UNUSUAL CONTENTMENT FOUND IN OWENS COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Progressive Merchants and Working People of Owenton Have Had Initiative to Organize Community.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

OWENTON, KY.—On the edge of the rich Blue Grass district of Kentucky is a farming county that is neither rich nor poor. Booms and depressions affect it less than most places. Its intelligent, hard working and deeply religious people raise nearly three-fourths of their own food, grow the best of burley tobacco, engage in dairy farming, raise cattle, pigs and poultry for the market, and sheep for wool and lambs.

Contentment to an unusual degree seems to have settled over Owen county, Kentucky—considerable satisfaction even with the New Deal. There are rumblings of discontent with the many restrictions which Washington bureaus have placed upon these people—but, on the whole, they feel that the Democratic administration has brought tremendous benefits to them.

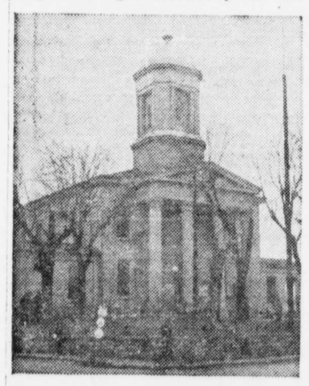
Owenton, a prosperous town of some 1,200 persons, is the county seat. Owen county has a population of about 10,000. Its people patronize Owenton's progressive merchants, whose stores, in general, are more modern than those to be found in most rural small towns.

Perhaps the secret of Owen county's acceptance of the New Deal lies in the fact that the town and farm folk of this community have had the initiative to organize their own affairs. The New Deal agencies, finding this high degree of local initiative, have been inclined to interfere less than in communities not so much in sympathy with its basic aims.

Owenton citizens will tell you that the spirit of co-operation which flourishes in the county stems very largely from the leadership of Reuben H. Proctor, former president of the County Farm Bureau federation, now director of the State Farm bureau. Not only did he show them how to work together, but he developed leaders who co-operated on a long-term program of advancement for the farms of the area.

Today home production of food supply is controlled by a home committee of 5 members through 233 neighborhood leaders directing the activities of 685 farm families. A total of 973 boys and girls are enrolled in the 4-H clubs, which boast 100 per cent enrollment of the youngsters in schools who are 10 years old, or older.

The Owen County Farm bureau was one of the first to request the Rural Electrical administration to help them get electricity on the farm—something they had desired for years, but which the private utilities were unable to provide. Today this co-operative, operated on a non-profit basis, has spread into nine counties and operates 800 miles of distribution line serving 2,600 consumers.



Owens County Courthouse, Owenton, Kentucky.

Co-operative Canning Plant Is Sponsored Federally

Sponsored by the United States department of education and built with federal, state and town funds, the Owenton Cannery plant is operated under the direction of the Owenton public school. Last summer the people of the county operating the plant co-operatively put up 15,000 cans of fruit and vegetables for home use, and since the middle of September have turned out over 1,000 cans of meats and chicken, have rendered lard and ground sausages.

Among the efforts of the federal government most highly regarded in Owen county is the tobacco program. Base quotas of land permitted under the AAA program have restricted considerably the amount of land placed under cultivation for tobacco. Some farmers are inclined to grumble at these restrictions, but when the AAA plan was put to a referendum vote in the November elections, 98 per cent of the farmers voted for it—only 2 per cent against it.

"I presume Kentuckians are not different from most other folk," commented M. H. Bourne, editor emeritus of the Owenton News-Herald. "They don't like too much control, or to be told what to do and how to do it. But men who make a living entirely from tobacco raising know darn well that when they get more profit from three acres than they used to get from seven, a certain amount of control is good for all. Even so, some are mad because they can't grow seven acres.

"Government interference, though, does not affect us as much as in the larger centers. We do feel, however, that at times too much central authority has been exercised to get deals put across, that with a little more patience on the government's part our people would have heartily backed without coercion."

But there are some who say that in the tobacco stripping rooms, where men talk freely among themselves, feeling against the Roosevelt administration is rising. Feed has become so expensive that many farmers are now selling off their cattle and hogs—and they think the OPA is responsible because it enforces price ceilings at the livestock purchasing points, but has not been able to enforce ceilings on grain.

Thomas Forsee, cashier of the First National bank of Owenton, inclined to take the conservative point of view. He said:

"This is a very strong Democratic county. We have never had a Republican in office in it. In the last election, there was a noticeable turning against the New Deal, however, for the county went Democratic by only a small majority. Many feel that the results of government controls have not justified their great multiplication. Farmers feel that too much extravagance is going to prove disastrous in the long run.

"However, tobacco acreage allocation has proven very satisfactory because it has brought much better prices."

