

# LATAH LEGACY

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From the Homefront Scrapbook  
Latah County During World War II



# Latah County Historical Society

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Manuscripts concerning Latah County's history and heritage are welcome and will be considered for publication. They may be submitted or mailed to the editor or assistant editor at the above address.

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*Photographs are from the Latah County Historical Society, the University of Idaho Special Collections, and several private collections.*







# From the Home Front Scrapbook: Part I: We Are At War!

Mary E. Reed

## Introduction

*This article is part of a project funded by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, a state-based agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Opinions in this article do not reflect those of the Council. Additional assistance was provided by Washington Water Power, Key Bank of North Idaho, and First Security Bank. Sue Emory and Joann Jones curated three exhibits, From the Home Front Scrapbook: We Are at War!, Life Goes On, and Preparing for Peace. Smaller versions of the three exhibits will be available for loan to schools, groups, and clubs, and they will be installed at different locations around the county locations in the coming months. In addition, a slide program, Latah County Remembers the Home Front, will be available for loan.*

*The article should be viewed as a preliminary investigation of this period in Latah County's history. Sources include the Daily Idahonian and the Latah County Press published in Troy. Readers will note many references to Troy which are due to our being able to borrow copies of the Latah County Press from Stella Johnson who was researching and writing the centennial history of Troy at the same time. Having access to the original copies instead of microfilm greatly assisted the research part of the project. However, I am aware that the many references to Troy might indicate that this town was more involved than others in the county. I am sure that further research would prove that all communities in Latah County experienced similar activities and contributions during the war years, and I hope the history of the home front in all our county towns will continue to be investigated and documented.*

*I also relied on oral histories for much of the information, including those conducted with Gene and JoAnn Thompson, Stella Johnson, Ken Hungerford, Jean Rudolph, Sam Butterfield, Joyce Kimberling Hudson, Leora Stillinger, and Winnie Robinson. Reminiscences by Marie Scharnhorst and Margaret Walker were very valuable. For information on the University of Idaho during this period I used material from Rafe Gibbs, Beacon for Mountain and Plain, published by Caxton Printers in 1962. I also used the centennial history by Keith C. Petersen, This Crested Hill: An Illustrated History of the University of Idaho, University of Idaho Press, 1987. For general information on the home front, I found the following books useful: Jack Goodman, ed., While you Were Gone: A Report on Wartime Life in the United States, Simon and Schuster, 1946; John Morton Blum, V Was for Victory. Politics and American Culture During World War II, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1976; Susan M. Hartmann, The Home Front and Beyond: American Women in the 1940s, Barbara Haber ed., Twayne Publishers, 1982; and Richard R. Lingeman, Don't You Know There's a War On? The American Home Front 1941-1945, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1970.*

*One goal of the Home Front project was to collect materials on this era for the exhibits and our permanent collections. We wish to thank the following for their assistance in loaning or donating items: Virginia Burroughs, Hawley Carlson, Harry and Connie DeWitt, Lee Gale, Dorothy Guthrie, Alvin Hofmann, Allen Hunter, Marie Linehan, Jeane McNeilly, Jim Migaki, Charlotte Morrison, LaRita Nelson, Richard Old, Winnie and Ron Robinson, Marie Scharnhorst, Joanne Sutton, JoAnn Thompson, Tom Townsend, Marian Wise, Norma Zenier, Mary Banks, First Presbyterian Church of Moscow, Lee Gale, Dick Jones, Marian Manis, the Moscow American Legion and Gertrude Petersen, John Neely, Mary Reed, Mary Mink, Jean Rudolph, Stan Shepard, John and Marie Lampman McGough, Agnes Kottke, Mildred Humphrey Miller, Jeanette Talbott, Ken and Marian Wise, John and Janet Fiske, Cope Gale, Nancy Atkinson, Moscow Public Library, Shirley Stivers, Jay Nelson, Margaret Walker, Ruby Driskell, Patsy Larson, Beth Seale, Agnes and Don Weeks, Erma Nygaard,*



Winifred Dixon, Richard Neyens, Ginny Burroughs, Joanne Sutton, Marilyn Swanson, Alice Ingebritsen, and Mary Walker. Thanks also to the many who provided reminiscences of where they were on December 7, 1941.

In addition to these contributions, Katherine Aiken, Leila Old, Joann Jones, and Mary Reed gave presentations on different aspects of the home front as part of the project. The American Legion Auxiliary, and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the R.O.T.C. programs at the University of Idaho and Washington State University participated in our fifty-year anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor which launched the Home Front project. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to and participated in this project.

Mary Reed, Director of Latah County Historical Society and author of this article, received her doctorate in history from the University of California at Berkeley. Her research concerned World War II, but from the perspective of the national front in Croatia, Yugoslavia. Her personal experience of the era began as a child whose father was drafted when she was only two years old. "My early memories of my family are living in a house of women whose husbands were away, of unusual presents sent to us from a father in foreign lands, and of a stranger who visited us a couple of times during those years, wearing a brown uniform and calling himself my Daddy. It is to the memory of my father who served in both the European and Asian fronts and to my mother and grandparents who kept our family circle together that this article is dedicated."



## December 1941

In 1941, 134 million people are living in the United States, more than half of them located in rural areas or small towns. Only a few million citizens pay federal income taxes, and the national debt of \$47 billion is regarded as scandalous. The Selective Service Act was passed in September 1940, and 1.5 million men are serving in the armed forces. In Europe, a full scale war is underway, and as bombs drop on London, Japanese troops in the Far East have invaded Indochina and are moving toward the rubber-producing areas of Java and Malaya.

In early December, Americans are still divided over the issue of entering the conflict. When the House of Representatives appropriated another \$8 billion for defense in 1941, Ohio's Senator Robert Taft disputed the need to increase military strength. This is not a period of optimism in the country. An opinion poll taken that summer shows that 85 percent believe war is inevitable, and another poll

taken the first week of December reveals that only a minority believed that life would improve in the postwar world.

At home America is emerging from the Great Depression with about 4 million workers still unemployed. The median income is around \$2,000 and 4 million families have an average yearly income of only \$312. About 7.5 million wage earners make less than the minimum wage of 40 cents an hour, or \$16 a week, but 15 cents an hour is common. More than a third of Americans live below the poverty line of \$1,500 a year, three-quarters of the work force of 56 million is male, and among the 4 to 5 million unemployed are a disproportionate number of black Americans. A third of households cook with wood or coal, half do laundry by hand or hand-cranked machines, and a fifth of the nation's homes are without electricity. Still, most families are better off than in the 1930s, and the economy, boosted by \$8.3 million in federal defense spending, experienc-





es a slight boom even as some raw materials, like steel, become scarce.

At the beginning of December, Americans are preparing for the holiday season. Retail stores are experiencing the largest Christmas sales in years, although shortages and substitutions, such as nylon for silk, are becoming frequent. Many items carry a patriotic theme, such as red, white and blue slippers or a belt buckle embossed with the American State Seal. You can buy a popular radio-phonograph for \$200 or a new Oldsmobile with hydramatic drive for \$1,100.

Across the Pacific, the Japanese military launches plans for a secret attack against the U.S. fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor. On November 26, a fleet of 32 Japanese ships with 353 planes heads toward Pearl Harbor, taking a northern route. Friday, December 5, will be the last day the Japanese can cancel the attack.

U.S. officials receive repeated warnings of a possible attack on Pearl Harbor. On December 5, the Hawaiian FBI warns the government that the Japanese consulate is burning its confidential papers.

### The War Begins

**Saturday, December 6, 1941.** On the last day before the United States enters the war, President Roosevelt advises reporters at the White House that it is a good day for Christmas shopping, while at the State Department, Japan's ambassadors are meeting with the Secretary of State in a continuing discussion of how to keep peace between the two nations. That evening, the President receives the message from Tokyo breaking off diplomatic negotiations.

Americans, unaware of the approaching calamity, listen to "The Lucky Strike Hit Parade" on their radios, or go to the movies to see Abbott and Costello in *Buck Privates*, or Bob Hope in *Caught in the Draft*.

**Sunday, December 7, 1941.** Early that Sunday morning the Japanese military gives the signal to proceed with the attack, using the code phrase *Climb Mount Nitaka*. At 8

a.m. decoders in Washington read a Japanese message indicating an impending attack. Half way round the world at Pearl Harbor, U.S. armed forces remain unprepared for any military threat. Army planes are parked in groups, presenting easy targets; anti-aircraft guns and ammunition are stored at separate locations; and the five Army mobile radars operate only a few hours each morning. The entire naval fleet is at Pearl Harbor, moored closely together and almost half of the ships' officers are ashore.

Only 25 percent of the Navy's anti-aircraft guns are manned. It has no barrage balloons, no torpedo nets, and no reconnaissance planes.

Warnings of the attack are received that Sunday morning in Hawaii. At 6:45 a destroyer radios that it has sunk a Japanese midget submarine. At 7:02 two soldiers putting in some volunteer hours training on radar screens report seeing blips, but officers dismiss the sightings as inconsequential. Now, the Japanese are less than an hour away.

At 7:55 the first of three attacks hits the island, and during the next 110 minutes eight battleships and three cruisers are sunk or damaged; 188 planes destroyed, and 2,400 men killed. The Japanese lose 29 aircraft, five midget submarines, and one fleet submarine, but not one ship.

U.S. military, government officials, and civilians are stunned and shocked that this could have happened. And ten hours after the attack, with U.S. forces on full alert, another, equally devastating attack hits the Philippines. In 80 minutes half the U.S. forces are destroyed. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines painfully reveals America's naive optimism in its military superiority and its belief in its invulnerability.

**Where were you on December 7th?** That morning at 8 a.m., playing near his home on Oahu not far from Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, Tom Townsend was ten years old and looking forward to his eleventh birthday in a few weeks. He curiously watched small planes circling overhead and heard a ka-whoomp sound of explosions through drifting and thick, black smoke. Wanting to see the action better,



he ran to a playground. A plane zoomed overhead. "I could see the pilot firing a machine gun as he dove. The noise of the fighter plane together with the chattering of the



machine gun was frightening. But even more terrifying was the distinct marking on the plane's wings and tail, the red circle of the Japanese rising sun. Our island was under attack!" For proof, Tom picked up the hot, spent shells and ran to warn his dad who was the commander of a Navy cruiser.

Bert Cross was in the Army. "I spent nearly five years in the U.S. Army and nearly three years overseas during World War II, but the closest I ever came to getting shot was the night of December 7, 1941, at Fort Lewis, Washington.

"As an early draftee, I had been inducted into the Army in Spokane, Washington, in February, 1941, and stationed at Fort Lewis. I and a couple of my buddies had a weekend pass in Seattle. We had celebrated a bit on Saturday night so we didn't get up until about 1 p.m. and as we were coming down on the hotel elevator we heard people talking about Pearl Harbor being bombed by the Japanese. I have to confess that I had no idea of where Pearl Harbor was. We went out on the street to find little traffic but some emergency vehicles running around with their sirens blaring. We headed for a radio to get the latest news and learned that all service men were to report back to their outfits as soon as possible.

"We arrived by bus at the main gate of Fort Lewis about 7 p.m. We were in our civilian clothes since it had been peacetime when we checked out. Everything on the post was blacked out. We had to walk five or six blocks to our barracks. Armed guards were stationed about every hundred yards and armed half-tracks and jeeps were patrolling the streets.

I think we were challenged at least a half dozen times before we got to our barracks. One wrong move could easily have produced a casualty.

"People were scared and I think more so on the West Coast than anywhere else. There was almost panic and fear that the Japanese were going to strike again somewhere on the coast. It might be hard now to justify some of the things we did, but it might be understandable. I'm glad I yielded to the guards that night and wasn't shot. It could have happened."

In Moscow, Alvin Hofmann was working in the dark room of the photo department at the *Daily Idahonian* developing film and making prints. "I had the radio on and was listening to a program when there came a flash announcement about the surprise attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. . . . I finished up my work as soon as possible and headed home to hear more and to be with my family."

Allen Hunter was stationed at Fort Lewis with the 41st National Guard Unit from Moscow which had been drafted in September 1940. "When the news came that Sunday, we all headed for Tacoma only to be called back to camp. Within hours we were packed and sent to Port Angeles where we were to guard the Sound."

Nine-year-old Jim Migaki, a Japanese American, was at his cousin's wedding reception in Spokane. The police arrived while he and friends were sliding down a brass banister. "We stopped sliding on the banister immediately. (I thought they were kidding about what would happen if we didn't behave.) . . . It was later learned that the police, detectives, F.B.I. men were not really invited guests. . . . Some of the community leaders were escorted out of the room into waiting police cars. . . . Some of the details became clear on the way home. This was serious stuff. But as I was getting ready for bed, the usual routine was interrupted by the doorbell, followed by strange but very polite voices. They were sorry to disturb us but they had to search the house. I peeked down the warm air vent in my bedroom floor and saw two men in the living room below me. Another one or two



men were in the kitchen." All the bedrooms were searched, including Jim's, where he was questioned about his radio. The men took his B-B gun, the family camera and a radio in the kitchen, but not his radio. "How come?" Jim asked his parents at breakfast the next morning. "There were no satisfying answers, just many unanswered questions."

Around 1 p.m. on that Sunday, Dorothy Guthrie walked downstairs into her living room just as the news came over the radio, interrupting the symphony. Her brother had gone through the R.O.T.C. program and was stationed in Hawaii, "so the news of the bombing was a traumatic thing in our family. I don't think we received word of my brother's safety until a week or two later."

Barbara Howard Mel-drum was a second-grader in Albany, Oregon. "Mom and I were in church that Sunday morning. Returning home, we barely entered the door when Dad broke the news to us; he must have heard it on the radio. He was deadly serious; we were all shocked. I didn't understand all that the news meant, but I knew it was important and scary. Our newspaper even published a special edition that Sunday, with the hugest headlines I had ever seen. The next morning at school there was high excitement in the cloakroom as we all tried to come up with the worst epithet for those dirty Japs. It was easy to shift from playing Lone Ranger-Tonto to creating war games; horse chestnuts made great hand-grenades. I daydreamed I was a marine hero, and proudly wore my Captain Midnight ring. The enemy was clearly defined, and I knew we were on the right side. It was many years before I learned how entangled good and evil are in this crazy world of ours and how difficult it is to formulate and enact right action."

Another University of Idaho student, Lawrence Bradbury, returned to Chrisman Hall

and found the students clustered around the radio. "Mixed emotions prevailed. Some headed home to local draft boards. Some volunteered for different branches of service. One friend who was turned down by the Air Force went to Canada and volunteered. Being a senior in R.O.T.C., I awaited orders, and graduated June 1, 1942. I reported for duty at Fort Douglas, Utah, with most of the Idaho group on June 15, 1942."

Myron and Lucille Dossett, who had married in July 1941 and moved from Twin Falls, Idaho to Manhattan Beach, California, were sitting down to a noon meal with friends and relatives. Suddenly the radio blared the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. "We sat in stunned silence and near unbelief. Only

three years earlier I had written a paper on 'Pearl Harbor, Our impregnable Bastion in the Pacific.' After dinner we headed for the airport . . . The streets of the Los Angeles area were alive with excitement! Soldiers, sailors and marines on leave were heading for their bases the quickest way possible. By mid-afternoon the 'Extras' telling of the attack were on the streets. At the airport all civilian planes were being

grounded for the duration. . . We were at war! A continual brownout went into effect at the beach, and black-outs were a frequent occurrence. Mine sweepers cleared the harbors daily, and barrage balloons lined our coastline. Our lives and all of America would never be the same."

Sam Butterfield, student body president at Moscow High School, heard the news of the attack as he and his father were walking down Main Street after church. They both looked at each other and shook their heads. The next day he and a group of students went around to the stores borrowing radios to put into every classroom so the students could hear President Roosevelt's address. "So the whole school

**I was sleeping on our sleeping porch and heard a band playing and then saw students marching. I hollered at them to find out what was going on and they said Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. It seemed the whole university came awake at the same time. We all turned on the radio to hear the latest news . . . The war was all we were interested in that day.** *Hawley Carlson*



listened to Roosevelt's address to the nation."

Carl Westberg had been stationed at Pine Camp New York for almost a year. December 7 was a day of total confusion, and he was told to carry his gun at all times. There were new rumors every half hour and the camp went to total black out. "I had my .45 in a shoulder holster, had it on me or with me for several weeks. One day I went to my Commanding Officer and asked him, who was I supposed to shoot? He was unable to tell me. He told me to turn in my .45. Somehow we went ahead and won the war."

**Monday, December 8.** At noon, President Roosevelt addresses Congress while 60 million Americans listen in on their radios:

*Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a day which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. . . . The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. . . . The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation. As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. . . . With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain*

**Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a day which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.**

*President Franklin Roosevelt*

*the inevitable triumph - so help us God.*

At the end of the speech, Congress declared war on Japan and immediately long lines of men wanting to enlist formed at recruiting offices around the country. As men lined up at the recruiting offices and frightened civilians began preparing for war on the home front, the national mood was somber. There was not the optimism or euphoria of the First World War when world leaders and politicians predicted the fighting would be over in a few weeks. There were no parades, no flag-lined streets, recruiting rallies, or patriotic songs like *Over There*. Americans knew the horrors of the trench warfare of World War I with the slaughter of 10 million, primarily young men. Furthermore, that war had ended less than a generation before so that the memory was still fresh. Both sides had learned that victory, as

well as defeat, was a disaster. For ten years American newspapers, magazines, and news reels had brought the atrocities committed by the Axis powers into people's living rooms.

With the bombing of Pearl harbor, Americans also realized they might not win this war, and if they did win, it would be at a heavy price. There was also the feeling that the United States through its isolationist policy and failure to support the League of Nations, was partly to blame for the catastrophe.

Emerging out of this somber national mood was a united national effort of unprecedented breadth and intensity. The catalyst of Pearl Harbor initiated immediate actions all over the country. This time, in this war, there were no enemy sympathizers. Nazi atrocities were well-known, and the actions of the Japanese military against civilians in China and other countries unleashed a hatred that took on dark racial overtones and eclipsed the anti-German enmity that the United States had experienced in the first world war. This national paranoia would lead in spring 1942 to



the decision to relocate and intern Americans of Japanese ancestry who were living along the Western coast. Moved in buses and trains, they would live out the war in camps like Minidoka in southern Idaho, housed in crude barracks, surrounded by barbed wire fences, and watched by armed guards in towers.

### Preparing for War

On December 8, one day after the bombing, Moscow and Latah County were hurriedly organizing civil defense and Red Cross volunteers to prepare for any possible attack or emergency. In those few hours after the bombing, reports were still incomplete of exactly what had happened and how much had been destroyed. Was an attack on the American continent imminent?

