Judge Ledvina

"A" Award Ceremony Script
LAKESIDE PACKING COMPANY, MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN
Broadcast over Station WOMT
August 14, 1944

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, we're speaking from the plant of the Lakeside Packing Company in Manitowoc, Wisconsin where _____ people are gathered to witness the presentation of the War Food Administration "A" Award to the Lakeside Packing Company. The ceremony marks another presentation of the Acheivement "A" Award to a food processor in this area. Two of the company's plants located in Manitowoc and Sheboygan are to receive the Award at this ceremony. Assembled here are officials and employees of the company, farmers who produced the crops, and townspeople from Manitowoc and Sheboygan. The ceremony is a tribute to the part played by the Lakeside Packing Company in producing food for war during the past year. The "A" Award flag will be presented by Major C. F. Hilker. Mr. B. E. Fillis, Jr. of the War Food Administration will present the Award Pins to representatives of the company's employees. Master of Ceremonies for the program will be Hon. Judge Jerome Ledvina, Manitowoc County Judge. Music will be played by the Manitowoc Marine Band under the direction of Emil Schrweide. The next voice you hear will be that of Judge Ledvina.

LEDVINA: Shall we all join in the singing of "America".

(AMERICA) (1 Verse Only!) Led by Ferguson

LEDVINA: Any American should be proud to take part in the presentation of an "A" Award by the War Food Administration. This Award is being given as a testimonial of the faithful performance of a job well done in the food industry. Tonight we honor two plants of the Lakeside Packing Company, the one here at Manitowoc, and the other at Sheboygan. There is nothing as vital to the prosecution of the war effort as the maintenance of a good food supply and tonight the employees and officials of these two plants are here to reap the reward of an "A" Emblem for work well done. For the next year this "A" Award will float over these plants and be a constant reminder that the employees and officials of these plants have performed a good job and that ~~they~~ it will continue to spur us on to even better efforts.

LEDVINA: Not only that, but the workers and officials who have earned this Award willwear the "A" Award pin, which in itself is a mark of merit for doing something worthwhile in our war program. We heartily welcome the officials who are with us tonight. This is a memorable occasion, one that will not be soon forgotten. The presentation of the Award of the "A" Emblem will be made by Major C. F. Hilker. He is in charge of the Administrative and Service Section of the Central Subsistence Branch of the Procurement Division of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot.

HILKER: Food has always been a problem of warfare but until as recently as a century ago it was of far less importance than it is today. Formerly armies were small, they moved slowly, and battle grounds were confined to relatively small areas. Even in 1917-18, the pace of combat units was set by the foot soldier and the conflict was virtually confined to a single front of perhaps 200 miles in length. Supplies were shipped over one ocean and stored in reasonably safe and stationary depots.

Millions of men comprise the armies of today. Combat forces are stationed in many countries and supplies must be conveyed across the seven seas. The battle lines are flexible and the front we supply today may be 50 miles away by tomorrow.

Such radical changes are reflected in the supply problem. The average soldier normally requires about 1½ pounds more food a day than does the average citizen. Based on the present strength of about 7 million men in the army, food consumption has increased by more than 10 million pounds daily over what would be required by an equal number of average civilians. In addition there is the increased requirement of 3 millions more in the other branches of the armed services, plus the increased consumption by millions who are now working harder in private industry to supply the needs of war.

Even before we actually entered the war, we saw that this Nation would be called upon to produce more food products than ever before. Farmers were called upon to boost production and they have done so in spite of serious

HILKER: shortages of labor and machinery. In 1943, for the fifth straight year the farmers broke previous production records.

It is understandable that Army food cannot be handled on a hand-to-mouth or day-to-day basis. In order to make sure that our armed forces have enough food, at the right place, and at the right time, we must have a considerable amount in reserve at all times. We must buy enough of the seasonal foods to last from one season until the next.

For every soldier we send to foreign soil, we must build up a food supply at our overseas supply depots; and time must be allowed for delivery from home ports to these depots, some of which are as much as 10,000 miles away. In order that there will be no delay in loading ships at home, and to replace supplies lost through enemy action, we must have additional supplies held in reserve at the home depots. Many commodities are seasonal in nature and sometimes we must determine our needs months in advance.

The words "invasion" and "secondfront" have been on every tongue recently and have an important meaning. Food has a very close connection with these terms. When troops make an initial landing on enemy-held shores, each fighting man carries with him emergency rations, enough for 1 or 2 days. This means that in the ensuing few hours, while the combat troops are establishing their beachhead and consolidating their positions, additional subsistence must be brought ashore, prepared and distributed.

