940-14 average compared with 204 on August 15 and with 181 a year ago.

The department said the Sept. 15 level of farm prices was 22 per cent above parity, unchanged from a month ago but 9 points above a year ago. Under provisions of farm legislation, parity prices are defined as being equally fair to producers and consumers.

The livestock and livestock products index — at 250 per cent of the 1910-14 baserwas down 13 points from mid-August, but still 47 points above a year ago.

The all-crop price index advanced 3 points during the month to 236 per cent of the 1910-14 base.

State Blue Cross Sets New Record In Memberships

Another enrollment record was set by the Associated Hospital Service of Baltimore, Inc.—Maryland's Blue Cross—during the quarter just ended when membership in that organization climbed to 412,000 persons.

The voluntary non-profit hospital service showed an increase of 38,000—or 31 per cent over the previous record enrollment gain of 26,151 subscribers, added to the rolls during the April-May-June quarter of this year.

Major factors in boosting the local Blue Cross enrollment to a new high were the continued high employment level in Baltimore City and throughout the State and the recently announced new subscriber benefits, according to J. D. Colman, executive director of the community service organization.

Among the Maryland hospital care Plan's members are several persons who are making their homes temporarily in Alaska, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Hawaii, Switzerland, and the Bahama Islands.

Every fourth resident of Baltimore City and every fifth person in the counties of Maryland now is a Blue Cross member.

Total enrollment in the 87 Blue Cross Plans in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada on October 1 exceeded 24,000,000. Enrollment for all Plans has been proceeding at the rate of 27,000 new members during each working day.

SENATOR ACCUSES U. S. OF ROAD FRAUD

Senator Ferguson (R., Mich.) charged today that the United State Government, by raising the standards of the Inter-American Highway and greatly increasing its costs, has engaged in a fraud on the people of this country and of the Central American Republics through which the road passes.

The Senator made this assertion on the basis of the testimony given to the Senate War Investigating Committee yesterday and today by officials of the State and War departments and the Public Roads Administration..

As the matter was summed up the Central American countries will not be able to pay their share of the increased costs and, if the highway is completed, the additional amounts will have to be put up by United States taxpayers.

Mr. Ferguson was the only committee member present at today's session. Senator Kilgore (D., W. Va.), the new chairman, and Senator Mead (D., N .Y.), who has just resigned the chairmanship, were both out of the city.

The Michigan Senator based his charge of fraud on testimony showing that in 1941, when the approval of Congress was obtained the cost of the highway from the Mexican-Guatemalan border to the Panama Canal was given at $30,000,000.

Of that sum the United States agreed to put up two thirds, or $20,000,000, and agreements were entered into with the Central American countries under which they would furnish one third, or $10,000,000.

But the standards were soon changed to provide for a higher quality road. This change, on the basis of 1941 estimates, raised the cost to $58,000,000 instead of $30,000,000.

According to current estimates by E. W. James, chief of the Public Roads Administration's inter-American regional office, $65,000,000 will be needed to complete the highway, in addition to the orginal $30,000,000 and aside from $44,000,000 spent on road work in that area during the war by the United States Army.

GLORIA H KEENE AWARDED EMBLEMS

Gloria H. Keene, an employee in the Cambridge office of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City received, during September, a one-star emblem in recognition of five years of service with the company.

During September, 111 employees in the C. and P. Telephone Company in Maryland were awarded emblems. They had an aggregate of 1,180 years of service.

Believes OPA Heading Toward Final Stages

Roy L. Thompson, Chairman of the Price Decontrol Board, predicted this week that price controls in the next six months "will be a long way toward bowing out of the picture."

While the Office of Price Administration still has nine full months to run, Mr. Thompson said he sees "strws in the wind pointing to less and less need, month by month, for price control on many fronts." His address was prepared for the annual meeting of State officials of the American Retail Federation.

Mr. Thompson told the storekeepers' group that radio production has soarded 70 per cent since March, washing machines 81 per cent, vacuum cleaners 45 per cent, refrigerators 145 per cent, electric irons 91 per cent, and electric ranges 312 per cent.

