



CERTIFIED NEWS

MARCH 1945



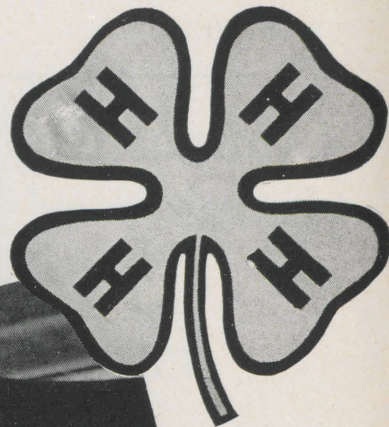
Mr. Thos. E. Wilson discussing farm problems with a group of 4-H boys to whom he has just presented scholarships for their outstanding work in raising meat animals.



Mr. Thos. E. Wilson accepting the Chicago Rotary Club's Merit Award National from J. D. MacKeever, Chairman of the Jury of Awards, and President of the Illinois Association of Manufacturers. The award was presented to Mr. Wilson, "for outstanding service in the conservation of fats for the war effort and in the extension of the 4-H Club idea, with its great inspirational value to the farm youth of the nation."

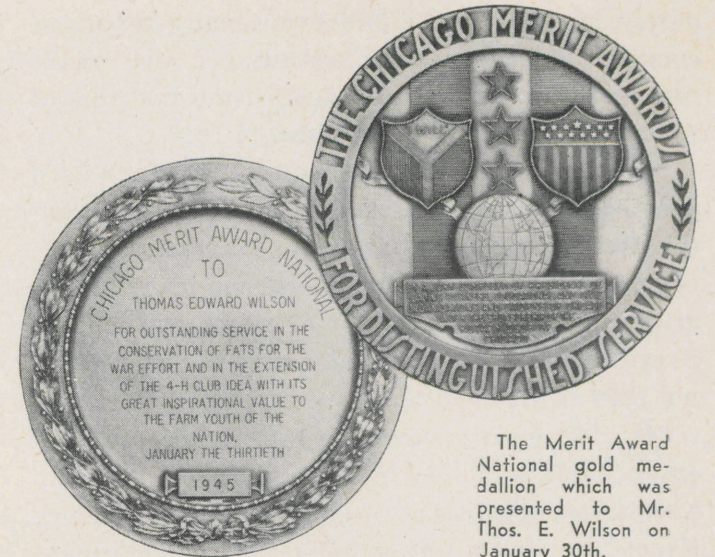


A fat salvage float prepared for a parade by the Chicago advertising department. Mr. Thos. E. Wilson originated the Fat Salvage program which has had a direct effect on winning the war.



For Distinguished Service

Merit Award, National
Presented to
Mr. Thos. E. Wilson



The Merit Award National gold medallion which was presented to Mr. Thos. E. Wilson on January 30th.

TO Mr. Thos. E. Wilson, last month, came one of the nation's highest honors when he was presented with the Chicago Rotary Club's Merit Award, National, "for outstanding service in the conservation of fats for the war effort, and in the extension of the 4-H Club idea with its great inspirational value to the Farm Youth of the Nation."

More than one thousand of Chicago's business, professional and civic leaders gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Sherman on January 30, to witness the presentation of the Award, which is given only for outstanding service to the community or to the nation.

In presenting the Award, which has been given only five times in the fourteen years since it was inaugurated, J. D. MacKeever, of Joliet, chairman of the Jury of Awards and president of the Illinois Association of Manufacturers, said:

"These Chicago Merit Awards, in harmony with the ideals of Rotary, may be awarded to American citizens of the metropolitan area of Chicago, who shall have performed and brought to its culmination an act, or contributed a service, calculated to advance the best and largest interests of Chicago or the United States.

"The awards are initiated by The Merit Award Commission of the Rotary Club of Chicago which acts as a clearing house for recommendations, classifies such recommendations, and then presents its selections, if any, to the Jury of Award, which consists of American citizens of the metropolitan area of Chicago. This Jury of Award includes in its

membership the presidents of the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, The Field Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, the Chicago Bar Association, as well as the heads of leading civic organizations and additional representative citizens.

"In this thoroughly democratic way, you see, it is certain that only persons who thoroughly deserve the Award will receive it. And there has never been any finer evidence of this fact than we have today. For there is not the slightest question of doubt that the person who will receive the CHICAGO MERIT NATIONAL AWARD FOR 1945 more than measures up to the highest standards of citizenship, civic duty, and service.