Under the headline, "Explosion in the Pacific," the *Daily Idahonian* in its Monday edition optimistically predicted that the bombing meant Tokyo's war lcrds were preparing for an ultimate defeat with a defiant gesture of hara kiri. According to the newspaper, the attack had benefited the nation by ending its isolationism and belief that it was impregnable. The editorial strongly endorsed the national sentiment that Roosevelt expressed in his address, "There is now but one national objective - the complete and overwhelming defeat of Japanese imperialism. . . . the die is now cast. There will be unity, trust, and confidence from the portals of the White House to the doorstep of the most humble Pennsylvania coal miner.

We know how to defend ourselves. . . . That for which we have prepared feverishly for fourteen months is at hand. Now it will be seen through to its necessary conclusions."

Facing the reality of a long struggle, groups and individuals began making plans to assist the war effort. Among the first tasks in Latah County was preparing for any possible disturbances. Earl David, chair of the local American Legion National Defense Committee,

vowed that his and the Legion's Home Defense Committee of 100 men were prepared "to keep down disturbing influences." Cautioning people to remain calm, David reminded people that at the outset of World War I, intolerance reached such a fever pitch that a lynching party was organized to hang several German families in nearby Uniontown, Washington.

In Spokane, the National Red Cross representative received a telegram from the national headquarters instructing her to see that all chapters under her supervision were on the alert for disaster preparedness. This effort would emphasize organizing first-aid and home nursing courses and a motor corps. In Moscow, the local chap-

ter of the Red Cross turned to the high school for volunteer help, announcing its plans to immediately organize a first aid unit to be made up of Moscow high school students 17 years of age and older. Students in the motor corps unit would have to be at least 18 years old and have passed the standard and advanced first-aid and mechanics courses.

Local governments joined these first efforts.





Moscow Police Chief Orville Crooks took charge of the 13 Red Cross instructors in Latah County, and Lt. Col. Jones assumed responsibility for first aid activities on the University of Idaho campus.

Despite the fear and apprehension following the attack, civic calm prevailed. The *Daily Idahonian* reported that downtown Moscow was quiet. The police blotter recorded only two incidents: officers were dispatched to pick up a dog and inspect a minor auto wreck.

A state of calm also prevailed on the University of Idaho campus as students soberly accepted the facts of the attack. During the night of December 7, students in all the housing units had met in bull sessions and gathered around radios to listen to war bulletins. "Little war hysteria was evidenced," noted the *Daily Idahonian*. Around 50 men from Lindley Hall, joined by residents of other houses, staged an impromptu military parade and serenade. Dressed in combinations of military uniforms and pajamas, they paraded around campus led by a trumpet player.

On Monday, December 8, University of Idaho President Harrison Dale addressed the student body. His statement, printed in red, white, and blue and posted all over campus, warned students against spreading rumors, urged them to join the war effort, and ended with a plea for tolerance.

*To the Students of the University of Idaho,*

*Our country is at war. Each one of us must do his part and must do it to the utmost. Against us, the charge, 'Too little and too late,' must not be made. But what is our part? How may we recognize it? And how may we fulfill it? First of all, we must keep our heads. . . . Let us be on our guard against wild reports of every character. The University is in closer touch with national and state authorities and military and civilian agencies than many persons perhaps realize; you can do your part by reporting irresponsible campus rumors to proper University authorities for verification or denial.*

*At this stage we can best serve our country by doing our daily tasks plus 10 percent. That is, we can do all that is expected of us and a*

*little more. This is unspectacular, but it will get results. We know that one of the secrets of the Axis success has been "thoroughness." Sometimes we have found that thoroughness amusing; now we are finding it dangerously effective. Let us build up a reputation for American thoroughness, which manifestly is the sum total of all individual thoroughness.*

*Students in the ROTC have already enrolled for the type of training best suited to college men and best calculated to give the country the sort of military personnel it needs. When the call for wider national service comes, Idaho students will remember the great traditions of this University and will rally in overwhelming numbers to their country's call.*

*Finally, we want to make American democracy work. It will work only if we remember that all native American citizens whether of German or Italian or Japanese ancestry are American citizens by birth sharing with all of us their heritage of American democracy. With those who are proved unworthy of this heritage our government will deal promptly and with deserved severity. To all others, who, like ourselves, are Americans by birth we can show the spirit of true Americans.*

On that Monday, the university dismissed classes and placed a radio and loudspeakers in the auditorium so that the campus could listen to President Roosevelt's speech to Congress over the public address system. The men of Tau Kappa Epsilon marked the occasion by firing their cannon twice, once as Congress convened and again at the end of President Roosevelt's speech. Another fraternity house hung a banner declaring, "Spirit of '41! Smash the rising sun."

In the Delta Chi house, Gene Thompson and other students spent most of the day listening to the radio. "There was a tremendous amount of confusion . . . but by that evening it was quite obvious that we were involved in really a major, major warfare both on our left and right. . . . by Monday morning . . . there were two or three of the senior R.O.T.C. members with their marching papers and they were on their way to Fort Benning, Georgia."



The December 7th attack abruptly ended the debate on campus over compulsory military service and hesitation in supporting the war bond drives. The immediate concern of male students was their draft status, especially those who had received deferments for the remainder of the school year. In the weeks between Pearl Harbor and Christmas vacation, a large number of men left campus. Those who remained raised funds for the Red Cross, sold war bonds, and organized campaigns to collect paper and metal for the war effort and books for servicemen.

### Military Recruitment and the Draft

The attack on Pearl Harbor signaled the largest recruiting drive in the nation's history, one which would result in almost 16 million people serving in the military. Many college students searched for alternatives to the infantry, such as enrolling in Army or Navy officers' training schools. For most young man, the call to join the military came in the form of an induction notice which read:

*Greetings. Having submitted yourself to a local board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining your availability for training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States, you are hereby notified that you have not been selected for training and service therein. This local board will furnish transportation to an induction station. You will there be examined, and, if accepted, you will then be inducted into the land or naval forces. If you are employed, you should advise your employer of this notice. Your*

*employer can then be prepared to replace you if you are accepted, or to continue your employment if you are rejected. Willful failure to report promptly to this local board at the hour and on the day named is a violation of the*

*Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and subjects the violator to fine and imprisonment.*

All male citizens and some non-citizens born on or after February 17, 1897, and on or before December 31, 1921 in the United States, the territories or Alaska and Hawaii, and Puerto

Rico were instructed to register for the draft. Employers were directed to give workers time off to register.

Like many young men at the University of Idaho, Gene Thompson was serving in the enlisted reserve corps when the United States entered the war. The advantage was that a man registered in the reserves would usually be able to complete the semester before being called up. Those who simply registered with their draft boards would have to leave as soon as they were summoned by their boards. As Gene recalled, "Some of the boys decided to enlist in the service rather than to finish their high school education, and I remember three or four of the boys I was very close friends with that did leave and go on into duty. Fortunately, they all came back except one, and his name was John Korter."

The Moscow draft board notified the American Legion Auxiliary when a man was scheduled to leave. The Auxiliary members would see him off at the bus station with a box of homemade candy, and as Leora Stillinger remembered, "and a pat on the back and



*Idahonian photograph*



letting them know that someone was here still thinking about them. . . . Once there was a lady who did most of the candy making except one time . . . there were 97 leaving at one time. Everyone of them got a box of home-made candy and we were down there to see them off."

There was much social pressure on young men to join the military. Those who received a deferment for reasons of health or occupation often had their patriotism questioned. Jokes about people dodging the draft became popular. One that appeared in mid-1942 in the *Latah County Press* was entitled *Quick Change*. A doctor tells me of a man going up for his medical who told the doctor his eyesight was so bad he couldn't even see the board. That night he celebrated by going to the cinema. When the lights went up he discovered, to his horror, that he was sitting next to the doctor. And, quite obviously, the doctor recognized him. "Excuse me, sir," he said quickly, "Can you tell me if this bus goes to Chicago?"



*Jean Harris Rudolph with son, Jim, at the grave of husband, Capt. Harris.*

The war would bring about substantial changes for women in civilian and military life. However the many women who were eager to join the armed services as part of the fighting forces found themselves

discriminated against even though the military desperately needed personnel in all areas. Jean Cummings Rudolph was a senior at the University of Idaho when the United States entered the war. Although, as she recalls, she wasn't very conscious of world events until Pearl Harbor, afterwards she became determined to be a WAC. "All the rest of my senior year I was just intense about being a WAC which all of my family, friends, fiancée, brother thought was insane. . . I was discouraged by

everyone, but I still wanted to do that and I had romantic ideas of being in the airplane tower over in North Africa."

Jean applied and received instructions to go to Seattle for the first interview. Here she encountered discrimination against women joining the military: "and we were riding around Seattle in an army recruiting van and the people on the street were pointing and laughing . . . women in the service. It was really, really a very strange revolutionary idea."

After passing the interview and physical fitness tests, she was requested to go to Salt Lake City for further exams, which meant sitting in a chair "facing a table with four or five big ribboned, fierce looking officers firing questions at me. In my case it was, you're too young and what are you going to do when a forty-year-old sergeant tells you off. . . . which was discouraging. Then they suggested that I would like to be an enlisted person and I said, 'to heck with that' since I had a college degree." The interview concluded with one "kindly old guy" saying she might be rejected because she was too young. "And I could see their point, you know, I was just barely twenty-one. It might be a little tough to run a squadron of soldiers. . . . So I waited and waited and waited out the time limit of weeks and heard nothing. . . . So I went to work for Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach and I was working down there when all at once orders came through to my Moscow address to report to the first officers candidate class. . . And then my fiancée wanted to get married and so on and I'd been talked out of it and talked myself out of it so I never went which let down some of the people in Moscow who were excited about it. Somebody in the first officers candidate class!"

Instead, Jean worked as a secretary for Douglas Aircraft in the section assembling the C 47, later called a DC 3. Until she got used to the noise, Jean couldn't hear the phone ringing. The plant was huge, and to get from one building to the next, you rode on a company bicycle. Life at the plant wasn't too unpleasant: "We had all of the famous entertainers of the war - Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and



everybody came to entertain the war workers. And we would all get an extra lunch hour and go and listen to them."

After a few months at Douglas, Jean married her Moscow fiance, Captain Ronald Harris, and they moved to Texas where her husband was stationed as a pilot. He was killed in March of 1944 while training navigators at a Texas base. His death left her and her two-month-old baby an allotment of \$55 a month. In order to get back to Idaho, Jean pleaded before the Texas ration board for a set of retreaded tires. She returned home to an apartment on East D and found a job at the university teaching shorthand and typing. Later, with her parents' help, she assumed a mortgage on a little house on Howard and A where she lived until after the war.

### **Fears of Sabotage and Invasion**

In the first days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a climate of fear and apprehension permeated American life to an extent never felt before or after. Was Japan preparing an invasion of the mainland? Rumors spread, fueled by reports of enemy aircraft and submarines spotted around San Francisco, Seattle, and other coastal cities. JoAnn Crites Thompson, then a student at the University of Idaho, remembers, "Around here everyone was worrying about the Grand Coulee [Dam]. That was the thing they thought that anybody who came in to bomb would hit because they knew that was the power supply for the area."

University President Dale conferred with Major W. A. Hale who headed the R.O.T.C. program. They agreed to immediately take precautions to safeguard federal property, giving priority to the war materiel stored in the armory.

Moscow Mayor Bill Anderson disclosed that the city had stationed guards around sensitive areas, such as utility centers and the water tank. He reported that city officials were working on an emergency warning system that would probably use fire sirens. The mayor quickly appointed a defense coordination committee to be the "nucleus of civilian de-

fense" in the city. This committee would establish sub-committees and an emergency office. The first duty of the emergency office would be to register "anyone willing to offer his or her services toward protection of the city. . . . Other activities will be defined as the situation develops." As a cost-saving measure, Mayor Anderson contemplated replacing paid guards with volunteers at the water tank and utility centers.

Lumber mills at Potlatch and Lewiston were potential targets. At Potlatch the company constructed watch towers and guard houses, and surrounded the plant with lights and an armed patrol. At the power plant, bars, boards and wire mesh were placed over windows and the doors were locked. In Lewiston the Potlatch Company announced it would intensify surveillance of its three plants, prohibiting visitors from the power houses, reservoirs, and the dam and dike at Lewiston. In the months following Pearl Harbor as fears of attacks slackened, restrictions were eased.

### **Civil Defense on the Home Front**

Even before the United States entered the war, the government created a civil defense program under the direction of New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. Although few took it seriously at the time, immediately after Pearl Harbor, civil defense councils all over the country called emergency meetings. Response was overwhelming, and by January 1942, 5.6 million Americans had enrolled as volunteers.

Civil defense instructions were printed in newspapers all over the country the week following the Pearl Harbor attack. In case of an air raid, readers of the *Daily Idahonian* were instructed to do the following: 1. Keep Cool. 2. Stay Home. 3. Put Out Lights. 4. Lie Down. 5. Stay Away from Windows.

In Moscow, Dr. Allan Lemon, who chaired the city's Civil Defense Council, appointed captains for its ten divisions (women headed the last two): supply; social services; police and fire assistance; medical assistance; transportation; communications and collections; evacuation and demolition; air raid precaution;



public relations; and clerical assistance.

Despite Dr. Lemon's efforts, over the next few weeks Moscow's civil defense still lacked the number of volunteers thought necessary. The Council had set a goal of 2,000 volunteers by early January, but less than 300 had registered by mid-January. Still, planning proceeded. The medical unit designated Gritman hospital as the casualty station, with Drs. Armstrong and Wilson in charge. First aid stations were established at the old hospital, and the university infirmary was selected as the second first aid station, with cots and temporary beds moved in. Pearl Machlied was appointed lieutenant to supervise the 22 nurses in the nurse corps.

Volunteers trained under the Red Cross program supplemented the nurse corps. They began recruiting sheets and pillowcases for the temporary beds in the old hospital and sewing bandages. Coroner Howard Short volunteered to assist in ambulance work, and the manual arts training classes at Moscow High School built stretchers.

The Red Cross's transportation unit began preparing its volunteers for a possible attack and evacuation. It recruited 150 trucks and cars for possible use in an emergency and divided the city into three zones.

Although Latah County residents were apprehensive in those first few weeks after Pearl Harbor, the level of fear was much less than that in coastal cities like New York, San Francisco, and Seattle. Residents there sometimes enforced blackout orders by throwing stones at lighted windows and signs. In Latah County, blackouts were also enforced but without hysteria. During blackouts drivers could not turn on their car lights, and at home, residents were supposed to pull down their window shades or put blankets over the windows. Block wardens patrolled the area to make sure blackouts were being observed, and asked every resident to have a shovel and bucket handy in case of incendiary bombs.

Latah County also employed airplane spotters. In Moscow, the civil defense committee constructed a little glassed-in building on top of the 1912 High School building, and in the Troy area, spotters kept watch on Burnt

Ridge. Volunteers wrote down the direction a plane came from and where it was headed, noting description and any markings.

In those early weeks of mounting fear, the Justice Department issued orders for all "enemy aliens" in the seven western states to surrender all radios capable of receiving short-wave broadcasts and cameras by 11 p.m. on Monday, December 29. The penalty would be confiscation and imprisonment of the owners. The *Daily Idahonian* reported that one Japanese "alien" informed the Moscow police that he was prepared to surrender his radio and camera. Police promised they would give receipts for all confiscated property, and such aliens could expect to recover their property when the war was over.

Fear of attack or sabotage also led to the creation of Home Guards in cities throughout the country. Moscow set a quota of 50 men for its Company H Home Guards. Commander D. L. Fourt of the American Legion assured residents that previous military experience was not required, but enlistees had to be U.S. citizens, and men between the ages of 18 and 45. The age requirement could be waived in cases of previous military service. Commander Fourt assured potential volunteers that services would not exceed one and a half hours a week, and they could leave the Home Guard for good cause. The enlistment center was at 102 North Main.

The effort to organize local units in other communities throughout the county was headed by J. H. Felton who received a commission as major and solicited patriotic organizations for home guard units.

Later on that summer, Idaho Governor Chase Clark expanded the Home Guard units, with volunteer reserves in each county. The Idaho Volunteer Reserve was organized under the military law of Idaho with officers appointed by the governor. The mission was to "repel invasion by parachute troops, ground forces, and to prevent sabotage, within the zone of duty." The Guard was instructed to be ready in case of a "major emergency or disaster, such as air raids and sabotage," and to "direct traffic in the event of evacuation." Members were recruited from sports and gun clubs,



veterans' and patriotic organizations, and they were expected to serve without pay or allowances, and to furnish their own arms, ammunition, and equipment. Training encompassed military drill, personal hygiene, scouting and patrolling, maps and map reading, traffic direction, signaling, and military discipline and courtesy.

### The War Effort on the Home Front

Among the first, general civilian efforts to win the war were the scrap, rubber, and paper drives. With Malaya and the East Indies under attack, 75 percent of the world's rubber supply was imperiled. On December 11, 1941, the government issued an order prohibiting the sale of tires and tubes to anyone not having a priority rating of A-3 or better. That same week the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company placed notices in local newspapers calling on citizens to conserve valuable war material. The company stressed the patriotic duty of every car owner was to "get the maximum amount of service out of their tires." The national campaign to conserve rubber included manufacturing synthetic rubber and produce retreads which were called the "Victory Tire."

A few days after Firestone's statement appeared, Latah County learned that its tire quota for January was 66 tires and 55 tubes. In addition, Idaho Governor Clark ordered the police to enforce the ban on new automobile sales. Car owners had another way of saving war materials: those that purchased new license plates were required to turn in their old ones.

During the next few weeks, communities quickly organized local scrap and paper drives. In Latah County, a collection center was set

up at the fairgrounds, and Boy Scouts were recruited to help unload the trucks. By early January, the drive was organized under three committee heads for the collection of paper, rubber, aluminum and scrap metal. Trucks brought materials to the fairgrounds which was open every morning except Sunday. The country's war effort desperately needed many other contributions. The Red Cross was among the first to organize its war effort. When the United States declared war, the only fully prepared organization was the American Red Cross. The day after Pearl Harbor, 3,740 Red Cross chapters called upon their members to roll bandages and assist the wounded. By the end of the war, Red Cross volunteers had collected 13.3 million units of blood from 6.66 million donors.

The Red Cross set a goal of a \$50 million war fund, asking Latah County to immediately raise \$5,250 as its share. The county chair, Guy David, immediately appointed Hawkin Melgard to head the drive. Melgard stated to the newspaper, "Because of the emergency nature of this fund, we will not be able to accept pledges for future payments. . . . Contributions must be in cash." He continued, "We expect to

have a fine response from Moscow and all other towns in the County. There is no question about the immediate need for this money, and we will expect everyone to do his share." The county chapter was allowed to keep 15 percent for local war relief.

A few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first efforts to organize the war effort were showing good results. Twelve hours before the county's Red Cross drive was to officially begin, Moscow residents were sending in their contributions. Two of these were \$50 checks, a substantial contribution in 1941. The chair,



*Idahonian photograph*



Mr. Melgard, was elated: "I do not think we will have to put on a 'drive' here. I think our people will come forward with voluntary contributions to make up our quota."