"And so it goes on down the line with double, triple, and more in the date of production of many of the things your customers want to buy in a matter of only six months, he said. "Of course, there are gaps in the picture, but the main thing is that thepipe lines are filling up --and rapidly."

On the farm front, the speaker said the same record breaking progress is visible.

"How long," he asked, "do you think this gigantic production has to keep up before the need for price control will be swept overboard by a wave of production? Not long, I think."

The agricultural production record and the hgh level of farm prices, Mr. Thompson forecast, will open a "vast new market for American busness on a scale never before possible."

The decontrol chief gave little comfort, however, to those who advocate the removal of meat price ceilings.

"In some farm crops," he observed, "notably in meat and dairy products, supply is still short in relation to demand—even though production in many cases is far above the prewar levels."

While the board twice has decided to keep dairy items free of price controls, it cautioned each time that ceilings would be reapplied if prices soar as they did in the case of meats.

Saying that only 60 per cent of the country's privately produced output is under price control now, compared with 80 per cent in June, 1945, Mr. Thompson added:

"It is my belief that if things keep moving during the next six months at the same rate they have traveled in the past six months, price control and all its irritations and problems will be a long way toward bowing out of the picture."

NEW TAX NEED IS SUGGESTED

Joseph O'C. McCusker, chief deputy comptroller, took the position this week that if Baltimore city and the counties are to get more State money, more taxes will have to be levied.

"I don't want to be represented as criticising the report of the Maryland Commission on Tax Division," he said firmly, "but according to my observations, if Baltimore and the counties are to get the suggested six million of State money, the Legislature will have to provide it.

"The State will need its expected surplus at the end of this fiscal year for the 1948-49 biennium. We are spending more money now in some departments than the last Legislature appropriated. This must come out of the surplus.

"If the Legislature wants to appropriate more money under the proposed plan, that's all right."

Questioned about past suggestons for new revenues, he said: "There hasn't been much talk of tapping new sources. If more money is to be raised, apparently, existing taxes will have to be increased if the State is to continue its services. State costs are still rising."

He recalled that at the 1937 Legislature, legalized bookmaking was approved. But the bill was quickly repealed at a special session of the Legislature.

Other possible tax sources discussed in the Legislature in the past have been levied on cigarettes, dog racing, and on sales.

Regarding the special tax commission report issued this week, Governor O'Conor said he had ordered fiscal officers to study it and that he was continuing his own study of it in order to determine its effects on future State financing.

CHANGE IN WAY OF LIFE . . . While Donna Rachele Mussolini, widow of Il Duce, one-time mistress of a Roman palace, keeps house and supplements the family diet by raising rabbits, her son Romano plays piano and accordion at a bar on the picturesque little island in the bay of Naples. The Mussolinis are now living at Ischia.

Cattlemen Await End Of Controls

The possibility of a showdown between the farmers and the Government on the question of the nation's meat supplies is indicated by these accumulating developments:

The report that great numbers of range cattle arriving in the stockyards are going back to the farm for fattening and resale after the demise of price control.

Report from the Department of Agriculture that the nation's meat supplies have dropped to 73 per cent below what they were a year ago at this time.

The veiled warning of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson that Government acquisition of all livestock that moves to market is a "very real danger that day by day becomes more of a possibility.

A partial answer, at least, to the whereabouts of meat is contained in the stockyard report showing that slaughterers and packers are being outbid for cattle by the feedlot men — farmers who purchase range cattle for fattening and resale at heavier weights and higher prices.

They are able to do this because there is no ceiling price on cattle sold to feeders.

But here is a significant fact: They are purchasing these cattle at prices on which they could not hope to make a profit under present ceiling prices, according to stockyard authorities.

The deduction is, therefore, that these animals are being purchased for marketing, not within a few months but after the demise of price control, whenever that may be.

CANDY BARS TO BE REDUCED IN SIZE

Smaller candy bars at the same old price are predicted by OPA.

Announcing a new ceiling price system for candy packaged to sell from five to 10 cents at retail, OPA said that under it a manufacturer may use the total cost of ingredients and packaging materials, plus varying amounts to cover his profit.

Grange Opposes Daylight Saving

Opposition to daplight saving in Maryland was voted yesterday by the executive committee of the State Grange, which met at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, with Edward F. Holter, master, of Frederick, presiding.