"I wish it were possible for me to give you a complete biography of Thomas Edward Wilson, but in the time at my disposal I can at best only touch the high spots. Mr. Wilson was born in 1868 in London, Canada, and came with his parents to Chicago in 1877. He was educated in the Chicago public schools and upon graduation entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Then, in 1887, he sought and was given a position with Morris & Company, Chicago packers, becoming vice president in 1906 and president in 1913. Three years later he was elected president of Sulzberger & Sons Co., the name of which was shortly changed to Wilson & Co. In 1934, Mr. Wilson became Chairman of the Board of this company, his son succeeding him as president. In addition to his connection with and leadership in the packing in-

dustry, Mr. Wilson is a director of many important commercial and financial institutions, and organized and was the first president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, founded in 1919. . .

"Outside of his business connections, Mr. Wilson provided funds for the establishment of the Scientific Research Laboratory at the University of Chicago, and has been an active leader in many associations and movements for the improvement of livestock, and has long been active in youth work, not only in Chicago but throughout the nation.

"In 1918 he evidenced his interest in youth by entertaining at dinner in Chicago eleven boys who were showing calves at the International Livestock Exposition. In 1921 he accepted the vice-chairmanship of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, three years later became its chairman, and has actively guided its affairs ever since. In this capacity and through his example of supporting 4-H Clubs, the committee has been successful in assisting the State and Federal Extension Services in building 4-H Club membership from fewer than 300,000 in 1921 to almost 1,700,000 in 1944. For many years past, Mr. Wilson has personally sponsored the Meat Animal contests of 4-H Club members, thus encouraging the junior growers of beef, cattle, swine and sheep. During this time he has distributed 11,000 gold-filled medals, nearly 540 gold watches and 86 agricultural scholarships as awards. He has continued to entertain at a dinner and party each year, all delegates to the National 4-H Club Congress. Until the war, the number served in this way was in excess of 2,000 each year.

"Since the formation of the 4-H Clubs, 12,000,000 boys and girls have belonged to them, and it has become the largest rural youth organization in America. There are 4-H Clubs in nearly every community in the United States, as well as in Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico and in a number of foreign countries.

The Fat Salvage Campaign

"During the years since Pearl Harbor, "something has been added" to the kitchen of almost every home in the United States. This 'something' is a container for fat, and we have Mr. Wilson to thank for this important contribution to the war effort. He realized that the cutting off of Eastern fats would prove serious, for he knew how important fats were not only to the civilian population

but also to the armed forces. Therefore, he originated the fat salvage program—evolving a practical plan whereby housewives and butchers could save every ounce of excess fat. After making a successful demonstration in Chicago, Mr. Wilson took the whole plan to Washington. It was adopted by the government, and has been in use ever since. It is unanimously agreed that this fat salvage program has had a direct effect on the winning of the war.

"During his many years of public service, Mr. Wilson has, of course, received many honors. In 1938 he was awarded the Silver Buffalo by the Boy Scouts of America and in 1940 he was awarded the Rosenberger Medal of the University of Chicago for work devoted to extending programs of the 4-H Clubs. He was also awarded a medal by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for his service to the 4-H Clubs.

"Now, as I said, it has been possible to merely touch the highlights in Mr. Wilson's long record of service to his city, his state, his nation and—above all—to the YOUTH of America. But I think it is very clear that he has exemplified in a remarkable way the Rotary creed of 'He Profits Most Who Serves Best.'

A Constant Reminder of Appreciation

"Therefore, acting for the Jury of Awards, it gives me the greatest possible pleasure to present to Thomas Edward Wilson this medallion known as the CHICAGO MERIT AWARD, NATIONAL. We hope it will convey to him now, and for many years to come, the high esteem in which he is held by the Rotary Club of Chicago, and all of the people of this great city for which he has done so much. And we hope, in the years to come, this Award will be a constant reminder to Mr. Wilson that the people of Chicago, of Illinois, and of the United States have appreciated more than he knew, the unselfish way in which he has invested his time, money, energy and ability in furthering the cause of American youth.

"Surely the poet could well have had Mr. Wilson in mind when he said: They serve God well, who serve his creatures.' For our honored guest of today, as I am sure you will all agree, has served 'God's Creatures' to an extent that proves the greatness of heart and soul which all his friends know him to possess."