The Red Cross considered training in first aid a priority for local chapters. Agnes Salmon, the national Red Cross representative, urged the Latah County chapter to institute intensive first aid training courses. Although 280 University of Idaho students had received first aid certificates the previous year, older men and women, particularly policemen, firemen, and truck drivers needed this training. Dorothy Collard, Latah County's public health nurse, announced in mid-December that she would conduct Red Cross home nursing classes Monday and Wednesday afternoons for a six-week session. Classes would be in the home economics room on the High School.

Christmas comfort kits were a popular way of joining the war effort. In Moscow, the Red Cross sent out two lots of these kits to soldiers in hospitals at Fort Lewis and Fort Worden. The kits contained writing materials, cards, knives, combs, shaving soap, and a "housewife," which was a packet of thread, yarn, needles, buttons, and other sewing supplies.

**December 7, 1941** had permanently changed the fabric of American society in many ways unanticipated and unimagined. Yet people still carried on their normal routines to a great extent, which in this winter holiday season meant preparing for Christmas.

*The Daily Idahonian* announced a new movie, *All that Money Can Buy* starring Edward Arnold and based on a story by Stephen Vincent Benet that had been published in the

*Saturday Evening Post*. The feature would, of course, be preceded by a cartoon and newsreel. Or, you could attend a dance with the Chet Vincent Orchestra at the Moscow Grange Hall. Admission was 40 cents for men and 10 cents for ladies.

For *Double Rich Holiday Pleasure*, you could buy Cream of Kentucky, a five-year-old whiskey. And Arrow pocket handkerchiefs made nice gifts for men. Hodgins' gave some tips to men for gifts for the better half who is always asking what you want for dinner. The *American Women's Cookbook* cost \$2.39, and *Ida Bailey Allan's Money-Saving Cook Book*, only \$1. Davids' gift shop department announced the arrival of the Idaho Service Plates, available for only \$1.

At Russell Elementary School, children presented a Christmas pageant by opening a Christmas treasure chest. All the grades sang during the pantomime and tableaux. The Mountain View 4-H Club exchanged Christmas gifts at a luncheon. And it was on December 24 that Mrs. Joe Mineo, spending Christmas evening with friends in Bovill, finally learned that her husband, a Naval Officer stationed in Hawaii during the attack, was safe.

Even with the appearance of normal life during the Christmas holidays, Americans ended 1941 and faced 1942 in a state of apprehension, even fear. Before them was fear of invasion from Japan; an uncertainty that the Allies might not win the war, at least not for a long time; and a knowledge that the coming months and years would call for unprecedented sacrifices on national and personal levels.



From the Home Front Scrapbook  
Part II: Life Goes On



**Food Begins With The Farmer**



## Introduction

*World War II was a time of great changes at home. For Americans, it signaled a loss of national innocence and the end of its isolation from the rest of the world. As big business and industries profited from the mobilization, small ones declined. Employment increased from 45 million to more than 65 million. This need for a larger labor force also meant laborers had to work longer hours and industries had to recruit unskilled workers. In 1941, Americans were facing their involvement in a global war that had once seemed far away. By mid-1942, Americans could also anticipate a new prosperity in a post-depression world of full employment and good salaries.*

*Americans would experience two conflicting emotions of the horror of the conflict and anticipation of the good times that would follow. We should remember that five million people died during the war. For many Americans, the experiences of the war were tragic, overshadowing the popular culture of those years, when they received a telegram informing them of the death of a son, husband, or daughter. In step with the military campaigns overseas were the campaigns at home calling on everyone to sacrifice in order to win the war. At the same time the government asked people to go without and make do with substitutes, Americans were earning more money and being encouraged to spend it by attractive advertisements in magazines and on the radio. The campaign for consumerism seemed at times - especially toward the end - as intense as the fighting on the western and eastern fronts.*

*World War II was the first, and perhaps only time, that the government regulated domestic and public life so completely toward the final goal of winning the war. Through its special offices, regulations, and laws, the government touched everyone and all aspects of life, beginning with the draft and continuing with what people should eat, how they should dress, and what and how much they should volunteer and contribute to the war effort.*

*Rationing and shortages meant abrupt changes in how people cooked, entertained, and recreated. Yet with all this interference and public campaigning directed by the government through its several agencies, most Americans at home lived fairly normal lives. And as the war ended the Great Depression, Americans could look forward to a period of unprecedented prosperity.*

## Labor Shortages

Among the first effects of the war in Latah County was the shortage of men who left for military service or left to find work in the more lucrative defense industries. At the university, students joked that they were now attending a woman's college. Elsewhere labor shortages became acute. Small businesses like the Moscow Electric shop closed because of the lack of trained repairmen. Farmers may have suffered the most for they depended on students and other part-time or migratory labor to help with the fall harvest.

The Department of Public Assistance offered a plan to help out the labor shortages by encouraging recipients of Old Age Assistance grants to accept employment whenever possible. Many were reluctant to accept a job, fearing that their grants would be discontinued.

The supervisor for Latah County, Carla S. Evans, announced a new policy in August 1943. Those who took jobs would have their grants suspended temporarily and their payments would be resumed when the job ended. For those working in agriculture, payments would not be reduced or discontinued.

Agricultural deferments were among the most common in Idaho, and in March, April, and May 1942, constituted 46 percent of the total, an increase of 5 percent. Student deferments during the same time period totaled 336, dropping from 12 to 8 percent.

The labor shortage in agriculture continued into 1944. In February 1944 The War Manpower Commission estimated around 3.4 million persons would be needed to work on farms and acknowledged that the bulk of this



labor force would have to come from women and young people. Another temporary solution adopted in 1943 was to use prisoners of war to help farmers. Such camps for German soldiers were established in southern Idaho. The employer paid the prevailing wage and the prisoner got credit for 80 cents a day to use for personal expenditures. The government used the remaining amount to maintain the camps.

In late 1944, draft regulations were revised. When occupationally deferred registrants left essential jobs they were reclassified to be immediately available for the draft. Local draft boards could make exceptions for men aged 26 through 37 who changed jobs. Betty Taylor, clerk of the local draft board, stated that the new regulations would affect more than 1,000 Latah County men.

A smaller labor pool also meant competition among businesses for available workers who could also demand higher wages. This happened in Troy. As harvest season approached in August 1943, labor shortages in this small community became critical. Farmers bid for laborers against other industries, including the Idaho Fire Brick and Clay Company located in Troy. The company had received large wartime orders but did not have enough workers to fill them. Then as coastal firms became unable to meet their orders, the Troy Company experienced an unprecedented demand for bricks. Then the national transportation crisis with shortages of rubber and gasoline created a greater reliance on railroads. Railroad companies turned to companies like Troy's for bricks for fire boxes and boiler linings for the old locomotives pressed into service. Mr. Everett Coonley, manager of the plant, appealed to every able-bodied man in the community to help out

by working a part-time or full shift.

By November of 1944, the situation was critical. Production had fallen and Mr. Coonley worried that the plant would not be able to fulfill its war contracts or even might have to shut down. He pled his case in the local newspaper: "Our main hope of maintaining production is in the farmers and other seasonal workers in and around Troy who can take full or part-time jobs in the plant. They do not have to be experienced. We will train them for responsible positions and pay them the union scale." His plea was accompanied by an advertisement for 10 men for full or part-time war work. During this year, the Troy company shipped 139 railroad cars of bricks.

Lumber, the largest industry in Latah County, also suffered from the lack of workers. In March 1943 the War Production Board set up a program to help the lumber industry meet war production needs. The program included locating and transporting labor, obtaining greater employment of women, locating stumps for existing operations, and contacting local Selective Service Boards about the need for draft deferments for timber workers. But by August, the Potlatch mill was forced to a one-shift operation be-

cause of the manpower shortage and "absenteeism" caused by the summer harvest and the draft. In November 1944 the Troy Lumber Company announced, "Due to war restrictions we are not able to keep our usual complete line of building materials."

In Latah County, like elsewhere, women were recruited to fill jobs left vacant by men in the service. In summer 1943 the Washington Water Power Company ran one advertisement extolling the ability of women: "Woman-Power! She's 5 feet 1 from her 4A slippers to her

# Men Wanted!

## 10 Men Urgently Needed for Full or Part Time War Work

Farmers, Seasonal Workers---Help  
the war effort and earn union  
wages---We train you!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

## Idaho Fire Brick and Clay Company

*Latah County Press, Nov. 30, 1944*



spun-gold hair. But, man, oh man, how she can handle her big press!"

The war also benefited workers with new jobs in the rapidly expanding defense industries. Programs to train skilled workers were quickly organized. One of these began in Moscow in December 1941 when a National Defense Training School on Main Street offered a 90-day course. As an incentive, it offered those eligible \$24 a month and the "reasonable assurance of jobs that start at 62 ½ cents an hour, for those qualifying." The university contributed the use of its machine shops, drill presses and lathes for training, especially for jobs with the Remington Arms company. Moscow also offered training courses in auto mechanics to be given in city garages and university shops. Farmers would be able to learn how to service and repair their tractors. By the end of December, mechanics from every garage in Moscow had volunteered to teach emergency repairs and maintenance for automobiles and trucks. The one-hour courses were scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings at city garages, beginning January 6. Jack Lawton, transportation captain of Moscow's civilian defense, stated that everything necessary in the way of emergency checks or repairs would be covered.

### Rationing and Shortages

Of all the effects of the war on the home front, rationing probably affected more people in more ways. It is the aspect of the war that people usually remember most clearly, even though no one suffered seriously from the restrictions on commodities. Residents were issued ration books, paper tokens, and stamps which would entitle the owner to purchase commodities, from certain types of food to gas and other consumer goods. The stamps were

good for only a limited time, and people often exchanged one type for another. This was particularly common in families that had small children with a constant need for new shoes.

One of the first commodities strictly controlled was rubber. The government set quotas for each county, and in January 1942, Latah County was allotted only 66 new tires. Those who wished to buy one had to submit evidence of eligibility to three tire experts selected by the rationing board. And to become eligible, the owners had to prove that they did not own

or operate another vehicle, they would install the tires at once, and that the existing tire, casing, or tube could not be recapped, retreaded or repaired for safe use. In addition, the applicants had to trade in the old tires, casing and tubes in order to receive a new tube or tire. One tire manufacturer reassured the public about the quality of recaps with this ad by a satisfied customer in the *Latah County Press*: "My Zenith's showed me that a war tire doesn't have to be a poor tire. Go with Zenith."

As new tires became scarce, car owners had to make due with retreads or recaps. But even these solutions were difficult. By the end of January 1942, county residents were frustrated with long waits. In addition, to qualify for a retread tire the owner had to turn in a tire casing. Filling orders for the retreaded or recapped tires fell weeks behind schedule. By the end of April, the War Production Board halted production of farm machinery and equipment requiring rubber tires, except for combine-threshers.

Another method of conserving rubber was to limit the number of deliveries local delivery services could make each day to one customer. Carriers using rubber tires were asked to reduce their total mileage by at least 24 per-

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

WAR RATION BOOK FOUR

Issued to *Ruth E. Hungerford*  
(Print first, middle and last names)

Complete address *514 East 2nd  
Moscow Idaho*

READ BEFORE SIGNING

In accepting this book, I recognize that it remains the property of the United States Government. I will use it only in the manner and for the purposes authorized by the Office of Price Administration.

Void if Altered

(Signature)

It is a criminal offense to violate rationing regulations.

OPA Form R-145 16-75370-2





cent each month, and trucking companies were ordered not to transport less than full loads.

There were other restrictions on who qualified for new tires. Physicians, nurses, ambulances, fire fighting and police vehicles, mail trucks, public service cars and trucks, and vehicles that could hold 10 or more passengers and were used as public carriers had priorities along with vehicles that transported ice or fuel or materials for defense industries, and farm tractors or equipment other than automobiles or trucks.

When tires and gasoline become rationed, many people turned to bicycles as an alternative. This created another shortage, and in April 1942 the Office for Emergency Management announced that bicycle sales were frozen. The order halted the sale, shipment, delivery, or transfer of new adult bicycles because of "the terrific rate at which bicycles have been going to people who don't need them, with too few going to people, like defense workers, who have to have them now or soon will need them."

By July 1942, the Office of Price Administration further tightened restrictions on new tires for physicians, surgeons, farm veterinarians, and practicing ministers. From now on, people in those categories had to use their vehicles exclusively in their work in order to qualify for tires. Public school officials and teachers were excluded.

Efforts to produce substitutes for rubber included a product called thiokol. The synthetic rubber was painted over worn-out tire casings in several layers. The manufacturers claimed that after it had dried, it would stand up well and give satisfactory mileage.

A cartoon in the *Latah County Press* summed up the situation: "It's getting simpler. In 1940 there were no running boards. In 1941 no gear shifts. In 1942 no tires. In 1943 no cars."

Latah County, indeed the whole country, had to adjust to not always having an automobile for recreation. A social column in the *Latah County Press* announced in July 1942, "This is a Porch Party year. You have probably sensed it already. With gas limited and thousands of cars jacked up for the duration,

time has paused in its flight and then wafted back to grandmother's youth, when porch parties, lawn luncheons and sociable get-togethers of friends and neighbors were the order of the day. 'We can't ride far, so we'll get acquainted with our neighbors' is again a popular slogan."

Throughout the war, rationing continued to hinder personal travel by limiting gas, tires, and tubes. In January 1944 Latah County received its same monthly quota of 45 grade one passenger tires, 78 grade three passenger tires, 75 passenger tubes, 91 truck tires, and 78 truck tubes. Latah County residents who qualified could apply to receive the one new automobile and bicycle allotted for that month.

Restrictions on other commodities quickly followed rubber tire rationing. It now became difficult to buy refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and attachments, heating and cooking stoves and ranges, domestic washing and ironing machines, radios and photographs. Other goods were becoming scarce: electric toasters, waffle irons, flat irons, roasters, grills, table stoves, portable heaters, food mixers, juice extractors, percolators, dish washing equipment, dry shavers, hair dryers, permanent wave equipment, hair clippers, cigar and cigarette lighters, and heating units for stoves, water heaters, and radiating heaters. Zippers, hooks and eyes, snap fasteners and other metal closures for clothing could no longer use copper, steel, or zinc. No more lawn mowers were to be manufactured after June 30. Toys, games and Christmas tree ornaments made of metal, plastic and other materials needed for the war effort would not be produced after June 30, 1942, although the War Production Board promised there would be plenty of toys for Christmas 1942. The board also outlawed the use of metal of any kind for the manufacture of non-essential household articles. Fluorescent lighting fixtures were reserved for essential uses.

By spring 1942 rationing regulations became law with violators subject to prosecution. Although the law was aimed at black marketers, the Office of Price Administration, which enforced the regulations, was equally concerned with those "who connive to get more



than their fair share of any rationed article." The OPA singled out retail stores who were trying to evade the law prohibiting cuffs by taking ready-made trousers to a tailor. People who withheld scrap iron waiting for higher prices were charged with hoarding, and the OPA warned that prices for scrap metal were fixed indefinitely.

In an effort to assist consumers who would not be able to purchase new appliances, Washington Water Power launched a program in mid-April, 1942, through its sales organization. J. R. Black, the local manager, explained that the new program was designed to help customers make the most efficient use of their electric service and to show them how to take proper care of appliances that may have to last for the duration. The company planned to reach every customer with a house-to-house survey, and emphasized that their representatives would have nothing to sell. "Their purpose is all-out cooperation in the war program." Black also remarked that in the face of industrial demand for electricity, consumers should use electricity wisely and efficiently. In addition to the survey by sales personnel, home service advisers would be offering educational programs on proper nutrition. WWP promoted its efficiency program with an advertisement showing Ready Kilowatt presenting an orchid to a housewife with the words, "An Orchid to You! for helping to save tires, gasoline, manpower."

The War Productions Board also decreed in April 1942 that lead foil could not be used in cigarette packages, and also prohibited using lead in costume jewelry, trophies, and other novelties. Golfers learned that after May 31, 1942, manufacture of golf clubs would cease, and a month later the board asked women to save lipstick and other metal cosmetic containers. Price ceilings were also placed on

household china and pottery. Telephone installations were limited to people or organizations involved directly in war work or essential occupations and new plumbing and heating equipment would be available only to those who had a priority rating.

Food shortages began appearing in spring 1942 with coffee and sugar among the first to be rationed. Coffee deliveries were cut 75 percent. In order to qualify for sugar ration books, families were required to register with clerks of their local school district during a four-day period in April. Information on height, weight, color of eyes, and age was entered into the books. Four stamps were good for one pound of sugar in a two-week period.

Ironically, sugar rationing was linked to the idling of domestic sugar production. The owner of a factory at Preston, Idaho, charged that 26 sugar beet processing plants had been closed because "New Deal propagandists set out to create mass anti-sugar opinion, in order to divert labor, power, supplies and transportation to other areas."

By summer 1942, price ceilings had been placed on almost every commodity and consumer service from dry cleaners to parking lots. The new regulations applied only to consumer services rendered in connection with commodities but excluded fees charged by lawyers, doctors, barbers, and others.

Local stores inserted news of anticipated shortages in their ads. In September 1942, Earl's Furniture in Pullman announced a 20 percent off sale on overstuffed sofas and chairs, warned that the War Production Board had just ordered the furniture industry to stop using iron and steel in upholstered furniture which would mean that soon there would be no more steel springs in living room suites. That same month a Spokane



**An Orchid to You!**  
FOR HELPING TO SAVE TIRES, GASOLINE, MANPOWER

Like other companies, utilities, too, must conserve tires, gasoline, manpower\* and machines — all needed in the war effort. Several months ago, we asked our customers if they wouldn't cooperate by paying bills within 10 days after receiving them — and thus help conserve these materials. The response was amazingly good, and we hereby tender an orchid to our cooperative customers, who have added another patriotic contribution to the war effort.

**The Washington Water Power Co.**

\*We now have 136 men and women in the armed services of our country.

*Latah County Press, March 4, 1943*



LATAH LEGACY



travel agency cautioned prospective travelers to make reservations early and, if possible, schedule them for mid-week days because of the heavy use of rail lines by the military.

The disappearance of many goods meant an inconvenience to the shopper but not real deprivations. The annual Rexall One Cent Sale in summer 1943 went on as usual at C. V. Johnson's Drug store in Troy although some merchandise, the store explained, would be missing from the annual events. Candies and rubber articles were not to be had and the usual selection of about 200 items was in short supply. Nevertheless, Mr. Johnson believed "that all things considered he was fortunate in getting a nice supply of articles and hopes to be able to take care of his customers during the entire three days of the sale unless an unexpected buying spree on the part of the public should clear the shelves ahead of schedule."

