

D. Rationing Makes Life More Difficult

The Hempstead Sentinel, January 14, 1943

Up to the Minute Ration Rules

Fruits and Vegetables

Beginning some time in February, when new ration books will be issued to the public under the point rationing systems, all dried, canned, bottled, and frozen fruits and vegetables and their juices will be rationed. Included are canned soups of any variety. Not included are fruit and vegetable juices in containers of one gallon or more, meat stews, containing some vegetables; jams, jellies, and preserves, olives, pickles, relishes and potato salad, paste products (spaghetti, macaroni and noodles); chili con carne; frozen fruits or vegetables in containers of more than ten pounds; fruit cakes, fruit pudding and candied fruits.

Coffee

The Stamp 28 in War Ration Book 1--used for sugar rationing--is good for one pound of coffee, through February 7.

Sugar

Three pounds of sugar may be obtained with War Ration Stamp 10, which expires January 31.

Meat

War Ration Book 1 must be presented at a date to be announced before War Ration Book 2 for meat and other items to be rationed in 1943 can be obtained. Book 1 is obtainable, for those who have none, at local rationing boards. Application must be made before January 15.

Gasoline

All pleasure driving is now forbidden. A, B, and C coupons are each worth three gallons, and T coupons are worth five gallons. Motorists must write their license number and state on the back of each coupon. A coupon numbered 3 may be used until January 21 and coupons numbered 4 become valid January 22. B and C books bear their own expiration dates.

Fuel Oil

Rations for all non-residential buildings have been reduced an additional 25 percent. Ration books covering Periods 3, 4, and 5 for such buildings must be returned to local ration boards following a written request which will be made soon, and the appropriate number of coupons will be torn out. All oil-burning buildings other than private dwellings are ordered to convert to coal at once on pain of losing their rations. Previously Period 3 coupons for all users, residential and their full original value of ten gallons, are valid through January 26. Period 3 coupons are good through February 20.

Tires

Automobile owners must have their tires inspected at an O.P.A. authorized gas station or automobile agency. Originally this was ordered done not later than January 31, but the time limit has been extended--those with A cards must comply by March 31, those with B and C cards by February 28. This inspection must be recorded on the O.P.A. form which every motorist must carry in order to renew gasoline rations or get new or recapped tires. The form may be obtained at local rationing boards. Tires for essential driving are available on application to rationing boards.

Questions:

1. What does the word "ration" mean?
2. List 3 food items that are rationed. List 3 food items that are not rationed.
3. How much coffee can be purchased at one time? How much sugar?
4. How does a family get a ration book?
5. Why is pleasure driving forbidden and why are buildings supposed to convert to coal for heating?
6. Why must someone apply to purchase new or recapped tires?
7. In your opinion how did rationing affect life during the war?