

Test Blackout

Pronounced

Big Success

June 19, 1942

Newton's first test blackout Monday night between 9:30 and 10:00 o'clock was pronounced a big success by Frank J. Lobmier, commander, and Ray E. Everly, adjutant of Jasper post, American Legion, which was in charge of the demonstration, which had been suggested by the American Legion in cooperation with the Illinois Council of Defense.

"We had better than ninety-nine per cent cooperation," Mr. Everly said, "and lights were visible in only one or two instances. All truck and passenger car drivers were very nice, only one driver of one pickup truck failing to pull over to the curb and stop.

"It is probable another test blackout will be held later on a statewide basis. At this time an airplane or group of planes may fly over this area to make the test more realistic."

Lights Out at 9:30

Promptly at 9:30 o'clock all street lights were extinguished and residents turned out their lights or otherwise blacked out all lights in their homes. Because of the rainy weather and the lateness of the hour, many persons had gone to bed and didn't know how the test came out until Tuesday morning. The blackout signal was given by blowing the fire siren.

The test is intended to prepare people for possible blackouts which would follow German or Italian raids flying into the middle west from over the Gulf of Mexico, enroute to St. Louis or Chicago, or some of the large defense plants scattered throughout this area. Officials charged with air defense state that such raids are expected and may come any time.