For many families, home canning was an important part of their food supplies. But even this was threatened with shortages. In May 1942 the Office of Emergency Management assured homemakers that even though the production of metal lids for canning jars had been halted, there would be adequate supplies of lids as well as rubber rings for fruit jars. As many canned goods were preserved with sugar, low sugar recipes became popular. Government officials were quick to point out that it was possible to can most fruits without sugar and sugar content of jams and jellies could be reduced. Then by July of that year, the government relaxed sugar rationing for canning, with the guideline that one pound of sugar be used for every four quarts of fruit. This probably caused a great interest in home canning, because by mid-

August, retail stores all over the region were reporting a scarcity of canning jars.

The most valuable incentive for home canning and preservation was that these types of preserved foods were not rationed. In April 1943 the Office of Price Administration reminded people that food in frozen food lockers could be used without the restrictions that were placed on fresh and canned food.

The rationing system was necessarily complex and dependent on people's honesty. With the issuance of War Ration Book No. 2 in February 1943, individuals who registered were to declare the number of cans or bottles of items of eight ounces or more on hand as of February 20. Reserve stocks of five cans of foods and home-canned and dried foods were allowed. The system also required constant adjustment. A ration reminder appearing in the *Latah County Press* in January 1944 listed which types of coupons could be used for which commodity. For example, "Meats, Fats - brown stamps R and S are good through January 29, Green stamps D, E, and F in Book Four are good through January 20." Households learned that pressure cookers and feed grinders and crushers had been removed from rationing, although those wanting a cooker had to certify that it would only be used for food preservation.

As pressure cookers became available, other items remained

scarce or in short production. At the beginning of 1944, the War Manpower Commission included production of infant and children's wear as an essential industry. It set aside around 18 million yards of cotton fabrics for the manufacture of knitted clothing, including ribbed long hose and outer wear. Women's shoes, "mostly novelty types," became "ration-



*Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, Aug. 1943*



free" at the same time as a means of helping dealers dispose of old inventory. The commission warned that this did not mean shoes were now in good supply.

As rationing continued into 1945, the Office of Price Adjustment cancelled unspent ration stamps because supplies were not large enough to permit the spending of both unspent 1944 spent stamps and the new 1945 ones.

In retrospect, rationing was a nuisance but with full employment and higher wages brought by the war, most of the problems were minor. Joyce Kimberling Hudson's father was a butcher in Moscow, and she remembered that it was a difficult time for retailers in the grocery business who had to try to provide enough food for their customers and keep track of the stamps. "People got pretty sour about it, too. Most people went along with it and were dedicated to the cause. But there were a lot of people really disgruntled about not being able to get a good steak or the right kinds of cigarettes. All the major brands of cigarettes went to the war, Lucky Strike, Camels, and all that. The smokers on the home front smoked Dominoes."

Among the rationed commodities and shortages that did cause distress were fuel oil and coal. Margaret Walker, who spent most of the war years in an uninsulated apartment, remembers how coal deliveries by trains to small towns were unpredictable. During an exceptionally cold winter, Margaret once had to sweep the coal bin to gather enough coal to keep the fire burning overnight. "The next morning Mr. Barr, the coal and wood dealer, delivered a gunny sack of coal which we had to make do until a trainload of coal arrived in a couple of days. I then ordered one ton, all the coal bin could contain." Moscow also experienced brownouts in order to allow the Kaiser Aluminum Company in Spokane to operate at full capacity. Margaret also remembered that during the brown outs, stores had very few

display lights in the windows, only a few inside, and that not every street light was operated.

Wartime conditions did bring about one permanent and fairly popular rationing system as a means of conserving energy by adjusting the clock. In early 1942 Congress passed a law giving President Roosevelt the right to declare daylight savings time. Roosevelt immediately proclaimed the shift in time clocks in February, bringing a flurry of protests from Southern Idaho which was on Mountain Time.

### **Money and Materials for the War Effort**

The work of the Red Cross intensified after the initial mobilization in December 1941. In

January, its committee on war relief launched a contribution drive to reach Latah County's quota of \$5,250. Because contributions had been slow in coming in - only one-third had been received - the committee decided upon a direct solicitation campaign of volunteers going first to businesses and then

through neighborhoods, block by block. Each contributor was given a receipt and a window sticker. Guy David, Latah County's Red Cross Chair, stated, "Every house that doesn't display one of these stickers in its window will be visited by a solicitor immediately." Milburn Kenworthy, another committee member stressed, "This is a war emergency. The Red Cross needs this money immediately and we must see that our quota is subscribed at once." A contribution of 10 percent of a week's pay was given as a fair guide for a contribution. A similar campaign was organized for the university campus.

Red Cross units all over the country continued to mobilize volunteers and masses of materials during the war. In 1943, Latah County produced 12,000 garments and arti-

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*Joyce Kimberling Hudson*





cles. In Troy 60 women volunteers worked a total of 1,820 hours in sewing and knitting over 600 articles for overseas that year. These items included children's clothing, pneumonia jackets, bed pan and hot water bottle covers, and bedside bags and slippers for hospital patients. Mrs. Stella Johnson and Mrs. H. H. Campbell headed the sewing project, and because of the number of volunteers, the group decided to have different women supervise the sewing each day of the week in the sewing room which was open from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Mrs. Johnson owned a store on Troy's Main Street where she had one treadle and one electric sewing machine. "We sewed bandages, we sewed bags to tie on to wheel chairs, lap robes, little pouches for the soldiers. And then we sewed mattress covers. The government bought cotton from the South because there was such a surplus that could not be sold . . . Then they made mattresses for the veterans' homes. The cotton came in great big barrels, big bundles, twice as big as the regular bundle of hay they used to make . . . [The cotton was delivered to the schools and beaten] . . . and it was a terrible job because the mattress would have dust in it and little parts of leaves from the plants and twigs in it and that had to be taken out of the bale and put on a table, or 2 x 4s with planks across and be beaten to beat that dust out of it. They had long paddles that were probably six feet long."

In Moscow, college women took up knitting as a way of contributing to the war effort. JoAnn Thompson recalled that they would never go to movies without their knitting "and they would sit in the dark and knit socks and all these things

for the service men."

At the beginning of 1944, the Latah County Red Cross chapter announced that it planned to expand its activities in response to the increasing size of the army and battle fronts. The national Red Cross budget, which was \$125 million in 1943, was expected to reach \$200 million, and Latah County's quota was expected to increase from \$9,700 to \$19,000. Robert K. Bonnet of Moscow was selected to head the county organization for another year. County quotas were based upon population plus their known ability to raise a certain sum, using financial statistics of the county per capita income, and an agreement with county officials of the Red Cross. Latah County towns were assigned a portion of the county's total quota based on what they raised the previous year plus an additional 40 percent. Genesee assumed a \$2,300 quota because of its agricultural income; Potlatch accepted a quota of \$4,500. Of the money raised, 55 percent remained in the county for sewing projects and home and local relief services. The Red Cross was the only organization permitted to provide recreational facilities for overseas troops.

By the end of 1944, 59 Troy area volunteers had donated 5,201 hours in knitting and sewing various articles for service men, using three machines in the sewing room at Stella Johnson's Ladies Specialty Shop. The most num-

erous items were 206 hospital slippers and 200 kit apron bags. They also made baby layettes, bathrobes and bed jackets.

The success of much of the war effort, in collecting money for war bonds and the Red Cross, and donations of scrap and clo-



*Troy volunteers making mattresses*





*I can remember dancing hours and hours and hours . . . and everybody knew how to dance.  
The whole idea was just to get together and have fun.*

Joyce Hudson

thing, was due to a very public campaign that exerted considerable public pressure. Names of those contributing to the Red Cross and the amounts were printed in the *Latah County Press*.

Another method of aiding the war effort was through the United Services Organization, the USO. The USO was a composite group supported by the YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Service, Salvation Jewish Welfare Board, and National Travelers Aid Association. In 1941 the USO raised \$12 million to support entertainment and assistance for service personnel, but after the United States entered the war, the 1942 request was \$32 million. Latah County's share of the 1942 quota was \$1,500. Moscow insurance agent, Laurence Huff, chaired the county committee. The American Legion Cabin was the site of dances, games, and a comfortable place for the service men to gather during their off-duty time.

The Moscow USO was especially busy because of the large number enrolled in the Naval Radio Training School at the University of Idaho. The American Legion Auxiliary, which operated the USO, opened the log cabin

building on Howard street at 4 p.m. on Friday night. It operated from 1 to 12 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday from 2 to 10 p.m. The main floor was used for reading, dancing, and music; a commissary and games room were in the basement. The U.S.O. issued identify cards to the young women who had to be 16 years old to be admitted, and there were always plenty of chaperones. Women were not allowed to wear slacks to the club on Saturday night for the dance nor on Sunday. Sometimes the dances featured a live orchestra.

Leora Stillinger, who chaired the Auxiliary's Defense Committee, remembered how they decorated the building on special occasions like Valentine's day. "Lots of nights before those holidays we'd be over there until 2 o'clock in the morning putting up decorations and getting the building ready." Winnie Robinson, a high school student then, noted that one of the rules was that you couldn't leave with anyone. "But you could go up the street on Third Street and meet them on the corner. And I remember the older ladies, probably all of 30, that were the chaperons."

Another young woman, Joyce Kimberling Hudson described the USO as a pleasant place



for the young ladies of Moscow to go and meet the young men that had come to the Naval Radio School and the Army training program. "Sometimes the ladies would make sandwiches for the boys, but it was cookies and doughnuts, coffee and soft drinks . . . I can remember dancing hours and hours and hours . .

. It was Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers, Artie Shaw, and everybody knew how to dance. You held on to each other and you danced; you did waltzes and tangos and sambas and rumbas, and jitterbugs . . I fell in love a couple of times myself, but I think the whole idea was just to get together and have fun . . . They had a lounge downstairs with comfortable chairs and sofas and a big fireplace and the guys could just come and read or listen to music or visit. They liked to come and visit with the older women. They could identify with them as being their mothers."

Along with USO activities, many Moscow people like Leora and her husband entertained service men in their homes. Leora used to invite the young men into the pantry to choose a jar of home canned fruit or vegetables of whatever they wanted for their meal. "A lot of them had never seen home canned fruit, and I used to make watermelon preserves out of the watermelon rinds. One boy thought that was going a little too far to even use the watermelon rinds. Oh, he loved them. We got lots of boys from New York and Chicago that had never been off the streets of a big city. They liked the closeness and were amazed at the small town closeness they were not accustomed to."

By 1943, scrap drives were well-organized and successful. Among the items collected



*Idahonian photograph*

were phonograph records. The American Legion, which conducted the drive, appealed for a million old phonograph records which would be melted down and reused for new ones. By December, the Legion had collected 400,000. Announcing its intention to pay two cents for ten-inch records and three cents for 12-inch ones, the Troy

Legion Post encouraged school age children to gather up family records and bring them in.

Another popular drive was collecting waste paper, old magazines and newspapers. In Troy, three to four tons of paper collected for the drive were stored in warehouses and the Odd Fellows Hall because there were no mills able to convert it into pulp. Then in early 1944 a paper mill in Millwood, Washington obtained a salvaging machine, and arrangements were made for a Moscow junk dealer to pick up the paper at Troy.

The drive to collect every bit of usable, war-related material included razor blades, made from high-quality steel, and tin toothpaste tubes. Containers for donated razor blades and tin tubes were placed in front of stores and shops.

In spring 1942 the War Production Board froze the price for scrap iron. Because of the low prices, farmers were reluctant to haul in their supplies to junk dealers. The government asked state representatives of the board to make the rounds of scrap iron dealers to demand that they ship their stocks to the iron and steel foundries. The WPB declared it a patriotic duty and pointed out that scrap metal was particularly valuable in making armor plate.

In its search for sources of scarce metal, the government investigated aluminum clay



deposits in Latah County and other northern Idaho and eastern Washington sections. Clays near Troy had been found to contain as high as 48 percent alumina, but there were no practical methods for recovering it from the clay. With the new Kaiser aluminum plant at Spokane, the government hoped that local supplies would substitute for shipping in bauxite from Arkansas.

By the end of July, 1942, the federal government announced it had found deposits on the Carlson farm just outside of Troy on the Deary road. Although samples tested at almost 35 percent alumina, the deposits were small. The government stated that a quantity of not less than 5 million tons of alumina bearing clay was a minimum amount. Engineers estimated that if the Troy clay deposits were to be developed at all with the production of alumina as a goal, they would be developed within the coming year. Hecla Mining company was researching a method of washing the clay from the alumina deposits, but the process was still a secret.

In mid-August as the clay extraction project remained unresolved, the *Latah County Press* grumbled that interest in the deposits "rises and recedes with the regularity of the ocean tides." The Federal Bureau of Mines at Moscow received figures on the alumina content of the clays and a representative of an aluminum company visited the sites. However, he remained non-committal.

A year later, Troy was still waiting for the aluminum plant as the government considered Castle Rock in Washington as another site for the \$4 million plant. Locals believed that Troy would have the inside track if it could find 300 workers to construct the plant. Troy businessmen were busy finding individuals to sign up; seasonal farm workers were thought to be the best prospects. The *Latah County Press* reported, "The opinion of Moscow and Troy businessmen is that this is the closest realization of the project has come and it is now or never." The deadline for submitting the names of the 300 men to the construction agency was October 29. The men were found, but the word from Washington, D.C., was that there were sufficient deposits of bauxite to fulfill the nati-

on's need for aluminum. The final blow came in November of 1943 when it was learned that Salem, Oregon, had been selected as the site for the plant. Troy attributed this decision to the failure of Idaho's politicians to aggressively campaign for the plant.

Wartime conditions prompted the temporary reopening of an abandoned mica mine near Deary. Now that mica was useful in bullet proofing and sound proofing of airplane bodies, the government became interested in the mine. A report of July 23, 1942, stated that a farmer near Deary had been paid to build a new road and Shepard's Machine Shop in Troy was constructing special conveyors for hauling heavy machinery to the mine. Full production was forecast by or before September. It wasn't until August 1943 that the mines were finally scheduled to reopen, as soon as a skeleton crew of 15 to 20 could be found. Victor Christenson of Moscow expressed interest in the Moscovite Mine, and two partners from Spokane and Deary began investigating the Jeanette Doerr mine in the Avon area. By fall 1943 both mines were in production, and the engineers at the Doerr open pit mine were considering constructing a tunnel to continue mining during the winter. By spring 1945 the local mica plants had ceased operations because of the present low price of mica.

In summer 1942 the drive for scrap rubber resulted in seven tons, three of which came from old tires collected from the Troy area. The Shepherd brothers, who collected the scrap, estimated that at least twice as much scrap was still available. With an incentive of receiving a penny a pound, residents were urged to turn in battery boxes, hot water bottles, inner tubes, shoes, balls, rain coats, and anything made of rubber. Despite Troy's gigantic effort, scrap rubber collections county-wide reached only one-third of the quota. One reason cited for the shortfall was the reluctance to turn in old tires without a prospect of being able to replace them with recaps for at least two years.

Spurred on by the prospect of not meeting its national goal, the county managed to collect 378,008 pounds by July 16, which



averaged 20 pounds per capita compared to the national average of only 3.3 pounds.

Collecting for the war effort encompassed everything that could be of possible use. The Moscow Guardians and Blue Bird clubs collected books for the armed forces and the USO centers. They also col-

lected clean, woolen material, old cords, string, yarn, and canceled stamps, which would be sold to collectors with the proceeds used to aid children in bombed areas of England. The Idaho Salvage Committee of the War Production Board asked deer hunters to bring the hides to the nearest wildlife depot and the rendered fat to the nearest butcher.

As the war progressed and more areas were freed from German control, the call went out for donations of clothing from America. Churches were among the organizations responding to the drive, and in Troy the Disciples of Christ Church and the Christian Ladies Aid headed the community effort. The article appearing in the *Latah County Press* noted that evening dresses and shoes were not wanted. A few short weeks later, 611 articles had been collected. Local businessmen donated boxes and twine and transported fourteen boxes to the freight depot.

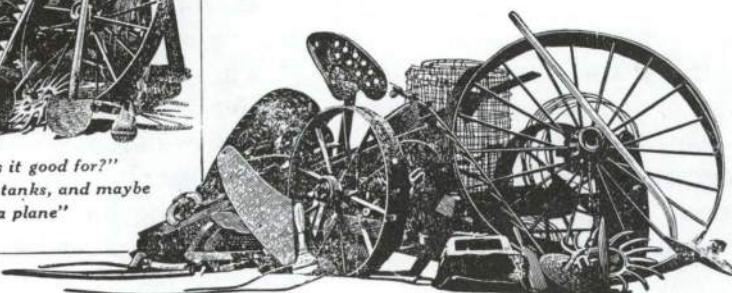
The United Nations also initiated a campaign to collect used clothing for destitute people in the war-torn nations of Europe. Local committees in Latah County joined the national effort headed by Henry J. Kaiser.

Perhaps the most visible part of the national conservation effort was in clothing.



"What's it good for?"  
"Guns, tanks, and maybe  
part of a plane"

# JUNK needed for War



This message approved by Conservation Division  
**WAR PRODUCTION BOARD**  
This advertisement paid for by the American Industries Salvage Committee  
(representing and with funds provided by groups of leading industrial concerns).

## Troy Salvage Committee

Telephone 55 or 65

Other metals of all kinds.  
Old rubber.

Rags, Manila rope, burlap bags.

**Waste Cooking Fats**—When you get a pound or more, strain into a large tin can and sell to your meat dealer.

**NEEDED ONLY IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES:**  
Waste paper and tin cans—wanted only in certain areas, as announced locally. **NOT NEEDED** (at this time): Razor blades—glass.

*Idahonian advertisement*

the regulation would only "freeze" the present silhouette and should not make any woman feel that her present wardrobe was hopelessly out of fashion. One part of the order, similar to the one for men's clothing, forbade cuffs on slacks. Women's magazines illustrated how to remake clothing from other garments, notably making a woman's skirt from a man's trousers.

Winnie Robinson remembered her mother making a skirt out of sailor pants. "She opened the legs up. It was beautiful fabric. And then when I was in sewing class we had to make something over. I took a flower sack, probably two flower sacks, and dyed them and made a child's dress



Cuffs and vests were removed from men's clothing, and women's fashions turned to shorter skirts and simple lines. The War Productions Board published its women's clothing order in April 1942 which regulated the conservation of wool and other materials. The local newspaper assured women that



... I was a child of the Depression so I was used to not having very much because my mother made over things. So when it came to the war I'm not sure that I have a distinction between them."

The ultimate in conserving women's clothing was brought about by the shortage of nylon for stockings as nylon was used in making parachutes. Women who owned a few pairs of silk hose hoarded them, wearing them only on special occasions. Otherwise, women wore rayon stockings that quickly lost their shape. Marian Manis, who worked as a secretary in Chicago, laughed about having to constantly roll up and refasten her stockings during the day as they became looser and looser. As she walked home, the strong winds would cause her hose to flap around her knees.

