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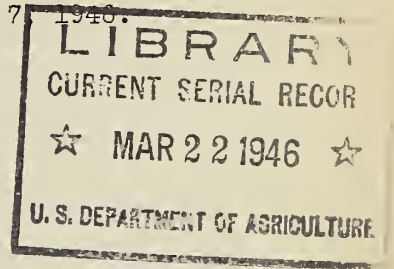


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FOLKS - MEET SMOKEY BEAR

A transcribed interview between John Baker, Chief of the Radio Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and "Smokey Bear." Recorded March 7, 1946. Time, without announcer's parts, 6 minutes, 40 seconds.



ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

Now, with the help of John Baker of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, let's find out from a chap who lives there all the time, how we should handle fire in the woods when we go camping and fishing and picnicking.

By transcription . . .

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

You've heard Smokey Bear quizzed by John Baker of the United States Department of Agriculture. If you'd like to meet Smokey Bear yourself, write to the U. S. Forest Service, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for the Smokey Bear poster. When you write, please mention Station \_\_\_\_\_.

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TO PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

This recording was made as contribution to this year's Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign conducted jointly by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and forestry agencies of the various States. It can be used now to help mark the start of this year's campaign in early April; then, anytime, as fire conditions in your locality warrant during the dry seasons, or as a special feature for any conservation program.

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Time: 6 minutes, 40 seconds, without announcer's parts.

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TRANSCRIPTION:

BAKER: Once upon a time there were three bears...(HIGH) a teeny, weeny baby bear...(LOWER) a medium-sized moma bear -- and a...(BASS) great big poppa bear. Well, these three bears....

SMOKEY: Hold on, Bud...what about me?

BAKER: Who are you? - Walking on your kind legs - with that Forest Ranger's hat on?

SMOKEY: I'm number four of the three bears. Smokey Bear, they call me.

BAKER: That doesn't make sense. I never heard of more than three bears.

SMOKEY: Live and learn, I always say. I suppose you don't even know that the war's over.

BAKER: Sure, I do, but what's that got to do with...

SMOKEY: Smokey Bear? Just about everything, my friend.

BAKER: I'm listening.

SMOKEY: Where do bears live?

BAKER: In the woods of course.

SMOKEY: Right! We make our home in some big old log or a nice warm cave in the woods...and, boy, I'd like to be home right now.

BAKER: No one's stopping you, Smokey. There's not a single gun around the place.

SMOKEY: I'm willing to take my chances with any hunter. It's just that I don't have a home to go back to, at the moment.

BAKER: How come?

SMOKEY: My neck of the woods was burned out awhile back.

BAKER: Say, that's too bad. How did it happen?

SMOKEY: Some folks got careless.

BAKER: Somebody toss a lighted match or a smoke down in the leaves?

SMOKEY: No, this was a campfire they left without drowning it good with water.

BAKER: You have my sympathy, Smokey. I suppose your're good and sore at us humans.

SMOKEY: No, not anymore...!What's done is done. No use worryin' about past carelessness...It's preventing carelessness in the future that I'm working on right now.

BAKER: I get it. You're on a one-bear crusade against forest fires for the benefit of all the woods folk. Is that it?

SMOKEY: Not entirely. There's more to this business of preventing forest fires than a shortage of homes for bears these days.

BAKER: How well I know, Smokey. The housing situation for us humans is plenty tough, too. A friend of mine who just got out of the Navy has....

SMOKEY: That's the point. With wood scarce as it is it seems kinda foolish to let timber burn up on the stump, before it even has a chance to be used.

BAKER: Smart boy, Smokey. If you get folks to be more careful with fire in the woods you help us two-legged critters as well as your kind.

SMOKEY: There are some other things that are worth thinking about.

BAKER: I'm all ears, Smokey.

SMOKEY: The war's over...there's more gasoline handy...more tires are coming on the market...folks have more time to get out and have fun in the woods. Why, this coming season - I'll bet you - will see more people out vacationing than ever before.

