

Most Ecustans To Have Victory Gardens

CHILDREN'S BAND IS BEING FORMED

First Rehearsal Held March 19th. Around 20 Now Taking Free Lessons.

On Monday afternoon, March 19th., a group of Ecusta children who had been participating in the music project, gathered for the purpose of starting a beginners' band.

These children had been taking instrumental instruction for several weeks and had made such excellent progress that it was decided to start them into band work.

Quite a number of children are now taking instrumental lessons and are learning to play instruments of their choice; however, only the more advanced ones are attending the beginners' band rehearsals. As soon as the others have made sufficient progress with their lessons they will be taken into the band group.

taken into the band group. Approximately 20 children of Ecusta employees are taking instrumental lessons and more are being added to the list as rapidly as possible.

There are between 50 and 60 children taking part in the free course of musical training being given by the Company. All are taking part in the choral and musical appreciation class.

RECORD GIFTS TO RED CROSS MADE

Companies Match Contributions Made By Employees. Total Is \$6,000.00

Employees of Ecusta Paper corporation, Champagne Paper cor-Poration and Endless Belt corporation gave a total of \$3,000 in the 194V Red Cross drive which has just just closed. This amount was matched by the three companies, each contributing an amount equal to individual employee donations. The practice of matching employee and company gifts dollarfor dollar has this year poured a whopping six thousand dollars into the treasury of the American Red Cross. This amounts to an increase of almost two-thirds over last year's donation, an increase much larger than the Red Cross organization expected on a national scale.

Message From The President

At the time that the hearings before the National Labor Relations Board commenced, I promised to keep you informed concerning all developments. Since the hearings have now been concluded, I feel that I should make another report to you on the intervening developments.

As all of you know, the charges which remained against us involved six types of complaints. They were:

- 1. That we had discharged Lambert Baker because he was a member of the union.
- 2. That we had discharged William Brevard for the same reason.
- 3. That we had threatened to assault various union agents and representatives.
- 4. That we had actually assaulted certain union agents and representatives.
- 5. That we had sponsored and approved the campaign of the Citizens Committee of Transylvania County; and
- 6. That members of our supervisory organization had at various times made anti-union remarks designed to interfere with the rights of employees to make their own decision about trade unionism, without coercion or interference from the Companies.

I am happy to report that four out of six of these charges were dismissed during the hearing, on the ground that there was no proof to support those charges. In other words, all three Companies have been acquitted and found innocent of charges 1, 3, 4, and 5. The remaining charges will be decided by the trial examiner within the next few months.

I want you to understand that this is not a final decision, because everything that happened during the hearing is subject to review by the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. However, the developments which I have mentioned above are highly important, and are to be regarded as a distinct victory for the position of the Company.

I am, of course, deeply grateful and appreciative to the more than 1,000 of our employees who volunteered to testify on behalf of the Companies. Because of developments during the hearing, it was not necessary to use your testimony but I am still thankful to you for your willingness to contribute support if needed.

COMPANY PLOTS AGAIN OFFERED WITHOUT CHARGE

Food Situation This Year Is More Critical. Bigger And Better Gardens Wanted.

In compliance with government requests for more food, it is understood that most every Ecusta family is planning a Victory Garden this year.

For those who do not have space of their own and who wish to plant gardens, a few of the company plots are still available. Application for one of these plots can be made in the Mill Office.

The company land is now being plowed and prepared and as soon as this work is completed, it will be divided into plots and will then be ready for planting. It is expected that Ecustans who will use company plots will be able to begin their planting within a few days.

Last year a large part of the nation's food was produced in individual Victory Gardens which were planted and cared for by millions of patriotic Americans. The government recently announced that approximately 40 per cent of the nation's supply of table vegetables in 1944 was grown by these Victory gardeners.

Ration points have again been ---Turn To Page Five

TO ORGANIZE A BASEBALL LEAGUE

Much Interest Is Shown. Hope To Have More Teams This Season.

The Recreation department has been given the go-ahead signal for the 194V baseball season and as soon as plans can be made and weather permitting, the new season will get underway.

Since many employees live in Henderson county, a check for 5000.00 of the \$6,000.00 total has been forwarded to the chairman of the Henderson county Red Cross drive. The Transylvania county organization has been —Turn To Page Five Let us all now return to our work, and forget about the issues and arguments which a trial of this sort always creates. We have a very important job to do, but it cannot be accomplished unless we give it our entire thought and attention.

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt, wishes for your happiness during the Easter Season and it is my sincere hope that we will all soon celebrate with our brave men and women in the armed forces a lasting and enduring peace.

> HARRY H. STRAUS, President ECUSTA PAPER CORPORATION CHAMPAGNE PAPER CORPORATION ENDLESS BELT CORPORATION

Last year there were four teams in the Ecusta league and there was much fun for spectators as well as players.

A meeting will be called this coming week with representatives from all departments attending to discuss plans for the formation of the 194V league. It is hoped that several of the departments will be able to enter teams.

Since the weather has warmed up and the sun started shining in earnest, most all of the regulars and the fans have been clamoring for action. With the amount of interest already shown it looks like a good bet that there could be more teams this year than last.