Other women went without stockings, resorting to leg make-up. Winnie Robinson described the process: "There was make-up, a little cake, and you wet your legs or you used a washcloth . . . and then you rubbed this up and down your legs until you got all covered and it was quite an art to get it smooth . . . And then if you wanted the line up the back of your leg you used a make-up pencil and made a seam." Because college women were forbidden to wear slacks, leg make-up was necessary most of the time. It wasn't a perfect substitute as the make-up left a messy ring around the bathtub or streaks on the bed sheets.

There was another aspect to clothing conservation. At a January meeting of the Faculty Women's Club, Frances Gallatin, an extension clothing specialist, spoke about the responsibilities of the clothing and food consumer. Remarking that adequately and attractively clothed people keep up a country's morale, and that well-groomed, well-fed, and well-housed people were as necessary for civilians as for the army, she recommended purchasing only clothing that was needed, paying attention to quality, and knowing how to renovate and remodel clothing.

The American Legion Auxiliary also urged women to contribute to national defense through their domestic roles. Leora Stillinger suggested that women could prevent waste in

their homes, keep the family healthy, maintain morale, and be well informed and impervious to idle rumors. She commented that it would be excellent if the war jarred people loose from their smugness, complacency and 'let the other fellow do it' attitude.

The government quickly recognized that women homemakers were an essential part of the war effort. Women were often left with the responsibilities of caring for the children, running the household, and volunteering in the Red Cross and other home front organizations. It was good policy to gain their cooperation. In February 1942 the Office for Emergency Management began writing a newspaper column for national distribution entitled "Mrs. America and the War." The purpose was to explain how the war would affect women and their households. Some of the changes were cosmetic and superficial, like light-colored clothing replacing darker dyes in order to conserve pigments. Others were more substantial, like the substitution of tallow, copra and palm kernel nuts for glycerine in soap, now needed for explosives.

The next column warned of the approaching shortage of musical instruments and accessories because of the shortage of metal, and the possible scarcity of spices. Housewives were urged to save the boxes with metal sprinkler tops as those would soon disappear. Those who had binoculars were urged to donate them to the navy, although a \$1 fee would be paid to make the donation legal.

Housewives were advised that the government was planning to regulate prices of rayon for stockings and mattresses. There was also a recipe for making your own adhesive tape to protect windows from shattering during a bomb attack: wheat flour, powdered alum, corn syrup, and water heated and stirred, then applied with a paint brush to strips of old material such as bed sheets.

In August 1942 the Office for Emergency Management predicted that the wooden ice box would be back along with wooden wash tubs, pails, and possibly wooden-soled shoes. However, the government was reserving the best timber for military purposes. Homemakers were again urged to turn in metal tube



containers when buying new tooth paste or shaving cream that were no longer being packaged in metal.

In a move that anticipated permanent changes in life styles, the government announced in December 1942 that merchandisers and designers were receiving orders for plainer and more sensible merchandise, such as slacks, work clothes, and sturdy shoes. Other changes were occurring in how families would be fed. The frozen food industry was capitalizing on the restrictions on tin cans. Changes in the work place were also underway. Food stores were encouraging women to learn the butcher trade (and earn a starting salary of \$21 a week), and men's clothing store chains were being forced to add women's apparel as more and more men entered the service.

In June of 1943 the government's report to Mrs. America warned housewives to take good care of bed linens which might become scarce due to the amounts needed by the armed forces. Bedspreads, now considered non-essential, would not be produced. The cotton shortage was expected to reduce supplies of film as this material was used in the cellulose base. Military demand for film would further reduce the amount available to the public. But there was some good news: consumers would be able to buy six types of canned fruits and vegetables from the

1943 harvest, including applesauce, blueberries, figs, beets, carrots, pumpkin, and squash.

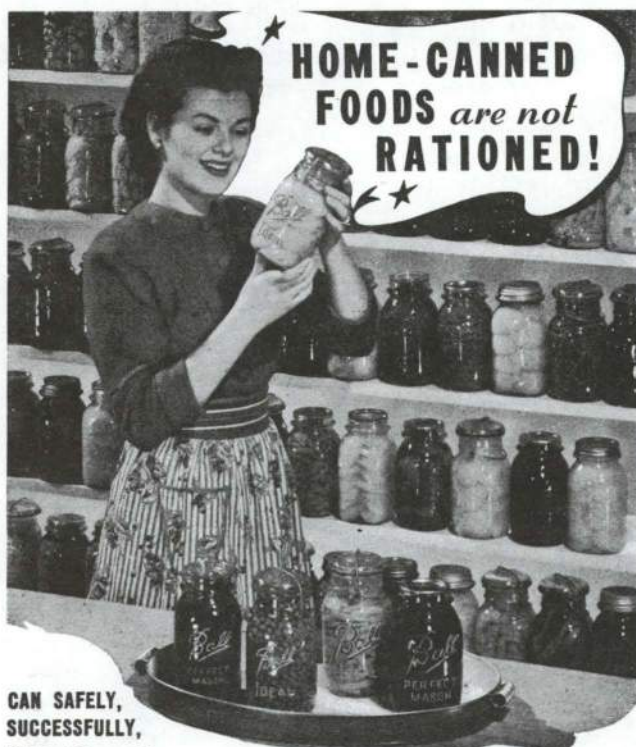
The federal Defense Health and Welfare Services offered another government service for households. In 1943 it printed the *Handbook for Food Demonstrations in Wartime*. The handbook was intended to serve as a text for home demonstration agents for the purpose of encouraging good nutrition using available foods. It discussed how to organize programs in small and large communities, how to set up displays and tables, and the types of food and menus that could be demonstrated. Meat substitutes were important menu items.

### Agriculture and the War Effort

With the war affecting both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and with coastal shipping diverted for defense purposes, crops had to move by rail. However, the cost difference between shipping by water routes and rail routes was 48 cents versus almost \$1 per hundred. Not only was this a substan-

tial amount, but the railroads were applying for a significant rate increase. Adding to the farmers plight, grain warehouses were filled from the previous harvest and, in an age where wheat and other grains were still sacked for shipment, there was a drastic shortage of burlap sacks.

Acute labor shortages faced farmers as



CAN SAFELY,  
SUCCESSFULLY,  
WITH



... JARS, CAPS and RUBBERS!

Save ration points for foods you cannot can at home. Meet this emergency by canning fruits and vegetables from Victory Gardens. It's easy to do! Just follow instructions and use BALL jars, caps and rubbers. If your dealer hasn't the type of BALL jars and caps you prefer, buy with confidence any style bearing the name BALL. . . BALL IDEAL or BALL Mason jars with VACU-SEAL or GLASS TOP SEAL closures. When you taste the delicious, home-cooked flavor of home-canned foods, you'll resolve to can every year.

BALL BROTHERS COMPANY — Muncie, Indiana, U. S. A.



Send for BALL BLUE BOOK of canning and preserving recipes. Includes instructions for canning vegetables and fruits in hot water bath and pressure cooker.



YOU WON'T BE HUNGRY IF YOU CAN!

*Farmers Home Journal, July 1943*



farm workers moved to higher paying jobs or enlisted. At a meeting of the Washington-Idaho Wheat Growers League at the end of December, 1941, many of the large growers remarked that they might curtail crop acreage for fear they wouldn't be able to get their crops out. In response, many Idaho farming communities, including Troy, proposed adopting a six-day school week. Classes could be dismissed a month early, allowing high school boys to work in the fields. Idaho's attorney general quickly declared that any school adopting the longer week would lose one month's allocation of funds. Farmers and school officials all over the state immediately protested with calls and telegrams and Idaho Governor Clark quickly called a conference and rescinded the order.

Another problem facing farmers in at the beginning of 1942 was the shortage of new farm machinery. The government, pressing for a record-breaking harvest in 1942, urged farmers to repair their machinery to get ready for the *Food for Victory* drive sponsored by the Agriculture Department. The County Defense Board also pointed out that repairing existing machinery would save badly needed steel for defense. They advised farmers to salvage parts from the "junk piles" of worn-out machinery, and to sell the remainder for scrap.

Hobart Beresford, agricultural engineer at the University of Idaho urged Idaho farmers to extend the life of the machinery and tools by ordering repair parts now. He warned of probable shortages of farm machinery in 1942 and suggested that machinery should be stored under cover or, when that was not available, using tarpaulins and heavy oil and grease to protect parts from the weather.

In addition to the "Food for Victory" project, the Triple-A program, chaired by H. F. Koster in Latah County, was sponsoring a *Food for Freedom* project. Under this project, farmers were asked to produce foods rich in

protein and vitamins and to cut back on surplus crops such as wheat. In addition, farmers were expected to devote one-fifth of their cropland to growing grasses or legumes, pasture grasses, forest trees, green manure, winter peas or vetch, or protected summer fallow on not more than half the qualifying acreage. Allotments were set up for wheat and potato crops. On dryland Palouse farms, the 20 percent conservation requirement would be more difficult than on irrigated farmland.

As part of the government's efforts to coordinate the war effort in rural areas, the United States Department of Agriculture organized a county war board through the University of Idaho extension division. In 1942 the board was composed of representa-

tives of its different branches from Genesee, Moscow, Princeton, and Palouse, for the purpose of assisting the war effort.

The regular work of the extension program was curtailed or adjusted, with priorities given to the war programs. The state war board was in charge of the county committee which in turn organized several sub-committees including farm ma-

chinery rationing, farm transportation, rural fire prevention and control, and salvage.

The rural fire prevention committee appointed Manning Onstott of Kendrick as county fire warden with precinct wardens, deputies, and crew members selected from the county's voting precincts. WPA men were assigned to assist with salvaging scrap iron and scrap rubber, and the farm labor committee collected names of people who can help farmers with their harvest.

At the beginning of 1942, Latah County had an abundant supply of warehoused grain. The Agriculture Department announced that under its Food for Freedom program, county farmers would be able to turn over their loan wheat for converting into livestock feed. This

**Where to put the grain, how to haul and store it, and how to keep it from breaking the market and taking us back to the days of two-bit wheat is the greatest problem wheat farmers have had to face since the last war.**

*H. F. Koster, Chair  
AAA Program*



would also help free farm and warehouse storage for the 1942 harvest. By February 1943 Latah County's AAA committee announced that Troy was the only district to meet the requirement that 53 percent of the county's total crop land had to be in war crops. These crops included potatoes, flax, beans, peas, hay, and pasture. Kendrick farmers were the only ones signing up for flax.

Wheat surpluses posed a serious problem in Latah County and the nation. The war had almost eliminated wheat exports, and with a 793 million bushel crop expected in 1942, H. F. Koster, chair of the county's AAA committee worried, "Where to put the grain, how to haul and store it and how to keep it from breaking the market and taking us back to the days of two-bit wheat is the greatest problem wheat farmers have had to face since the last war. For the first time in the history of this country [we see] the unpleasant sight of grain piled in the open field. Elevators and warehouses still are crammed almost to capacity."

Apparently, the problems of wheat storage were not so critical everywhere in Latah County. A survey taken in Troy revealed that warehouses there would be able to store the expected summer crop. Troy farmers had shipped out a large quantity of "free" wheat during the winter.

In Genesee, where a normal crop meant transporting a million bushels, storage facilities would not be adequate. Almost one-third of the 1941 wheat crop was spoiled because of excessive fall rains, and much of the crop was used as livestock feed. The Idaho Bean and Elevator company announced plans to add additional bulk bins on each side of their elevator in Troy to help store bulk wheat. Idaho Governor Chase Clark recommended one way of cutting into the surplus. He issued a proclamation calling upon all Idahoans to immediately buy a year's supply of flour.

The Office of Price Administration also regulated the amount of seeds of certain crops farmers could obtain. For instance, in March 1943 the office announced that local war price and rationing boards were instructed to issue purchase certificates to farmers requesting rationed pea, bean, and lentil seed that had

been put under rationing control the first of the month.

The University of Idaho was a valuable partner in the war effort, particularly through its agricultural programs. In February 1942 the Agricultural College issued a series of 27 farm defense circulars which were written by the staff of the agricultural experiment station and extension division. Among the topics were how to increase Idaho's production of milk, eggs, pork, beef, lamb, and other essential foods; growing a war garden; soil management during the farm production drives; using Idaho-grown defense foods in planning meals; and preserving meats, fruits, and vegetables by freezing.

Shortages during the war intensified research to produce new strains of crop plants, reduce production time for cheese, increase penicillin production, and even develop recipes for soybeans. The University of Idaho through its branch experimental stations was involved in over 150 projects deemed vital to the war effort. Among the University's projects were studies on the vitamin content and nutritive value of butter, milk, peas, beans, potatoes, pork, and lamb; vegetable seed production; wartime poultry rations; plant disease control; and mechanized farm equipment for Idaho farms. And in January 1944, Latah County farmers could take cheer in the fact that national consumption of dry peas was the highest it had ever been.

The university's extension service also recruited youth into its home front projects. In February 1943 it announced a new program for 4-H members which would combine club and war work in three new projects. First was a victory farm labor training project in which inexperienced boys and girls could learn how to do typical farm jobs. It was hoped that this would help harassed farmers during harvest time.

Another war-related project would give 4-H-ers credit for working on their own farms, selling war bonds and stamps, preserving and storing food, or assisting the Red Cross. Those involved in sewing projects would learn how to remodel and reuse old clothing.

When their husbands left for military



service, farm women took up the jobs the men normally did. Joyce Kimberling Hudson remembered how the women in her family ran the farm. "My grandmother lived on a farm and when all the men went to war the women had to harvest the crops. I wasn't really old enough [to help] but I did go out and help with the cooking and helped my mother around the farm during harvest. . . I can remember my aunt would drive the truck. A lot of women do that today. . . It was very difficult because there wasn't the gas and they did use horses more."



Farm children who regularly helped out with the chores were now recruited for more difficult and responsible tasks.

Marie Hampton Scharnhorst, who grew up on a farm in Genesee, drove a hay rack and a baler when she was a teenager.

"We put up lots of hay during the war years. We had a large lovely meadow bordered for over a mile by the St. Joe River. The Washington Water Power raised the water level and flooded us out for several years. Dad had to look elsewhere for hay. We found a large field. Dad bought the standing crop and we 'made hay' while the sun shone. It was first mowed, then I raked it with a one horse rake. Once the hay was raked, it was bucked to a stationary bailer. My job was tying the wire as the bales came through. Because farm labor was difficult to find, Dad hired a succession of men to help with the cattle and hay. Since I was an only child, I helped Mother in the house and Dad outside - as many young people did in those days."

"Once a young fellow was walking along the road looking for Texas. Dad hired him

and he helped make hay for an entire summer. He was under draft age but a good worker. We always called him 'Tex.'"

## Victory Gardens

Fearing that the country's food supplies would not keep pace with its needs, despite bulging warehouses, the Federal Office of Civil Defense announced a new program of victory gardens. The goal was to encourage city dwellers to grow their own vegetables. At the end of 1941, the Secretary of Agriculture told Americans that farmers would be busy supplying the Army, and that civilians who wanted fresh vegetables should plant victory gardens. Thus was launched a national effort that saw gardens planted along curbs, at the Portland Zoo, as well as in backyards all across the country.

In early 1942, Latah County's Civilian Defense Council organized a Victory Garden program. It published a bulletin urging citizens to plant gardens and can fruits and vegetables. Farm children were urged to raise pigs, poultry, and dairy cattle, and to help keep farm machinery in good repair.

As the war effort became more a part of everyday life, victory gardens arose in front and back yards in city streets. Those who lived in the country also shared produce with friends and family. Moscow residents like Leora Stillinger planted a garden on her small lot in Moscow, but she also visited her sister in the country who grew large quantities of food for canning, like beans, corn, and peas. Together they picked, cleaned, and canned together, using a big copper boiler on the wood stove to process the jars and cans.

Stella Johnson, who lived in Troy, would can around 500 quarts of fruit and vegetables each year, visiting her husband's brothers' farms to pick the produce.

## Youth in the War Effort

The civil defense program spread quickly to the county's schools. In early January an Education Committee was formed with the



goals of organizing air raid and defense programs for the schools. The education committee was far reaching, including groups for vocational education, county health, national youth administration, civilian conservation corps, WPA adult education, the junior Red Cross, and savings stamps and bonds.

As it began investigating school lunch programs, the committee advocated that students study nutrition. Another agenda item was morale building, which would "develop through the ideals of democracy and loyalty to those ideals." Students would be encouraged "to study the national defense program, save defense stamps and bonds, and to register with the local civilian defense council.

Another role of school children was to publicize the civil defense program and help raise funds for the Red Cross. The Red Cross prepared bulletins to distribute to children and their parents through the schools. These bulletins invited children to help the war effort by growing vegetable gardens, helping their families preserve food, raise pigs, poultry, and dairy cattle, and to repair farm machinery.

Camp Fire Girls were among the many groups of all ages and interests participating in the war effort. By the end of December, the girls had already helped with aluminum drives and Red Cross sewing projects, and they had begun studying first aid and home nursing.

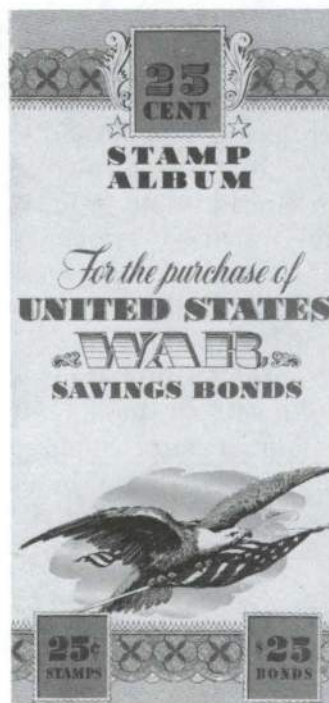
### War Bonds

Perhaps the most popular and publicized activity on the home front was the campaigns to sell war bonds. The third war loan drive began September 1943 with a national goal of \$15 billion. Latah County's quota was set at \$725,000, which averaged around \$43 per



*Latah County Press, Sept. 30, 1943*

\$919,919 in bonds. Idaho also oversubscribed the drive by \$1 million, reaching a total of \$25 million bonds sold.



As the war progressed and the Allies won more victories, it was crucial to maintain the pressure on citizens to buy bonds. For the sixth drive in 1943, Idaho's war finance committee manager announced, "It is more important now than ever before that we on the home front demonstrate to our overseas warriors that we are backing them up every inch of the way with every spare dollar and dime at our

command."

No amount was too small for the war bond campaign. In the February 19 cartoon, *Little Mary Mixup*, Mary persuades her date, Elmer, to buy fifty cents of defense stamps instead of paying admission to a dance. Elmer agrees, "You're right - we won't be having dances if we





*University of Idaho Minute Maids*

Univ. of Idaho photo #2-255-3

don't whip our enemies."

Everyone participated in the war bond campaigns, including children who brought their dimes and quarters to school to buy a single stamp each week. In addition, groups of high school girls and university women, called the Minute Maids, was organized to encourage patriotism and convince their peers at school to buy stamps and bonds. Joyce Kimberling Hudson, one of the Minute Maids, recalled how they would set up tables at school during the lunch hour or before or after school. The basic uniform was a navy blue skirt and blouse or a dress with a wide, white stiffly starched collar. The girls wore bright blue hats with a white V for victory on the front. The Minute Maids participated in rallies, marched in parades, and generally were available to help publicize the campaigns.