In a resolution unanimously adopted the committeemen pointed out "this opposition is not based on any antagonism to the city people but in the interest of agricultural production and efficient use of labor on the farms of the State."

The group also adopted a resolution recommending continuation of the wartime farm emergency labor program "under the present administration of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Extension Service."

MATERIALS ON WAY TO DRILL OIL WELL

Materials for drilling an oil well on Maryland's Eastern Shore are en route to the State steel-mill centers and from Tulsa, Okla., a representative of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, which will drill the well, announced yesterday.

The site for the test will be approximately three miles north of Ocean City, close to the highway that runs from Ocean City to Bethany Beach and to Rehoboth, it was stated.

Geologists, headed by K. D. White, who is in charge of the company's Atlantic Coast development operations, are making final studies of the area before deciding on the exact spot.

The drilling originally had been scheduled to begin on October 1, but the work was delayed. Operations may start within three weeks it was stated.

The depth of the well will be "at least 5,000 feet." The total weight of materials to be used in the work will reach 400,000 pounds the company's representative said.

The well will be the third oil test in the State in three years.

TALK CAR PRODUCTION . . . Henry Ford II, president of the Ford Motor company, left, and C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors corporation, talk shop, following Detroit Economic club talk by Ford in which he said: "Any sound plan to provide more stable employment must increase production and reduce the cost of cars to the American people."

Milk Escapes Ceiling Prices For Third Time

Dairy products escaped price lids for a third time today but a spokesman for the price decontrol board said the action was by default and could be changed later.

Delmar Beman, information director for the panel, said that OPA the Agriculture Department and segments of the dairy industry had failed to supply certain data on milk butter, cream, evaporated milk and other dairy products.

The board had called for the information so it could determine whether prices have risen enough to warrant ceilings.

"Up until the time of adjournment today this information had not been made available to the board," Beman said. "In the absence of this information, which has an important bearing upon any decision that the board might make, the board felt that it was not in a position to take any action."

The board adjourned subject to call by its chairman, Roy L. Thompson.

Paul Porter, OPA chief, has been demanding recontrol of milk and its products but aides of Porter said the OPA dairy branch had been unable to supply data the decontrol board asked on September 20

"The information was quite involved and extensive and could not be prepared by today," an OPA spokesman said. "We hope to have it ready by the middle of next week."

In both its previous decisions the board decided against reimposing ceiling. Both times it said it would keep a close watch and reinstate controls if prices became unreasonable.

OPA price tags will vanish tomorrow from a list of products including sulphur, many used trucks most fence posts, steel castings, elastic webbing and cord, and a few automobile parts and accessories.

The OPA announced tonight it —is suspending ceilings or exempting these products from controls because supplies are ample or they are unimportant to living or business costs.

The agency also reshuffled price ceilings on certain hemlock and spruce boards and timbers because of what it called "abuse by some mill operators."

Prices on northern hemlock boards of 1 1-4 and 1 1-2 inch were reduced while those of standards 1 and 2-inch stock were raised.

OPA explained that some mills are producing "undesirable items" carrying a higher price margin. As a result, it said, some builders were forced to use odd-size lumber in housing.

Prices on Western spruce planks and timbers were increased $5 a thousand board feet. The OPA said this should restore normal price relationships so that Canadian mills, which cut much of this spruce, will accept orders from United States buyers.

Ceilings were removed from sulphur, OPA said, because producers now have more than a full year's supply and prices recently have been below ceilings. No increases are expectd from decontrol.

Similarly OPA said the supply of used trucks with a tonnage rating of three tons and above is adequate to meet demands, and prices are below ceilings. Lighter trucks still are reported scarce and ceilings are retained.

Price controls also were removed from a long list of military vehicles, but were retained on the jeep. Those freed included command vehicles, weapons carriers, amphibian vehicles and special-purpose vehicles.

All wooden fence posts were susspended from controls except those made from southern pine. OPA said this southern pine is needed for pulp wood mills and might be diverted if controls were removed.

Steel castings were freed, the agency said, because purchasers in all parts of the country can get ample supplies.

In releasing woven elastic webbing and elastic brand and cord the agency said supplies are adequate.