

The Blue Eagle

By Scot H. Dahms



Act in June of 1933. It was part of the New Deal during the Great Depression. The goals of the act and agency were to institute industry-wide codes to eliminate unfair trade practices, reduce unemployment, establish minimum wages and guarantee the right of labor to bargain collectively.

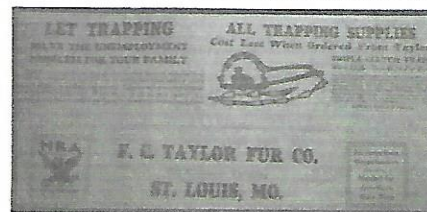
Over 500 codes were established. Unfortunately, the codes reflected big business interests at the expense of the consumer and small businessman. The codes tended to maintain high prices,

low wages and long hours. There were some positives from the codes such as improving labor conditions in some industries and aiding in the unionization movement. The codes established the principle of maximum hours and minimum wages on a national basis, abolished child labor and made collective bargaining a national policy setting the stage for the transformation of organized labor.



Businesses that supported the NRA displayed the Blue Eagle in their shop windows and on their packages along with the motto "We do our part" to advertise their participation to the public. The use of the Blue Eagle emblem was a patriotic appeal to mobilize public opinion in support of the codes. Not supporting the NRA and not having the privilege of displaying the Blue Eagle resulted in consumer boycotts. Although supporting the NRA was voluntary, it was mandatory for the survival of many businesses.

In May 1935, the Supreme Court



ruled that the NRA codes were an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power and further violated the Constitution by regulating commerce within sovereign states. The NRA existed in a skeletonized form until the end of 1935. Many labor provisions of the NRA were reenacted in later legislation.

The NRA was formed in June of 1933 and dissolved the end of 1935. Anything you have with the Blue Eagle was probably made between those dates. If it is a catalog, anything in that catalog was offered for sale by that company between those dates. This is one more clue to help figure out the date of trapping antiques.

The Depression was a volatile time for all businesses including trap manufacturing. During this time, many trap companies sold out or reduced costs by any means necessary including not putting dates on trapping literature so they could be used for several years. Knowing specifics about the trap manufacturing companies including dates they sold to other companies, dates of printed literature or anything else that can help narrow down the time period something was created is an asset to the collector of trapping paraphernalia.

One interesting side note involving the National Football League – The Philadelphia Eagles were named after the Blue Eagle in 1933 by Bert Bell and Lud Wray.

I used encyclopedia references on the internet to research this topic. If anyone has any information contrary to what I have written here, please call, email, mail or respond in the magazine.

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As many trap collectors know, sometimes clues are needed to date a trap or literature about trap manufacturers. These clues can be right there for everyone to see but if the specifics on the clue are not known then the clue is nothing more than aesthetic. Clues to dating trapping antiques can range from knowing the date a company changed their name or were bought out by another company to knowing the dates of certain patents or when certain trap components were used. Clues can even be dates that Congressional Acts were passed and the date that an agency was formed to oversee administration of the act. This article summarizes my research into one clue and the unique bits of knowledge I picked up along the way.

The Blue Eagle was the symbol for the National Recovery Administration (NRA) which was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to administer the National Industrial Recovery