### **Defending the Home Front**

After the 1941 Christmas holidays, Moscow's civil defense program rapidly expanded. Volunteers had been registering at the rate of nearly 100 a day, and by January 7, almost

1,000 volunteers were on the defense rolls. The civil defense council set a goal of 2,000 volunteers and set up a registration center in City Hall. Gub Mix, county director for civilian defense, had the responsibility of registering volunteers in other parts of the county that had not set up a civilian defense council.

Special training in chemical warfare was offered in Spokane, and Sheriff Hap Moody, Moscow fire chief Carl Smith, and University of Idaho Chemistry Professor Baynard Milne were selected to attend and give training courses upon their return. The objectives of the training session were to reduce casualties, maintain industrial productivity (in Latah County this would include grain elevators, the flour mill, warehouses and pea processing firms), and to keep up morale. The training warned about the possible use of poison gases and it advised everyone to keep their attics clean to reduce the fire hazard from incendiary bombs.

Participants were advised that blackout procedures should be strictly followed as night flying airplanes could spot a lighted match three miles away and a glowing cigarette at several hundred yards. Citizens should also



be instructed not to use their telephones during an emergency as this would tie up lines needed for official calls.

The county's towns held their first blackout trial in February 1942. Civilian defense unit captains were placed in charge of patrolling the town during the test. The fire siren signaled the beginning with a long blast at 9 p.m. Citizens were required to turn out their lights or place heavy curtains over doors and windows for the 15-minute test.

In 1942, the National Office of Civilian Defense published a pamphlet for national distribution. Entitled, *What Can I Do?*, the brochure stressed that every citizen had an obligation toward the country and that self-denial was a mark of honor, and linked conservation with national defense. "Conservation is a war weapon in the hands of every man, woman, and child. And here are two simple rules for using your weapon: 1. Get along with less - Every time you decide not to buy something, you help to win the war. 2. Take good care of the things you have. War production goes faster when home life runs smoothly, and so it is a good idea to keep our homes and personal possessions in good order and repair."

Civil defense volunteers were eager, if not over zealous, in enforcing wartime regulations, and there was considerable confusion about how much authority the volunteers had. Latah County's popular sheriff, Hap Moody, addressed this issue, speaking in mid-January 1942 to around 100 men in Troy who headed units of the civilian defense unit. Moody informed the men that only those volunteering

in the police unit would be deputized as officers; volunteer firemen would not. Air raid wardens could not force anyone to turn out lights during a blackout but should report violators to the police. Those who didn't comply with the regulations could be fined or sent to jail. He also informed the audience that Idaho was considered the nation's safest place from airplane bombs, and that the greater danger was from sabotage.

The fear of sabotage was not restricted to military and industrial targets. In March 1942 residents of Little Bear Ridge held a meeting at the school house to organize each ridge and farming district into a fire fighting district. The purpose was to guard against possible arson fires in the fields the coming summer. At a second meeting in the Spring Valley area, farmers agreed to keep plows handy during the dry season to be used in making trenches around a fire, and to be on the lookout for strange cars and pedestrians during the fire season. By the end of the summer, Idaho had 675 rural fire-fighting units.

In the campaign to recruit volunteers, civil defense organizers emphasized patriotism. Admitting that it was not legally compulsory to register, the Latah County committee stressed that everyone, except elderly people, should feel it their patriotic duty to register. Those who did register received an identification card that they were to carry with them at all times.

Although the civilian defense committees concentrated on protecting citizens from possible attack or sabotage, another task was to

**This is a V-Home!**  
**We in this home are fighting. We know this war will be easy to lose and hard to win. We mean to win it. Therefore, we solemnly pledge all our energies and all our resources to fight for freedom and against fascism.**

**We serve notice to all that we are personally carrying the fight to the enemy, in these ways:**

- 1. This home follows the instructions of its air-raid warden.**
- 2. This home conserves food, clothing, transportation, and health.**
- 3. This home salvages essential materials.**
- 4. This home refuses to spread rumors.**
- 5. This home buys War Savings Stamps and Bonds regularly.**

**We are doing these things because we know we must to Win This War.**

*National Office of  
Civil Defense, 1942*



plan for possible relocation of war refugees. Anna Marie Oslund headed the Refugee and Housing Committee in Troy which had seven sub-districts with women heading each one. Troy also placed women as lieutenants for each school district adjacent to Troy. By early 1942, the Committee had located shelter for 350 refugees, and the lieutenants reported the people all over the district were eager to help. One way they prepared was making quilts and straw tick mattresses.

In July 1942, Governor Chase Clark requested each county to organize a battalion of the Idaho Volunteer Reserves. The reserves would be organized under Idaho's military law as part of its militia. J. H. Felton of Moscow was commissioned a major and began soliciting the help of patriotic organizations. The members were to enlist, but any wishing to withdraw would be discharged upon satisfactory recommendation. Those who served did so as volunteers without pay. The mission of the Idaho Volunteer reserves was to repel invasion by parachute troops, ground forces, and to prevent sabotage, within the zone of duty. They would act as guards in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Training would include military drill, personal hygiene, scouting and patrolling, maps and map reading, traffic direction, signaling, military discipline and courtesy.

Fear of sabotage continued through the war, and even after the allied victory in Germany. In May 1945 the army and navy warned of possible danger from incendiary balloons launched by Japan. Emphasizing that the 33-foot balloons should not be viewed with alarm, officials pointed out that they were known to have landed or dropped explosives in isolated locations. The real danger stemmed from people finding them and accidentally igniting the unexploded bombs. The FBI discussed the threat at a meeting of law enforcement officers at Lewiston.

### **The University of Idaho Home Front**

The university's main role in the war effort, linked to its mission as a land grant institution, was to provide training for poten-

tial officers or enlisted personnel who could undertake skilled tasks needed by the military. This mission was linked to the pressure to speed up the school year. In the weeks following Pearl Harbor, University officials decided to put the campus on a 12-month basis in order to enable students entering from high school to graduate before reaching the draft age of 21. And it introduced an accelerated program so that men could finish college in three and a half instead of four years. University President Harrison Dale reported, after a trip to Washington, D.C., that government officials and the armed services counted on colleges providing essential training to potential officers.

At the same time, the state's selective service officer, Colonel Adkison, pleaded with college and university students to remain in college until they were called, and not to volunteer. He instructed local draft boards to defer men whose draft numbers come up in the middle of a semester and pre-med, upper class students: "We are positively opposed to taking men out of college and putting them in the army digging ditches. The college type of man is officer material."

In late summer of 1942, the university announced that every male student enrolling that fall would be requested to enlist in the military branch of their choice. In addition to regular class work, these students would receive basic military training, with the expectation of completing their university studies before entering the service. The goal of the program was to eliminate competition among the service branches. As President Dale explained, "This far-sighted program reveals how highly our American colleges and universities are regarded in the military training picture. . . . Superbly trained officers are required in this streamlined and worldwide war, and our military heads recognize that colleges and universities are the most effective agencies for giving men their basic technical training." This was a change from World War I when college campuses were converted into officer's training camps and class work was given a lower priority.

In order to help the Navy alleviate its



shortage of trained military personnel, the university recruited women students to serve in the Naval reserves. The women took over shore duties, principally administrative work, releasing the men officers for active duty. In order to qualify, women had two years of college, including two years of math in high school or college, and were between the ages of 21 and 50.

The university was willing to contribute more than training students for military service. In a bold move in December 1942, President Dale proposed that the University's annual appropriations be reduced, subject to approval by the Idaho Board of Regents. As he explained, "There is one test and only one test by which to justify any expenditure of public money at the present time and that is 'what will this expenditure contribute to the war effort?' No other uses of public money can be justified until the war is won." The offer of accepting a budget cut might have been linked to Dale's concern that falling enrollments might force the university to close. Countering this rumor, he predicted a war-time enrollment of around 1,800 students, 800 of which would be women. He also emphasized the essential role of the institution in providing facilities for military training and added that as the University of Idaho was increasingly becoming the 'senior college' in Idaho, it had an obligation to the junior colleges to continue the senior training.

Declining enrollments continued as the war progressed. In October 1943 Dale admitted that civilian student enrollment was down, but pointed out that the institution was as completely utilized then as during peacetime. This was due to the 1,400 Army and Navy men in the specialized training and naval radio units in addition to the anticipated enrollment of 1,000 non-military students, a number that favorably compared to enrollments in peak years.

Dale also announced that for the first time in the school's history women outnumbered men by two to one, pointing to an enrollment of 130 women in the school of education which indicated the growing interest in teaching in the post-war world. Mary Banks remembered

this as a "particularly heady time for Idaho coeds. Not only did they occupy almost every office in campus organizations and student government, they had the exciting opportunity to date young men in uniform from all parts of the country, men of many backgrounds and talents." Winnie Robinson remembered the girl-only parties in the dorms. "The other memory I have of the dorm was in coming downstairs for the evening meal and the girls would be in the living room dancing together."

The actual enrollment in the 1944 fall semester was 865, a slight increase over 1943, but the freshman class of 390 represented an increase of 54 over 1943 which balanced the number of seniors leaving for military service. The student body also included 37 veterans enrolled under the G.I. Bill of Rights and the Disabled veterans act, and the university expected a substantial increase in the number of veterans enrolling during the year, a prediction that fell short of the actual inundation of veterans following the end of the war which reached 3,004 in September 1946.

There was some friction between students and the military trainees, especially as the majority of students were women, outnumbering men two to one in 1943. The President of the Associated Women Students curtly remarked to the military trainees: "Girls don't like . . . running the gauntlet of stares and remarks at the entrances of the various classroom buildings . . . remember, these girls aren't here for the purpose of entertaining the service men. They are, believe it or not, here to get an education."

President Dale was also concerned about the military presence on campus. Later in the war he issued a statement reminding the Army and Navy trainees, "The University of Idaho remains a civilian institution!" He offered two suggestions to the civilian students. The first was they should preserve all our Idaho traditions and customs. Although they were fewer in number than in peace time, they were just as much entitled to receive the same attention and to share the same experiences as those who were here before the war.

The second suggestion was that civilian students should instill in the men in uniforms,



"all that we can of the Idaho spirit, and help them to join loyalty to our University with loyalty to their country."

The war brought changes for women students as well as for women everywhere. With the shortage of men, women took on many jobs, such as in the dormitory cafeterias and the Student Union Building. Because of the shortage of teachers, the institution hired many women like Jean Rudolph who had graduated from college only two years previously. Faculty and women students volunteered for war-related services such as making bandages and dressings, collecting money for Russian relief, and becoming Minute Maids to promote war bonds. Women also enrolled in practical courses like auto mechanics in preparation for industrial jobs or to be able to take care of their own cars.

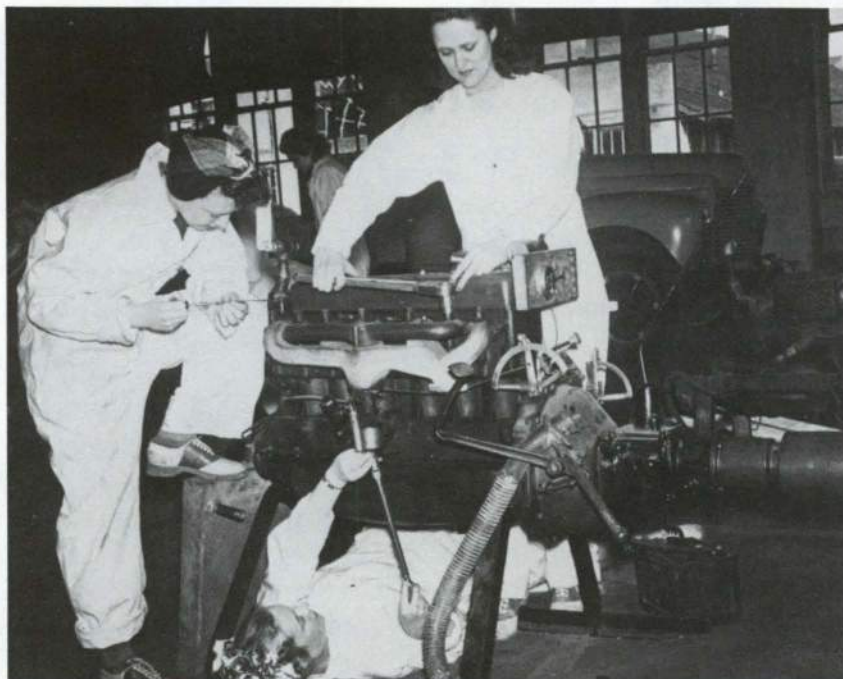
Most of the time, the military trainees on campus cooperated with the students. They had a representative on the student activities board and participated in various campus functions and activities. These included producing the yearbook, *Gem of the Mountains*, and publishing the student newspaper, *The Argonaut*. In March 1944, the University of Idaho demonstrated how well students and

military trainees could work together with a production of an original musical comedy, *Gee-Eyes Right*, which was written, scored, and directed by faculty of the English and music departments. The 75 actors included university women and Army and Navy trainees.

Another cultural event was the All-Girl Singing Orchestra which the Music Department organized in spring 1945. The orchestra included 25 women singers and 18 musicians. A popular group on campus, the all-girl orchestra was invited to perform at the Hanford Project, at that time a secret operation. They also performed throughout southern Idaho, and participated in a memorial service for President Roosevelt on the steps of the Idaho Capitol in Boise.

### The Naval Radio Training School

The university's major contributions to the war effort were undoubtedly the training programs conducted by the Navy and Army. The Naval Radio Training School trained young men in sending and receiving coded messages. The Army had two programs, Student Training and Reclassification (STAR) and Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). Over



*University of Idaho women in an auto mechanics class*

Univ. of Idaho photo #1-224-22



4,000 men were enrolled in the Naval Radio School during its two and a half year operation, from May 1942 to January 1945, and 3,500 were enrolled in the Army programs that began in July 1943 and continued until August 1945. Because of the large numbers of trainees, the dormitories housing the men were severely overcrowded.

The Radio School became a model for similar training programs around the country. One of the instructors was Ken Hungerford whose father, Charles, was a distinguished professor of plant pathology at the university. After Ken graduated from the University of Idaho in 1938, he took a job with the Idaho Fish and Game Department in Boise. Then in spring 1942 he received a call from his friend, Bob Retherford, who had been hired as the first director of the Radio School. Bob extended an invitation to visit him in Moscow. Knowing that his position in Boise would probably be eliminated and having a wife and child to think of, Ken accepted the offer to become an instructor. As high school students, Ken and Bob had received their licenses as ham radio operators and were experts with Morse code.

The radio school was staffed with ham radio operators who had other kinds of technical training, and although Ken's academic specialties were forestry and biology, he ended up teaching radio theory to the over 800 sailors in each training course. When Bob left to take a commission in the Navy, Ken succeeded him as the civilian director of the school.

The intensive training courses, which included teaching typing and spelling, lasted 18 weeks. The trainees spent an hour with Navy instructors; the rest of the time was spent in practicing the code. Toward the end of the course, the men received training in operating radio direction finders and other types of equipment they would be expected to operate. Classes began at 8 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. On Saturdays the students would practice on the parade grounds.

The trainees included older men of 28 or 29, sometimes married, but they all lived in the crowded dormitories. Leisure time was

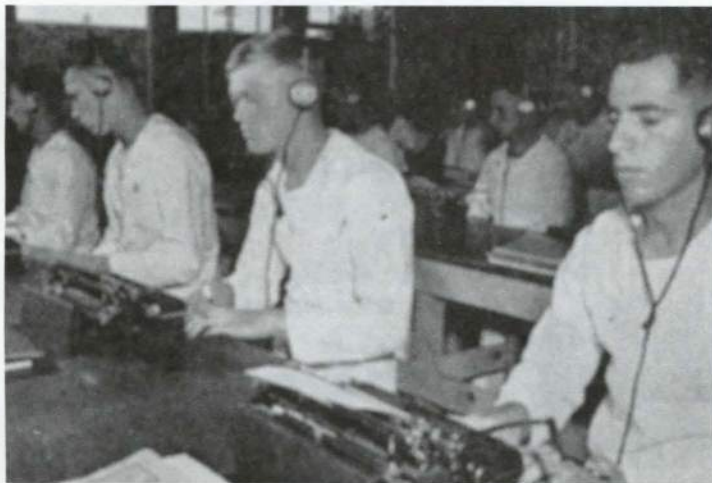
confined to the weekends, and the Navy even asked the instructors to pipe code into the dorm rooms during the evening, much to the instructors and students dismay. In order to graduate, the students had to achieve a certain code speed and level of ability. Usually the instructors could predict which ones would not be able to meet the deadline. According to Ken, receiving and sending the code is a unique ability, related to musical ability and sense of rhythm. He remembered that some of the best operators were musicians.

The Idaho school received several awards of excellence from the Navy for its innovative teaching methods. Instead of using a machine generated code, the University of Idaho program piped in static noise to the 10 to 12 classrooms scattered around the campus. At times the static was turned up so loud that the code was barely audible. The method succeeded, and as Ken described it, "When they got to sea and copied through static and even through a battle, these guys could sit there unflappable and copy through the worst of it." Sometimes the instructors would create a disturbance in the classroom, and one time Ken fired a blank pistol in the back of the room to see if it would shake them, but it didn't.