While the combat forces are landing, other soldiers are busily engaged in getting supplies ashore. Some supplies are stowed in boats and barges; some are tumbled overboard and floated to land where they are collected together at central points for rapid distribution. Meanwhile, these unloading operations are under constant attack from both enemy aircraft and shore defenses. The enemy, too, is fully aware of the importance of food supply and tries with every means within his power, to destroy our lifeline.

It can readily be seen just how important your work is to the conduct of the war. Your activity behind the lines doesn't offer the personal satisfaction derived from meeting and vanquishing the enemy, but it is every bit as

HILKER: important. Without the labor of your hands and the sweat of your brow, our Army would be rendered helpless. Even an hour's delay might bring catastrophe to our men.

We did not seek this war. But now that we are in it, we are united in our determination to win it. To the food producers and the food processors belong much of the credit that our fighting men are among the best-fed armies of the world.

At the beginning of the National Emergency, long before the nation actually went to war, officials and farm leaders realized that we soon would be needing far more food than we were producing. Goals were set, goals that demanded more than ever before. The farmers sweated in the fields as they toiled long hard hours battling insect pests, droughts, and floods. They worked and planned, and perhaps cussed a little because labor and equipment were scarce and transportation difficult. But they met their goals.

The next year, they were asked for even greater production although their position was even more difficult. In 1943, for the fifth straight year, they broke all records for production despite handicaps that would have been discouraging even to their forefathers who labored against great odds.

But this is only part of the story. As mentioned a moment ago, these huge food crops had to be processed, preserved, and treated in various ways so that they could be kept for long periods and easily transported. This became the job of the food processing industry which likewise has had its wartime problems, but which has come through with flying colors.

The industry has had to develop new ways of preparing food products in order to save shipping space and weight. It has had to develop food products that would stand up in tropical heat and arctic cold; food that a soldier could carry in his pack or pockets, food that could be shipped by plane and dropped by parachute.

Tin is a critical material so industry had to work out new ways of packaging its products. It had to standardize containers in order to save materials and manpower. It had to keep voluminous records and make lengthy reports to the

HILKER: government. Now and then, it had to fill big orders on short notice to supply a convoy or meet a sudden military need. It had to recruit and train new workers to replace those entering the armed services or other war jobs.

But all this is old stuff to you. You're in the business and you know only too well what you've been up against, and you know that you've done a good job.

More than that, your government knows it. And your government is grateful to you for the way you have performed your task. Plants like this one are playing a part in the war so important that I cannot over-emphasize it. You men and women have done a truly amazing job. You who have remained at home are fighters as well as your loved ones in the armed forces. You are bringing victory closer and closer with every carload, every case, every package of foodstuffs you process.

On behalf of the Government of the United States, I have the honor of presenting you with the War Food Administration's Achievement "A" Award flag which symbolizes effort above and beyond the ordinary call of duty. It shows the world that you are doing your part and I am confident that its possession will spur you to even greater achievements.

MUSIC BY MANITOWOC MARINE BAND ON CUE. -(Play AS SOON as MAJ. Hilker Hands flag TO WEDERTZ)
(Color guard advances to Receive & raise flag as music begins)
(ANNOUNCER CAN DESCRIBE AD LIB THE RAISING OF THE "A" AWARD FLAG.) after color guard returns to its post, then.

LEDVINA: H. L. Wedertz, President of the Lakeside Packing Company will accept the "A" Award.

WEDERTZ: Fellow workers, growers and friends. The Lakeside Packing Company has been a part of this community since 1883 - a period of 61 years - in fact, is the oldest canning plant in Wisconsin and pioneered this industry which has grown to be one of the most important in the state. You have all read the articles in the papers and magazines headed "Food Will Win The War". Food is one of the integral parts of a vast number of necessary items needed to pursue a victorious war, and one which will be needed to alleviate distress and suffering as downtrodden peoples are liberated. When we think of the many handicaps necessarily placed on the growers and processors of food;

WEDERTZ: shortage of machines, supplies and labor, and reveiw the tremendous job completed in the last three years by agriculture and labor, we realize that the spirit which pioneered farming and industry in this state, still survives. Without the willing and able help of the growers who not only harvested and brought the crop to the viners, but many days and nights assisted at the viners, and the part time help we received from workers in other industries in this community, it would have been impossible for this company to have acheived the success necessary to receive this Award. It is with a feeling of pride and responsibility to the fellow workers, both men and women, who worked long hours to make this honor possible, that I accept this "A" Award Flag as a symbol of past achievement of the Lakeside Packing Company. I thank you.

LEDVINA: Mr. B. E. Fillis, Jr. of the Office of Distribution, War Food Administration will now present four token "A" Award Pins to representative employees of the company, Mr. Fillis.

FILLIS: First let me say that the people of Wisconsin -- and of Manitowoc and Sheboygan -- are to be congratulated on the job they have done in wartime food production. To me, it is a distinct privilege to not only express my personal appreciation of this, but to participate in the national recognition of your efforts.

