

H. Recycling Helps The War Effort

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Katherine Rhodes, Hempstead, schoolteacher : Well, of course the schools are doing their part to help get all the scrap together, and we have been organizing the children as best we can. My class, all first graders, brought in over 200 keys last week, which will provide quite a bit of nickel. Then, too, the children have been encouraged to have their parents go through their homes and give them anything they could find that would qualify as scrap, and they have been bringing it in to the school scrap piles.

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Six Tons of Dishes Washed in Average Home Annually

It has been calculated that every American housewife washes six tons of dishes every year. Add up the accumulation from 265 breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, and in between snacks and the total would fill six trucks, experts say.

Staggering as the task of washing six tons of dishes sounds, imagine how much more impossible the job would be without soap. The prospect of a soapless life is not on the horizon, however as long as housewives keep up their present role of salvaging fat.

Department of Agriculture authorities point out that if it had not been for salvaged fat in 1945, housewives would have had 13 percent less soap. Even so there are not enough industrial fats and oils available to meet the demand for soaps and other goods the public wants.

Supplies of edible and inedible fats and oils all over the world have never been as low as they are today. Fats and oils imports to the U.S. are still only a shadow of their pre-war tonnage. The only tangible way to get more raw materials for soap making and other essentials is by turning in more used cooking fat.

Questions:

1. What did Katherine Rhodes' class do to help the war effort?
2. What did the children learn from this activity?
3. Why were people urged to recycle fat during and after the war?
4. Why are people urged to recycle today?