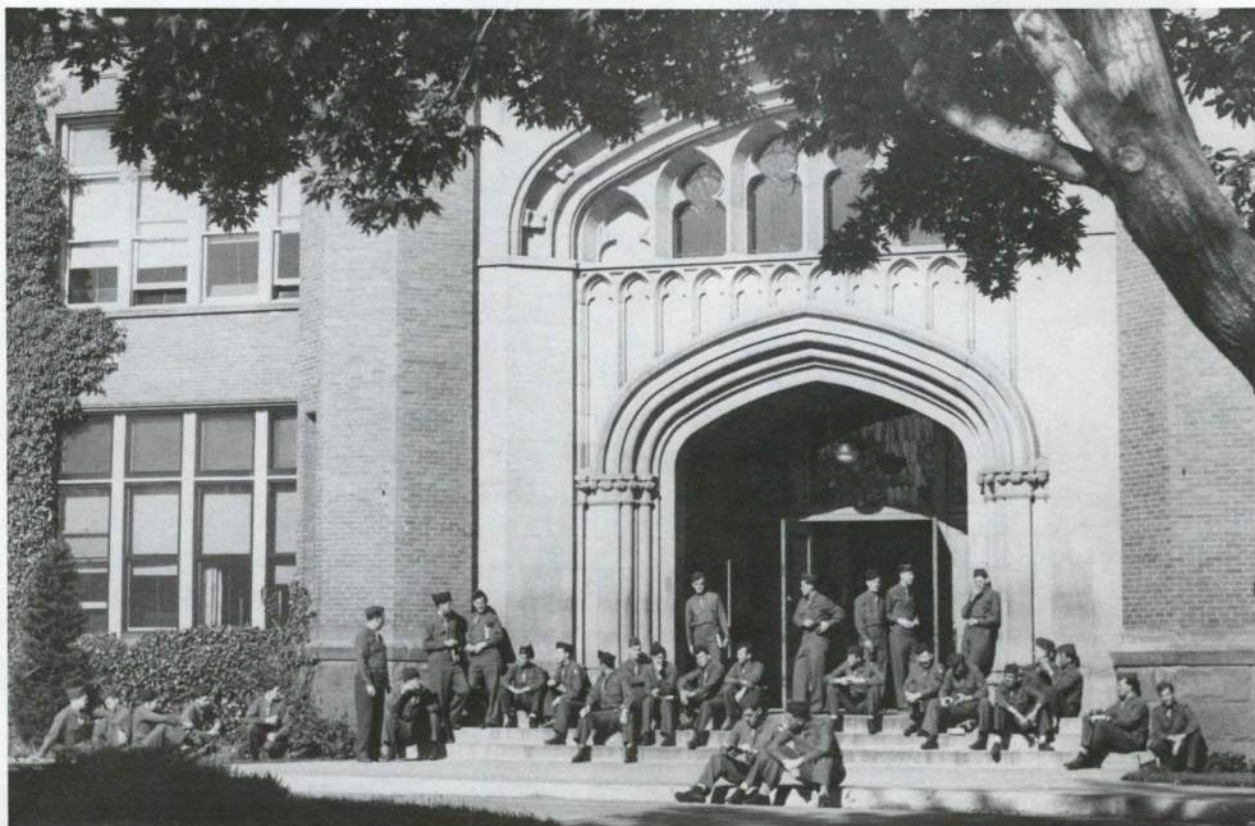
One of the remarkable aspects of the program was developing the equipment, which Bob Retherford and Ray Harland, a graduate engineer and ham radio operator, designed. Leonard Halland, a technician for the Physics Department, fabricated the equipment which had never been built before.

When Bob Retherford left the program and Ken Hungerford took over, the Navy decided it did not want to risk losing another director. "So," as Ken explained, "the Navy went behind my back without my knowing it to the regional manpower board and they certified me as being essential to the school. I had a chance to go into the Navy as an officer of photographic interpretation which would have been excellent for the field I was in, Forestry, but I couldn't do it because the Navy locked me in." The program ended before the end of the war in January 1945 because by that time there were a lot of radio schools "and" as Ken ex-





Upper left: Naval Radio Training School classroom.  
 Upper Right: Trainees in front of Radio School Office.  
 Opposite: Civilian staff of the Radio School. Ken Hungerford is in front row, second from left.  
 Bottom: Army trainees in front of the Administration Building.





plained, "the Navy had picked the best ideas from schools like ours and were running their own." Ken stayed on to oversee the dismantling of the equipment and was able to convince the university to give each instructor a three-month's severance pay.

### Living on the Home Front

Rationing, shortages, Red Cross classes, saving newspapers and tin for the war effort, buying war bonds, rolling bandages, volunteering for the local civil defense organizations, and husbands, brothers and sometimes sisters away in the service were only some of the changes those who stayed behind encountered. The impact of the war and wartime conditions were especially felt by women. Around 13 million men were in the service, many of them taking along their wives and families to overcrowded conditions in cities near the military bases.



*The Thompson's first apartment*

JoAnn Thompson was one of these wives who followed her husband around the country during his military service. "We would get to a place near the camp or wherever we were going. Then you would just start going around ringing doorbells asking people if they had rooms that you could rent or knew where there was a place. You would maybe get a room in somebody's home and some of them were fine; some were terrible, but that's the way we lived."

When a husband left for overseas, the wife and children often had to move back home to live with their parents or to a place where the woman could find work to support them. Then

wives became the heads of their households, bearing the full responsibilities and burdens of housing, food, schooling, and all the other chores of running a family, and usually doing it on very little money.

Many families who were not in the service moved from their home communities to find more lucrative jobs in war industries near cities like Portland and Vancouver. It is estimated that 9 million people, including wives and children, left their homes during this period. They faced many problems in their new homes, especially a lack of housing. It is estimated that 98 percent of American cities had shortages of single family houses, and 90 percent had shortages of apartments. Trailer camps for workers sprang up along with other kinds of cheap and temporary housing.

Housing shortages occurred in Moscow, too. Margaret Walker, who was living with her mother during these years, recalls how one year at Christmas time, their landlady decided to sell her large house. The only place they could find to rent was the carriage house of the Jerome Day mansion. It had two small bedrooms and a bath upstairs, and had been used by the Day's gardener and as an artist's studio. After much cleaning and painting, they moved in. No lumber was available, so they used apple boxes for the kitchen and bookcases nailed to the wall for cupboards. Flowered flour sack curtains were strung to cover the boxes.

Because the apartment was not insulated, Margaret papered over the walls with heavy paper and covered that with regular wallpaper. The landlord found large plywood scraps to nail over the carriage doors below. As the monthly rent was a modest \$35, Margaret and her mother felt obliged to pay for all the paint and wallpaper themselves.

Jean Rudolph, who returned to Moscow with her baby after her husband died in an airplane training exercise, managed to find an apartment out in the country on a dirt road. Five dollars was taken off the rent for hauling the clinkers out of the stoker and filling it with coal. At that time, it was illegal to evict a renter unless the owner wanted to live there.



Jean's landlord decided he wanted her apartment, and she was faced with the fact that there was "literally no place to live" in Moscow. Her parents helped her with a down payment on a small house on Howard Street.

Working women also faced a dearth of good, affordable care for their children, especially at the beginning of the war. During this period, however, the number of child care centers and nursery schools greatly expanded. The government established, and often funded or subsidized day care for children of mothers working in the war industries. Still, the general lack of child care facilities contributed to problems within families and an increase in juvenile delinquency.

During the war years, the American family experienced an acute sense of nostalgia and longing for the old, familiar days. Young men and women separated by the war now wondered if they could resume their normal lives when it was over. Perhaps the largest cause of this anxiety was the entrance of so many women into the labor force.

Americans expressed misgivings and anxiety about the numbers of women in the workplace. And this was especially true among men overseas. In the discussions about women's proper place in the home, Americans seemed to forget that in 1920, five million women had been working outside the home; in 1940, 11 million women were working; and it was predicted that 16 million would be employed outside of home in 1950. During the war years, three million women who normally would not have been working took jobs.

From 1941 to 1945, one million women between the ages of 14 and 18 who were in school or college, and one million young married women joined the work force. There were 250,000 women in the armed services, many of whom joined despite strong disapproval from brothers, families, boyfriends, and friends. They were usually assigned dull jobs as clerks or hospital orderlies.

Although women performed the same jobs as men in factories, shops, or elsewhere, they received less wages, were often harassed, and were portrayed in cartoons as dumb or naive about the male working place. One cartoon

showed two women hired to spray an orchard using their perfume atomizers. Of course, many women contributed invaluable labor as volunteers. They were particularly essential in Red Cross organizations or in nursing professions. They enrolled in training courses and worked at high schools and other places rolling bandages, sewing and assembling kits for veterans' hospitals.

As the war wound down, the expectation that women should resume their pre-war roles grew. Newspaper headlines such as "Eight out of ten women wish to keep jobs after the war" deepened the anxiety of those who would be returning from the military and looking for work as civilians. Obviously, many other men would prefer to have their wives stay at home. But, there were 1.5 women who would have to work to support themselves in any circumstance. In defending the right of women to work, two sociologists wrote, "There are not one but dozens of facets to the argument about jobs for mothers. It is futile to send these women back home now that the war is over. Thousands of children have known economic security because their mothers worked. Thousands of mothers will be willing to keep on working after the war if their families need the income. Many - perhaps most - of them will want nothing more than to go back to their homes. Yet will they want this if it means a measurable lowering of the standards they have learned to expect for their children?"

The well-known anthropologist Margaret Mead offered another thoughtful comment on the position of women in the post-war world:

*In wartime men and women get out of step and begin to wonder about each other. "What will he be like after all those years in the Army? What will she be like after all those years alone at home? Will he be harder on the children and want them to toe the line too hard? Will she have learned to be so independent that she won't want to give up her job to make a home for me? Will he have got so used to having everything done for him, his clothes handed out, his meals set on the table, his allotment deducted, that he will hate having to sit down and plan how in the world we are going to pay the dentist's bill or meet the pay-*



ment on the house?

Mead also outlined her thoughts on the benefits war work had for women and consequently their husbands and families. She anticipated that women would be better informed on how to run the family farm or business, how to handle money, and the difficulties of "double work" at home and in the work place. By working outside the home, women would also be more able and ready to work in the community and handle "men's" jobs like changing a tire or mending a faucet.

As young men, and women, were called up or enlisted and then prepared for service overseas, hurried marriages became common. Gene and JoAnn Thompson decided to get married as Gene was waiting to be called into service from the enlisted reserve. They married on Christmas in 1942, and Gene started the second semester. As it became obvious that he would be drafted, they both decided there wasn't any point in going to school. Three days later, Gene received orders to report to Fort Lewis in three days. They did manage a small honeymoon by taking a train to Portland.

Millions of families shared the pain of separation from loved ones, and those away suffered homesickness along with the uncertainties of war. A popular wartime souvenir was the elaborately embroidered satin pillow top, usually dedicated to 'Mom' and displaying sentimental verse. Letters were routinely censored, sometimes for frivolous reasons, but

they provided a way of keeping in touch.

Calling long distance from military bases in the United States was a frustrating means of contact. Gene Thompson described his experiences: "On an Army base, day or night, people lined up. Once you got your turn you went through an operator and sometimes you could be hanging on the phone for a half hour and they'd say, well, we can't connect you. Sometimes they would. It seems like there was a limit as to how long you could talk. Then they'd just cut you off.

It didn't make any difference if you were through or not. Then someone else would have a shot at it."

In their letters, prisoners of war tried to reassure their families at home that they were all right. Winnie Robinson remembered how her brother, incarcerated as a P.O.W. in a Japanese camp, always began his letter with, "Dear folks, I am fine. I am O.K. I'm getting plenty to eat." Winnie's mother packed and sent boxes, hoping they would reach him. On one occasion he traded his present of soap for a chicken when Japanese women came to the compound.

"It was a real big, hard part of our lives, I think, because it was a real worry, not knowing." He was allowed to send only a few cards home during his imprisonment. Winnie's sister, who was twelve during the war, later remarked, "I just remember at home we were always waiting for word or sending a package if we could. We didn't talk about it a lot, but it was always there like a presence, it was always there."



## Step into this picture Now...



"Somewhere in the South Pacific"—that's where Son Jack is. And that's why this whole family is working so wholeheartedly on the home-front.

They want Jack home again—just as soon as possible. So:

**Dad**, short of help, increased his dairy herd; organized a machinery pool; headed up War Bond drive.

**Mother** raising chickens and turkeys again; buying War Bonds regularly;

teaching a First Aid class.

**Daughter Sue** a Nurses' Aide in town; four-time donor to the blood bank; works at the USO.

**Daughter-in-law May** is at home while Son Jack serves in the Marines; cooks for the family; runs the house.

Every member of this family is helping beat the Axis. If every member of every family works as hard, we'll win quicker...

## ...and bring the boys home Earlier!

*Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, Feb. 1944*



## Selling the War

A major problem facing the government during these years was how to sell the war in order to keep Americans buying the war bonds that helped finance military operations. After the initial panic caused by the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Americans began to realize that the danger of a Japanese invasion of the mainland was remote. For most people, life went on quite normally, and for many, even better than before. The long depression was finally over, and with their entrance into the war, Americans entered an era of full employment and new prosperity.

The war in Europe and Asia remained remote from normal life on the home front, and it was the government's job to keep its citizens prepared and willing to contribute with donations of money, scrap, and other materials, and willing to cooperate with rationing and other wartime regulations.

It wouldn't be enough just to print the truth as some intellectuals suggested; the government sought a way to make the war effort a serious proposition of life or death for the United States, democracy, and other American values. In short, the government needed a propaganda campaign which would frighten people with images of a mad Hitler and crazed Tojo and warn them that without a total effort their families and way of life were at risk.

The propaganda campaign as conducted through the media most often coupled advertisements of American products and services with the fear of losing or unnecessarily prolonging the war. This approach tended to ignite other doubts and criticisms. Were we really fighting, sacrificing lives and increasing the national debt in this effort, in order that everyone could buy a new refrigerator and resume Sunday drives in the country when the war was over? What were the real goals of the war effort?

In June 1942, the government established the Office of War Information to coordinate and supervise the advertising and messages of private businesses and industry. This became a campaign, mainly directed toward selling

war bonds. Selling bonds was essential for the government was incurring tremendous costs in the frantic pace of mobilization and armaments. Using the bonds to sell the war was a complete turn-around of a more normal procedure of using the war to sell the bonds.

A large part of the war bond campaign was conducted through advertising in the media, newspapers, magazines (6,500 of them during this period), movies, and radio. Radio became extremely popular, partly because of severe rationing of newsprint, and also because of eye witness reporting, like the broadcasts of Edward R. Murrow who vividly described the bombs falling on London. This was indeed the golden age of radio.

Magazines also prospered, although they had to produce a wartime angle. As more and more men left for military service, women's magazines appeared, like *Mademoiselle*, *Glamour*, and *Seventeen*. The emergence of photo journalism brought into prominence and popularity magazines like *Life*.

Although many high quality movies were produced during these years, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *Casablanca*, Hollywood and presumably the American public preferred lighter, more entertaining films like *Going My Way*, *The Pride of the Yankees*, *National Velvet*, and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Because more people had money to spend now, they were able to spend it on entertainment. And they went regularly to the movies no matter what was playing, resulting in unprecedented box-office receipts. Unfortunately, movies perpetuated the stereotype of the individual, two-fisted hero who defeated the enemy despite incredible odds. And enemies were all shown in one-dimension as cruel Nazis and fiendish Japanese. The result was audiences learned little if anything about the real, impersonal nature of warfare.

At the same time that advertising encouraged Americans to buy bonds and contribute in all ways to the war effort, the industries that created the ads were preparing Americans to become the greatest consumers of the post-war world. In the first months of the war, many advertisers simply linked buying their products to the goal of beating the ene-



my, often with clumsy and crude results. These ads and the products they represented appeared opportunistic and self-serving with ads that linked taking a laxative like Sal Hepatica with winning a production award at the factory. You could also contribute to the war effort by buying the right kind of toothbrush that would keep your teeth and you a healthy part of the war effort. And Camel cigarettes, which had been requisitioned for the armed forces and were not available domestically, linked increased production with the relaxing benefits of smoking, a strategy of consumers for the post-war market.

Other ads simply included a wartime slogan along with their ad, making no effort to connect the two. A local Safeway ad, for instance, simply printed the slogan, "Stop Waste," at the top of its listing of weekly specials.

In selling the war, advertisers used their products for two ends. First, they sold the concept of the ideal American family of love, marriage, baby, and house in the suburbs. Second, in doing so, they were creating, or

encouraging the post-war consumers to get ready to buy products when they would be available in large numbers again. The problem was that many people were confused as the real objective of the war effort, asking themselves, "Are we fighting and sacrificing simply for a more comfortable life for ourselves?"

When the government created the Office of War Information in June 1942 and later the War Advertising Council, it firmly prodded advertisers toward adopting more sophisticated messages and goals that were compatible with government priorities, such as limiting telephone calls and reducing personal travel. An ad by the Pullman Company in the July 17, 1944 issue of *Life* magazine, asked passengers to help ease the shortage of sleeping cars through such measures as taking a berth or small room when

traveling alone, traveling light or checking excess luggage through, cancelling reservations promptly, and not traveling unless the trip was absolutely necessary. The ad ended, "Another sensible suggestion: BUY ANOTHER WAR BOND NOW!"

**THINGS MY BILL HAS A RIGHT TO**

**AFTER IT'S OVER**

**A JOB**—the War Bonds you are buying will hasten the victory and will provide money to spend for the new post-war conveniences that will make jobs for the men who do our fighting and the men who're now making their weapons.

**ALL THE CUPS OF COFFEE HE WANTS**  
How he wants it. When he wants it. With a new G-E flavor-guard Coffee Maker that will brew perfect coffee and then keep it just the right flavor and temperature automatically for hours.

**A SET OF SPARKLING ICE-CUBES**  
in his glass for every sip of tepid, brackish water he is drinking now. (And a new G-E "zoned" Refrigerator to keep all his foods at the most tempting temperature.)

**NO MORE K. P.** And no guilty feeling for not helping me with dishes and emptying garbage when our new G-E Electric Sink will let us forget that kitchen drudgery forever. ... Small things? Not if you know G.E. But if they seem to you too picayune to build a post-war world, I'll add the big ones: OUR HOUSE—less expensive than we'd dreamed—but ALL-ELECTRIC from the ground up. Me, free as a pre-war millionairess. ... OUR CHILDREN, growing up in what their father fought to make it—a good world with opportunity for all.

These things after the war cannot be for the few. They must be for ALL AMERICANS. That is why General Electric from the midst of total war production is devoting this series of messages to you to say, most seriously: "In Time of War, Prepare for Peace." \* \* \* Whatever your income, YOUR WAR BOND SAVINGS can buy you everything mentioned on this page. Each after victory purchase you make will help create more jobs. General Electric Consumers Institute, Bridgeport, Conn.

EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL FOR AFTER VICTORY HOMES

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

Hear The G-E "All Girl Orchestra" Sunday 10 p.m. EWT, NBC.  
"The World Today" news every weekday 6:45 p.m. EWT, CBS.