BAKER: I'd say that's fine. It's been a long time since some youngsters have had a chance to roast a weeny over an outdoor fireplace, take a dive into a forest pool, see you and your deer and squirrel friends close up.

SMOKEY: Good stuff, and I'm for it. But more people in the woods means more chances for forest fires. All I'm trying to say is that there's going to be a need for more Care with fire this year.

BAKER: More care with fire in the forests and farm woodlands this year. You've got me sold on the idea, Smokey.

SMOKEY: Now, if I can just sell the same idea to every man, woman and child in this country....

BAKER: Who put you up to all this, Smokey? I know doggonned well no bear ever thought up all the things about fire prevention that you've been handing out here. Meaning no offense to you of course.

SMOKEY: I've got a thick hide, Mister...I can take it. Of course I'm not alone in this fight to stop forest fires before they even get started. My sponsors are Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers and the men and women of the state forestry and extension outfits...along with a lot of other folks. No. I'm not alone in this fight.

BAKER: The idea is to enlist every single person in the United States in the same fight.

SMOKEY: That's what I've been telling you.

BAKER: All right, tell me this. What can I do, as Mister Average American citizen, to help prevent forest, woods and range fires?

SMOKEY: Well! Now we're getting somewhere....Did you ever hear the story about the three people?

BAKER: Oh, a bed-time story, huh? Like the three bears.

SMOKEY: In a way. It's kinda popular with our bear cubs at that. Want to hear it?

BAKER: Go ahead, Smokey...

SMOKEY: Once upon a time there were three people...a teeny-weeny baby person...a medium-sized momma person...and a great big poppa person...

BAKER: You wouldn't be pulling my leg now would you, Smokey?

SMOKEY: You wanted to know what folks can do didn't you? Let me tell you this story...Well, one day, momma person decided it would be nice to take little baby person out for a picnic in the forest. Poppa person went for the idea like a bear goes for honey...So, they packed some stuff and got into their car and headed out to the country. On the way, poppa decided he wanted to smoke so he took out his cigarettes, put one in his mouth, lighted it with a match and then...now get this...he broke his match into several pieces and put them in the ashtray...

BAKER: H-m-m...Broke his match to be sure it was out and put it in his ashtray. Smart poppa.

SMOKEY: When poppa finished his cigarette he crushed it out in his ashtray. By this time they had arrived at Farmer Smith's place. They could see Farmer Smith in a big field near the woods, burning brush. Momma person looked very carefully at what Farmer Smith was doing and do you know what she said to poppa?

BAKER: No, what did momma say to poppa, Smokey?

SMOKEY: Look, Poppa, she said...Farmer Smith has waited until this nice day without a wind blowing to burn his new ground. And he has plowed all around the brush piles, and he has those pails, filled with water, handy, and his two boys are helping him. He's a smart man, Farmer Smith is. His burning won't get away into the woods, I bet you.

BAKER: H-m-. Smart momma.

SMOKEY: Then they were in the forest...and Poppa built a little campfire so they could cook the nice steak they brought along...and they had a fine time, specially baby, because poppa let the little fellow blow out every match he lit for his smoke, and he let baby help him put the campfire dead out with little cans of water when they were ready to go home....

BAKER: H-m-m. Smart baby...

SMOKEY: And they lived happily ever after...enjoying many, many safe picnics in the forest...

BAKER: That's quite a story, Smokey. Almost like a fairy tale.

SMOKEY: Not exactly, Mister. My story is true. Things can happen just like I've told you, when people are careful with fire in the woods...Well, so long!

BAKER: Thank you for coming, Smokey. Now where was I? Oh, yes...Once upon a time there were three...no, there were four bears. Smokey Bear (FADE) a teeny-weeny baby bear and....

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HOME GARDENS NEEDED AGAIN

Transcribed talk by John Baker, Chief of the Radio Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded March 7, 1946. Time: 4 minutes, 35 seconds, without announcer's parts.

ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

Now let's talk about Victory gardens. As we all know, 20 million home gardens are needed again this year to help increase our food supplies . . . and ease hunger in many parts of the world. For a report on the garden situation in general, let's hear from headquarters of the President's nation-wide garden program . . . the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington . . . John Baker reporting. By transcription, John Baker.

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

That was John Baker of the Department of Agriculture in Washington reporting on the emergency Victory Garden Program for this year.

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TRANSCRIPTION:

BAKER: When President Truman asked home gardeners to add their efforts to increase food production this year, here are some of the things he was thinking about.

Labor--Though the war's over, farmers are still very short of help. And they haven't been able to get much of the new machinery they'd hoped for this year. So folks who grow some of their food themselves will be helping to ease the shortage of labor on farms.

Transportation--The country still has the same sort of transportation troubles it had during the war. One of the hitches in getting grain to foreign countries is transportation. There aren't enough cars to haul the grain to seaports . . . and still do all the other jobs that need doing. Folks with gardens will be helping transportation. Vegetables you grow at home won't have to be hauled anywhere.

Vegetable Goals--Goals on several crops have been raised this year, but not the goals for commercial vegetables. There were a number of reasons for not raising vegetable goals . . . and one was supplies of tin for canning. The steel strike last winter upset tin production so much, it dropped off from 12 to 16 percent. So next fall housewives may not find as many cans of vegetables and fruits on the grocery-store shelves as they'd expected. Home-canned vegetables will help to fill that gap. The supply of glass jars is good . . . and there'll be plenty of new tops and new rubbers for jars already on hand.

Save a slice of bread--If you add an extra vegetable to your meal, you can save a slice of bread. Another garden-fresh vegetable will make a tastier meal. In this country of 140 million people, if each of us saved a slice of bread a day, it would add up to about 9 or 10 million loaves of bread. Figure that out for a month . . . and it's an enormous saving.

Now, there're several questions many folks would like to be sure about, as they make garden plans for this year.

One question is about equipment. Have the strikes affected the supply of garden tools? Well, the answer is "not seriously." Most any home gardener can get the essential garden tools . . . a hoe, a rake, a spade . . . without any trouble. By the way, if you're using an old hoe, don't forget to sharpen it. Nothing wastes time in a garden like a dull hoe . . . not to mention the extra kinks it'll put in your back.

BAKER: Another important question is . . . how about fertilizer. Did the steel strike cut down nitrogen supplies much? And aren't we sending fertilizer to foreign countries through UNRRA? Well . . . the steel strike did affect nitrogen production a little . . . and we are trying to help the fertilizer situation in foreign countries . . . where farmers have had practically no fertilizer at all for a long time.

Also, we're using enormous amounts of fertilizer here at home. Farmers had to do it to increase food production a third during the war. But in spite of all these things, agronomists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture think we'll make out all right this year. At the moment, fertilizer supplies are stretched pretty tight, they say; but, overall, we have as much fertilizer for home gardens as we had last year . . . and the situation should pick up as the season advances.

Now how about seed? Well . . . that looks pretty good. Any gardener can get about all the vegetables seed he or she wants. But Department of Agriculture specialists advise getting your garden seed early. We used to import a lot of vegetable seed from Europe, but when the war started and cut off those supplies, we began growing these seed ourselves. We've been pretty successful at it, as farmers from the Far Western States like Washington, Oregon and California will proudly tell you. Seed production became big business in the West during the war.

Another question with home gardeners is chemicals . . . to fight bugs and diseases. Generally speaking, home gardeners will have the essential insecticides this year . . . all of them they need. The rotenone situation for small gardeners is better . . . they'll get rotenone at a strength of three-quarters of one percent this year. That's stronger than most of it was last year . . . strong enough to do a good job, the Department of Agriculture says. There's plenty of pyrethrum . . . and enough cryolite. For gardeners who're interested in DDT . . . the Department hasn't yet made any general recommendations for using DDT in small gardens.

All in all . . . leaving out the weather . . . the outlook for home gardens is as good as ever this year. And the need for the food is as great as ever.