The school system also has organized a shop project which turned out more than $4,000 worth of repairs for farm machinery last year, and may have done double that amount of work this year. With the help of publicly furnished instructors, repairs are made at no cost to farmers. Supplies are paid for by the state department of education.

If one were to tell Owenton citizens that this was "socialism" or "collectivism" they would smile at you, wondering what on earth you were talking about. They consider it their own brand of rugged individualism.

As Owenton, Kentucky, Views It . . .

Editor M. H. Bourne speaks:

"With the help of the federal government we are today enjoying a water project. The PWA furnished a lot of labor and gave the town the right to pay for materials over a long period of years. This is being paid for out of the revenue derived from selling water at 40 cents for the first 1,000 gallons a year, and then on a descending scale. Under a similar arrangement we were enabled to build a satisfactory sewerage system.

"The election of a Republican governor was not so much a turning against the New Deal as it was against the manner in which state contracts were handled. There was considerable graft. Kentuckians will go along quietly for a while, but they are alert in a crisis."

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List Of Tax Delinquents As Of Jan. 1, 1944

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 453, Section 156D Acts of 1943, the Treasurer of Ken County, Maryland, hereby publishes a list of all delinquents by districts, alphabetically, showing the amoun for each tax payer is in arrears as of January 1, 1944.

To the following amounts, and there will be added to each bill the interest, fees and costs thereof;

1ST DISTRICT

Martha H. Budd	3.98
Robert Burns	3.60
William F. Batchelor	6.00
Ellen Bordley	2.12
Charles Brown	2.66
Upston Brown	2.32
Daniel Burgett	3.98
Perry I. Brown	2,85
Allen Chance	44.09
Bessie M. Conner	1.80
William H. Cooper, Jr.	2.40
William Dudley	3.98
Rev. O. P. Dickerson, Agt.	1.33
Calvin H. Everett	3.60
Oden K. Fogelson	1.2
Rodney Ford	5.7
John H. M. Garner and E. M. Holdes	9.29
Oliva F. Gayton	19.25
Howard Hines	1.3
John H. Hines	2.40
Dr. Emerson Houck	7.3
Dennid Noland Hackett	7.8
James Harris	1.3
John Harris	1,3
Everett Johnson	15.87
John Jeff	3.3
Walter H. & Cora V. Jones	1.80
Russell Kelly	6.00
Romie King	13.7
Leonard L. Little	6.0
Woodrow Loller	4.8
Gertrude Leach	11.0
Elizabeth D. Leager	41.4
John T. Manning	12.2
Emory McKenney	2.66
C. E. McWilliams	4.20
George M. Newcomb	20.3
John H. O'Neal	28,2
Horace Otwell	2.4
A. Raymond Prettyman	221.6
Emma Price	143.0
John Pardee	1.80
James Pippin	3.6
William Pippin	15,96
Mary A. Pierce	14.93
Raymond Ringgold	1,20
Jesse Ringgold	3.32
Hattie Runner, Webster Law	6.64
Herman Schultz and wife	27.63
Mary Scott	2.79
Carl Starkey	5.38
Noah Seney	1.99
Joseph Toth	2.96
Earl B. Teat	1.20
Thomas Clyde Taylor	3.00
Harry Wallace	6.00

2nd DISTRICT

Benjamin F. Armiger, Harry and Edith Pickette	14.60
George Baldwin	23.23
Jacob V. S. and Maude L. Bishop	2.66
Charles L. Brown	1.33
L. Hodge and Rena W. Coleman	6.6
Wm. C. Dempsey	67.8
John Dent	2.66
Newell B. Everett	23.18
Silver J. Gsell	31.41
J. H. George	2.40
F. B. Harper	1.80
Mrs. Lavinia B. Harper	1.20
William W. Long	1.59
Thomas Mann	1.20
John J. Malloy	14.55
John H. and Elizabeth A. McKenney	3.89
B. F. Potts	1.20
Floyd Ransom	2.40
Thomas S. Silcox	13.81
Archie Stubbs	13,61
William F. Stewart and Margaret V. Stewart	13.41
Stewart L. Tubman	27.62
Joseph W. Winter and wife	27.55
Clarence E. Wallace	18.46
Edgar E. and Evelyn D. Walls	38.44
Dr. W. G. Whonseidler	4.80
Walter Willis	13.55
Harry Willis	17.87
Nichlas V. Walters	7.64

3rd DISTRICT

James Brooks	8.63
Edgar V. Byrnes	17.66
Harrison L. Cornelius	94.99
R .Newton Ellis	2.40
Mrs. Catherine R. Groves	3.60
John L. Hynson	1.99
Abe Hynson and wife	7.63
Reuben Jamar, Jr.	2.40
Willard Pinder Estate	19.00
Louis H. Porter	5.19
Barrett Smith	15.87
William J. Savage	6.97
Charles and Ida Willis	3.00
Benjamin C. Williams	15.22