*Farm Journal, Feb. 1944*

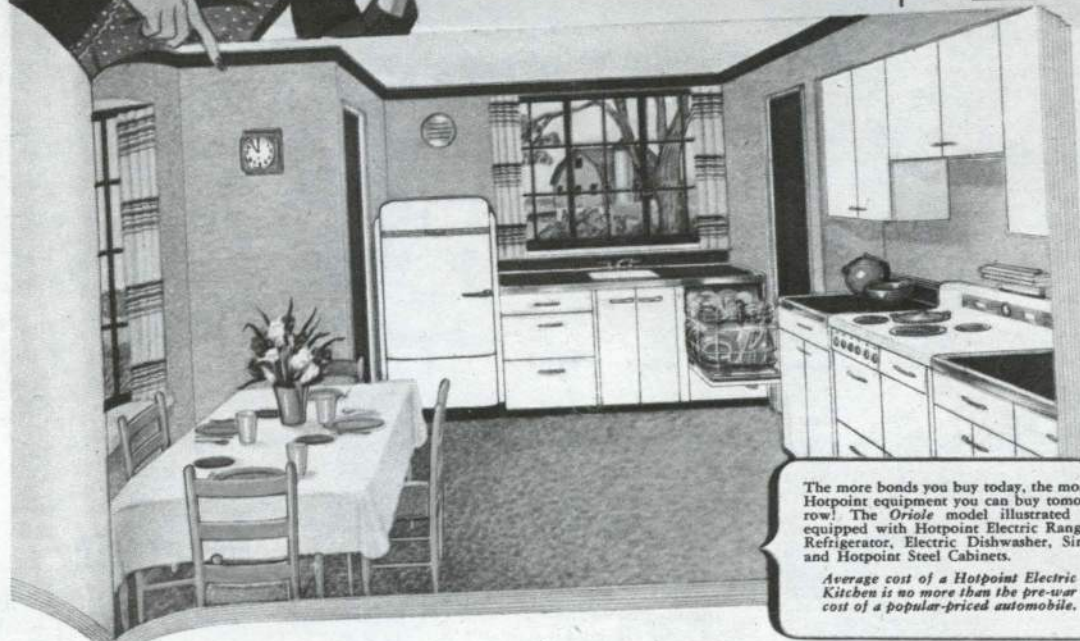


# I've Got My Eye on a NEW FREEDOM KITCHEN!



WE TALKED it over around the kitchen table last night—and decided to buy more War Bonds with our next crop money. We're going to set aside some for new farm equipment—some for a labor-saving Hotpoint Electric Kitchen. It's mighty reassuring to know that after your money does a job fighting, you can spend it for things you really want. War Bonds will do *more* than get me that freedom kitchen! They'll help bring Victory sooner. Then Hotpoint can stop its war work and start making the *better* life a reality for us—with those marvelous electric appliances.

—and WAR BONDS Will Help Us Own It!



The more bonds you buy today, the more Hotpoint equipment you can buy tomorrow! The *Oriole* model illustrated is equipped with Hotpoint Electric Range, Refrigerator, Electric Dishwasher, Sink and Hotpoint Steel Cabinets.

*Average cost of a Hotpoint Electric Kitchen is no more than the pre-war cost of a popular-priced automobile.*

**BUY WAR BONDS TODAY—An Electric Kitchen Tomorrow!**

*Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, July 1943*

Unlike the commercial ads that combined product and war message, the first war bond campaigns were straightforward. At the opening of each national drive, of which there were seven, as many as 1,000 magazines would run pictures or material on their covers directly speaking to the campaign. In this way, the government received \$400 million worth of free advertising from the publishers, making it unnecessary to spend any federal funds on publicizing the bonds and the drives. Individual ads often stressed that buying war bonds today meant buying new homes or luxury items, like the Cris-Craft speedboat

when the war was over. Hollywood actors and other public figures willingly contributed time to the war bond effort, through personal appearances, interviews, and lending their names.

With exhortations from the government and appeals by familiar products and media personalities, communities all over the country participated vigorously in the war bond drives with parades, rallies, and soliciting by groups like the young Minute Maids at the University of Idaho.

Advertisers contributed to the war effort in other, mutually beneficial ways. Shortages of



materials resulted in new products like cellophane, or substitutes, like margarine for butter and frozen for canned foods. Advertisements promoted the war effort by encouraging self-sufficiency by raising food in back or front yard victory gardens, preserving foods, collecting for paper and scrap drives, and preventing waste. The popular, universal slogan was, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without!"

During the war, the advertising industry had the largest budget of any industry and had carefully groomed a generation of consumers. By 1944 the public was eager to purchase

the still unavailable goods that advertisers promised would be plentiful as soon as the war was over. Americans had gone through the depression, they were now earning more money than ever before, and they were frustrated by war-time shortages and disappearance of commodities.

In 1941, Americans had \$50 billion to spend; in 1944 they had \$140 billion. As a new year began in 1945 with allied victory almost assured, all over the country people eagerly awaited a return to normal life when they would have more money to spend than ever before.



*Idahonian photograph*



From the Home Front Scrapbook  
Part III: Preparing for Peace

# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



MAULDIN'S "WILLIE"

A G.I. portrait in mud, blood, wisecracks and prayer.  
(*U.S. at War*).



## Introduction

*By the end of 1944, Allied victories in Europe and the ebbing strength of the Japanese army promised victory on both fronts. At home, fear of sabotage and enemy bombs had largely disappeared. Accustomed to rationing and shortages, most citizens were even becoming weary of the government's continuing exhortations to sacrifice for the war effort. For most Americans, visions of a prosperous post-war world eclipsed the dislocations and everyday frustrations of the home front. With full employment, with industries prepared to satisfy every consumer desire, and with a government that appeared willing to assist its citizens with programs such as G.I. education grants for returning veterans, the New Year of 1945 held many promises.*

The national slogan of getting back to normal raised expectations that the government would begin redirecting money from military to civilian projects. For instance, in March 1944, Latah County began planning how to use the \$3 billion in federal funds that would be available for new road construction after the war. The two county highway districts began making surveys and proposed building a new road from Troy to Kendrick.

Despite the general optimism of a post-war boom, some remained skeptical that everything would be better once the war was over. The University of Idaho Extension Service warned that the farmer's wartime prosperity might be short-lived. Using the conditions that followed World War I as an example, the Extension Service noted that farm prices rapidly declined to pre-war levels after only nine months. The service pointed out that the government's attempt to increase farm prices to parity had not been achieved until recently and predicted an increase in the value of farmland.

At the same time, the university's experimental research stations were preparing a comprehensive report on post-war programs for Idaho. Dr. C. W. Hungerford, Vice-Director of the research station in Moscow, stressed in the annual report that agricultural research would be needed in increased proportions after the war "in order to guard against insects, plant diseases, and weeds" that may appear with the resumption of foreign trade "on a much broader scale than ever before."

While the university and county began planning for new, post-war conditions, ordinary citizens were mostly interested in resum-

ing a normal life, although on a grander scale. They were aided in this by advertisements in the media for an array of products. While encouraging the public to continue buying war bonds, Washington Water Power appealed to its male customers to begin dreaming about cashing in those bonds on power tools. In one advertisement a man daydreams, "When we can relax from this war I'm going to have a home work shop with plenty of power tools. Yes, many a war bond is earmarked today for a home workshop tomorrow - a place where a man can tinker and find healthful relaxation in the joy of creating something with his hands. . . Look to the Washington Water Power Company for post-war electrical living."

There was an equally exciting future for the American housewife, as described in another WWP advertisement. Here a young housewife announced, "That's what I want in my post-war home. . . An all-electric kitchen. . . Tomorrow's kitchen will be built around practical all-electric work centers arranged to save steps and simplify work. . . Kitchen, automatic laundry, or whatever your plans for after the war, the Washington Water Power will be ready to help you with new services for your enjoyment of electrical living. Count on it! Look to the Washington Water Power Company for post-war electrical living."

The company also coupled its promise to rehire men returning from service with anticipation of greater demands for electricity and, accordingly, its services. As another of its advertisements stated, "His water power job will be ready for him when he returns home! And that isn't all. The demand for electricity will greatly increase in the years ahead. The Water Power Company must and will expand





*"When we can relax from this war  
I'm going to have a  
**HOME WORK SHOP** with plenty of **POWER TOOLS**"*

Yes, many a war bond is earmarked today for a home workshop tomorrow—a place where a man can tinker and find healthful relaxation in the joy of creating something with his hands.

Sturdy and efficient motor driven bench machines designed for homecrafters will make your post-war shop a real pleasure.

Whatever your plans for after the war, the Washington Water Power will be ready to help you with new services for better living electrically.

*Look to the*  
**WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY**  
FOR POST-WAR ELECTRICAL LIVING

*Latah County Press, April 26, 1945*

its services to meet the needs. This means greater opportunities for all."

In 1945 many goods that had disappeared began reappearing on the market. In August the government announced that canned fruits and vegetables, fuel oil and oil stoves were no longer on the ration list although meats, fats and oils, butter, sugar, shoes and tires would stay on until military cutbacks and increased production brought civilian supplies into balance. Everyone greeted with joy the announcement that motorists could throw away their gasoline coupons. In the fall of 1945, hunters looked forward to ammunition being available for the upcoming season. And consumers were assured they would soon see rubber products in the stores again. The Rubber Bureau of the War Productions Board lifted all restrictions on products made from reclaimed and scrap rubber and almost all kinds of synthetic rubber. Natural rubber was still rigidly controlled, but soon Americans would again be able to buy rubber combs, beach balls, swimming caps, bottle stoppers, hair curlers, fly swatters, and hockey pucks that had disappeared during the war years.

Retailers anticipated a shortage of goods

reappearing on the market due to intense customer demand. One local appliance store ran this notice: "To people who need household appliances . . . A great demand for electric refrigerators, washers and other appliances makes it improbable that everyone's needs will be filled immediately. There is bound to be some disappointment. The flow of appliances into the consumer market must be metered for a while yet. . . Please register at our store at once." And of course it helped if you knew the store owner.

A cartoon in the *Latah County Press* aptly expressed the desire for goods. A husband and wife with balls and chains attached to one of their legs remark to their visitors, "Nothing wrong, we're just keeping ourselves from rushing out to buy everything in sight!"

Looking ahead to peacetime meant more than abundant shelves, new appliances and cars. It was expected that men returning to civilian life would replace millions of women who would leave their jobs to resume their traditional roles of mothers and homemakers. A cartoon, entitled "Back to Normal," contrasted war-time and post-war domestic life: a soldier returning home and then working in a





factory; a woman in a war plant and then cooking in her kitchen with a small child by her side; a disappointed housewife at a store with empty shelves and then with a full basket and a bag of groceries leaving the same store which now has full shelves. In Latah County how many woman continued working or would have wanted to? And, how many returned happily to domestic and family responsibilities, glad that they were no longer in the work place?

As manufacturers and advertisers knew, women constituted an important part of their markets. Now with the anticipated post-war boom of material goods, it was time to leave behind the home front Spartan philosophy with its war-time slogan, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." Yet the look advertisers wished to sell to women had to be compatible with the desired image of the hometown "girl he left behind" returning to her traditional, domestic role. In 1944, Margaret Condos of the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association remarked in *Pathfinder Magazine* that the sophisticated, "vampire" type of woman was on the way out. She warned that returning servicemen were going to look only for the sweet girl. "They're going to want girls of charm, not a shoddy imitation of an actress. . . The postwar woman must have that gleaming, just-washed look, not the pallor of cocktail lounge fever." She also predicted that hair would follow the back-to-nature trend, smooth and shining . . . not a frozen adornment that can't be mussed.

Finally, on May 8, 1945, the German government surrendered to the allied forces. As Americans celebrated, University of Idaho

students organized a rally and parade that wound from the campus through the town, effectively halting all traffic. Yet the knowledge that brothers, husbands, and friends were still fighting in the Pacific dampened the enthusiasm. President Harry Truman, who had assumed the office after Roosevelt's death just a few weeks earlier in April, described Germany's surrender as "a solemn but glorious hour," and later added that his only wish was that Franklin D. Roosevelt had lived to witness the day. Now the country's attention focused on the conflict in the Pacific.

The government launched another war bond campaign, setting a quota of \$997,000 for Latah County. Truman urged Americans to participate: "We can't afford to kid ourselves just because the war seems to be half over. The important half is yet to come. Complete victory over Japan is our toughest job of the war, and or only means of speeding this victory and saving countless lives is though participating to the fullest in the Seventh War Loan and the drives yet to come."

Victory in Japan, V-J Day, was precipitated by military destruction of unprecedented proportion. In early August, the United States dropped its secret weapon, the atomic bomb on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The explosions and radiation killed 78,150 and

injured 37,425 people; 13,083 were declared missing. On August 14 the Japanese government surrendered, and on September 2, a formal ceremony marking the end of the war took place on the battleship *Missouri*.

This time, celebrations in the United States were unhindered, for victory was now complete despite the nightmare of what had happened to the two



Latah County Press, October 4, 1945



Japanese cities. The news arrived in Moscow that afternoon. Immediately church bells began ringing, sirens wailed, and people ran out of their houses into the streets, dancing spontaneously. One party on the outskirts of Moscow lasted a whole day and night.

Although the atomic bomb symbolized the possibility of total human destruction, atomic power also promised significant progress. The *Latah County Press* described "The Mighty Atom" as perhaps the greatest stride in the history of science, now developed to a point where it can be put to a practical use - at present for the purpose of destruction to destroy life and property that more life and property may be saved. It foresaw atomic power, "with its potentialities for destruction" as being turned to benefit for the welfare of mankind and "the greatest future guarantee of peace."

For many young men and women, the end of the war meant they could resume a normal life or finally get married and start a new life together. Winnie and Ron Robinson, who had known each other since 1941, got married as soon as the war was over in August 1945. As Winnie remembered: "There was an atmos-

phere of hopefulness. The guys came back and it was over. Let's get on with our lives. They all wanted to get married. I don't know if they all wanted to have babies or not, but they all started families and I'm sure the baby boom was on in Moscow because I think everybody was pushing a baby carriage."

After the wedding the Robinsons found a partially furnished apartment for \$28 a month. "It was a shabby place but we were



*Winnie and Ron Robinson with their first baby and first apartment*

happy to have it. Because it was difficult to get anything. It had a hot plate and we had to pay extra for that when we used it in the summer time. It had a little wooden stove I had to cook on. No refrigerator. . . Then at Ward's Hardware they got six little refrigerators in and somehow Ron got word of this. Maybe he even knew somebody there. . . And he got our name in and we got this little tiny refrigerator. I was so delighted."

Yet not all aspects of the war would disappear so quickly. In July 1945, a representative from the Army Recruiting Service organized a meeting in Moscow to recruit women to serve in the Women's Army Corps. Lt. Marie Hilton emphasized the great need for medical technicians to serve in the 60 general hospitals that were receiving wounded men from Europe at a rate of 30,000 a month. Although medical needs had the highest priority, the WAC also needed replacement personnel to fill vacancies as thousands of WACs were being discharged. Women between the ages of 20 and 38, physically and mentally fit, and having a minimum of two years of high school were eligible.

Red Cross volunteers continued to sew for hospitals and foreign relief agencies. In October 1945, Latah County officials urged people to participate in a last war bond campaign that would assist organizations helping service men and civilians make the adjustment to the post-war world. Money was needed to transport troops and supplies home, pay for the occupation armies, and care for the sick and wounded. The government assured investors that the bonds would also help prevent a disastrous inflation that was expected to result from the lifting of price controls. Latah County's quota was set at \$660,000, and the War Finance committee pointed out that in previous drives, Latah County's contribution had been low despite a large surplus of idle funds in the banking institutions.

The Red Cross also organized home service departments to assist with problems related to the war. On one occasion R. K. Bonnett, Chair of the Latah County chapter, appealed to all families and relatives of servicemen not to burden them with their own personal, finan-



cial, and domestic problems. Instead, citizens should go to the Home Service Department for assistance or advice. "Even if the problem still seems unsurmountable don't write about it unless the serviceman, wherever he may be, can do something about it."

Perhaps the greatest lasting impact of the war on Latah County was experienced at the university. As early as December 1942 University of Idaho President Harrison Dale had begun looking ahead to the post-war educational needs of the state. He endorsed the pledge of Idaho governor-elect Bottolfsen "to see to it that when the boys come home they have better opportunities than were available following the last World War. . . Judging from the mail received at the University of Idaho one of the opportunities they will desire most is a chance to continue their education. . . With the coming of peace we anticipate a rush to the colleges and universities."

In the spring of 1946, veterans, many with wives and children, began arriving at the campus, swelling enrollment from 836 to 2,089. The university established a Veterans Administration Guidance Center to counsel veterans, many of whom had left campus at the beginning of the war. Sometimes they left without formally withdrawing from school. Now they returned to find their grades of failures and incompletes on their records. As Gene Thompson recalled, "And it wasn't an irrational sort of thing; the time they had to report from the

time they got their orders, they didn't have much more time than to just pick up and go. They didn't know what in the world they would do with all their clothes, all their text books, all their personal things or worldly goods . . . It was just left in their rooms."

The G.I. Bill helped provide the funds, but veterans faced another, daunting problem of housing. The university hastily constructed veterans' housing, consisting of rows of 24 prefabricated houses and 150 trailers purchased from the Hanford Project site. Still, there were hundreds who could not attend college because they had no place to live. Moscow residents helped by taking in many students, and the university purchased a war housing project from Vancouver, Washington, which would be dismantled, shipped, and reassembled the next year. In the meantime 175 cots were set up on the Memorial Gymnasium basketball floor. Sororities and fraternities accepted all they could cram into their houses, and the university made arrangements for war surplus trailers and prefabricated houses for the 1947 next term.

As the University of Idaho adjusted to the post-war world of older students with wives and families and Latah County residents began purchasing familiar and new commodities and balancing higher salaries with the predicted post-war inflation, how many people were concerned about the politics of the post-war world? In 1945, with the United States in



*Veterans' Village at the University of Idaho*



an uneasy alliance with the Soviet Union, the cold war and paralyzing fear of Communism was still several years away.

Many citizens might not have foreseen the coming decades of a burgeoning defense industry, global military commitments, and dangerous confrontations between two competing political systems, but most should have been able to foresee a new, influential consumer force. This would be composed of teenagers who would play an increasingly important role in advertising and the family budget. Frank Sinatra was proving the power of the record industry in cultivating a new youth culture with money to spend.

The American housewife was learning another lesson from magazines, radio, and the soon-to-be-ubiquitous television set, that her responsibilities for house, meals, entertainment, holiday traditions, children, and husband meant devoting much, if not most, of her time to her family and home. Women's magazines were warning and exhorting housewives to become the perfect homemaker by adopting

the latest trends and purchasing the correct, and most modern product.

In the spring of 1946, the world did appear safe for democracy, the home was no longer part of the home front, and in Latah County, farmers, business people, students, and the most ordinary citizens were quite satisfied with the present and hopeful about the future.

Fifty years after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' entrance into the war, Gene Thompson reminisced on the mood of the country during World War II: "Speaking of the country as a

whole . . . patriotic would be the thing we were thinking about. There was just no doubt, we were not going to lose. And we didn't know how much we would have to sacrifice or how many years we would be going on. But, boy, young and old, whether they were infirm or newborn or old enough to know what was going on, it was a real United States of America at that time . . . Looking back on it all, I think it was a marvelous way the country responded to World War II. There hasn't been anything like it in our lifetime since."

**Roll Up The Rugs!**

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In 1968 interested individuals organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect and preserve materials connected with the history of Latah County and to provide further knowledge of the history and tradition of the area. Every person, young or old, who is interested in the history of Latah County and who would like to assist in its preservation and interpretation is cordially invited to become a member. Subscriptions to this journal and a discount on books published by the Society are included in membership dues. Dues for the various classes of membership are as follows:

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The society's library and offices are located in Centennial Annex, 327 East Second St., Moscow; the hours are Tuesday though Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 5 p.m. The McConnell Mansion Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Visits to the museum or research archives at other times can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.