

Milkweed Floss To Make Real Aid To War

Boys and Girls of Cass County Can Aid in the War Effort Says Oscar Domingo

Boys and girls of Cass county will have an opportunity this fall to make a real and direct contribution toward furnishing equipment that may save the lives of American servicemen and women on fighting fronts throughout the world.

The floss of the common milkweed is urgently needed by the Armed Forces to make "Mae West" life jackets, and a campaign will be organized in Cass County to harvest the pods of this heretofore useless plant, reports Oscar Domingo, chairman of the County War Board.

Milkweed floss, which is buoyant and highly waterproof, has been found to be the most satisfactory replacement for kapok in life jackets. The principal source of kapok has been cut off since the Japanese occupied Java, and dwindling stockpiles in this country have made it necessary to find a substitute.

Two bags of milkweed pods will make one life jacket, and two million bags of pods—1,500,000 pounds—of floss are needed to meet military requirements this year. Achieving this goal will require that every pod possible be harvested, and the War Food Administration has been requested to organize intensive collection campaigns in 29 states where milkweed is prevalent.

Boys and girls who help in the pod collection will be furnished open-mesh bags for picking and drying the pods, and will be paid 20 cents for each bag of dried pods. The pods are ready for picking in the early fall, usually by Sept. 15. By that time, the War Bond chairman said, the organization or group sponsoring the collection drive in each community will be determined and information will be available on where to obtain the bags, how to dry the pods, and where to take the filled bags.

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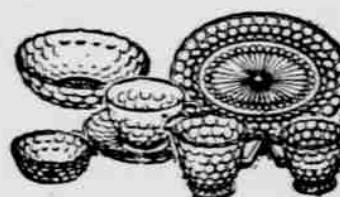
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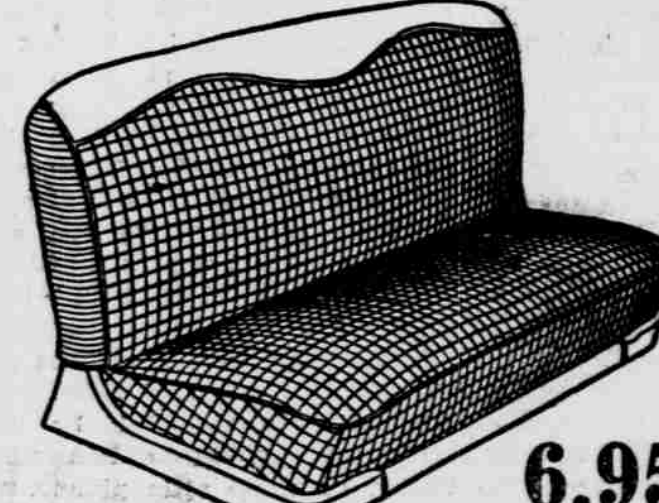
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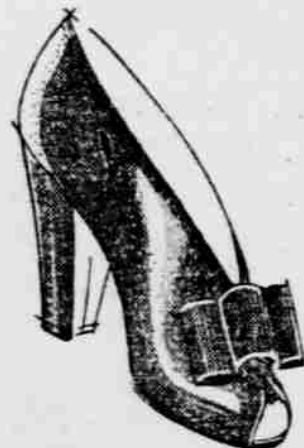
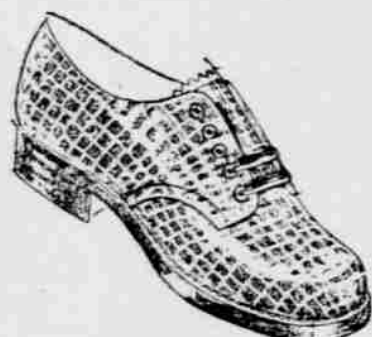
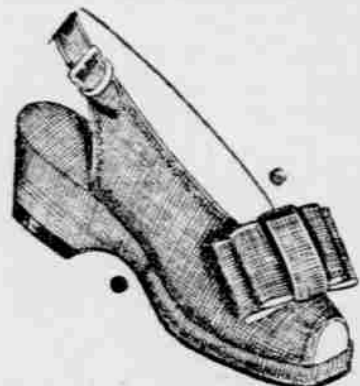


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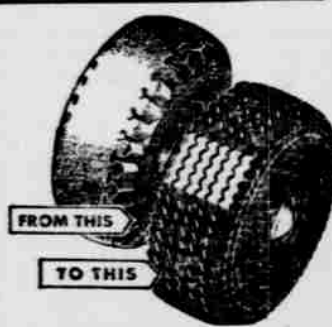
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