War --- even a small war --- is a tremendous undertaking. The war we are fighting on countless fronts all over the world is certainly not a small war. The task of supplying our fighting men -- our Allies --- and our civilian population is so huge as to be almost incomprehensible to the average mind.

We here in America are blessed -- and doubly blessed -- with a stout-hearted spirit that seems to laugh at the impossible -- and lets us go ahead and get the job done.

This has meant that each of us has had to plan our job--- and has had to carry it out --- regardless of changing factors and demands.

The War Food Administration's task has been to plan and administer the vast program to produce, process, and deliver --- at the right time and place --- the necessary foods to wage

FILLIS: this war successfully. We've had to supply our fighting men at the front -- our Allies --- the British -- Fighting French --- Poles, and others -- who are fighting by our side in Normandy and Italy --- and the Russians --- plunging across Poland in hot pursuit of the fleeing Nazis.

The War Food Administration also has the responsibility of seeing to it that our home-front fighters on the essential war production lines are also adequately and nourishingly fed.

This is America -- and American Agriculture -- at war! How well you workers of Lakeside here at Manitowoc and Sheboygan -- and your friend the farmer -- have done your jobs is being written in the headlines the world over. You and your country have learned to make Food Fight for Freedom! This is more than just a catch-phrase --- or a slogan. It's an expression which proclaims our understanding of the important part food plays as a vital weapon of war --- both on the fighting front and the home front. It is a challenging declaration of our determination to overlook no single weapon in the struggle for our way of life--- the American way of life -- against the way of brutality and oppression!

Feeding starving civilians and nationals who have felt the oppressor's yoke is not only a humanitarian gesture -- typical of American sincerity and friendliness --- it also has very practical results from a military standpoint, in recruiting new fighting strength from the ranks of French, Italian, Greek, and Polish men and women in whom the flame of life and liberty still burns, despite these years of war. 4114(9)

We're utilizing all of our fighting strength -- our industrial might -- our food producing resources --- marshalling them into one unified and effective fighting force --- aimed at the single task of defeating the enemy. The worker in the food industry who does his job well is contributing his full share toward gaining that objective. Each of you in Lakeside Packing Company who has had a part in producing, processing, and distributing the food canned here, is helping shorten the road to Victory.

It is my pleasure and privilege, as a representative

FILLIS: of the War Food Administration, to present to you employees of the Lakeside Packing Company, these Achievement "A" Award pins as a symbol of that citation. Your achievements have earned for you the right to wear an "A" . --- Wear it proudly!

It signifies that a grateful nation appreciates your outstanding contribution in this global war--- where Food Fights for Freedom! I congratulate you all.

The first employee to receive this award is ~~Charles~~ John Schultz, and next, Herman Kollath and Theresa Radl, and ~~John~~ Charles - Schultz.

(APPLAUSE ?)

Band plays soft Background music.
(ANNOUNCER CAN DESCRIBE AD LIB PIN CEREMONY) (over music.)

LEDVINA: (at conclusion of Pin Ceremony) Mr. Charles Schultz will accept the pins in behalf of his fellow workers in the Lakeside Packing Company plants.

SCHULTZ: On behalf of the employees of the Lakeside Packing Company in Manitowoc, and Sheboygan, Wisconsin, I thank you Mr. Fillis for these Achievement"A" Award Pins. All of us will wear them proudly. We want our fighting men to be well fed and are glad to have a part in keeping them well fed. On April 11, 1944 Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator said, "Life begins with food, it is as essential as the air we breathe. An empty mess kit means disaster on the battle field the same as an empty rifle." Major Hilker, and Mr. Fillis, the men and women of the Lakeside Packing Company plants will keep on working at their best for the sake of our fighting forces wherever they may be.

LEDVINA: This concludes the "A" Award Presentation Ceremony. Let us join in the singing of the National Anthem, led by Sgt Ferguson

MUSIC: ("National Anthem" by Manitowoc Marine Band followed by other musical selections)

ANNOUNCER: This has been a broadcast of the ceremony at which two plants of the Lakeside Packing Company were presented with the "A" Award of the War Food Administration for outstanding production in the field of food processing. The

ANNOUNCER: presentation ceremony was held at the Lakeside Packing Company plant. The "A" Award Flag was presented by Major C. F. Hilker of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot. Token presentation of pins was made by B. E. Fillis, Jr., Office of Distribution, War Food Administration. Music heard during the ceremony was played by the Manitowoc Marine Band. Color Guard for the occasion was made up of members of Company E of the Wisconsin National Guard. Master of Ceremonies was Hon. Judge Jerome Ledvina, Manitowoc County Judge.