4th DISTRICT

Jacob F. Allen	2.40
James R. Belote	6.00
Geo. W. and Esther H. Baldwin	161.51
Alonza M. Carmichael	12.81
Mrs. Clara V. and Elsie M. Crew	2.40
Edward Collins	1,80
Raymond W. Gosman	1.80
Wilbur Golt	2.40
James D. Gale	1,80
Security Finance Corporation of Maryland	148.00
John H. Hosch	1.20
Hill's Jewelry Store	37.78
Thomas D. Hickman	2.40
Benj. Boyer Hessey	1.80
Edward Henderson	2.40
Wm. Webster Hadaway	1.80
Walter S. and Margaret Hickman	5.31
Mary Jenkins	8.30
Willard Kinsey	1.80
George E. Kellas	10,49
George L. Latham	2.40
Sarah E. Murray	5.84
W. Raymond Moody and Mary A. Moody	38.97
Emerson Moore	2.40
Wilbur Mench	1.80
Ralph C. Milligan	4,05
Wallis M. Maslin	18.53
Henry Porter	4.72
Bradford J. Schauber	205.50
Mrs. Edmond G. Soli	2.40
Harry J. Short	3.60
John R. Shenton	2,40
Wm. J. Savage	17.87
Perry Tilghman, Amy Candy	2.79
Sarah L. Thawley	1.20
Jesse Webb	1.80
Wm. G. B. Warren	1.33
Albert Wiggins	1.20
Joseph Vineyard	3.60

5th DISTRICT

George P. Ashley and Jessie	5.52
Daniel M. Butler	4.78
John W. Bentley	4.19
George Banks	5.97
John E. Boulter	14.81
Samuel B. Collyer	4.65
Charles W. and Margaret A. Crouch	58.28
William F. Downey	4.52
Harold O. Donnelly	1.53
Samuel W. Elbourn	3.65
Elijah W. and Virginia H. Elbourn	7.30
Mrs. Norman Garman	1.20
Melvin L. Glenn	5.85
Laurence Gardner	1.33
John T. Graves	10.29
Tilghman Hubbard	1.86
Charles L. Hynson	17.99
Joseph B. Hynson, Jr.	3.98
Rosalie C. Jones	1.80
Mary E. Kellar, Larry Porter	3.72
Julia B. Kennard	1.53
J. Alston Long	2.40
William G. Leppo	1.20
Nelson and Wharton	5,97
Raymond Price	2.66
Gerhard and Mary E. Sontag	27.82
Henry Merle & Macie Taylor	1.33
Stanley Vansant	2.66
J. T. Warner	18.59
J. Leroy Warner	3.00
Daisy Watson	1.20
Fred Williams	4.65
Samuel C. Whaland	8.96

6th DISTRICT

Charles Atsales	1.79
Edward C. Bechard	1.59
Jacob H. Cooper	1,33
Mary Carter	1.66
Marion & Margaret E. Crew	12.58
Wm. E. Clark	5.45
Charles H. Craig	3.98
Wm. J. French	5.18
John N. Foreman and wife	22.84
Thomas A. Goeller	4.05
Sara A. Erdman and Mary L. Hamilton	7.97
Anthony and Catherine Hageman	1,59
Frank and Amelia W. Janson	2.39
Lula Johnson	1.80
Raymond Jones and wife	9.00
Robert Kelly	1.80
Fred W. Kolb	3.72
Edward & Elizabeth Kinsey	15.54
James F. Lambdin	3.19
Alonza and Sidney Leager	13.35
George Lomax	1.87
Anna G. Nelson	1.59
William Nicholson	2.66
Charles F. and Gertrude E. Norman	29.21
Harry E. Perry	10,49
John Pierce Heirs	1.33
John A. Redding and wife	18.52
Avrum K. Rifman and Charles Gorfine	8.76
Mary Ethel Stafford	5.35
Avon Spriggs	12,09
Stine Amusement Company	79.65
John W. Scott	1.50
Harry Sirkis	4,78
Wm. T. and Alice E. Schaffer	3.39
Ida Wallace	1.99
Jefferson Wilson	4.65
George Wilson	5.31

7th DISTRICT

C. C. Brown, Jr.	14.93
Harvey S. Brown	2.40
Casper Brown	5.72
George Comegys	5.18
William M. Crowding	4.52
Wm. Maxwell and Muriel W. Crowding	35.84
Paul Fletcher	16.73
Thomas E. Harris	1.20
Otha Johnson	1.20
J. Douglas Johnson	1.20
Carlton Johnson	2,40
Marion S. Parsons	11.75
Peoples Bank	1.00
John T. and Elizabeth Mason	13.52
Anton Matysek	18,12
Walter F. Starr	17.46
John P. Vansant and Wife	2.40

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