

WILLISTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT



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Perhaps pretty well forgotten after all of the years that have passed is the fact that World War II was a desperate struggle for survival.

Just about everything was short, partly because the enemy had seized many usual sources of supply and partly because of the magnitude of the need to properly supply our millions of men in the armed services. Improvising and recycling went hand-in-hand... rubber, aluminum, iron, and paper scrap were essential items which the government asked citizens to collect and contribute.

Everyone here pretty well understood the need and a major effort was made. The scrap iron drive was a good example. During the first half of 1942 about 1,000 tons were shipped from this area, pretty much on an individual basis. Then in June the government asked for another 987 tons by year's end.

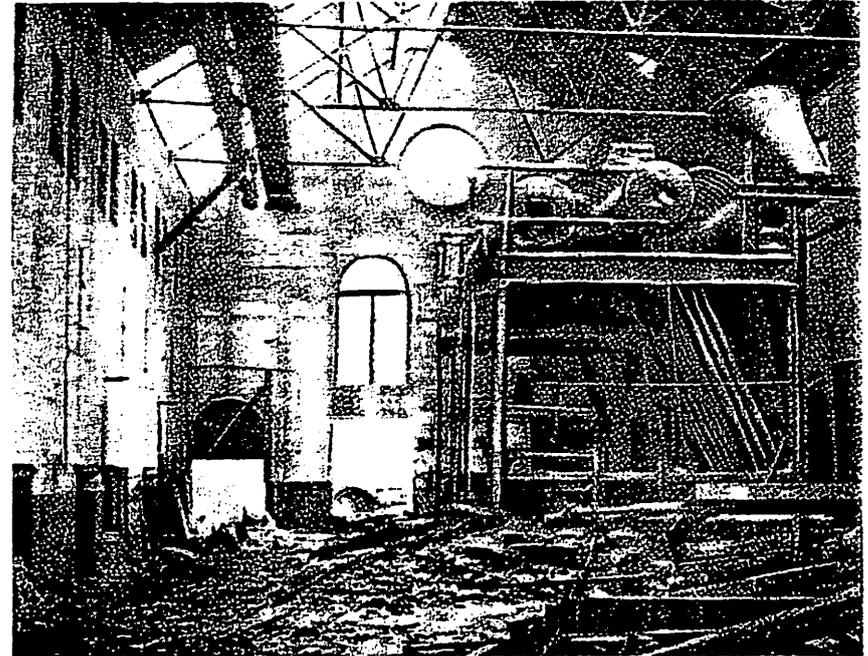
This set forth an explosion of energy that resulted in the shipping of 2,342 tons, with a lot more left on the ground waiting to be picked up on the next go-round. The largest single salvage contri-

but ion came from the demolition, pictured below, of the old power plant northeast of Williston by J. U. Fitzpatrick and his Montana Dakota Utilities crew. Many impossible to get items, such as boiler flues, were also saved for replacements in other factories.

The 1942 total came to 3,342 tons, enough to manufacture 3,750,000 hand grenades, or 157,500 4-inch artillery shells. It could have built 1.87 submarines or 38% of a U. S. Navy cruiser.

The War Production Board recognized this great patriotic effort and awarded Williams county its Blue Banner of Achievement, which on the civilian front was somewhat akin to getting the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was no small thing because it showed that the people of this area were squarely behind their men in the armed services.

Pictured is the Williams County Salvage Committee, Sig Forseth, Torger Hofengen, Jerry Stenehjelm, O. Fossum (chairman) and Dr. E. B. Uhlman. They were the ones who directed the various community committees and scrap dealers in the successful drive.



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